

& Kites

An Animated Short film
written by

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"When I let go of what I am,
I become what I might be."
Lao Tzu

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FADE IN

CREDIT SEQUENCE - CU FOLLOWING ROPES ON THE SAND.

1 EXT. BEACH - DAY

We follow a surfboard leash until we reach the foot where it is tied to. It is the foot of ALEX (28), an athletic man, with tousled and medium long hair, wearing flowery shorts. Alex is sitting in a chair with his elbow resting on a table with a bored expression. A gust of breeze knocks over one of the empty chairs next to him and moves it as far as the rope that ties it lets it go. Alex looks at the fallen chair without flinching, his hair does not stop blowing with the breeze. Behind him, there is a wooden hut where he lives, a couple more tables and a few other plastic chairs, a small barbecue, a bicycle and several surfboards. Everything is tied to the house with ropes.

Seen from the road, the lonely wooden hut has a large, old, handwritten sign that reads, "SURFBOARDS FOR RENT."

2 EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON

Alex picks up a sign that had been dropped by the wind and positions it again on the side of the road that passes behind his hut. The sign says "Surfing Classes". A couple of cars go down the road without stopping, Alex watches them pass by. He sighs, defeated.

3 EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON, LATER

Alex puts a log of wood in a hole in the ground. The log has a smaller log tied to form a cross. Seen from behind, against the evening sun, the log looks like a person. It is not the only one, Alex has put a dozen logs shaped like people of different sizes. A gust of breeze passes and knocks over the last log Alex put up. He picks it up and sets it back.

Alex plays soccer among the logs, as if they were other players trying to take the ball from him.

4 EXT. BEACH - SUNSET

Beautiful and colorful sunset. Alex surfs the waves alone.

Sitting on his surfboard, floating in the sea, Alex fishes using a rustic wooden yo-yo.

5 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Alex cooks a big and fresh fish on his grill.

He eats it alone at the table outside his hut. Alex looks towards the sea, lit by the moon, the sky is clear and many stars shimmer in it. A slight breeze moves his hair. Looking more bored than tired, Alex gets up and walks to his hut. A breeze knocks one of the chairs to the ground and drags it as far as the rope allows.

6 INT. ALEX'S WOODEN HUT - NIGHT

From his bed, Alex gazes through the window at the stars in the sky. He slowly falls asleep. Beside him, some old photos, in black and white, adorn the wall of the hut.

The first and oldest one, shows ALEX'S PARENTS when they were young (20's). Alex's father has a necklace, which looks more like a string with a pendant in the shape of a mermaid tail fin.

In another photo, the largest, a teenager Alex is accompanied by his PARENTS (50's), outside that same booth, all smiling and many people behind, adults and children. His father, shirtless and with the pendant, holds a surfboard taller than him.

In another photo, dad mounts the "SURFBOARDS FOR RENT" sign on top of the hut.

In another, the mother serves customers some fish on a tray.

In another, Alex and other boys are seen standing on surfboards in the sand.

In another photo, Alex's father is seen from behind, sitting on the surfboard in the sea, and several children in front of him also floating on other boards. Father's shirt says "INSTRUCTOR" on the back.

In yet another Alex, as an adult, comes out smiling with his parents by his side, they seem happy but tired, his father sitting in a wheelchair, Alex now proudly wears the shirt of Instructor and the long surf board that his father carried on the old photo.

In the last photo, Alex floats sitting on his board, with his back to the camera and wearing his Instructor shirt, with no children in front of him. Next to the photo, hanging on a pin, the string with the pendant that he inherited from his father.

7 EXT. BEACH - DAY

The hut and the tables, with all the chairs on the floor, all the same as always, all lonely.

Alex, next to the road sign, holds up a surfboard and greets the few cars that pass by. Nobody stops.

No one approaches the booth to rent surfboards.

8 EXT. BEACH - SUNSET

Another beautiful sunset. Alex surfs.

Alex kicks very hard a soccer ball into the sea. The ball also has a leash tied to the hut, so he picks it up by pulling the string. He kicks it again.

Alex looks around, the beach is absolutely alone.

9 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Alex is lying on the sand with his hands under his head looking at the stars. He gets up slowly and walks towards the wooden hut. When he walks past the chairs, he pulls one up with his hand so that it falls behind him. He continues on his way without looking at the chair. He walks into his booth and closes the door.

