

TO KNOW THYSELF

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

TREVOR, mid-thirties slim, is standing over three coffins. The coffins are white, one adult, two children. lots of friends and coworkers are in attendance. A preacher is reading from the Bible (inaudible). Everyone is wearing black. The sky is cloudy, it looks like it might rain.

An OLD WOMEN is trying to hold Trevor's arm, he is unresponsive with a blank, sad expression on his face.

SAMANTHA, attractive mid-twenties, is standing next to Trevor, looking at him with a sad worried look.

Zoom slowly to Trevor's face, his expression is lifeless and sad.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

A younger Trevor looks awkward and out of place at a college party. College kids are drinking and having a good time.

LAURA, beautiful about Trevor's age, is standing across the room. Trevor with a determined look walks over to Laura. He introduces himself, Laura smiles, they talk(inaudible)and Laura laughs.

Trevor looks comfortable, like he was in a conversation with an old friend.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Trevor is standing motionless, stoically. Samantha and the Old Woman are still by his side. People are walking up to the three holes in the ground and dropping roses on the coffins. It is starting to rain.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Laura is wearing a long fairy tale wedding dress. Trevor and Laura are standing in front of the minister. Laura is very happy and crying.

LAURA

...I do, I do.

Laura and Trevor kiss a long, I just got married kiss.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - HONEYMOON SUIT - NIGHT

Trevor carries Laura over the threshold. They are kissing. He sets her on the bed. There is champagne on ice It is very romantic. They are very much in love.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

It is raining. Work men are shoveling soil into the graves. The few people that were left, are leaving. Only Samantha stands next to Trevor, holding an umbrella over him.

Trevor looks ahead blankly at the workmen shoveling soil into the graves. His expression is as if his heart was being buried before his eyes, as if he has no reason left to live.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. NICE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Trevor and Laura are having a romantic dinner. They are very much in love.

TREVOR

I have big news. Life in a new direction big.

LAURA

You have to bribe me with a fancy restaurant? Should I be worried?

TREVOR

I have been accepted for the graduate program at MIT... And I got a scholarship that will pay for half of it.

LAURA

What about the job offers? We could start paying back the student loans now.

TREVOR

You only get an opportunity like this once in your life. Yes, we will go farther in debt. But think of the future, our future.

LAURA

We would have to move. And what about starting a family?

TREVOR

We don't have to wait, that is what credit cards are for. Maybe in a couple of years we could try for a little Laura.

Trevor reaches across the table and takes his wife's hand and holds it for a moment. A WAITER brings a bottle of wine and pours two glasses. Trevor and Laura are lost in each other's eyes and ignore the waiter. He sets the bottle of wine on the table and walks away.

LAURA

Ph.D. in theoretical physics does have a nice ring to it. Then I would be Mrs. Dr. Trevor Wright. I like it.

TREVOR

To Mrs. Dr. Wright, and MIT.

Trevor smiles and raises his glass for the toast, and takes a sip. Laura sets her glass down after the toast, without taking a sip, and smiles coyly.

LAURA

I have big life changing news too. I was at the Doctors office today, and it seems... I am pregnant... with twins.

Laura hands Trevor a sonogram picture. He takes it and looks at his unborn daughters. Trevor is very happy and proud.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. CEMETARY - DUSK

It is raining. The workmen are gone and there are three mounds of dirt over the graves. Everyone is gone except Trevor and Samantha. Samantha touches Trevor's arm and he seems to be awakened from a trance.

SAMANTHA

It is getting dark, let me take you home.

TREVOR

I don't have a home. I own an empty shell
of a house.

INT. INSIDE SAMANTHA'S CAR - NIGHT

Samantha is driving, and Trevor is looking out the window thoughtfully. The windshield wipers and the rain are the only sounds.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. MIT UNIVERSITY - LAWN - DAY

Trevor is graduating, he accepts his degree and walks off the stage, rolled up scroll in hand. He is wearing the cap and gown.

Two little four-year-old girls in cute little spring dresses come running to Trevor yelling "Daddy."

The twin girls jump into Trevor's arms. Laura follows behind when she reaches Trevor she gives him a hug and a kiss.

