

SIGHT

Written by

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INT. GABE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

GABE (48) is lying on his hospital bed as he wakes up. He opens his eyes and the room goes from blurry to clear. Gabe sits up in bed as the female DOCTOR (57) standing next to the bed reacts.

DOCTOR
Mr. Morris, how are you feeling?

Gabe opens his eyes wide and scans the room.

GABE
I...I can see.

A smile crawls across Gabe's face as he looks around.

DOCTOR
The surgery went off without a hitch. There shouldn't have any complications, maybe just a little soreness around your eyebrows.

Gabe begins to get out of bed as she talks. He picks up the walking stick that is next to the bed but after a second of looking at it, he places back down. He turns to the doctor.

GABE
Thank you so much Doctor, this is a miracle.

DOCTOR
It's my pleasure. Your wife stepped out for a minute but she should be back in a second.

GABE
We're actually divorced.

DOCTOR
Oh, I'm sorry, I shouldn't have assumed.

GABE
Don't worry about it. Mind if I have some privacy for a minute?

DOCTOR
Of course, just press the red button by the bed if you need me or a nurse.

GABE
Thank you.

The doctor makes her way to the door and exits the room. Gabe goes to the window and looks out at all the trees and cars. He begins to lightly cry before he notices the full body mirror on the wall. He walks over to it slowly, examining himself, and then places his forehead against his reflection. He quietly laughs to himself. The door opens and in walks Catherine (49).

CATHERINE

Gabe?

Gabe turns to face her.

GABE

Catherine!

They walk toward one another slowly and embrace in the middle of the room.

CATHERINE

You can actually see me?

GABE

Yeah. I can see you, the room, the outside, everything.

CATHERINE

That's incredible. I can't believe it.

Gabe stops hugging her and looks her in the face with a smile.

GABE

I can barely believe it myself. I never thought I'd get to see you.

CATHERINE

Here I am.

Gabe goes over to the bed and starts collecting his things.

GABE

Let me just grab all my things and let's get out of here. I'm ready to see more.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Catherine sits in the driver's seat, her hands on the wheel as she drives. The car radio plays some upbeat folk music. Gabe is leaning forward and looking out the front window watching the passing houses, trees, and cars.

CATHERINE

How do you feel?

GABE

It's impossible to describe. It's like, I've always known about these things but finally seeing them...there's no way to experience everything the same way without being able to see them. It's incredible.

CATHERINE

It's not overwhelming?

GABE

No, it is. But in the best possible way.

CATHERINE

I'm glad you feel so great about it. I have to say, it's a little weird that you finally know what I look like.

Gabe stops looking out the windows and looks over to her.

GABE

It's weird knowing what I look like.

They share a laugh together as the song on the radio finishes and a new one emerges from the speakers.

CATHERINE

I imagine Alana is crazy excited to see you this weekend.

GABE

She doesn't know yet. About the operation.

CATHERINE

You haven't told her about your visits to the doctor and getting the surgery?

GABE

Nope.

CATHERINE

When you asked me not talk to her about it, I thought you were just scared that I'd make the whole thing out to be something bad. But you know I'd never do that right? I do support you on this, I have since the first time you brought it up.

GABE

No I know. It wasn't that. I just wanted it to be a surprise.

CATHERINE

Yeah she's going to be surprised.

GABE

She's not going to be mad at me, you don't think?

CATHERINE

No, Alana's always loved it when we make big decisions without telling her, the divorce being one.

Gabe stares out the window for a second, silent.

CATHERINE

Gabe, I'm joking. She's going to be happy. She's coming tomorrow around noon right?

GABE

Yeah.

CATHERINE

She'll be excited.

Gabe doesn't respond and they continue along the road.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

The front door of the house opens and Gabe and Catherine enter. Catherine is holding a box of items such as photos, books, and other random objects. Gabe walks around his house for the first time. He runs his fingers along a painting of the ocean that hangs on the wall.

GABE

The ocean. That's what I have to see next.

Catherine puts the box on the couch and begins to take off her sweatshirt. As she pulls it above her head, her stomach is shown and Gabe notices a scar by her belly button.

GABE

That scar. Is that from the C-section?

Catherine uses her hand to keep her shirt above the scar as she looks at it.

CATHERINE

Uh yeah.

Gabe steps up next to Catherine and holds his hand out to her stomach.

GABE

Do you mind?

CATHERINE

No go ahead.

Gabe gently rubs his fingers along the scar.

GABE

I spent years doing this, but actually seeing it is different. Our daughter came out of there.

