

ENTENDRE

A Short Film By

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SCENE 1.

INT. THE INSIDE OF A PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE. A COLD, STERILE ENVIRONMENT PERMEATES THROUGH THE WALLS

A shaky POV shot of a young 10-year-old boy (ABE) as he fiddles with his hands. His wrists are scarred; rows of self-harm mark his arm. He becomes aware of his surroundings and quickly pulls his sleeve down to cover the scars.

DAD

(Muffled, off-screen)

My son is clearly not ok. We need your help

DR MAGNUS

(Chastising, whispered)

Look, I understand he may not be in the best state of mind. I just think we should talk... without your son?

DAD

(Protective)

No. Anything you say to me, you can say to him, too.

DR MAGNUS

(Backing off)

Ok, to understand why he's doing this, we need to get to the root of the problem.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 2.

INT. INSIDE THE FAMILY CAR ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE
PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE

We watch ABE and DAD through the rearview mirror as DAD
tries to comfort his son.

DAD

Buddy, look. I know things can be
hard. But I can't help you if you
don't tell me what's wrong. I'm on
your side. You just have to let me
in.

ABE is unresponsive and seemingly uninterested. He
continues to stare out the window, the inner turmoil barely
evident on his face. He's holding back the truth he knows
his father can't handle. DAD adjusts the rearview mirror,
so his son is no longer in sight.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 3.

INT. NIGHT. ABE'S BEDROOM

Mid shot of ABE as he wakes up and checks the time. 3:03
AM. Unintelligible whispers can be heard. A haunting melody
can be heard as he slowly makes his way down the stairs

J CUT TO SCENE 4.

ABE

Dad, look at this!

SCENE 4.

EXT. PARK. HUMID, OVERCAST DAY

We see Abe running along the park playground as fast as he
can. He finishes his run at the swing.

ABE
(*Out of breath*)
What did you think, Dad?

DAD
If I didn't know you, I would've
thought you were a superhero.

Abe laughs. Pause. There's a change of feel. Abe looks at DAD.

ABE
Dad, you're not mad at me, are
you?

DAD takes a moment. It almost looks like he was hurt by the comment.

DAD
Of course not, buddy.

ABE
I love you.

DAD
I love you too.

Cut to over the shoulder. ABE looks up at DAD, a tender moment. A figure lurks behind a tree. Abe looks - cuts to POV.

CUT TO SCENE 5.

SCENE 5.

INT. NIGHT. ABE'S BEDROOM

A continuation of Scene 3, ABE leaves the house and sees a creature scrawling something on the pavement. He approaches.

KANE (V.O)
Why won't you play with me?

KANE (V.O)
ABE. ABE. **ABE**

DAD
ABE! What are you doing out here?
Come back inside, buddy.

CUT TO SCENE 6.

SCENE 6.

INT. FAMILY ROOM

Over the shoulder shot looking at an out-of-focus picture on the wall.

Swap focus to reveal Abe at his birthday party with a little boy identical to him in the shot.

We hear a voice calling to him

KANE (V.O)
Come play with me. Come on. Just
come outside!

Extreme close-up of ABE terrified of the picture. The voices in his head intensify, a cacophony of voices building to a climax when in POV, the picture on the wall is now revealed, the boy draped around his shoulders, arms by neck. As the music crescendos...

CUT TO POV.

Something is running up behind him and just when it reaches him

CUT TO OVER-THE-SHOULDER.

There is a hand on ABE's shoulder.

CUT TO POV OF PAINTING.

DAD

You ok, buddy? It was a great day
wasn't it.

ABE

Yeah, I just... I'm fine.

CUT TO POV.

SCENE 7.

INT. THE INSIDE OF A PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE.

A shaky POV shot of a young 10-year-old boy (ABE) as he fiddles with his hands. His wrists are scarred; rows of self-harm mark his arm. He becomes aware of his surroundings and quickly pulls his sleeve down to cover the scars. A repeat of Scene 1, except this time, everything is audible.

DAD

I didn't come here for you to tell
me what I already bloody knew.

DR MAGNUS

Sir, please calm down. I'm just
trying to understand.

DAD

Right, uhh, yeah. I'm sorry.

DR MAGNUS

It' ok. I completely understand
your position. Now, tell me about
Kane.

The name KANE echoes like an unfulfilled
promise.

DAD

When Abe was born it was the best moment of my life. Then we waited for his brother. At some stage, Abe's cord had become wrapped around his brother's throat and by the time he was born he didn't make it. I lost a son that day, and Abe lost a brother.

Abe shifts uncomfortably and Dad notices.

DAD (cont.)

Mate, It wasn't your fault

KANE (V.O)

(Overlapping)

Your fault, YOUR FAULT, **YOUR FAULT**

CUT TO CLOSE-UP ON DAD.

CUT TO BLACK.

SCENE 8.

EXT. NIGHT. STREET

ABE leaves the house, except this time, he is not stopped.

KANE (V.O)

Come play with me.

The creature is once again scrawling on the pavement.

KANE (V.O)

Come out to the field.

ABE makes his way towards the creature, just close enough to make out the words "YOUR FAULT" written. It freezes. The creature then abruptly turns around and runs at the camera.

fin.