

The Luminous Gap

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EXT. BUSY STREET. EVENING.

A Man (RICK) and a HEAVILY PREGNANT Woman (Leah) are walking across a busy street.

He's noticeably protective of her as he guides her across the road, ushering her ahead of him.

A FAST MOVING Van runs a RED LIGHT, clips another Car, then spins out control into the Path of Leah.

Rick runs towards her and pushes her out of the way, taking the full force of the Van.

The Van clips him and he's sent hurtling and rolling across the road.

He looks up and sees his Wife is OK - Bystanders are helping her.

Then another car, avoiding the Van hits him.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM. DAY.

Looking down on a body lying on a Gurney, as an Emergency Medical team are trying to resuscitate Rick.

Tunnel Vision as the screen turns white.

Voices and Noise fade into Tinnitus.

Tinnitus fades into sound of flowing RIVER.

EXT. RIVERBANK. DAY.

A LARGE OLD WEATHERED OAK TREE stands next to a Riverbank, in a peaceful, picturesque setting.

The River is about 200 metres wide.

The Large Tree has a DOOR in it.

The door opens and Rick walks out.

He's dazed and confused and stumbles around in his new IDYLLIC surroundings.

An older MAN (WILL) is sitting by the River.

He sees Rick approaching and stands up.

Will looks a bit like Rick.

WILL
Hello there.

RICK
(frantic)
Hello? Who are you, where am I?!!

WILL
I'm Will and you are?

RICK
I'm errr...I can't remember..I
don't know!

WILL
It doesn't matter...

RICK
It does to me! Where the bloody
hell am I?!

WILL
I'm not sure really, it's rather
nice though isn't it?

RICK
What?! Yes it's OK I suppose..Never
mind that! Why am I here? How did I
get here?

WILL
You came out of that tree.

Will points to the Tree with the Door in it.

Rick runs over to the Tree and tries to open the door - it
won't budge.

RICK
It's locked! Why can't I go back?!

WILL
Where do you want to be?

RICK
Errmm I'm not sure...

There is a BRIGHT LIGHT that flashes and

CUTS TO:

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM. DAY.

Rick stands alone in the Hospital Emergency Room, there's no-one else around, he looks at the empty Gurney.

There is a BRIGHT LIGHT that flashes and

CUTS TO:

EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Rick stands in the middle of a Road, it's raining and there are no cars or people anywhere.

There is a BRIGHT LIGHT that flashes and

CUTS TO:

INT. GENERIC OFFICE. DAY

Rick is Now in an empty office, he tries to run for a door but he's dazzled and trips over a chair and falls.

There is a BRIGHT LIGHT that flashes and

CUTS TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK. DAY.

Rick is lying on the floor at Will's feet.

WILL
Hello again.

RICK
Huh?

WILL
Well seem as though you're here,
how about you help me get over the
other side?

RICK
What? Err No, no thanks, I don't
want to go over there.

WILL
You sure?

RICK
Yes I'm sure! Why would I?

WILL

To be honest, we really should cross over, it's where we need to be.

RICK

Look, somethings not right here, I'm not supposed to be here, wherever this is, can you help me?

WILL

If you help me cross the River, I can help you.

RICK

How will that help? How can you help me?

WILL

Look, I know this is all a bit strange to you, I get it but if you help me cross the river you will understand.

RICK

I don't see how that's gonna help. Tell me who you are, where did you come from , what are you doing here? Anything!

WILL

My name's Will, I came out that door over there, in the Tree, like you just did and I need to go over there...to the other side.

Rick sees a Fully Blossomed PINK CHERRY TREE visible on the other side of the River.

It seems to have a door in it.

Rick gets really wound up.

RICK

Listen you!...

Then a realisation hits him.

RICK (CONT'D)

The other side?

WILL

Yeah.

RICK
Wait..

WILL
What?

RICK
I remember something now.

MEMORY FLASH

The Van hits Rick and he sees his Pregnant Wife in a Flash.

END MEMORY FLASH

WILL
What is it?

RICK
No, sorry it's gone...

WILL
Hmm, know what you mean, so wanna go over there?

RICK
Yeah why not. Hold on, how the hell are we going to get over there?

WILL
I've gathered logs, grass, twigs and branches and tied them all together to make a raft.

He points over to the Riverbank and sure enough there's a crappy looking raft lying there.

RICK
I'm not getting on that!

WILL
It's fine, just need you to help me with the deck.

Will walks over to the door Rick came out from.

WILL (CONT'D)
Can you give me a hand here?

RICK
It's locked.

Will opens the door and there's nothing but tree and bark behind it.

WILL

Just need a hand to pull this off.

Rick walks next to Will and gets a hold of the door - they both pull and the door comes off the hinges easier than either of them thought it would.