Gabe stops rubbing the scar and looks up at Catherine who lets her shirt cover her stomach.

GABE

Does Alana have any scars?

CATHERINE

Just one. It's on her palm.

GABE

What's it look like?

CATHERINE

It's small. It looks like a backwards 7.

Catherine takes Gabe's hand and moves her fingers along his palm in a way that resembles Alana's scar.

CATHERINE

She got it when she fell off the swings in elementary school. Remember? Her hands slid against the pavement.

(MORE)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

She didn't cry but she was in pain,
you could tell by the way she
scrunched up her nose and cheeks.

Gabe lets out a little laugh. Catherine stops holding his palm and walks over to the box on the couch.

CATHERINE

I have pictures if you want to see
them. I figured you'd want to
decorate the place with them.

She pulls out a FRAMED PHOTO from the box and walks over to Gabe.

GABE

Thanks, but I don't want to
decorate until after Alana comes
home. I want the first time I see
her to be when she's standing right
in front of me.

CATHERINE

That's really cute.

Catherine slides the photo back into the box.

CATHERINE

I also brought some books without
braille and just some other small
things you might like.

GABE

Thanks, that's really kind.

CATHERINE

Yeah no problem, I'll just leave
them here.

Catherine starts walking over to the door, Gabe follows.

CATHERINE

I can come by a little early
tomorrow if you want. To make sure
you're okay.

GABE

I think I'm going to be fine.

CATHERINE

I know, I just want to make sure
you wear something halfway decent
for your daughter.

GABE

I will try my very best to look presentable.

They smile together as Catherine walks out the door. Gabe shuts the door behind her and turns around to face the living room. He stands there a moment, taking it all in.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE BATHROOM - NIGHT

Gabe is standing in front of the mirror in the bathroom. Half his face is covered in shaving cream. He's sliding his RAZOR across his skin slowly. While sliding it, he pricks his skin and blood slowly comes out. He grabs a tissue from nearby and begins soaking up the blood. He puts down the razor and stares at the blood on the tissue for a moment. He wipes up more of the blood on his face, but even more begins to come out slowly. He stands there looking into the mirror at his bleeding face.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gabe's lying down on the couch looking at one of the books from Catherine's box. He has a mug of coffee sitting on the table next to him. He hears a knock at the door and goes to answer it. It's Catherine.

CATHERINE

Good morning.

GABE

Morning.

Catherine heads inside and Gabe follows behind her.

CATHERINE

You made yourself coffee?

GABE

Yeah, following the instructions wasn't so hard. You want some?

CATHERINE

Yeah that would be great, thanks.

Gabe and Catherine head into the kitchen.

INT. GABE'S HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Gabe goes over to the coffee machine and begins making Catherine a glass.

CATHERINE

How'd you sleep?

GABE

Had my first dream. Well, first visual dream.

CATHERINE

I thought you've had dreams before?

GABE

Well yeah, but they were just noises and voices. This one actually had visuals with it.

CATHERINE

That's exciting. What was it about?

GABE

It was weird. I was standing by the couch, just like when you were here yesterday. And I heard a knock on the door. So I opened it but no one was there. I could hear Alana's voice though, she was talking to me like she had just come home from school for the summer. I couldn't see her but her voice went into the living room.

Gabe hands Catherine her cup of coffee and she begins to sip on it.

CATHERINE

Thanks.

GABE

I sat down on the couch with Alana's voice. I knew she was sitting next to me but I still couldn't see her. But then I can feel her hand in mine and I look down and I see a hand. I let go of it and her hand opened up and I could see the scar on her palm. Except, it was fresh, it was still bleeding. Like she had just fallen from her swing. I tried to put it under water but she wouldn't let me and she just left. That was it.

CATHERINE

I think it's safe to say that your meeting with her today will not be like that.

GABE

She's going to be so mad, isn't she?

CATHERINE

Mad at you?

GABE

Yeah, for not telling her about this.

Gabe points at his eyes. Catherine shakes her head.

CATHERINE

She's going to understand that you wanted it to be a surprise.

GABE

But come on, she's not going to like the fact that she's walking into a new situation. She's never been the best at handling them.

Gabe pulls out his cellphone and stares at it.

GABE

Maybe I should call her.

CATHERINE

And say what to her?

GABE

Tell her about the surgery. Maybe tell her not to come anymore.

CATHERINE

No, don't be stupid. She's coming and you're going to see her. You're going to see your daughter.

GABE

But she's never expected me to see her. You said it was weird that I was able to see you. Alana's just going to think it's strange. I'm calling her.

