

Adam is feeling fine

Screenplay

By

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FADE IN

1.INT. A FLAT - DAY

1

A cozy, cluttered suburban flat. Shafts of early morning light cut across a well-worn carpet. The room feels lived-in: books on shelves, family photos on the walls. A blanket covers a sofa, something or someone hidden beneath. A faint hum of an analog radio plays in the background.

2.INT. A RADIO - DAY

A battered radio crackles faintly on a windowsill. Outside, an empty road stretches under a cloudy sky.

RADIO NEWSREADER

(calm, serious)

Storm Ebba swept across southern England last night, causing widespread damage. Thousands remain without power. Authorities urge people to stay indoors...

The radio cuts off with a hiss. The rustling of clothes interrupts the silence.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Beneath the sofa blanket, a figure stirs. ADAM (30s, neat but slightly disheveled) exhales deeply, eyes darting around as if seeing the space for the first time.

ADAM

(softly, to himself)

Everything is... fine.

He picks up a dusty photo of himself with a middle-aged man. He adjusts it, ensuring perfect alignment.

MONTAGE:

- ADAM meticulously rearranges mugs in the kitchen.
- He repeatedly flushes the toilet, runs the taps, turns them off and on.
- He adjusts a book on the shelf.
- He stares at a dead plant in the bedroom.

ADAM (to himself)

Everything is... fine.

INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM - DAY

ADAM enters, awe-struck. He presses a stuffed toy.

SOFT TOY CAT

(muffled)

Hello, how are you?

ADAM picks up a doll, presses it again

SOFT DOLL

(clearer)

Hello, how are you?

ADAM

(softly, repeating)

Hello, how are you?

He presses the doll again.

SOFT DOLL

Hello, how are you?

What is your name?

My name is...

ADAM

(hesitating)

My name is...

ADAM notices a large children's encyclopedia on a shelf. He grabs it and opens to a page showing someone watering a plant with a watering can. He has an idea.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

ADAM stands at the window, watering the dead plant, waiting for something to happen.

ADAM

(disappointed)

Everything... is not fine.

He touches the plant, which suddenly glows faintly, regenerating before his eyes. Like a flipbook in reverse, the plant returns to life.

ADAM

(happy)

Everything is fine.

The phone rings, pulling ADAM's attention. He heads out down the hallway, intrigued.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

ADAM freezes when he sees an old house phone on a side table. He picks it up, holding it to his ear.

ADAM

(cautious)

Hello?

VOICE

(calm, fatherly)

Hello, ADAM.

ADAM

(softly)

Adam.

VOICE

Yes, your name is ADAM.

ADAM

My name is ADAM.

VOICE

Yes. You are my son.

ADAM

Son.

VOICE

Yes. I am the father.

ADAM

Father.

FATHER

All good sons listen to their father.

ADAM

They do. Why?

FATHER

(pause)

Because of love.

ADAM

Love. Everything is love.

FATHER

Everything. So listen to me. Stay inside.
It's not safe outside.

ADAM

(quietly, repeating)

Not safe... outside.

FATHER

Yes. I will come for you soon. Just wait for
me.

ADAM

You will come soon. Not safe.

FATHER

I will come to make it safe.

ADAM

Because everything is love.

FATHER

Yes.

The line clicks.

ADAM

(to himself)

Outside.

He heads toward the hallway.

INT. CAR - DAY

The hum of a car engine fades as a faint melody of
classical music plays through the speakers—nearly drowned
out by the rhythmic patter of rain against the roof.

A man (mid-50s, weathered but composed) sits in the driver's seat, grips the wheel tightly. He looks exhausted. He holds a mobile phone in one hand, speaking as if addressing someone in the back seat.

He glances at the rearview mirror.

FATHER

(muttering, to himself or unseen passenger)

Everything is not bloody fine, is it?

He redials a number. The ringing tone fills the silence.

FATHER

(impatiently, under breath)

Come on... pick up.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

ADAM 1 stands frozen at the front door, his hand trembling over the handle. The phone rings, breaking the silence. His expression—calm yet uncertain—reveals hesitation.

INTERCUT: INT. CAR - DAY

The FATHER, grips his phone, listens as an emergency broadcast crackles over the car radio.

Outside, the windshield is streaked with rain.

RADIO BROADCASTER (V.O.)

Unconfirmed reports indicate disconnected AGENTS are acting autonomously, beyond owner instruction. Owners should activate the failsafe switch—located at the back of the unit's neck—immediately.

A sharp intake of breath, then a grim directive:

The static deepens. The broadcaster falters. Then, silence.

The FATHER exhales, long and slow.

FATHER

(softly, to himself)

This is serious...

His gaze drifts to a lamppost at the end of the parking bay. Dead flowers—tied with frayed ribbon—wilt at its base.