LAURA

...Yes Dr. Wright does have a nice ring to
it.

They walk away. Trevor is still carrying both his daughters. Their little arms around his neck.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

EXT. MIT UNIVERSITY - LAWN - DAY

There is an after-graduation reception. Trevor is with his family and they are eating finger foods. Waiters offer trays of food and drinks.

An OLD MAN walks to Trevor and hands him a business card.

OLD MAN

Our company is looking for men with your
particular kind of talent.

TREVOR

What kind of talent is that?

OLD MAN

A man that considers graduating at the top of his class, and getting a Ph.D. in theoretical physics, just stepping stones.

TREVOR

I am sorry, but I plan to stay with the university. I don't want to work for a company. I want to do basic research.

OLD MAN

Basic research is exactly what we do. Please talk it over with your beautiful wife. Perhaps take a tour of our lab.

The old man turns and walks away. Laura takes the business card out of Trevor's hand and looks at it, then turns it over. Laura's eyes grow wide.

LAURA

Trevor... A dollar amount has been hand written on the back of this card... It is a really big number.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. SAMANTHA'S CAR - NIGHT

Trevor looks despondently out the car window. Just the sound of rain and windshield wipers. Samantha looks at Trevor and then back at the road.

SAMANTHA

You know, you don't have to stay there. I mean you could pack a suitcase, and I could drive you somewhere. Maybe you could stay with friends or family for a while.

TREVOR

I don't have any friends, and my family is dead.

SAMANTHA

I am your friend.

TREVOR

I appreciate what you are trying to do Sam. I really do. But I just need to be alone.

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Samantha's car pulls up in the circle drive way of Trevor's house. It is raining hard. Trevor gets out and slowly walks toward the house. Samantha gets out and struggles with an umbrella and tries to cover Trevor. She catches up with him right before he makes it to the porch. He is soaked.

INT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is well furnished. There are photographs of Laura and the twins hanging on the walls.

SAMANTHA

Put some dry clothes on, I will make some coffee. Maybe you could pack a few things and I could take you somewhere.

TREVOR

Where do you think I should go?

SAMANTHA

Friends, family, I don't know. I just don't think you should be alone right now.

TREVOR

I had family and work. Now I have a graveyard. Thank you for taking me home Sam. But I am going to stay right here tonight.

SAMANTHA

I could stay. I will sleep on the sofa and I'll order some pizza.

TREVOR

You have done enough, really. Now go home.

SAMANTHA

But... You shouldn't be alone, you just lost your... I have never seen you act this way... You are not thinking straight. I know how... I know how much you loved them.

TREVOR

Samantha. Please get out of my house. Now.

Trevor opens the door, and looks at Sam. It is raining hard

INT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Trevor looks through the window. Samantha's tail lights can be seen pulling out of the driveway in the pouring rain.

Trevor walks to the wet bar and opens the cabinet. He takes out a bottle of scotch and sets it on the counter, pauses and takes a second bottle of scotch out and sets it on the counter, and looks at the two bottles. He opens the bottle of scotch and pours himself a large glass. He drains the glass, and pours himself another. He carries the bottle with him and goes and sits down on the sofa.

Trevor turns on the TV. A home video of his twin daughters on their 10th birthday plays on the widescreen. He drains his glass and pours another.

As Trevor watches the home videos of his wife and daughters. The first tear falls silently down his cheek. His cell phone rings, he takes it out of his pocket and throws it at the brick hearth without looking at who called. The phone shatters. Trevor continues to drink and watch home movies.

INT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Trevor is vomiting in the sink. He looks at himself in the mirror. He looks like crap and is disgusted. He punches his reflection in the mirror. The mirror cracks and his hand starts bleeding. Blood drips on the floor. He opens the closet and takes a fresh white towel and wraps his hand.

Trevor sees his gun safe in the closet. He enters in the code, and pulls out a revolver.

INT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Trevor is sitting on the sofa. Family videos playing on the TV. The revolver is sitting on the coffee table, five bullets in a row next to it. Trevor is now drinking directly from the bottle.