Gabe begins to go through his phone to call her.

CATHERINE

No, you're not.

Catherine tries to grab the phone out of his hand, but Gabe pulls away before she can.

GABE

I can't do this. I thought I could but I can't. I cut my chin last night shaving and I saw blood for the first time. I was scared. I was actually scared of a little bit of blood. But that's not nearly as terrifying as realizing that life is never going to be the same again. I thought it'd be simple. But it's just not.

CATHERINE

It will be though, it'll take some time but it will be.

GABE

I need some air.

Gabe heads to the front door and walks out. Catherine hesitates to follow him but slowly makes her way to the door.

EXT. GABE'S YARD - DAY

Gabe walks down the steps in front of his house as he looks at his phone. He walks onto his yard.

GABE

Call Alana.

His phone begins to ring.

GABE

Hey Honey...How are you doing?....I'm okay. I just wanted to see if you were on the road yet...Oh you are? I'm not sure if it's a good idea to be with you today. I'm not feeling very well...Yeah, I don't know what it is, maybe the flu...I'm sorry you drove all this way. I should have called earlier...How about you visit your mom before you head back to school?...I'm sorry again honey. I love you...Have a safe drive.

As Gabe is on the phone, Catherine comes outside and walks out to Gabe. Gabe hangs up the phone and looks at Catherine.

CATHERINE

Why did you get the surgery?

GABE

What?

CATHERINE

Why did you get the surgery? Why did you want to be able to see?

GABE

Who wouldn't want to be able to see?

CATHERINE

No, there has to be a specific reason why you got the surgery now, not later.

GABE

It felt like I was missing so much.

CATHERINE

So much of what?

GABE

Life. Alana's life.

CATHERINE

How can she be mad at you if you did it to experience her life more?

GABE

I don't know.

CATHERINE

She won't be mad.

GABE

I'm just terrified.

CATHERINE

I don't blame you. This is all new to you and that's okay. Isn't seeing your daughter for the first time a good thing to be nervous about?

GABE

Yeah, it is.

Gabe slides his phone into his pocket. Catherine puts her hand on his shoulder.

GABE

But was it a mistake to not tell her about the surgery?

CATHERINE

No, if you wanted to surprise her then there is nothing wrong with that. She's going to be happy for you Gabe.

GABE

Okay.

CATHERINE

Okay?

GABE

Yeah, let's go. She's going to your place now.

CATHERINE

Good, I'll drive.

They laugh together and start walking toward the driveway.

GABE

I'm going to see my daughter.

They get into Catherine's car and pull away.

INT. CATHERINE'S CAR - DAY

Gabe and Catherine pull up to Catherine's house. They see ALANA (19) getting out of her car and start going toward the door. Gabe and Catherine look at one another quickly. Gabe smiles at her and nods. She nods back. Gabe opens the car door and gets out.

EXT. OUTSIDE CATHERINE'S HOUSE - DAY

As Alana gets closer to the door, Gabe quickly tries to catch up to her.

GABE

Alana!

Alana turns back to see her father.

ALANA

Dad? Are you feeling okay? Where's your walking stick?

GABE

I can see you.

ALANA

What?

GABE

I can see you with own eyes.

ALANA

You can see me?

GABE

Yeah. I can.

Alana walks right up to Gabe and looks into his eyes. Her face goes from having a confused look to having a smile stretching from cheek to cheek.

ALANA

That's incredible!

Alana jumps toward Gabe and hugs him. Gabe hugs her back.

GABE

Alana, you are so beautiful. The most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

ALANA

I can't believe this. I never thought you'd be able to see me.

GABE

I got surgery. I didn't tell you because I wanted it to be a surprise.

ALANA

It's the best surprise ever.

Gabe continues to embrace his daughter. Catherine gets out of the car and walks toward them. Alana notices her and walks toward her.

ALANA

Mom! Did you know about this?

Alana goes to hug her mom.

CATHERINE

Yeah, I did.

Catherine and Gabe look at one another and smile. Alana and Catherine stop hugging. They all make their way to Catherine's front door.

ALANA

Dad, I want you to tell me everything about it. What's it like, how the surgery was.

GABE

Oh I will.

CATHERINE

We also want to hear about how school is going!

ALANA

I'll tell you guys everything.

Catherine and Alana head into the house. Gabe follows behind them, but before walking inside he turns around and looks out onto the neighborhood. After a moment, he turns around and heads inside to be with his daughter.

FADE TO BLACK.