

PAST + FUTURE

Screenplay by

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FADE IN

INT. BEN'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

We open on Ben's baby picture on a wall in a clean, typical suburban home. We zoom out and discover we are in the bedroom of BEN, 19, a lonely teenager. He is sitting on his bed, waiting for his grandparents to come home.

He gets up and picks up his cell phone from a desk nearby. He opens the phone and texts (516) 324-7684 - the cell phone number of his grandmother.

He texts the following message to her:

"Hi Grandma, when are you coming home?"

He sends the message. Suddenly, a name and number appear on his phone. The caller appears as "Unknown." We don't know yet, but it is actually a FRIEND OF A FRIEND of his.

He answers the call.

BEN

Hello?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

Hello Ben.

BEN

Who is this?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

I am a friend of a friend of yours.

BEN

Do we know each other?

Friend of a friend avoids answering that question.

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

I just moved into this neighborhood a few days ago and thought we should get in touch.

BEN

Really? Which friend of mine are you friends with?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

Just a friend. Listen, there's an extremely important reason why I called.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

What is that?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

I called to give you a heads up
that in five days, an event will
occur that will change your life
forever. You...will be...

The friend of a friend goes silent for a second.

BEN

Well?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

...reunited with someone you really
never had the chance to know. Your
MOTHER.

BEN

My Mom? My grandparents said she
died when I was only two years ago.

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

No. She is very much alive and well
and has stuffed away all her
memories of you. This is what I
know:

CUT TO

FLASH-FORWARD - EXT. PARK - PREDICTED FUTURE - DAY

As the friend of a friend describes the predicted events, we
see it before our eyes. BEN'S mother is 56 years old in this
scene.

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

(V.O.)

You and your mother will meet in
the park. She will drop her purse,
you'll pick it up and give it back
to her. She will see that you have
her blue eyes and brown hair, with
a small beauty mark above your lip,
like your dad. She will talk with
you until she finds out details
that reveal you are her long-lost
son.

CUT BACK TO

INT. BEN'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

We are back in the present. Ben continues his conversation with the friend of a friend.

BEN

That's it? That's how it will happen?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

Not entirely sure. But from what I know, yes, it will. And there's something you should know before I hang up.

BEN

What is that?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

We have the same name.

BEN

What do you mean?

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

Yes. I am Ben. I am the future YOU.

Ben gets scared once he hears this. He hangs up quickly and bolts off the bed, dropping his phone on the bed in the process. He picks up the phone and stares at it, stunned by the information he just received from his future self. He puts the phone down.

The phone rings again. He hesitates, thinking it's his future self calling back. When he looks down, he sees that it is his UNCLE, who is 54 and lives out of state.

He picks up the phone nervously.

BEN

Hi.

UNCLE

Hi Ben, how's school going?

BEN

Good. Been procrastinating in finishing up my assignments.

UNCLE

I know what you mean. We're so much alike. Even though we haven't seen much of each other, I feel like I know you as well as I know myself.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

I know what you mean. We really should hang out sometime. I almost didn't pick up your call. I just got off the phone from someone, who I think, is a lunatic trying to...

He hesitates.

BEN

Hey Uncle, do you know much about my past?

UNCLE

I know some things, Ben. What exactly are you looking for?

BEN

Like when I was a baby.

He avoids mentioning his mother.

CUT TO

FLASHBACK - INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - PAST - DAY

As the Uncle describes the events of Ben's past, we see BEN'S MOTHER, when she was 34, handing baby Ben over to the GRANDPARENTS.

UNCLE

(V.O.)

When you were two years old, your Mom gave you to your grandparents. Your parents were having problems and it was only supposed to be for a short time until they could be sorted out. But things didn't exactly work out that way. Your parents divorced and dissappeared.

CUT BACK TO

INT. BEN'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

The conversation continues. Ben is surprised by the news. He never realized his parents might be alive.

UNCLE

I am aware that you are going to see your Mom again in five days,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE (cont'd)
and I have come to warn you that
your meeting with her might not go
well.

BEN
What do you mean?

UNCLE
Ben, I have a confession. Do you
know who I am?

BEN
Yes. You're my uncle.

UNCLE
No. I am your "Past." I am YOU.

Ben shakes with fear as the Uncle reveals this information.

BEN
Jesus, what should I do?

UNCLE
You'll just have to decide for
yourself if this is something you
want to happen.

BEN
Why can't you tell me more?

UNCLE
I'm afraid I can't help you. It's
your future. My best advice is for
you to think very long and hard
about an encounter with a woman who
abandoned you, because when you
meet your mother in the next few
days, if you choose to do that, a
consequence...beyond anything
you've ever imagined...will occur!

Ben, in a split second, hangs up, frightened as ever. He is now lost in a trail of thought. Is this for real or just a dream? Is his subconscious tricking him into believing he will establish a relationship that he's never had but always wanted? He goes to his bed and looks up at his baby picture. We zoom in to the picture, just as we began.

FADE TO WHITE

FLASHBACK - INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - PAST - DAY

We see Ben's Mom smiling at us from baby Ben's perspective
for three seconds.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END