

CAPSULE

By

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INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

FADE IN:

Parts of an appliance are organized on the floor. Someone is at work unbolting an electric motor. Using various tools he's disassembling parts.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

A storm is approaching. A glass of water is set down next to a couple of razor blades on the vanity. There is a bottle of pills that SAM picks up and struggles with a bit to get open. He then pours a large number of pills into one hand. Sam is pacing in and out of the bathroom. He sits on the edge of the tub. Tears rolling down his face from his bloodshot eyes. He remembers...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Sam is sitting next to his wife ANNA who's lying in a hospital bed. She's sitting up holding Sam's hand in a reassuring way.

ANNA

Listen, we have to talk about something.

Sam looks into Anna's eyes. He can see it's not good news.

SAM

I don't want to hear that. I can't deal with that.

ANNA

I know, but...

SAM

(interrupts) I don't. Doctors can be wrong.

ANNA

(interrupts) We have to talk about this sometime.

SAM

I gotta call Michael back. He's been on my case about that car.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Sam. I'm scared. I need you. I need  
you to be here now.

Anna leans forward and holds Sam's face centering him,  
making him look directly into her eyes.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Anna is at a desk in their home hand writing a letter. Sam  
comes up from behind putting his hand on her shoulder.

SAM

What ya doin?

ANNA

Writing a letter to my sister.

SAM

Wouldn't email be easier?

ANNA

You know me.

SAM

I know.

ANNA

Besides it's not the same.

SAM

So you say.

Sam walks into the kitchen and Anna calls out to him.

ANNA

You can start the movie, I'll be  
there in a second.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anna and Sam are cuddled up on the sofa watching a movie.  
Anna's head is resting on Sam's shoulder.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

END FLASHBACK.

The phone is ringing downstairs. Sam is startled and drops  
the razor blade in the tub. It goes to the answering  
machine.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CARL (V.O.)  
Hi Sam, it's Carl Morgan. Um...  
just checking in, making sure  
everything's okay. If you need  
anything, um, just give me a call  
whenever your ready... okay, take  
care.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Sam gets out of the tub, dries himself off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sam is checking the voicemail. He listens to the first part  
of a message.

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
(Answering machine, filtered) Hey  
it's Michael. I...

Sam presses the delete button on the answering machine.

CARL (V.O.)  
(Answering machine, filtered)  
Hi Sam, it's Carl.

Sam abruptly deletes the message. The automated voice from  
the answering machines responds.

AUTOMATED FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)  
(Answering machine, filtered)  
There are no new messages.

Sam picks up the phone and begins to dial a number.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sam is inside walking around.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sam gets a glass and fills it with water from the tap. He  
takes a drink and puts the glass into the sink that is  
overflowing with dirty dishes.

INT. DEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sam is sitting by the back window, looking out with a dead stare. The doorbell rings. He opens the door, pays the PIZZA GUY and enters the living room with a pizza. Sam begins to eat it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Later Sam grabs a few empty cans of soda and other trash that has collected around his living room. He picks up the pizza box that has half a pizza left in it. He carries all of this to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sam is cleaning up around the kitchen as well, and begins to run some water to do the dishes that have piled up.

INT. BED ROOM - DAY

Sam grabs a laundry basket and goes around his bedroom picking up laundry.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Sam heads downstairs into the basement to put in a load of laundry. There near the foot of the stairs is a table with piles of things on it covered with a canvas tarp, slightly exposing a sculpture. He walks past, goes to the laundry room, fills the washer, puts in laundry soap and starts the cycle.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Anna is collecting wet clothes out of the washer. She looks over to a dryer that is in pieces with Sam's tools all scattered around. She's not happy.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Anna carries her basket of wet clothes upstairs and plops them down on the kitchen table in front of Sam who is working on a sculpture.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

You know it's been all summer.

SAM

What?

ANNA

The God damn dryer. This is what I'm talking about. You find all the time in the world for those contraptions, but look! I'm off to the laundry mat again, so we can have dry clothes.

SAM

I'll fix it tonight. I promise.

ANNA

You know what? Don't bother. I'm done. We're buying a new one. I don't know how we'll afford it.

SAM

Listen, we can't afford it. I'll fix it! I'm just trying to finish...

ANNA

(Interrupting)

You know what's really killing me here? You don't seem to get what's really going on. You're not here. You're so absorbed in your fucking so called art.

ANNA

Where's us? Where are we? I'm not living like this Sam. Sorry. I'm just not. If something doesn't change.

Anna stops herself and storms out of the house with her wet basket of clothes. Sam staring at his half finished sculpture, puts his tools down on the table.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

END FLASHBACK.

Sam is asleep on the couch. He's awakened by the buzz of the dryer. He goes down into the basement.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Sam begins to unload the laundry into the laundry basket. Pulling clothes from the dryer, he folds a few items and puts them in the basket. He reaches in and finds something, pulls it out, it's a diamond ring. Anna's wedding ring.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Anna's open casket is being closed at her funeral, and she's wearing her wedding ring.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM/BASEMENT STAIRCASE. - NIGHT

END FLASHBACK.

