

“The Gift” – Short Movie - Draft #1

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-- SYNOPSIS --

A boy befriends a homeless man at his park. Their friendship grows through time together and pictures the boy draws for the man. One day the boy finds the man has left the park. The homeless man has died, but leaves behind a gift beyond imagination.

This movie is divided into 4 acts, each of these acts will have unique shot angles, filtering, composition and music.

ACT I - The stranger at the park

ACT II – The friendship

ACT III – The loss

ACT IV – The gift

-- THE SCRIPT --

SCENE 1

EXTERIOR, DAYLIGHT – Scene opens with ECU of man’s hand whittling. Multiple shots, different ECU angles of knife moving past wood. Title over top of this “The Gift” as well as some credits. We never see exactly what the hands are creating.

AUDIO – Dreamy sounds of children playing at park, mixed with sound of knife on wood. Sounds are slowed down and echoing.

CUT TO...

CU of boy on swing, we see only his face. He is looking intently at someone off-frame.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM of homeless man on park bench, whittling.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM of boy on swing, he pushes back, swings forward, then stops again, still looking at the homeless man.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM of homeless man again, this time the camera begins pushing in closer.

CUT TO...

WIDE, HIGH ANGLE of scene. Boy in swing is on the left, homeless man on the right. Boy rises off swing and begins to walk toward man.

CUT TO...

ECU of whittling hands. The whittling stops, hands brush off work. We still don't see what he is making but we know he is finished.

CUT TO...

TWO-SHOT, LOW ANGLE FROM SIDE– Boy is stopped in left frame, he is looking at the whittled object, homeless man sitting in right frame.

Man looks up at boy, takes off glasses.

Man: “Hello” (softly)

Boy looks up at man’s face.

Boy: “Hi...(boy looks back down at object) what are you working on?”

CUT TO...

CU of man’s hands covering object, camera pans up to his face, he is looking at the boy.

Man: “Come sit down, I’ll show you” he gestures with his head toward bench seat next to him.

CUT TO...

CU of boy’s face. He is looking at man’s face. He ponders for a moment, then turns his head to look behind him.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM of children on playground whispering and looking at boy.

CAMERA PANS TO...

MEDIUM of boy’s mother sitting on bench watching him, she smiles and gestures an affirmation to him.

CUT TO...

CU of boy's face. He turns forward to look at man.

CUT TO...

LOW ANGLE of boy's feet, legs, and hands. We see playground and children and parents in blurred background. Boy pauses (body language such as clenching and releasing fists) then begins to walk forward slowly.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM from side, man on bench. He follows boy with his eyes, boy enters frame and sits down, he looks at object in man's hands, then man looks down at his hands as well.

CUT TO...

ECU of man's hands, he opens them to reveal a small wooden house in his palm. Camera follows as hand and house move toward boy.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM, boy in foreground, man in background. Boy picks up the house and is looking at it.

Man: "It's finished, I want you to have it."

CUT TO...

CU of boy & house, he is looking at house, he turns his eyes to the man.

Boy: "Do you want me to make you something?"

CUT TO...

CU OTS boy in foreground, man in background.

Man: "Why don't you draw me a picture, bring it to me tomorrow."

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS, boy still holding house up, but looking at man.

Boy: "I'm Steven, what's your name?"

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS

Man: "It's nice to meet you Steven, why don't you call me Uncle George."

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS – Steven looks down at carved house.

OFF CAMERA – Mother "Steven."

Steven looks up toward mother, then to man

Steven: "Thank you, I've got to go."

Steven gets up and walks out of frame.

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS – Wider shot, man in foreground, mother and Steven walking away in the background.

CUT TO...

SCENE II (Interior) & III (Exterior)

INTERIOR, NIGHT – Camera is shooting from exterior, through the living room window of a small house. Steven is inside drawing a picture. Camera pushes in slowly. Lights are dim, but warm.

AUDIO: Theme music plays

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR, DAYLIGHT – Wide/Low angle shot. Steven is in park, standing a few paces behind the homeless man, Uncle George. Uncle George has his back to the boy and is reading a book, it is obvious he doesn't know Steven is there. Uncle George is sitting left frame, Steven is standing right frame. Steven has a drawing in his hand.

CUT TO...

