

LET IT GO
Short film script

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Title: Let it Go

Genre: Short Drama

Topics: brotherhood, freedom, euthanasia, ALS

Length: 14 min 40s

Language: Chinese

Frame: 2.35:1

Reference films: True Crime Label, Strange Taxi

Made in Highland

S#1 Home/Inside/Day/Sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll, Nurse Victoria Hospital

At nine in the morning, a phone call rings out. Edison walks over to the desk and picks up the phone to answer the call.

Brother Edison
Hello?

Female Nurse at Victoria Hospital
Hello, Good day, is this Ethan's
older brother? This is Victoria
Hospital calling.

Hearing the voice on the phone, Edison's thoughts are suddenly pulled back to a year ago.

S#2 Home/Inside/Night Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll, Nurse Victoria Hospital

A boy wearing a hat and a mask is standing in front of a window, preparing to jump. It's Edison's younger brother, Ethan. Edison rushes over and grabs his brother before he jumps from the window. They both fall to the ground and Edison yells at his brother in anger.

Brother Edison
Whoa, whoa, whoa! You scared me
to death! Do you know how
dangerous that was?

Edison steadies his emotions and continues to speak while looking at his brother.

Brother Edison
I know you're in a lot of pain,
but what am I supposed to do if
you leave?

S#3 Home/Inside/Day/Sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll, Nurse Victoria Hospital

Edison's thoughts are brought back to reality by the nurse's inquiries. He pauses for a moment before speaking.

Female Nurse at Victoria Hospital
Hello? Can you hear me?

Brother Edison
 Ah... yes, it's me. Can I help
 you with something?

Female Nurse at Victoria Hospital
 We're calling to notify you that
 this afternoon is the day for the
 euthanasia procedure we had
 previously arranged. May I ask,
 how has Ethan been doing lately?
 Is there anything we can help you
 with?

Edison, the older brother, slightly turns his head towards
 the corner, where a wheelchair is placed. It seems like there
 is a man sitting in a wheelchair.

Brother Edison turns his head back and continues to respond.

Brother Edison
 He's still the same as before.
 it's just that...he hasn't been
 talking much lately.

As he speaks, Edison picks up a photo album from the desk.
 Inside the album are photos of his younger brother, Ethan,
 taken on every birthday from his childhood. Each one is
 carefully marked with the date in bold black marker. He
 gently runs his hand over the photos, gazing at them as if
 he's flipped through them countless times before.

Female Nurse at Victoria Hospital
 I think it's probably due to the
 hardening and atrophy of his
 muscles. You will need to be
 extra careful when Ethan is
 eating. Then, we'll see you at
 the hospital later.

Brother Edison's gaze wavers slightly when he hears what the
 nurse mentions. He responds with an uncertain tone.

Brother Edison
 Alright, I'll bring Ethan over
 later.

Female Nurse at Victoria Hospital
 Okay, then we'll leave it at that
 for now.

Brother Edison
 Alright, thank you.

Female Nurse at Victoria Hospital
 Bye.

Edison hangs up the phone, slowly stands up, and walks towards the wheelchair.

Sitting on the wheelchair is a large teddy bear wearing a mask and a white T-shirt, completely still. The older Brother, Edison, lowers his head, gently touches the teddy bear's head, and softly speaks.

Brother Edison
The nurse just called. Do you remember when you were kid, you used to love going to her to talk?

Big Bear Doll

.....

Edison lets out a long sigh, clenches his fists, and lifts his head to reveal a pair of determined eyes. He gives a chuckle and looks at the large teddy bear as he speaks.

Brother Edison
Okay, let it go.

Edison pushes the wheelchair with the large teddy bear in it, taking slow, measured steps towards the door.

Black Screen
Title: "Let it go."

S#4 Underground garage/outside/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll

Edison pushes the wheelchair to the garage. He pulls out the car key remote from his left pocket and presses a button. The car's headlights flash once as the vehicle unlocks.