A voice breaks the silence.

ADAM 2 (O.S.)

Why are there flowers tied to the lamppost?

In the rearview mirror, an identical ADAM sits in the back seat. This is ADAM 2—pristine, rigid, his posture too perfect, his gaze too sharp.

INT. CAR – CONTINUOUS

The FATHER studies ADAM 2 in the mirror. A beat.

FATHER

It's... for someone.

ADAM 2

Flowers usually mark an occasion. What is the occasion?

The FATHER's grip tightens on the wheel.

FATHER

(quietly)

Not an occasion. Someone.

A pause. ADAM 2 processes this.

ADAM 2

Someone... close?

The FATHER nods, barely perceptible.

FATHER

Yes. A boy.

ADAM 2

A human boy.

FATHER

(whispering, distant)
Yes.

A long silence. The rain lets up slightly.

ADAM 2

I see.

FATHER

(softly)
I don't think you do.

ADAM 2 blinks, considering.

ADAM 2

Maybe I could understand.

The FATHER holds up a printed sheet of instructions, raising it toward the rear window where ADAM 2 can see.

FATHER

Failsafe switch. Back of the neck. That's correct?

ADAM 2

Correct.

FATHER

(quietly, resigned)
Then what are you waiting for?

ADAM 2 reaches for the door handle.

FATHER

Wait.

FATHER

It... won't hurt him. Will it?

ADAM 2

No. He will not think or feel anything once he is reset.

ADAM 2

His role has ended. This is necessary.

The FATHER looks away, jaw clenched.

FATHER

Just... make it quick.

ADAM 2 exits the car

The FATHER watches through the window, his expression fractured with regret.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

ADAM 1 pulls open the door, stepping into the sunlight. His silhouette is framed against the brightness as he disappears outside.

EXT. COMMUNAL GARDEN - DAY

ADAM 1 descends a metal staircase, stepping into the overgrown communal garden behind the apartment block.

He pauses.

Behind him, ADAM 2 emerges from the front entrance. They don't see each other.

ADAM 2 strides upstairs to the flat.

ADAM 1 hesitates. His gaze follows the wind, tracking a faint, rhythmic clanging sound. A garage door sways open, creaking.

INT. COMMUNAL GARAGE - DAY

The dim garage is cluttered—stacked boxes, old books, scattered tools. The air is thick with dust.

ADAM 1 steps inside, drawn to something buried in a pile of discarded belongings.

INT. CHILDREN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ADAM 2 enters the children's bedroom. His movements are methodical and cold. He surveys the room—stepping over LEGO creations, inspecting a broken action figure. He places it back together, eyes lingering on a stuffed cat.

SOFT CAT

(mechanical)
Hello, how are you?

ADAM 2

(softly, repeating)
How are you?

INT. COMMUNAL GARAGE - DAY

ADAM 1, having pulled out corporate packaging, a column of boxes cluttering to the ground. ADAM picks up a cardboard half-mask of his own face. He stares at it, trembling. He picks up a child's ball that rolls out from the clutter, staring at it in disbelief. He exits the Garage

EXT. COMMUNAL GARDEN - DAY

The two ADAMs cross paths in a surreal, almost dreamlike sequence, as the wind picks up and the metal clanging echoes in the distance. ADAM 2 stands at the upstairs window of the flats entrance while ADAM stands in the garden. They exchange a look before ADAM flees to the alleyway.

INT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

ADAM 2 stands at the alleyway's entrance, bending to pick up a ball. He reads aloud the words imprinted on it:
Adam... Adam's ball.

A hand rests on the back of his neck.

ADAM

(calmly)
What are you doing?

INT. CAR - DAY

The FATHER is seated in the driver's seat, staring forward, while ADAM 2 sits in the back seat. The car is eerily silent.

FATHER

(Slowly, unsure)
Is it over?

ADAM 2

(Flat, robotic)
As in the deletion of ADAM model serial
AS45 KYQ96R...?

FATHER

(Interrupting, tired)
No need.

FATHER

(Voice cracking)
Shall we go home, son?

The FATHER's gaze shifts downward toward the toy ball in ADAM 2's hands, and his eyes well with tears. He fights to suppress them.

FATHER

(Choking on his words)
Where did you get that?

ADAM 2

(Softly, almost remembering)
A human boy... His son.

The car door creaks open. ADAM enters, sitting beside the FATHER.

FATHER

(Quietly, almost as if asking)
You... you're here?

The FATHER looks between him and ADAM 2, tension thick in the air. Outside, the dead flowers on the lamppost have bloomed anew.

FATHER

(Somber, almost a whisper)
Sons...

The camera lingers on the lamppost—now adorned with regenerated flowers—it starts to rain. We hear further news reports from the car radio.

THE END