INTERIOR – CU of Steven drawing the picture. Light is reflected into his face by the paper he is drawing on. He is intent on his work.

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR – 2 Shot, Steven is now beside the park bench, Uncle George in foreground (right frame), Steven left frame background. Uncle George notices Steven, looks over to him.

Steven: "I brought you a picture." (said while handing picture to Uncle George)

Uncle George takes the picture and motions Steven to sit down.

CUT TO...

INTERIOR – ECU of crayon strokes as Steven draws the picture.

Steven, off camera: "I drew a house,...I'm not a very good artist."

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR – CU OTS toward Uncle George. Steven is now sitting on bench, he is on left frame.

Uncle George: "No..."

He looks up towards Steven.

Uncle George: "It's perfect."

CUT TO....

OPPOSITE OTS

Steven: "My mom and I will live there someday."

CUT TO...

INTERIOR – We see the picture that Steven is drawing, over his shoulder as he draws it. It is a home, with a porch, garden, play area, and dog.

Steven is adding the last touches to the picture.

Steven, off camera: “My mom wishes for a porch and a garden. I want to have a play ground where I can imagine I’m the captain of a ship or a dangerous pirate. We’ll have a car, and a big dog, big enough to ride on.”

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR – OTS toward Uncle George, who looks up at Steven.

Uncle George: “What’s your dog’s name?”

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS, Steven looks up at Uncle George.

Steven: “Can I name him after you?”

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS, Uncle George smiles at Steven.

Uncle George: “I’d be honored.”

CUT TO...

INTERIOR, Steven painting a picture of a dog.

AUDIO: Music swells and plays

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR, Front on 2-shot of Steven and Uncle George on bench. They are laughing together, Dissolve between multiple days (Uncle George in same clothing, but Steven has different clothing, homeless basket in different places.)

CUT TO...

INTERIOR, through the living room window, Steven painting. Camera is pulling out slowly. Dissolve to multiple shots of Steven in different positions at table, in different clothing, mom in some shots doing something. Show the progression of multiple days.

CUT TO...

SCENE IV

EXTERIOR, DAYLIGHT. Uncle George on bench in foreground, Steven in background walking away. Steven slows and looks up alerted by the honking of geese.

AUDIO: Geese honking

CUT TO...

CU of Steven, over his shoulder behind him we can see Uncle George on the bench. Steven is looking in the air, with his hand over his eyes, searching for the geese, he find them and his eye follows them.

CUT TO...

Geese flying overhead

CUT TO....

Previous CU of Steven. This time Uncle George is no longer on the bench. Steven stops looking at Geese, turns head to look back at Uncle George.

CUT TO...

Previous Wide shot, empty bench in foreground, Steven in background. Steven turns his whole body towards the bench, looks around the park for George, then turns away from the camera and begins to walk home.

CUT TO....

SCENE V

INTERIOR, NIGHT. ECU of pencil drawing on paper.

AUDIO: Heavy mix of sounds of Steven Drawing, low level of music

INTERIOR, through the window shot of Steven drawing and painting. Scene dissolves multiple time to denote the amount of working being put into this painting. Final dissolve reveals Steven looking at completed painting.

CUT TO....

INTERIOR, OTS looking down at painting. We see a painting of Uncle George on a park bench. There is a title – My Friend Uncle George – scrawled on the painting. Suddenly the paper gets rolled up, Steven ties a string around it, and gets up from the table leaving the scroll behind.

CUT TO...

SCENE VI

EXTERIOR, DAYLIGHT. Wide shot at park. Empty bench in foreground, boy is standing a few paces back in the background, looking at the empty bench, he is holding the painting loosely in his hand.

DISSOLVE TO...

SAME ANGLE, Steven now sitting on bench, looking straight ahead.

DISSOLVE TO....

SAME ANGLE, Steven is lying on bench.

DISSOLVE TO...

SAME ANGLE, Steven is slowly walking away from camera and empty bench, with painting still in hand.

CUT TO...

SCENE VII

INTERIOR, STORMY NIGHT. Shot through the living room window, Steven is sitting very still staring through the window, rain is falling onto the window.

CUT TO...

SCENE IIX

EXTERIOR, DAYLIGHT, PARK. CU of Steven in swing, same shot as at beginning of movie. Steven is staring at the ground, twiddling his swing back and forth.

