

Forememberence

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INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY (MOS)

All is in black and white. YOUNG AIDEN (10) sits on the edge of an examining bed, swinging his feet.

Beside him, his mother sits with a hand on his back. His father stands protectively over them. Neither smile.

Young Aiden watches, unfazed, as a white-coated doctor writes out a definition on a whiteboard.

INSERT SHOT OF DEFINITION:

"Foremberence: A rare psychological condition where a person can remember the future but not the past."

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL:

INT. PSYCHOLOGY CLASS ROOM - DAY

The doctor, older and dressed as a professor, stands in front of a whiteboard of the same definition.

EMILY (19), a college student, sits halfway up the auditorium-style seating, copying the definition.

Leaning over her notebook, she highlights the phrase "future, not the past." While the world is still black and white, the highlighter mark is vibrant green.

The classroom door opens.

Smiling, the professor hurries over to welcome in another student. Excited, he motions to the definition as he pulls the student to the middle of the teaching area.

EMILY'S CLASSMATE nudges her and nods towards the front.

College-aged AIDEN (20) stands next to the professor, a look of awe on his face.

He gazes directly at Emily.

Confused, Emily averts her gaze. As her classmate raises an eyebrow at her, she slides awkwardly low in her seat, smiling sheepishly.

Below, Aiden lets out a laughing breath.

FIRST CONTACT - MONTAGE

A) INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Emily stands from her chair and stretches. The table in front of her is covered in psychology books. As she walks away to look for a book, she casts a longing look at the library coffee shop.

B) INT. LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Carrying another book, she returns to her table and stops short. A mug of hot chocolate is waiting by her seat.

C) INT. STUDENT CENTER - DAY

Emily stands by the front doors, bracing to go out without protection from the rain. Out of focus, Aiden passes by behind her and drops a small umbrella into her unzipped backpack. Turning to grab her backpack, Emily pulls out the umbrella and glances around. He is already gone.

D) INT. EMILY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Pulling on a jacket, Emily opens the door to leave her dorm room only to find a small bouquet of carnations. Confused, she takes them to her desk, putting them next to a painting of ones the same color. Looking past them out the window, she sees Aiden skipping away across campus. She smiles in spite of herself.

EXT. BENCH - DAY

Aiden sits on the edge of a bench, half of a homemade sandwich lying on a napkin beside him.

Methodically, he tears up bits of the other half and tosses them to some nearby pigeons, smiling slightly.

Emily sits down next to him.

He glances over at her, almost sheepish. Smiling slightly, she reaches out her hand. He shakes it.

They begin talking, turning to face each other on the bench.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The two of them sit across from one another in a booth, deep in conversation.

At something he says, Emily laughs. Aiden's eyes shine.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Emily hurries over to Aiden and hands him a box wrapped in birthday paper. Excited, she watches as he unwraps it.

Aiden pulls out a bookmark made of one of the pressed carnations. Holding it up, he looks at Emily, confused.

She takes it from his hand and holds it up, trying to remind him, but he shakes his head. Helpless, gestures at his head.

Emily's face falls. For a moment, Aiden watches her, pursing his lips. Then, his eyes light up.

INT. AIDEN'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Aiden holds the door as Emily steps inside.

The space is cluttered with paper, pens, and envelopes covering every surface. On the wall is a giant cork board full of notes labeled "The Past I've Forgotten."

Aiden grabs a paper and pen and bends over his desk, writing "I gave her carnations."

As Aiden adds it to the board, Emily's eyes catch on a box on his bed, distracting her.

A label on its lid reads "Future Reminders."

Before she can ask about it, he catches sight of something on his desk and pulls her away, yanking her out of the room.

EXT. LOW STONE WALL - SUNSET

Aiden pulls Emily up and they settle together on the wall, staring out at the sunset.

As Aiden stares at the sky, Emily turns to watch him. Leaning forward, she kisses him lightly on the cheek.

Beaming, he kisses her for real.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Aiden carries Emily across the threshold, nearly tipping over as she laughs at his lack of coordination.

Working together, they push a couch into place.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Emily hangs up the phone and shouts to tell Aiden something.

INSERT SHOT OF AIDEN BUSY FIXING THE KITCHEN SINK.

Looking over at where his 'past' board has been hung on the wall of their room, Emily smiles and adds a note so he won't forget.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Mid-walk, Emily stops in front of a storefront, pulling Aiden to a stop beside her.

The window is filled with baby things.

She laughs and tugs on Aiden's arm pleadingly, who seems uncertain. Without waiting for a response, she drags him in after her.

CUT TO:

EXT. GENDER REVEAL PARTY - DAY

Aiden and Emily are surrounded by excited family and friends. All around, the yard is decorated with pink balloons.

As Aiden's mom and Emily's former classmate hug Emily, Aiden's dad stares knowingly across the yard at Aiden's heavy expression.

Aiden doesn't meet his gaze.

INT. BABY ROOM - MORNING

Dark.

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Dust layers every surface, including the half-finished crib. It swirls in the light from a single window.

