

INT. ATTIC. DAY.

A cluttered attic. Assorted items are stacked in piles. In the middle of the clutter in front of a chest sit DEREK, a young boy around ten and his father, PETER, an eccentric looking man around the age of forty.

The two are handling and playing with items pulled from the chest. Peter is telling Derek a story, using the pieces as props. They are flicking through a sketchbook full of watercolours.

PETER

The brave young prince had made it through the forest and out to the sea, but the monsters were closing in on him.

Derek excitedly flips open the sketchbook to a page that shows a beautiful shoreline.

PETER (CONT'D)

Luckily, the prince found an old boat that had been left by a fisherman.

Derek finds a toy boat out of the chest and starts mimicking its movement over waves.

PETER (CONT'D)

As he pushed out into the ocean he knew he was nearly safe because the monsters are afraid of water. Do you know why?

DEREK

Because they're dirty!

PETER

Yes! And because they're horrible smelly monsters they love being dirty and they never take baths.

DEREK

Eurgh!

PETER
But the monsters have very
long arms and they reach out
to try and grab the prince.

Peter starts reaching out and grabbing at Derek
who ducks and screams with laughter.

PETER (CONT'D)
But the prince had one last
trick. He pulled out his
trusty slingshot.

Derek finds the slingshot in the chest.

PETER (CONT'D)
And he takes the magic stones
that the wizard had given him.

Derek holds up a bag of brightly coloured
marbles.

PETER (CONT'D)
And he takes aim at the
monsters, picking them off one
by one!

Derek aims with his slingshot and Peter starts
pointing into the shadows.

PETER (CONT'D)
There! And There!

Derek shoots, and the marbles ricochet in
the darkness. Crack, crack, crack.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY. NIGHT.

DEREK wakes up with a jolt. He is much older,
around the age of forty. An urn stands on the
desk. He looks over in the middle of the room.
There sits the chest. Like Derek, it is now much
older and worn down.

Rubbing the sleep from his eyes Derek looks back
to his desk. In front of him the old sketchbook.
He flicks through a couple of pages to reach the
last page. A blank page.

Derek stands hesitantly and looks down at the chest. Eventually he kneels down in front of it and rubs the top of it reminiscently. He puts a hand on each side and slowly begins to open it.

SUSANNE (O.S.)

Derek?

Derek stops and turns his head, there is a knock on the door.

SUSANNE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Please dear, you've been in there for hours.

Derek drops the lid back down and removes his hands, he turns around facing the door. Slumping himself against the chest. He gives no response.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

SUSANNE, Derek's wife, of similar age, stands on the other side of the door. She looks disheartened and closes her eyes.

Susanne moves to ADAM, her son, at the other side of the living room. He is around ten years old and sits cross legged on the floor surrounded by coloured crayons. He is drawing.

SUSANNE

It's time for bed now, Adam.

Adam looks up from his drawing and then back down at it. He picks up a crayon, draws for a moment and then puts the crayon back down.

ADAM

All finished.

Adam smiles at Susanne as he passes her his drawing. Susanne looks over the picture.

SUSANNE

Oh my, this is wonderful Adam.

ADAM

Do you think dad will like it?

Susanne looks towards Adam.

SUSANNE

More than you could possibly imagine. Dad will be so happy when he sees it.

She looks towards the door of the study with sadness and hands the drawing back to Adam.

SUSANNE (CONT'D)

But right now, it's bedtime.

ADAM

Please can I show him now?

Adam smiles at Susanne, she gives a warm, comforting smile back.

SUSANNE

It's late. Show him tomorrow.

Adam slumps his shoulders in disappointment.

ADAM

Okay.

INT. STUDY. NIGHT.

Derek sits at his desk with his head in his hands. The desk now much messier than before. He finds a clean sheet of paper and begins sketching. Propped open on the urn sits the sketchbook. It displays the watercolour of the lake in the lush green country side.

Derek looks from his own sketch to the watercolour. In frustration he screws up the sheet of paper.

He throws the paper ball across the room in anger. It hits the chest and falls on the floor in front of it. Derek sits back in his chair, staring at the chest. Calming himself down he lets out a sigh. He walks over to the paper ball.

Kneeling down he goes to pick it up and is now eye level with the top of the chest. He places his hands on each side of the chest. He looks around at the doors and then back at the chest.

Derek lifts the lid fully open, his eyes wide in awe.

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

ADAM lies in bed tossing and turning. To the side of his bed a wall can be seen covered in a variety of pictures and posters.