Edison places the wheelchair at the rear of the car and picks up the large teddy bear to carry it to the passenger seat. He strains to support the teddy bear with his right hand, extends his left hand to open the car door, and then painstakingly places the teddy bear on the passenger seat. Edison buckles up the teddy bear, adjusts its sitting position, and carefully closes the car door.

Edison places the wheelchair into the trunk, then cheerfully climbs into the driver's seat, closes the door, and buckles his seatbelt. He turns his head towards the teddy bear and speaks.

Brother Edison
Do you remember the first day we moved here and went to school?

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Big Bear Doll

.....

Edison gives a light chuckle, his eyes filled with a hint of sadness. Suddenly, as if remembering something, his smile fades. He reaches towards the glove compartment on the passenger side, pulling out a piece of paper with the words "Assisted Dying Services Consent Form" written on it.

Edison lowers his head to look at the consent form, his fingers twirling the consent form over and over.

Edison lifts his head to look at the large teddy bear, his hand clenches the consent form. He gives a bitter smile, as if he's made some kind of decision, and lowers his head to put the consent form back into the glove compartment.

Edison adjusts his position in the driver's seat, places his hand on the gear shift, switches from park (P) to drive (D), and drives away.

S#5 By the road in the park/outside/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll

The sound of the trunk unlocking is heard, and the trunk opens towards the camera. Brother Edison pulls a wheelchair from the trunk and places it on the ground.

Then Brother Edison walks to the side of the car, opens the door next to the teddy bear, and bends over to unbuckle the teddy bear's seatbelt. He slowly squats down, turns to the side, and gently places the teddy bear's hand on his back. He then lifts the teddy bear's bottom. However, as he stands up with the teddy bear on his back, he stumbles and almost falls.

Edison walks slowly, swaying back and forth, with the teddy bear on his back, making his way towards the wheelchair. He squats down, panting, and carefully places the teddy bear on the wheelchair. He turns around and looks directly at the teddy bear in the wheelchair as he speaks.

Brother Edison

Do you remember when I took you
to climb that tree when we were
kids? The last few times you fell
it was like you fell like a...

Big Bear Doll

.....

S#6 In the park/outside/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll

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Edison pushes the wheelchair to the foot of a hill. He lifts the teddy bear onto his back and slowly walks towards the top of the hill. Upon reaching a large tree at the hilltop, Brother Edison carefully lifts the teddy bear but loses his footing. He tumbles to the ground with the teddy bear on his back. Quickly, Edison gets up, helps the fallen teddy bear, and leans it against the tree.

Brother Edison
Ugh HEY! You're too heavy. Just a
minute.

Brother Edison gives a firm shake to unfold the picnic blanket and carefully removes any dust from it. Then, he places the picnic basket on top of it. Standing up, he dusts himself off, clearly satisfied with his meticulous arrangement.

Brother Edison sits on the picnic blanket and takes out a hamburger from the picnic basket. He unwraps it and takes a bite. Looking at the scenery, he takes a deep breath and turns to the teddy bear, speaking.

Brother Edison
Let's go, there are still so many
places we need to go.

Then Edison takes out fresh orange juice from the picnic basket and pours it into a cup. He tilts his head, sporting a teasing smile, and raises the cup towards the teddy bear, gesturing.

Brother Edison
Do you remember this park's
playground?

After saying that, Edison drinks the juice in one gulp and continues speaking.

Brother Edison
This was our favourite place to
come when we were kids
After saying that, Edison drinks
the juice in one gulp and
continues speaking.

Edison wears an expression full of anticipation as he faces the teddy bear, seemingly waiting for a response from it.

Big Bear Doll
.....

Edison gives a wry smile and murmurs to himself.

Brother Edison
Okay, let it go.

Edison stands up, brushing off his pants, and lifts the teddy bear onto his back. He prepares to descend the hill and place the teddy bear back in the wheelchair, then walks towards the park.