Sam is standing over the dryer with Anna's ring in his hand. He takes the clothes out and places them in the laundry basket. He notices a piece of paper with some writing on it laying between some of the clothes. It reads "There are some things I should have told you. Things you really need to know. We". He frantically looks through the laundry for more of the letter, but finds nothing.

INT. BEDROOM/BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sam is sleeping in his bed. An unseen force comes through the ceiling and creeps down over him, getting extremely close and just about touching his face. He abruptly wakes up as if he senses something there. The unseen force backs off, and up through the ceiling, leaving Sam alone in the room. He heads into the bathroom fills a glass with water and gulps it down and goes downstairs.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Sam opens the dryer door and starts pulling out the clean laundry. A necklace drops onto the floor. He kneels down and picks it up.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Anna is lying there in her casket and the necklace is around her neck.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

END FLASHBACK.

Sam's kneeling on the floor in front of the dryer holding the necklace. He notices a mashed up piece of paper in the clean laundry. There are two parts, one reads "right time. My only regret is " and the other reads "Promise me ".

SAM  
Promise me?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Sam enters the house, Anna is sitting in the living room on the couch, looking frustrated.

SAM  
You okay?

ANNA  
Bad day.

SAM  
You want to talk about it?

ANNA  
Not really. Everything just feels off. The more I do, the more I have to do.

Sam gets something out of his coat pocket.

SAM  
Maybe this will cheer you up.

Sam has a black velvet bag, he opens it and takes out a necklace. He gives it to Anna.

ANNA  
What's this?

SAM  
We've been married for what? 3 years now?

ANNA  
You know it's not our anniversary right?

(CONTINUED)



SAM

I know.

Anna drapes the necklace over her open hand and admires it.

ANNA

It's beautiful.

SAM

I've been feeling it too. We're letting things get routine. Life will eat you up like that. Here let me help you.

Sam helps put the necklace on Anna.

ANNA

I love it.

SAM

It suits you. We have reservations at Petterino's.

ANNA

Sam.

SAM

What? We need this. We need to take time out from all the work. Life can't just be about all the tasks.

ANNA

I need to remember that.

SAM

I promise to remind you.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

END FLASHBACK.

Sam is camped out in front of the washer and dryer sitting on his chair. The dryer cycle is finished and it buzzes. Sam is immediately alert. He frantically opens the dryer door and shovels the clothes out onto the ground and pulls out a piece of paper. It reads " Things you really need to know ".

SAM

What?

Again he frantically goes through the rest of the laundry, and finds one more piece of the letter. It reads " but you

(CONTINUED)

always deserved ". He tries to put the two pieces together, but they don't fit. He runs upstairs to get the other piece. He runs back downstairs with the other piece in hand and lays it out on the floor trying to put the pieces together. He finally gets one piece that does connect.

SAM

What are you trying to tell me?

Sam gets up and paces back and forth a bit. He grows frustrated. And yells as he kicks the chair across the room.

SAM

God damn it!

Just then all the power goes out in the house. He's completely in the dark.

SAM

Shit.

He scrambles around to find his way upstairs. Partway up the stairs there's a shelf with a flashlight on it. He grabs the flashlight, turns it on and heads back down to the breaker box. Sam unclasps the door on the breaker box and opens it. As he's searching for the tripped breaker, without touching anything, all the power comes back on.

SAM

Okay.

Sam goes back to the laundry room. He picks up the chair and bends it's leg back into place. Sets it down, makes sure it's sturdy, then sits back down in front of the dryer.

Sam sits there with tears rolling down his face. He wipes his tears and sits there in deep thought.

Sam loads more clothes into the washer and continues to do a few more loads of while camping out in front of the dryer.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Sam enters the laundry room. He opens the dryer door and rapidly unloads it. He finds two fairly intact pieces of the letter. He takes these pieces upstairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sam has the two pieces of the letter in his hands. He picks up the other pieces off the credenza and brings everything over to the coffee table. He proceeds to lay them out and places all the pieces in a way that completes the letter. He begins to read.

ANNA (V.O.)

My Dearest Sam,  
I should have written this letter a long time ago. There are some things I should have told you. Things you really need to know. We had an incredible life together, as short as it was. But you always deserved more from me. In my last days I was a bit foggy to say the least, and I never got a chance to tell you. I was wrong. Your life is going to stand for something. Your art is beautiful, and I know the world needs to hear from you. Promise you'll give to the world what you gave me. A new perspective. Something new to see everyday. You made me laugh, and seemed to always know how to say the right thing at the right time. My only regret is that I didn't support you in your dreams. My heart will always be yours. Please accept my apology and ignore my advise in life. I really must go now. I will miss you my love.

Yours forever. Love,  
Anna

Tears are rolling down Sam's face.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

There are a few dusty boxes with a cover over them. Sam pulls them out and unpacks some sculptures dusting them off as he takes them out of the boxes.

FADE OUT.

THE END