AUDIO: we hear the other children playing in the background.

CUT TO...

CU of Steven's feet, they are twiddling back and forth.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM, From behind a man who is standing a few steps in front of Steven.

Man: "Are you Steven?"

Steven is startled and looks up at man, then he looks down to something in the man's hand.

CUT TO....

CU of man's face, he is looking at Steven, camera pans down to one of Steven's paintings.

CUT TO....

PREVIOUS MEDIUM ANGLE. Steven looks back up at man,

Steven: "Do you know Uncle George?"

Steven's mom arrives behind Steven and puts her arm around him and then looks at man.

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS ANGLE. Man looks up at mom, nods in acknowledgement (tips hat if he has one).

Man: "Ms. Porter."

Man looks back down at Steven.

Man: "I have some sad news."

CUT TO...

CU of Steven's face, camera is pushing in slowly.

Man, off camera: "George died of a heart attack a few weeks ago."

Steven's eyes tear up, his mother tucks his head closer to her, he looks up at her, camera follows his look up to her face, she is looking down at him.

CUT TO...

OTS TOWARD MAN.

Man: "Steven, George wanted you to have something."

Man reaches for Steven's hand and pulls it up to him with the palm out.

CUT TO...

CU of Steven's hand, palm up. Man places a key into Steven's hand then closes his fingers over it. Camera tilts up to Steven's eyes, he is looking at the man.

CUT TO...

PREVIOUS OTS. Man looks from Steven up to mother.

Man: "I need you to come with me."

CUT TO....

SCENE IX

CAR INTERIOR, DAYLIGHT. Steven and mother are in the back seat, Steven is looking out the window, he looks down toward his hand.

CUT TO...

ECU of Steven's hand. He opens his hand to reveal the key, then closes it tightly again.

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR, WIDE, HIGH ANGLE. Camera is panning with the car Steven is in. Car turns, and drives across a bridge and away from the camera. Camera tilts up to reveal the bridge and cityscape car is crossing into.

CUT TO....

SCENE X

EXTERIOR, TWIGHLIGHT, MEDIUM – Steven is standing outside the car, in a driveway. He is looking past the camera. His mother steps into the shot, he looks to her.

Steven: “It’s just like my picture.”

CUT TO...

WIDE, LOW ANGLE, FROM BEHIND. Shot reveals Steven and Mother standing together, man is beside car, beautiful house in the background. Boy walks toward house.

CUT TO...

MEDIUM shot of house door. Camera is slowly trucking in. Steven walks into shot. Steven’s picture of the house is taped to the front door. Steven looks at picture, then down at his hand.

CUT TO...

ECU of Steven’s hand. He opens it to reveal key, camera follows as he places key into lock and turns it.

CUT TO....

PREVIOUS MEDIUM SHOT. Steven opens the door.

CUT TO...

OTS from man toward mother. She is looking at boy, then turns to the man.

Mom: "How is this possible?"

CUT TO...

OPPOSITE OTS.

Man: "George led a very successful life, he would say too successful. He dreamed of having a close friend who truly didn't care about his wealth."

The man turns back toward where the boy was standing.

Man: "Your son fulfilled that dream."

CUT TO....

PREVIOUS WIDE LOW ANGLE. Shot reveals man and woman standing at car, but house door is open and Steven has disappeared. The man begins to move...

CUT TO...

PREVIOUS OTS, mother looks at the man, he holds out the car keys toward her.

Man: "There is a job opening ready for your taking, come by my office on Monday."

Mother looks down at the keys and takes them, the man moves past her toward his car which is parked on the street.

CUT TO...

WIDE HIGH ANGLE (opposite of previous high angle). Mother standing alone now, man walking away toward his car, mother begins to walk toward the house.

CUT TO...

EXTERIOR, WIDE, BACK YARD. Steven and a large dog are playing in the back yard, there is a play structure and garden.

CUT TO....

CU side angle of mother looking through glass at her son playing in the back yard. She turns toward camera and looks down.

CUT TO....

OTS from mother's perspective toward dining room table below her. Shot reveals all of boys drawings on the table. Also on the table is a photo in a frame of boy of and homeless man sitting on the bench. The camera trucks into this until it fills the frame.

AUDIO: Music swells

CREDITS roll over photo of boy and homeless man.

FADE TO BLACK