Edison and the teddy bear swing on the swing set. Edison watches with a smile as the teddy bear swings back and forth.

Edison and the teddy bear slide down the slide together. The teddy bear slides down first, and Brother Edison follows suit, both of them shouting with joy.

Edison pushed the big teddy bear to a small river. Edison set up a fishing rod in front of his younger brother and then sat on a chair with his own fishing rod. Edison turned his head to look at the big teddy bear. Against the sunlight, we couldn't see his expression clearly.

Edison kept on talking to the big teddy bear, even though the teddy bear always remained silent.

Brother Edison

Do you remember the first time we went fishing for bass together? Every time I said: "We're definitely going to catch something today!" But every time coming back with an empty bucket you teased me about it for a long time. It's been a long time since we've come out to play like this together.

Suddenly, Edison stood up and shouted loudly.

Brother Edison

Huh? Oh, look! We caught one! Look!

Edison appeared somewhat flustered and quickly reeled in the fishing rod. A fish was thrown into a bucket filled with water. Edison was excited, happy, and jumping around. Then, he ran over and embraced the big teddy bear. After the embrace, he looked up at the teddy bear, placed both hands on his shoulders, and said.

Brother Edison

Do you remember our secret hideout?

S#7 By the road in the park/outside/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the big bear doll

Edison closed the car door and swiftly fastened his seatbelt. He turned the key and reached out his left hand towards the direction of the car stereo.

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He picked up the transparent CD case from below, and on the CD was written "2013.06.22 My Light". As he saw it, it was like flipping the switch of memories, and a wave of recollections came rushing back.

S#8 Home/Inside/Day/Sunny People: Younger brother Edison, younger brother Ethan who is celebrating his 10th birthday

Ethan, the younger brother, had a birthday hat on his head and wore a face mask. He sat in a chair, listening to the music playing in the house, softly humming along and curious, he asked.

Ethan
Hmm? What song is this?

Edison bent down, smiling, and looked at his younger brother attentively as he said.

Brother Edison
A surprise.

As he continued speaking, he crouched down and handed the CD to his younger brother.

Brother Edison
This is our fifth birthday
together since Dad passed away.
This is the CD for you. I hope
you grow up healthy and strong.
Happy birthday!

Ethan happily took the CD and looked at the text on the CD. He raised his head with a puzzled expression and asked.

Ethan
Thank you!Huh? Edison? Is that
you?

Brother Edison said with a smile, stroking his brother Ethan's head.

Brother Edison
Yeah, the melody was written by
me and I also had a singer write
the lyrics. How is it? Do you
like it?

Ethan
Of course, I love it!

S#9 Inside the car/internal/day/sunny People: brother Edison, 14-year-old brother Ethan

The two brothers sat in the car, sharing a smile as they hummed along to the music playing in the car. At this moment, Ethan's ALS condition had worsened. He turned his head to look at his brother and said.

Ethan
 Actually, I've always wanted to
 ask why is this song called "My
 Light"?

Brother Edison
 Because...You Are My Light.

S#10 Park roadside/in the car/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear doll

The music faded into emptiness, and all the memories vanished like bubbles. Edison snapped out of it and turned his head to look at the big teddy bear.

Brother Edison
 Do you remember this song?

Big Bear Doll

Edison lowered his head, gently running his fingers over the weathered CD case. It was evident that it had been opened countless times, and the marker-written text on it had become somewhat blurry.

Edison adjusted his sitting position, restarted the car, and turned on the music. At that moment, the song began to play, singing.

Edison gripped the steering wheel with both hands and sang along.

With the song accompanying them, the car gradually moved forward.

S#11 Foothills/outside/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll

Edison pushed the wheelchair, going through one narrow path after another until they finally arrived at the bottom of the hill. There was a steep and lengthy staircase leading to the mountaintop, making it impossible to push the wheelchair up. Edison looked up at the towering hill, then he walked up to the big teddy bear, crouched down slightly, and lifted the teddy bear onto his back. As he carried the teddy bear, he spoke.

