

HUMAN BEING HUMAN

SEQUENCE 1: INT / ARTIFICIAL LIGHT ; SURGERY ROOM, BEGINNING CREDITS

Black screen. A shrill scream breaks the silence.

Main theme music fades in. Credits flash rhythmically above the pictures.

The title of the movie appears: HUMAN BEING HUMAN. Ambiguous images of a surgery are displayed, showing only some glimpses of the scene: a man in his thirties, ADAM, is laying with his eyes closed. Concentrated doctors and attendants of all ethnicities surround him, wearing masks and holding surgery instruments.

Blood escapes through a drain gauge, a hand wipes blood from the skin and the faces of medical staff become tense. On a screen, medical patterns careen into one another. Surgical staff operate on his neck.

A bright light invades the screen..

The light dims and reveals a serene willow tree. BEGINNING CREDITS end.

SEQUENCE 2: INT / DAY ; HOSPITAL ROOM

Wearing hospital pajamas, Adam is restlessly sitting in an armchair, watching TV. Someone knocks at the door and a middle-aged, attractive woman with dark hair enters the room.

DR. SANDRA SANTINI

Good morning Adam. How is my favorite patient doing ?

Adam stands up.

ADAM

Fine Doctor Santini, ready to get out of here.

Sandra smiles and closes the door.

SANDRA

Almost... not quite yet. About that, there are a few things that we should talk about.

Adam looks at her questioningly as Sandra walks toward him and stops.

SANDRA

First, we have a series of lab tests that we have to complete. We need to talk about where we are at with your amnesia now. You've made incredible progress during the last year but there is still a ways to go.

Adam looks at her intently.

ADAM

I still can't remember a fucking thing.

SANDRA

I know, it's very frustrating...

Adam turns his sight to the window.

ADAM

I don't even remember the accident.

Sandra walks to him.

SANDRA

That's not unusual. Your memories might never come back.

Sandra grabs Adam by the shoulders and looks at him straight in the eyes.

SANDRA

But what matters is that you have a life. And you can build new memories with your old friends.

ADAM

By the way, where is Raphaël ? He is usually here by now.

Sandra releases her grab, steps toward the window and looks down.

SANDRA

I'm sure he'll be here soon. Maybe he is running late from work.

Sandra turns to Adam.

SANDRA

And he told me that you will go back to work soon. Are you ready for that?

Adam wonders a few seconds.

ADAM

What I am sure of is that I'm ready to get outta here.

SANDRA

I know that you're ready to leave us. But bear in mind that it's not going to be easy to go back to your old life.

Adam looks at Sandra questioningly.

ADAM

What do you mean ?

Sandra starts pacing in the room.

SANDRA

I mean that even though you've been swift to relearn how to talk, how to walk and how to think, it's a different kind of effort to be with others in a workplace... They have been curious about you, they haven't seen you in a year.

ADAM

Yeah, I know. But Raphaël will be there. He said that I should have no problems resuming my old job.

Sandra nods at Adam reassuringly.

SANDRA

I'm sure you'll do fine.

An attractive young nurse enters the room smiling.

She holds a tray with shaving gear and smiles at Adam.

ANGELA

Ok handsome, I guess we won't be seeing much of one another anymore.

SANDRA

This is the last time Adam. You have to do it for yourself from now on.

Adam nods affirmatively.

SANDRA

I have to go. See you later.

Sandra walks out of the room.

SEQUENCE 3: INT / DAY ; HOSPITAL ROOM

The door closes and Angela turns to Adam.

ANGELA

Are you ready ?

Adam nods his head. He observes Angela erotically. Angela notices his stare but acts normally. She slides a table on wheels in front of Adam. On the table, there is a razor, a tray of water, a can of shaving cream, a bottle of antiseptic, a bottle of lotion, cotton balls and a couple of bandages. Angela takes the razor in one hand and holds Adam's chin with the other hand. She puts the razor to his skin. Adam is quiet and docile, his eyes following Angela as she moves her head around. Angela nervously readjusts her uniform. She takes a couple of strokes and rinses the blade into the water.

In a brisk move, Adam takes her index finger into his mouth and begins to suck it. Angela startles and nicks Adam's face with the razor, cutting him. She quickly withdraws her finger and looks severely at him. Adam smirks at her.

ANGELA

Adam, I have other patients to attend to! Behave yourself !

Angela rinses the blade. Acutely aware of Adam's reaction, she resumes shaving with embarrassment. She notices that Adam has an erection under his pajamas and stops shaving. She abruptly releases the razor and lets it fall onto the tray.

ANGELA

You finish this. I think that I'm done here.

She quickly storms out of the room.

SEQUENCE 4: INT / NIGHT ; HOSPITAL ROOM

Adam is sitting on a chair by the window with a small bandage on his face. The TV is on, displaying a soap opera, but Adam is not paying attention. Someone knocks at the door. Raphaël, a man in his mid-thirties with a leather jacket enters the room. He holds a bulky knapsack and a motorcycle helmet.

RAPHAËL

Ow man, the traffic in this city !...

ADAM - sarcastic

Raphaël, I'm glad you could make it!

RAPHAËL

Oh, I can tell you're in a good mood tonight. Tomorrow is a big day, you get out of here and go back home. I did all the paperwork for you. You should be dancing on the ceiling !

He sets his knapsack on the table and zips it open. Adam curiously looks on.

ADAM

What's that ?

RAPHAËL

This is a little something that I thought could jog your memory. But first !...

He pulls a snow globe from his pocket and raises it to Adam's eye level. Raphaël shakes the globe and snow gently falls on a willow tree. Adam is fascinated. Raphaël places the globe into his hands. He grabs his knapsack and pulls out a photo album. He pulls up another chair, sits next to Adam and opens up the photo album between them.