Laura (on the TV), is struggling to get the camcorder away from Trevor playfully. The camcorder now points to Trevor.

LAURA (O.C.)

You always are behind the lens, so there.
Now introducing the great Dr. Wright. Say something smart.

TREVOR (O.C. ON TV)

Okay, okay. The Fabric of Space-time...

Trevor picks up the gun and spins the cylinder. Trevor on TV talks in the background (inaudible). He puts the gun to his head and pulls the trigger. It dry fires. He points the gun to the TV, and pulls the trigger, once, dry fires. Twice, dry fires. Third, the gun fires with a deafening bang. The T.V. shatters, we still hear the audio banter of Laura and Trevor on the video. Trevor picks up the Bottle of scotch and walks out of the room.

INT. LARGE HOUSE - TWINS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Trevor walks into his daughters's bedroom. Two princess twin beds, lots of stuffed animals, and toys. It is a girly girl bedroom. Trevor sits on the edge of the bed and takes another drink. He turns on a music box that projects stars on the ceiling and lies down on the twin bed. Trevor looks at the stars.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. LAKESHORE - DAY

Trevor with his wife and daughters. He is putting life jackets on his nine-year-old twins. There is a canoe at the water's edge. Laura is taking a picture.

LAURA

You know we should do this more often.
Just the family and no cell phones.

TREVOR

You know my research requires me to be on call.

LAURA

Sometimes I wonder if you love your research more than me.

TREVOR

I don't have to choose, so you will never know.

LAURA

(smiling coyly)
You do know that is not the right answer?

TREVOR

I have the perfect life. Two beautiful little girls, a job researching time and space, and an alright wife, if only she

could learn how to cook.

LAURA

I can order Chinese food with the best of them.

The twins are calling from the canoe for their daddy.

TREVOR

Let's see if we can catch some dinner.

Trevor pushes the canoe out in the water, the twins laugh and the boat rocks. Fishing poles are hanging out the side of the boat. Trevor paddles, Laura looks on from the shore.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES:

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Trevor, Laura and the twins are sitting around a campfire. Laura is snuggled up next to Trevor, the twins are roasting marshmallows on the open campfire.

LAURA

Today was perfect.

TREVOR

Every day with you is perfect.

LAURA

Promise me we will do this every summer. You can get away from your "important" research two weeks a year.

TREVOR

I would like that. I promise honey. Every year we will come up here for two weeks. No phone, just you and the kiddos.

LAURA

Good, because I already made reservations to rent this cabin until the girls are 18.

The girls are still roasting marshmallows, this is a perfect family moment. We look up at the clear starry sky, there are so many stars.

BACK TO SCENE:

INT. LARGE HOUSE - TWINS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Trevor is still lying on the twin bed, stars are being projected on the ceiling from the music box.

Trevor is thoughtful. The bottle slips from his hand and falls on the floor, he ignores the scotch pouring out on the floor. Trevor gets up and leaves the bedroom with purpose.

INT. LARGE HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Trevor walks into the dining room and drops rolled drafting paper, a box of markers, and a whole lot of Red Bull energy drinks on the table. He rolls open the large paper and uses the cans to hold it down. He pops open a Red Bull and takes a chug. Trevor takes pictures of his family off the wall and carefully sets them down.

He starts writing on the large white wall, complex mathematical equations.

INT. SAMANTHA'S CAR - DAY

Samantha is driving and dialing her phone. Trevor's phone goes directly to voice mail.

TREVOR (O.C.)

You have reached Dr. Wright, please leave a message, or better yet call me at work.

Computer voice says. "This mail box is full."

SAMANTHA

Damn it Trevor, pick up your phone.

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - DAY

Samantha's car pulls in to the drive way, she walks to the door with two large coffees. She rings the doorbell... she knocks... She tries the doorknob. It is unlocked. Samantha lets herself in.

INT. LARGE HOUSE - DAY

Samantha walks into the house.

SAMANTHA

Trevor... Trevor... Dr. Wright. Hello. I brought some coffee.

Samantha notices the revolver on the coffee table next to an empty bottle of scotch and a bloody white towel. She