

# WHEN EVERYTHING DISAPPEARS

by

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Psychological drama - short film

Runtime: approx. 8-9 minutes

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INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

Paul, in a hurry, puts on his jacket. He is around 45 years old. His wife brings him a coffee.

ELENA

At least drink something before you leave.

PAUL

I can't. I have an urgent meeting.  
Im sorry.

Their daughter, Sofia, enters with a drawing in her hand.

SOFIA

Daddy, look what I made!

He kisses her quickly on the forehead, without looking at the drawing.

PAUL

Wonderful, my dear. We'll talk tonight.

He exits through the door

INT. PAUL'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Mitica is sitting in an armchair. Next to him, his wife, Maria. Mitica dials a number. Maria looks at him.

MITICA

Let's hear him for a bit...

A few seconds pass. Paul's voice is heard from the phone:

PAUL(V.O.)

Hi, Dad. I'm in a hurry. I'll call you later. I promise.

The call ends. Mitica looks long at the phone, then toward Maria.

MITICA

As if he doesn't even have two minutes for us...

MARIA

He's busy. We know that. But he's ours...

EXT. STREET /INT. CAR - DAY

He walks hurriedly toward the office. The phone rings:  
"Dad". He answers in a rush.

PAUL

Dad, I'm in a hurry. I'll call you  
later. I promise.

He ends the call without waiting for a reply.

INT. OFFICE - DREAM - DAY

Paul types quickly. Emails. Reports. The phone rings, he doesn't answer. The clock reads: 20:47.

PAUL (V.O.)  
Just a little longer. One project.  
One day. One month. And then...  
time for them.

The phone rings. It was on silent. It's his wife. He looks at the phone, reaches for it... but stops. A deep sigh, he starts typing again, then rubs his eyes. He sighs. Leans back and closes his eyes. Falls asleep.

PAUL (V.O.)  
One day. One more day...

FADE TO BLACK

INT. OFFICE - DAY / DREAM

Paul wakes up suddenly. He blinks, gets up, grabs his jacket and leaves.

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A REAL AWAKENING, BUT A DREAM SEQUENCE. THE SCENE SHOULD BE ACTED AND SHOT AS IF IT WERE REAL, TO MISLEAD THE VIEWER.

VISUAL/SOUND DETAILS: LIGHTING MAY BE SUBTLY ALTERED, SOUNDS SLIGHTLY MUFFLED OR WITH A FAINT ECHO, BUT WITHOUT OBVIOUS CLUES.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - EVENING

He arrives home. The door creaks. The house looks abandoned.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Dusty interior, covered objects. No one answers. He looks at a family photo covered in dust. He picks it up.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The neighbor notices him and stops. He looks at him with pity.

NELU

God rest their souls... it happened too soon.

Paul looks at him, confused.

PAUL

What... what are you talking about?

The neighbor scans him, surprised.

NELU

You... you're really not okay...

Paul looks even more confused, even more lost.

NELU

(hesitant)  
Come with me...

EXT. CEMETERY - SUNSET

They arrive at the cemetery. He walks among the graves. Paul trembles, cries... He finds the crosses of his wife, daughter, and parents, and falls to his knees.

SOFIA (V.O.)  
Daddy...

His gaze freezes. He hears again:

SOFIA (V.O.)  
Daddy...

SOFIA (V.O.)  
Let's go home...

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

He wakes up suddenly. Sweating. He looks at the phone, hesitates to unlock it. He gets up, grabs his jacket and leaves.

In the background, real sounds are heard: street traffic, clock ticking.

EXT. HIS HOUSE - DAY

He arrives home. Everything is alive, normal. The door opens. His wife from inside:

ELENA (V.O.)  
You're back! I thought you'd be  
late again.

His daughter appears, smiling.

SOFIA  
Daddyyy!

She jumps into his arms. He holds her tightly, emotional.

ELENA  
Is everything okay?

PAUL  
...Now it is.

Paul looks at Sofia for a long moment. He hugs her even tighter. He stays like that for a moment.

BLACK SCREEN

On screen, in white letters on a black background, the text appears:

TIME WITH YOUR LOVED ONES CANNOT BE RECOVERED. BUT YOU STILL HAVE IT... IF YOU OPEN YOUR EYES IN TIME.