

Three Years

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN - SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Warm, sunny living room. ARTHUR sits with his knees pulled up to him, reading on the couch. He looks well-put-together, well-groomed, handsome. CASSIE walks in and sits next to him. She has a small box with a bow.

CASSIE

I was thinking, about the ride we've been on... it's been three years for you, today.

She hands him the box.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Arthur, I'm so proud of you. Three years clean and sober.

He takes the box and ponders it.

ARTHUR

Honestly, I'm proud of me too. I can't believe this is my life now. I'm so grateful to, I, I love you so much.

He leans over to kiss her.

CASSIE

I love you too.
(she taps the box)
This is to celebrate a whole new life.

He opens the box, it's a gold watch.

ARTHUR

Cassie, Wow...

CASSIE

It was my Dad's.

He's blown away.

ARTHUR

I don't...

CASSIE

Three years, and there's no looking back.

We see him, full of hope -

Cut to

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Same shot of Arthur, except he's homeless dirty and a drug addict. Cassie sits next to him, just like on the couch. Cassie is crying.

ARTHUR
(Matter of fact)
I'm gonna die.

CASSIE
No, no you're not, we're going to
get you into rehab -

ARTHUR
Rehab is a joke. I'm just gonna die
and it'll be over.

CASSIE
I love you, and I'm not going to let
that happen. We're going-

ARTHUR
We're gonna get some heroin, and I'm
gonna shoot it, and it'll either
kill me or I'll feel better.

CASSIE
No. I love you so much, and I'm not
letting you do that. We're gonna
get you clean, and -

INT. SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Cassie in an identical shot from the alley.

CASSIE
- And after your meeting - you get a
chip!

They smile.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
We're going out to dinner to
celebrate.

They just look at each other.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
There were times when I didn't think
we'd be here. But we made it, right?
We're here.

She nestles into him.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

We're here.

Camera tilts up to him. He looks peaceful, looking down at her. He kisses her head, and lifts his head to look out the window -

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Match cut to him looking up to see headlights flash into his face, then turn away. He looks lifeless. The camera pans back down to reveal Cassie, leaning into him, sobbing.

ARTHUR

You gotta get away from me.

Cassie pulls herself to him, but he can't care enough to look at her.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I probably loved you, somewhere, but
I need a hit, and it's so big, so...
I can't see anything else, I can't
see you, I can't see us, just the
next hit. It's all. It's everything.
I could die and I don't care, I just
need the hit.

He looks at her. She is beaten by now. She has no more tears to cry.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Get away. I'm done. Go back to...
Just go.

She leans away and wipes her face, then starts to get up.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Wait.

He pulls up his sleeve, and we slow down for a brief moment to see the watch on his wrist.

INT. SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

For a brief moment, he has the watch on his wrist, looking at it admiringly, and we cut

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

We cut back to the same frame. He removes the watch and hands it to her.

ARTHUR

Amazed I didn't sell it yet.

She looks at the watch. She doesn't look up.

CASSIE

I love you.

She gets up, turns and walks away. He doesn't look after her.

Cut to black.