Rubbing his eyes, Aiden pauses in his walk past the open door, still in his night clothes. Confused, he glances around the room, trying to understand what it means.

His face contorts.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Aiden rushes out and pauses in the entrance to the living room, breathing hard.

Emily sits in the window seat, her knees tucked up to her chest. Her face is turned toward the glass.

Approaching, Aiden puts a hand on her shoulder, trying to comfort her. She shrugs off his touch.

DISCONNECTED - MONTAGE

A) INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 1

Camera looks through the window at Emily in the same outfit as Aiden bursts out of the hall the next morning.

B) INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 2

Aiden bursts out of the hall on yet another morning. Emily hasn't moved.

C) INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 3

Emily is in the same spot. This time, Aiden doesn't come through the door. She stands and walks away.

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Emily appears worn, but less haggard. She is dressed to go to work.

She grabs a jacket from the coat rack and pulls it on. Sighing, she slings on her purse.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

As Emily reaches for her car keys on the counter, Aiden snatches them away.

She looks up at him, tired. Holding them up playfully, he forces a small smile.

The expression doesn't reach his eyes.

As the two of them leave the house, the shot lingers on the 'future' box visible through their bedroom door.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The two of them drive to her job in silence, Aiden in the driver's seat. They stop at a light.

For a moment, they sit there without a word, staring out the front window. Then, letting out a long breath, Emily leans over to put her head on Aiden's shoulder.

He gently squeezes her thigh.

The light turns green.

Emily straightens in her seat, her expression peaceful.

As the car begins moving again, Aiden gazes over at her, his muscles tightening.

Powerful headlights rush toward the driver's side window, silhouetting him.

Cut to black.

SLOW FADE IN:

INT. PSYCHOLOGY CLASS ROOM - EVENING

The professor from before enters to turn off the lights. As he moves to slip back out, something in the room catches his eye.

Emily sits in her old place, her left arm in a sling.

Slowly, deliberately, the professor makes his way up the auditorium-style seating and sits down in the seat beside her.

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For a moment, they stare in silence at the blank whiteboard. Emily turns and buries her face in the professor's shoulder.

INSERT SHOT OF THE EMPTY PARK BENCH.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The room is mostly bare, the ground covered in moving boxes. In sweats but without the sling, Emily slowly takes the notes down from the 'past' board, packing them carefully away.

Opening the wardrobe next, she pauses. Inside, the old box sits open, filled with notecards. Reaching down, she picks one up.

In childish handwriting, it reads:
"10/14/18. Stillbirth. We'll get to hold her."

INSERT SHOT OF AIDEN'S FACE AT REVEAL PARTY. ALL IS BLACK AND WHITE OTHER THAN THE BALLOONS.

Emily slides down the wall to the ground, note in hand. Pulling out the box, she lays it down in front of her on the floor.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. AIDEN'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - DAY

Young Aiden sits on the floor with the box in front of him. After thinking for a second, he reaches for a pen and paper.

His tongue sticks out as he writes.

"3/12/14 - Carnations are her favorite."

INSERT SHOT OF COLLEGE-AGED AIDEN PICKING OUT THE CARNATION BOUQUET FROM A FLOWER SHOP.

Excitedly grabbing another card, Young Aiden quickly scribbles down a second note.

"3/1/14 - She always forgets an umbrella."

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CONTINUED:

INSERT SHOT OF COLLEGE AIDEN SHOVING TWO UMBRELLAS INTO HIS BAG INSTEAD OF ONE.

Grinning, Young Aiden scrambles to write another note.

"2/23/14 - Her mom loved hot chocolate :)"

INSERT EXPANDED SHOT OF COLLEGE AIDEN DROPPING OFF THE HOT CHOCOLATE BY EMILY'S CHAIR RIGHT AFTER SHE WALKS AWAY, CAREFUL NOT TO LET HER SEE.

Finally, Young Aiden's hand finishes the last letter of:

"2/11/14 - Psych 201. Third row."

He underlines it.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

College Aiden paces back and forth outside the psychology classroom.

Straightening his shirt nervously, he rehearses saying something to himself.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Emily, surrounded by notes, reaches for the last one in the box, her hands shaking.

Her eyes reading it quickly, she drops it with a sob and hugs her arms to her chest, rocking forward to hide her face from view.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Aiden reaches out to open the door to the classroom but hesitates.

His hand rests on the doorknob.

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CONTINUED:

INSERT SHOT OF THE LAST NOTE LYING ON TOP OF A SEA OF OTHERS: "2/15/18 - The truck hits the driver's side."

CUT TO:

INT. PSYCHOLOGY CLASS ROOM - DAY

Aiden opens the door.

Blinking in the increased light, he looks around, dazed, as the professor welcomes him in and pulls him to the center of the teaching area.

Aiden squints up at the students, searching.

His eyes light up.

Emily leans forward in her seat, copying the definition down from the board. She is completely in color. When her classmate nudges her arm, she finally looks up, smiling uncertainly as she catches his look.

Aiden gazes at her for a long moment, tears gleaming in his eyes as he swallows the lump in his throat. Then, shaking his head, he lets out a laughing breath.

THE END