

ALL THE THINGS I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER

By

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY

Close on a CLAYTON'S (mid 20's) closed eyes.

His eyes pop open.

Pull back as he looks around. His face shows momentary confusion. He looks at the door before him. His confusion gives way to a broad smile full of both joy and sadness.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The front door opens and Clayton rushes in.

The open floor plan allows him a clear view of the

KITCHEN

Where BERNADETTE (mid-20's) is pulling items from the refrigerator. She deposits them on the counter near the stove with other ingredients.

Clayton's expression is one of longing and love. He closes the door behind him and strides to the

KITCHEN

Bernadette turns as he approaches. She smiles all the way to her eyes. The two embrace as if they've been apart for years.

CLAYTON

God how I've missed you.

BERNADETTE

(hugs him tighter)

I've missed you too. But you're early.

Clayton looks at his watch. Feigns being confused.

CLAYTON

Seems right on time to me.

He looks at the food on the counter.

CLAYTON

How about we put that away and I take you out?

Bernadette meets his eyes and smiles.

BERNADETTE

No cooking? That's a hard decision.

They share a passionate kiss.

MONTAGE:

They walk through the park talking. The crowd forgotten as they're lost in each other.

In a theater laughing together at the film they watch.

A nice dinner by candlelight in an upscale restaurant.

Watching the stars from a blanket in a meadow.

Return to:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

They lay cuddled in their bed. They're on their sides so that Clayton is behind her holding her close. It's obvious from the condition of the blankets that it's been a good night.

Bernadette turns to face him.

BERNADETTE

You know that you can't stay, right?

He jerks his head as if slapped and meets her gaze.

CLAYTON

I have to. It's been so long. I've missed you too much to leave now.

Her face twists into a mix of grief and happiness. Tears well up. One falls from her eye and streaks down her cheek.

BERNADETTE

I wish you could. I really do, but it's not the right time.
His own eyes brim. His breaths become shaky.

Clayton

I can't keep doing this. I'm not strong enough. We've been apart
so long.

BERNADETTE

(lays her head against his chest)

It's not our call.

CLAYTON

When? When can I be with you?

Bernadette moves up so that their faces are mere inches apart.
She holds his gaze for a few moments as she gently strokes his
face.

CUT TO BLACK:

The sound of a heart monitor beeping is heard.

VOICE (O.S)

He's coming back around.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Close on a Man's eyes. There's crow's feet around them. A few
years' worth of mileage.

His eyes snap open.

Pull back to reveal Clayton (mid -40's) laying in a hospital
bed. Bandages on his head. One arm and one leg in casts.

CLAYTON'S P.O.V. Eyes dart around the room. Settle on several
cards, plants and balloons on the window sill.

BACK TO SCENE:

He drops his eyes. A long sigh escapes him.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

KIM (late 20's) talks to a DOCTOR. We can see Clayton in his bed in the background.

KIM

You don't know my Father. My mom died when I was three and he's never remarried. That's how hard headed he can be.

DOCTOR

I still think it would be best for him to go to a rehab facility for treatment.

KIM

Not gonna happen, Doc.

EXT. Hospital - DAY

Kim walks beside a wheelchair bound Clayton as a nurse pushes them toward a Taxi.

KIM

They said you were lucky to survive the crash, Dad.

She continues speaking, but her voice fades out as Clayton stares at the ground. He's missing the beautiful day around him as birds sing and fly. The sun shines.

INT. BEDROOM - Sunset

Clayton lies on the bed staring at the ceiling.

We pull back and down the hall to find Kim sitting on the couch with STEVEN. She's leaned against him with her head resting on his shoulder.

KIM

I'm not sure what to do. He's just not responding to anything.

STEVEN

You should tell him.

She looks up at him.

KIM

You really think this is the right time?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Clayton sits at the kitchen table with Kim and Steven.

Kim shows him an ultrasound.

KIM

He's going to need his grandpa.

Clayton's eyes show signs of life. His face softens from the mask of despair.

CLAYTON

He?

MONTAGE:

Clayton working with a PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Clayton exercising on his own. Moving the now cast free arm and leg.

Clayton working with very light dumbbells.

Clayton walking a short distance with the help of a can. The effort is etched on his face.

Clayton and his Therapist as he takes longer strides.

Clayton using heavier weight as he works out.

Return to Scene:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Clayton puts the cane in the closet and shuts the door. He's still much closer to fifty than twenty, but we can see the improvements in his physical and mental wellbeing.

He turns to the window and looks outside.

He sees: The sun shining down on a well-kept yard, Squirrels and birds foraging for food.

Clayton takes and releases a deep breath. He smiles.

He turns to a small desk in the corner. He picks up a pen and marks on something just out of frame.

MONTAGES and quick cuts:

Hospital where Clayton meets his newborn grandson MARCUS.

A few years later. Christmas. Now a toddler Marcus pokes at the brightly wrapped presents under the tree as Clayton, Kim and Steven look on laughing.

Bedroom where Clayton once again makes a mark.

Clayton and Marcus, both now a few years older, at the park feeding seed to birds.

Another mark.

Clayton and a now five year old Marcus. Their eyes meet as Marcus walks away from his mom and dad and toward the school. Clayton smiles and nods. Marcus' face seems unsure, but he cracks a smile and returns the nod.

Another mark. More years show on Clayton's face.

Thanksgiving. Marcus sits next to his SISTER along with the rest of the family. They eat. Laugh. Live.

Another mark. Clayton's age shows. Deep laugh lines and wrinkles. Less hair on the head. More grey in the beard.

Clayton and a teenaged Marcus sit by the side of a river. They're fishing poles are all but forgotten as they talk and laugh between bites of sandwiches.

Another mark. Clayton's hair has abandoned him. His beard now white.

Clayton watches with pride as Marcus walks across the stage at his High School graduation.

Return to scene.

EXT. CLAYTON'S HOUSE - DAY

Clayton and Marcus sit in the garden.

CLAYTON

Pre-med, huh?

MARCUS

(smiles)

Can you believe I got accepted?

CLAYTON

(puts a hand on his shoulder and squeezes)

Never had a doubt.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Clayton stands next to Marcus' car. The car is stuffed with the young man's possessions. Marcus sits in the driver's seat.

Clayton

Just remember the things we've talked about. Take care of yourself and your mom and sister.

They both glance over to where Marcus' sister, NICOLE (late teens) stands with Kim and Steven.

MARCUS

I promise, Pa-Pa.

Clayton leans in through the driver's window and kisses Marcus on the cheek. Clayton steps back and Marcus drives away. They all wave. Marcus sticks his hand out the window and waves back.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clayton makes another mark. He looks down at the desk. He smiles as he sees a picture of himself and a ten year old Marcus holding up fish.

Clayton walks to the bed. He pulls back the covers on one side and climbs in. He turns the other pillow so that it's vertical to his body. He hugs it to him as he had Bernadette the last time they lay together.

Cut to:

Bernadette and Clayton as we last saw them. She looks in his eyes. Gently strokes his face. She leans in and whispers in his ear.

Cut to:

The wall behind the desk. A calendar hangs there. The dates are X'd out up to the current date which is circled in red.

Cut to:

Clayton. A smile spreads across his face. He closes his eyes.

THE END