Brother Edison
 This path is a bit difficult to
 walk. I'll carry you. Don't
 worry, we'll be there soon.

After finishing his words, Edison adjusted the position of the big teddy bear on his back, giving it a gentle lift. He made sure the posture was comfortable, and he also took the blanket from the wheelchair. Step by step, he began making his way up to the mountaintop.

S#12 Hilltop/outside/day/sunny Characters: Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll, Teenger1/2/3

Edison carefully placed the big teddy bear on the bench at the mountaintop and took out the thin blanket he had brought. With great care, he covered the teddy bear's thighs with the blanket.

Edison sat on the chair and took out two aluminium cans of Coca-Cola from his pocket. He picked up one can, looked at the big teddy bear, and as he opened it, he said.

Brother Edison
 I brought some cola. Here, let me
 open it for you. Do you remember
 the singing competition during
 elementary school? You brought
 back the prize from school.

Perhaps due to the shaking during the journey, the cola inside the can became agitated. As Edison pulled the tab, the cola inside quickly surged out, splashing all over his hands.

Edison was startled at first, but after recovering from the surprise, he found it amusing and chuckled, grinning. He turned his head to the big teddy bear and said.

Brother Edison
 Ouch! Just a moment, I'm going to
 wash my hands and be right back.

Edison walked away into the distance.

The big teddy bear sat silently on the bench, while three teenagers whispered and exchanged words around it.

Teenger one
 Look, he's so strange! He's not
 moving at all, just like a doll.

Teenger two
 Huh, why don't you go poke him to
 see if he'll move?

One of the teenagers, who had a lollipop in his mouth, tapped the white T-shirt of the big teddy bear rudely and said.

Teenger three
 Hey! How can you sit on that
 dirty chair? Hey! I'm talking to
 you!

Suddenly, from a distance, the voice of Edison shouting
 angrily could be heard.

Brother Edison
 What are you doing?

Upon hearing the shouts, the three teenagers looked towards
 the direction of Edison and quickly ran away.

Teenger one
 Run! Run! Run!

In the process, one of the teenagers accidentally tripped
 over the feet of the big teddy bear, causing it to fall to
 the ground. The teddy bear's white T-shirt became covered in
 sand and dirt.

Edison hurriedly ran over and knelt down to lift the big
 teddy bear, checking its condition. He initially intended to
 scold the teenagers, but as he could not leave the teddy bear
 unattended, he reluctantly let them go away.

At that moment, from a distance, the voices of the teenagers
 could be heard, laughing and taunting.

Teenger one
 Should he be dead? Poor him! If
 you want me like this, I might as
 well die!

Brother Edison
 Shut your mouth!

Edison carefully examined the big teddy bear, checking its
 head, hands, body, and feet. After confirming that there were
 no visible injuries, he calmed down and looked at the teddy
 bear, his eyes showing a hint of sadness, reluctance, and
 determination.

After wiping away the dust from the white T-shirt of the
 teddy bear, Edison carefully lifted his younger brother onto
 his back and started walking downhill.

**S#13 Euthanasia Facility/outside/day/sunny Characters:
 Brother Edison, Ethan the Bear Doll, Ethan**

Edison parked the car in front of a facility, took a deep
 breath, and then turned to the big teddy bear, saying.

Brother Edison
 Do you remember what the doctor
 told you a year ago?

Edison took out the "Assisted Dying Services Consent Form" from the glove compartment of the passenger seat, carefully smoothing out the slightly crumpled document.

At that moment, a pale-skinned, sickly-looking, emaciated teenager with dishevelled hair and a white T-shirt could be seen sitting in the passenger seat, motionless.

Edison raised his head and gazed silently at his younger brother for a long time. He lowered his head, closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and with a determined look, he raised his head again and said.

Brother Edison
Okay, let it go.

After speaking, Edison released the seatbelt, opened the car door, and stepped out.