Anxious, Adam sits up and looks through the window to see it is still night outside. Annoyed he sinks back in to bed, turning over he looks at the wall of pictures. He closes his eyes once more.

Decidedly, he gets out of bed. He grabs his picture from the drawer on the other side of the room. Now smiling he leaves the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

The room is still. Adam opens the door and peers in. Seeing no one around he tip-toes past the sofa and chairs, past the dining table and towards the study door. On reaching the doors he stands before them, clutching his drawing in both hands. The light shining out from underneath the door is moving with shadows, showing activity within.

Adam slowly begins to push the door open.

ADAM (WHISPERING)

Dad?

Adam slides the doors fully apart. As he sees in to the room Adam's face drops in to a state of confusion.

INT. STUDY. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Adam stands in the doorway of the room. He is baffled, his dad is nowhere to be seen. He walks in and it seems nothing is out of place. He walks over to the desk where the sketchbook catches his eye. He picks it up, slowly looking through.

He flicks through each page carefully until arriving at the blank page. He looks down at his foot to see he has stood on a screwed up piece of paper. He bends down, placing the sketchbook on the floor to his side.

Adam unscrews the paper to discover a rough sketch of some woodland. He looks forward now seeing the chest. He tries lifting it open with one hand but struggles. He then places both hands on it and opens it slowly.

On opening it fully Adam smiles to himself and peers in. Just as with Derek, his eyes open wide in amazement.

EXT. SKETCHED WOODLANDS. DAY. (ANIMATED)

The landscape is dull and grey, in the style of Derek's sketch. Twisted trees stretch across the harsh wasteland in to the distance, they hold no leaves and the ground around them is dead. In the sky, thunder and lightning battle with daylight.

ADAM lies on the floor but he is different and now takes on the form of a colourful cartoon like character, drawn in a childish style.

ADAM

Ugh...

Adam sits up and looks around.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Hello?

He stands.

ADAM (SHOUTING) (CONT'D)

Dad?

He looks around, looking at his surroundings.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Someone! Please help me.

Adam takes a step forward and as he does so a path begins to sketch itself trailing off in to the distance, in to the clutter of the woods. Adam looks to where it leads and then begins to walk along it.

EXT. WATERCOLOUR LAKE. DAY.

DEREK sits on a boat in the middle of a lake, he too has taken on a new form. He is a sketched like character in black and white. The sky is clear and green hills surround the lake. The scene is the watercolour found in the sketchbook, the atmosphere is similar to that of a lazy dream.

Derek sits looking at the sketchbook, he is staring at the blank page. He taps his pencil on the page and sighs.

EXT. SKETCHED WOODLANDS. DAY.

ADAM has now moved further in to the woods. The trees are now closer together, the sky gone from Adam's view and the path has ended. Adam is frightened. Lightening flashes and something moves between the trees. Adam looks around.

ADAM (SHOUTING)
Hello? Is someone there?

Now in the midst of the trees, the wood seems to have closed Adam in. Lightening strikes again as more movement is heard, Adam turns on the spot and slowly begins to back himself in to the trees.

Suddenly, Adam falls back. He has tripped over something, he sits up to find a slingshot and a pouch of marbles at his feet. The marbles glow with colour in the black and white world.

Adam picks them up and puts them in to his pocket, he holds the sling shot in his hand. He places a marble in to the sling shot and aims it at the trees. He waits a moment and then pulls it back.

Once more movement is heard, Adam begins to breath more heavily with every passing moment. From behind, a thick black hand grabs him. It is a shadow creature. Adam panics and fires the marble in to the air falling back once more. The marble disappears in to the sky and more shadow creatures jump on to him. He screams for help.

EXT. WATERCOLOUR LAKE. DAY.

Derek sits contemplating the stillness of the water around him, feeling a sense of numbness.

Water splashes on to his lap. He sees a marble glisten in the sunlight before sinking in to the water. Curious, Derek looks over the slide of boat to see the water settle once more. As it ripples he sees not his reflection but PETER looking back at him.

Derek stares for a moment in disbelief. The reflection of Peter slowly points to Derek's chest. In reaction Derek slowly puts a hand to his heart. He feels something. Peter winks with a glister in his eye similar to the marble and then disappears.

Derek looks down at his shirt pocket to discover a bulk within it. He pulls out a folded up piece of paper. It is Adam's drawing. He unfolds it and begins to look over the drawing, a smile spreads across his face and colour quickly paints itself on to Derek. All sound comes rushing back to Derek.

ADAM (O.S.)
Someone please! Help me!

Derek looks over in to the distance. The sketched woodland stands in view.

DEREK
I'm coming, Adam.