WILL (CONT'D)

Over there.

They both carry the door over to the raft and tie it onto the top of the logs, making sure its secure.

WILL (CONT'D)

I couldn't get across on my own but if you join me, together we can paddle across.

RICK

You're crazy, whoever you are.

Will walks to the raft and begins to push it out into the water, the old man struggles.

Rick walks over to join him and help.

They both climb onto the raft and begin to paddle with their hands.

RICK (CONT'D)

So where are we?

WILL

On a River.

RICK

Yeah, I can see that but where?

WILL

I'm not entirely sure, it's hard to explain in words.

RICK

Why don't you try?! I have no idea what the hell is going on here, where I am, what I'm doing here!

Will seems unphased by the aggressive nature of Rick.

WILL

I can see you are angry, confused,
anxious?

RICK

You think?!

WILL

I understand, just let me take you
across the river and you will see
and feel differently.

RICK

Yeah? How will that help? I just
came out of a Tree and I know
nothing!

WILL

I was the same as you but then the
River showed me the way.

RICK

What do you mean?

WILL

Wait, we'll move into calmer
waters.

RICK

You know, you seem kind of
familiar.

They both paddle as fast as they can to get the Raft into the
middle of the River but the current is proving too strong.

The raft starts to come apart, just in little bits at first,
a few sticks fall away.

They have to put more effort into paddling to get out of the
current but the raft is being swept down the river.

RICK (CONT'D)

This was a bad idea!

Rick PANICS starts to move about and ROCKS the raft.

WILL

Hey! Don't! Let the river take us,
go with the flow!

The raft becomes unsteady Will tries to hold on, more pieces
break off as the raft moves further down stream.

Will tries to steady the raft and hold it together but Rick's anxious behaviour is making things worse.

The DOOR starts to come away from the raft, Rick tries to hold onto it, as Will tries to paddle.

The door slides off the raft and Rick goes with it - it can't hold his weight and flips over.

The Door bangs Rick on the head - he can't hold on and disappears beneath the water.

EXT. UNDERWATER. DAY.

LUMINOUS Sunlight ripples through the water as Rick floats to the bottom of the River and comes to rest on the rocks.

As he rests at the bottom he comes to his senses and PANICS - HE'S DROWNING!

Wait a minute...No he's not.

He's OK, he's sitting on the bottom of a River and he's OK.

He looks around for a few seconds.

MEMORY FLASH

He sees the face of his Wife, LEAH, smiling.

MEMORY FLASH

He sees himself lying DEAD in Hospital.

END MEMORY FLASH

Rick looks up and sees Will above reaching his arm into the water.

Rick swims up and grabs his arm.

Will looks into the River a ripple in the water that blends his face into Ricks.

Will pulls Rick out of the Water and onto the raft.

Rick lies back on the raft - The sunlight is BLINDING

He squints and covers his eyes.

Rick takes his arm away from his face, he opens his eyes WIDE and isn't blinded.

He can see EVERYTHING in it's MICROBIOTIC form, as it moves as one, connected.

WILL
Do you see now?

RICK
Yes I can see, I died.

WILL
Yes you did.

RICK
So are you dead too?

WILL
Not exactly, I can be reborn if you can help me get over to the other side.

Rick sits up and looks at Will, REALLY looks at him, in his eyes he can see the similarity.

RICK
How can that be?

WILL
I know, crazy isn't it. You don't have to worry, I'll have a good life, you're a good man.

Will puts his hand on Rick's shoulder.

Rick is looking emotional and returns the gesture, then sets about paddling.

RICK
Come on then lets get you over there!

Both men paddle effectively and bring the raft over to the other side of the River.

Rick climbs off and helps Will off.

EXT. RIVERBANK. DAY.

Both men walk along the Riverbank towards a large fully blossomed CHERRY TREE with a DOOR in the trunk.

WILL
If it wasn't for you I wouldn't have made it this far.

RICK
The River wasn't that bad...

WILL
No I mean, you gave me life and
made sure I would be born, you
saved my Mother and now we're here.

RICK
I don't know what to say, so this
it it?

WILL
Yes, this is where I begin...

RICK
And where I end...

WILL
No, it's not like that. It's not
over yet...

RICK
I know, I'll be with you forever,
Son.

WILL
I better go, it's time.

They give each other a big hug, neither wants to let go.

Will pulls away and walks to the Door in the Tree.

Pink Cherry Blossom falls all around them.

Will opens the door and there's sound of a Woman in LABOUR.

Will looks back at Rick and the both smile.

Will walks into the TREE and closes the door behind him.

CUT TO BLACK.

A BABY CRIES AND THE VOICE OF A WOMAN SAYS

MIDWIFE
It's a Boy!.

THE END