Pictures of different shapes and sizes display Raphaël and Adam in their late teens smiling in front of an old building with arcades.

RAPHAËL

Do you remember any of this ?

Raphaël sees that there is no reaction from Adam.

RAPHAËL

I don't know how you could forget this fucked up shit. This accident took a lot out of you !...

Gersico !

Raphaël gestures enthusiastically.

RAPHAËL

The orphanage. We grew up there and we survived it. If you can survive that, you can survive anything...

ADAM

I don't remember anything.

Adam looks at Raphaël incredulously.

Raphaël excitedly points at a picture of graduation day.

RAPHAËL

Do you remember this day ? When we finally left that hell.

Adam looks blankly at Raphaël and shakes his head "no." Raphaël looks disappointed and slams the photo album shut. He abruptly stands up.

RAPHAËL

Ok, it's getting late. Plus tomorrow we've got a big day. You finally get to start your life again.

ADAM

I'm sorry Raphaël... I don't remember any of it.

RAPHAËL

You shouldn't apologize to me. I'm the one that should be apologizing.

Raphaël moves to the window and looks pensively outside.

RAPHAËL

The accident was my fault...

SEQUENCE 5: INT / NIGHT ; HOSPITAL ROOM

On a windy night, Adam lays awake in a bed, unable to sleep. He stares at the ceiling and looks over dreamily at the wall where moonlight casts irregular and moving shadows. He slowly gets up and moves barefoot toward the window.

He opens it and a gust of wind rushes in. Adam breathes deeply and flips his head back to absorb the stillness of the night, moonlight shining directly on him.

He contemplates the buildings of the city jutting out from behind the hospital walls. The rustling leaves attract Adam's attention to a willow tree.

SEQUENCE 6: INT / NIGHT ; HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

In the darkness of the corridor, Adam pokes his head out of his room.

The facility is desolate and dimly lit by a red EXIT light. Adam is attracted by the light of a vending machine coming from an alcove in the wall and walks toward it. The vestibule contains a vending machine and an ice machine. Adam considers the "PUSH" button of the ice machine for a moment. He presses it and startles at the clanking noise. Ice cubes fall down into a receptacle bin. Adam smiles and repeats the operation over and over again. He observes the ice piling up in the receptacle bin. An ice cube falls to the floor and slides to the wall. Adam watches its course and his eyes fall upon a CPR poster. His attention locks on the illustrations as he keeps operating the machine. The sound of ice being crushed & tumbling down echoes in the small room. Adam looks uneasy.

He looks down on his feet and realizes that his shoes are covered with ice cubes.

Amused, Adam shakes his feet to get rid of them.

SEQUENCE 7: INT / DAY ; HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

Sandra and Raphaël are walking together down a hospital hallway. They stop in front of a door and Sandra turns to Raphaël.

SANDRA

...He is doing well and I'm glad that you are taking him home today. But I still have concerns. He has a blurry sense of morality even though he has the intellectual capacity to function within society. Raphaël, I want you to report any strange behavior that you might notice or any issues or concerns that you might have with Adam.

RAPHAËL

No worries, Doctor Santini.

They knock and enter the room.

SEQUENCE 8: INT / DAY ; HOSPITAL ROOM

Adam is wearing street clothing. He stands by the window, fidgety. A packed suitcase lies on the bed. Raphaël and Sandra enter the room. Sandra is carrying a small case. Adam looks up and they smile at him.

RAPHAËL

Hey Buddy!...Ready to go ?!

Adam startles, looking away from the window to Raphaël and Sandra.

ADAM

Yeah, I'm ready.

Adam turns to his luggage and unzips it.

SANDRA

Do you have everything ?

Adam nervously fumbles through his belongings.

ADAM

I'm forgetting something. I'm not sure what it is, but something. I don't know if I have enough toothpaste...

Sandra observes Adam, gently smiling.

SANDRA

Don't worry. You can find that stuff anywhere, anytime. You will soon remember the 24-hour convenience store. But what you won't find are your medications. Here they are.

Sandra lifts up the small case and lays it next to the luggage. She zips it open. The case contains prescription pill bottles. Raphaël looks on from the other side of the room with annoyance.

SANDRA

Now you're responsible for taking your medications. We reviewed that together over and over. You know how it works. When you need a refill, call me. We still have our regular appointments that you need to keep.

Raphaël steps in.

RAPHAËL

I'll make sure that he goes.

Sandra turns to Adam.

SANDRA

I guess this is it. Do you have any other questions ?

ADAM

No, but I would like to thank you very much for taking care of me all of these months.

Raphaël and Sandra smile at Adam.
Sandra opens her arms and steps toward him.

SANDRA

Come on... Give me a hug.

Adam and Sandra awkwardly hug.

SANDRA

I am sorry for what happened to you. It was a pleasure to have you here. Good luck, Adam.

SEQUENCE 9: EXT / DAY ; HOSPITAL PARKING LOT, INSIDE RAPHAËL'S CAR

Adam is seated in a car next to Raphaël, looking backward through the rear window. As the hospital fades in the background, Adam's face is reflected in the tinted glass of the car window. Adam turns his head forward and looks up front with excitement. The car moves through busy traffic in the city.

RAPHAËL

So how does it feel to be going back home ?

ADAM

I have no clue. How should I feel?

Raphaël gets closer to Adam and grabs his arm.

RAPHAËL

I'm sure that once we get back to your apartment, you'll start to remember things.

ADAM

I hope so... Tell me Raphaël, did I know how to drive ?

RAPHAËL

Yes, you did. But the day of the accident, as I have told you so many times before, it was ME driving.

Raphaël looks forward, feeling uneasy.

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