He starts rowing in the direction of the woods.

EXT. SKETCHED WOODLANDS. DAY.

DEREK arrives in the woods. Pushing past the trees he sees a swarm of dark figures surrounding something. A figure turns to reveal a now black and white ADAM on the floor, motionless.

DEREK (SHOUTING)
Adam!

Derek runs towards him, the shadows charge towards him but Derek keeps moving forward. They pull him to the floor but he crawls. He is inches away from Adam. He reaches out and touches Adam's hand.

DEREK (CONT'D)
It's okay Adam, I'm here.
You'll be okay.

The shadows slowly drag Derek in to the thick of the woods. Derek still holds on to Adam's hand.

DEREK (CONT'D)
I saw your drawing, it made
me so happy. More than you
can possibly imagine.

Derek then lets go of Adam's hand as he is dragged further away and off in to the woods. But at his father's touch Adam's hand has regained its childish colour. The colour starts to run through his body like fresh blood, giving him a renewed energy.

The shadows laugh as they kick, punch and tormenting Derek. Then a noise, the crowd stops. Adam, now glowing with colour stands in front of them, holding up the slingshot armed with a marble.

He fires a marble. It explodes with colour as it hits one of the minions. The shadow screams and fades away, the area where it stood now in the garish crayon colours.

After two more shots, the colour is returning to the forest. Adam loads another marble into the sling shot and pulls it back. The shadows take fright and quickly disappear in to the darkness. Adam runs over to his dad.

ADAM
Are you okay, dad?

Derek smiles.

DEREK
I am now, son.

Adam and Derek hug. The world around them suddenly blooms with colour, the trees part to reveal the boat and the lake but this time the scene is more dream like. Derek gets up and the two walk off in to the distance. They create Adam's picture.

INT. STUDY. NIGHT.

DEREK sits slumped against the open chest. He puts Adam's drawing down next to him. Derek is tired but looks happy. The room is now a mess, the floor filled with photos, drawings, the slingshot, marbles, a toy boat and the sketchbook.

One by one Derek puts the objects back in to the chest, looking at each item with a certain fondness. The last item to go in is the sketchbook, Derek looks at it and then turns to see ADAM fast asleep in the desk chair. Derek smiles and closes the lid to the chest. He puts both the drawing and sketch pad on his desk, strokes his son's hair and then looks at the urn.

INT. CAR. DAY.

It is late afternoon and the sky has but only a few clouds. DEREK looks more fresh-faced as he drives along with SUSANNE in the passenger seat and ADAM in the back. Next to Adam sits the urn whilst Susanne holds the sketchbook.

Derek smiles. The car slows down and as it does Adam's face lights up.

ADAM

Wow.

EXT. HILLTOP. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY.

The three slowly emerge at the top of the hill. ADAM runs ahead whilst DEREK and SUSANNE walk holding hands and carrying the two items, the urn and sketchbook.

Adam stands on the hilltop admiring the view. Derek lets go of Susanne's hand as she nods towards Adam, passing Derek the sketchbook. Derek smiles at her and walks over to join Adam.

DEREK

Do you like the view,
Adam?

Adam turns and nods at Derek.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Me and my dad used to come to
this same spot.

Derek sits down opening the sketchbook to the
page of the lake and hillside he holds it up so
Adam can see.

Adam sits down and Derek closes the
sketchbook.

DEREK (CONT'D)
This sketchbook is very
important, it means a lot to
me. It helps me remember.

Adam looks up at his father.

ADAM
Help you to remember
grandad?

Tears begin to form in Derek's eyes.

DEREK
That, and much more...

Derek looks at the view.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Memories, values, passion.

Derek looks back at Adam.

DEREK (CONT'D)
And happiness.

He passes the sketchbook to Adam. Derek wipes a
tear from his eye.

DEREK (CONT'D)
What you do in life doesn't
matter. As long as when you
step back and look at the big
picture, you're happy.

He turns to look at Adam.

DEREK (CONT'D)
You helped me remember that.
You helped me see the big
picture, you helped me fill
the last page.

Adam looks from Derek and flicks to the last page of the sketchbook, placed with in is his drawing. Adam looks up at Derek.

DEREK (CONT'D)
You reminded me of my own
adventure.

ADAM
Of our adventure.

Derek smiles and nods with tears in his eyes.

DEREK
Hey, how'd you like to go out
on that boat?

ADAM
Yeah!

Adam jumps up and runs down to the shoreline where a boat is waiting. Susanne takes Derek's arm and they follow behind, peacefully.

FADE TO BLACK.