CUT TO BLACK.

10 EXT. SECONDARY HIGHWAY - DAY

Alex rides his old bicycle on the side of the road with the sea in the background. He has a straw hat tied to his head that occasionally flies to the back of his head and he fixes it.

11 EXT. LOCAL BEACH BAR - DAY

Alex drinks a beer alone. It is a hot and sunny day. He hears some laughter approaching and turns, sees JAIRO (32) approaching with two FEMALE FRIENDS (23 and 25). Jairo has well-groomed clothes, a clean haircut, it shows that he takes great care of his image. Alex looks at Jairo's flawless sneakers and compares them to his old flip-flops.

Jairo stops at a street stall to buy a hat. The SELLER shows him different styles, Jairo tries on several models, some funny, causing the laughter of the girls who accompany him. Alex doesn't stop looking at him.

With his new hat, Jairo and his friends sit in the same bar where Alex is, order some beers for the three, who don't stop laughing.

Alex looks at him a little jealous, looks at his watch, his shoes, his manicured nails, his pretty friends. A strong gust of wind snatches Jairo's hat. In a rapid movement, Alex grabs it and brings it to Jairo. Alex recommends Jairo tying his hat to his head, Jairo looks at the girls and the three make fun of Alex.

Alex says goodbye and starts walking towards his bicycle. Another gust of breeze snatches Jairo's hat again, throwing it at Alex's feet. Alex grabs it and takes it with him to the hat seller. Talks to him. The seller hands him a thin string, which Alex eagerly ties to the hat, takes it to Jairo, saying goodbye again.

Jairo looks at the knots for a few seconds and walks behind Alex until he stops him. Jairo asks some questions and gives Alex his business card while talking with exaggerated gestures, showing him the differences between their appearances, as if selling him an idea that he can help him get better. Alex looks at the card, puts it in his pocket and walks away again after taking a look at Jairo's friends who now look at him seriously.

12 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

That night, with the bbq still smoking and the bones of a fish on a plate, Alex looks at the card that Jairo handed him. Then looks around: the motionless sea under the moonlight, the lonely hut, the fallen chairs in the distance tied with the rope. Looks again at the business card.

13 EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Alex finishes unscrewing the sign above the shed. He puts it inside the hut, along with the tables, chairs, his bike, the grill, and the surfboards. He puts on his mermaid fin necklace, puts a lock on the door, takes a deep breath as he takes one last look at what has been his home. He hangs a bag over his shoulder, and walks toward the road.

14 EXT. CITY, BIG WAREHOUSE - DAY

Alex is in front of a warehouse with a very large gate. Looks at the business card to confirm the address. Puts the card away and go inside.

15 INT. BIG WAREHOUSE - DAY

Alex rolls nylon onto a spool, he is wearing some kind of smart watch that flashes in different colors, and keeps staring at it in amazement. Jairo is next to him with an iPad, making sure Alex is doing the job well. His appearance is very different, he does not have well combed hair anymore, his work uniform is a bit dirty and his shoes are old boots.

Jairo takes a reel of nylon freshly wound by Alex to check it and he likes what he sees. Before leaving, he shows Alex the iPad and warns him that with that device he can know where he is at all times. Alex looks around, his table is one more in a large room with many people sitting at their own tables doing the same thing as him: winding plastic reels, the kind used in kites, with nylon. All workers have a watch like his, and the colored lights blink incessantly.

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INT. BIG WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

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to keep reading...

Jairo shows Alex a small room in the warehouse, where he has arranged an input. It is only a small bed and a lamp, a window, next to the bed, looks out on a grey, dirty and old wall. Alex seems satisfied with the space. He sets his briefcase on the side of the bed.

Jairo shows him how to close the big warehouse door from the inside, then says goodbye. Alex does everything as he was taught, turns around and walks through the old dark and empty space.

17 INT. BIG WAREHOUSE - DAY

Back at his workplace, Alex looks around, everyone works hard on their task. Only one girl, ROSA (27), cute and bubbly looking, looks at him. Meeting her gaze, she looks down and concentrates on her work. Alex returns to his.

18 INT. BIG WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

That night, in the space arranged to be his room, Alex looks at the ceiling leaning against his pillow. He turns against the wall and he fixes his gaze on his necklace that he hung on a nail next to the window. He turns off the lamp.