

1 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

1

FADE TO a Lego spaceship on a shelf. A duster comes into frame, sweeping the spaceship and the Lego around it clean. PAN UP TO another shelf of Lego that the duster cleans. CUT TO ROHAN, a late-teen boy wearing brightly coloured clothing standing on a stepladder with the duster. He pauses to admire the Lego before stepping down and going to his desk. He notices that a Lego car on the other shelf is broken and takes it to fix it on his desk. His laptop is open with the Common App essay page. Rohan's phone pings: it's a message from FRIEND.

FRIEND (V.O.)

Hi Rohan, how's it going? I'm here for a 3-day layover on my way back to England. Are you free day after tomorrow?

Rohan happily types: "Yeah, I am. You can come to my house at noon." Friend responds with a thumbs-up on the message. Rohan smiles. MAMA calls Rohan from downstairs.

MAMA (O.S.)

(loud)

Rohan!

ROHAN

(slightly exasperated)

Haa, Mama!

MAMA (O.S.)

Come see Neela auntie!

ROHAN

OK!

Rohan quickly gets up from his desk.

2 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

2

Rohan walks into the kitchen to see NEELA AUNTIE sitting on the table while her son, 5-year-old AARAV, is playing with a Lego car on the bed.

NEELA AUNTIE

(joyful)

Hello!

ROHAN

(polite)
Hello! How are you doing?

NEELA AUNTIE
(happy)
I'm good.

Rohan takes a seat at the table.

NEELA AUNTIE
So how's it been with you? Started senior year?

ROHAN
Yes.

NEELA AUNTIE
So, less than a year and you'll be gone! Wow! How are your applications going? Your mama was telling me you were applying to America.

ROHAN
(slightly miffed)
Yeah, I am. -- It's going alright.

NEELA AUNTIE
That's good. -- You know, I still remember when you were little and you used to come to my house. Remember?

ROHAN
(uneased)
Yeah, I do. -- How's Aarav doing?

NEELA AUNTIE
He's fine. He's just started Year 2. -- Oh, do you have the Lego GTR car? His friends at school told him about it and he's been chewing my brain to buy it. Would you be able to give it to him if you have it?

Rohan suddenly blanks out of the conversation staring at Aarav -- various moments from his childhood flash in his mind: Legos, old books and a drawing of him and Friend.

NEELA AUNTIE
(concerned)
Rohan, Rohan! Are you OK?

ROHAN

(polite)

Yeah, um, sorry. I just remembered. I have one but I made it with my childhood friend. He is coming over day after tomorrow and wants to see it.

NEELA AUNTIE

Oh, that's fine. Well, come over to my house when you can give it. Ok?

ROHAN

Yeah sure.

3 INT. LOUNGE - DAY

3

Friend walks upstairs and takes a seat with Rohan in Rohan's lounge room.

FRIEND

Anyways, like I was saying, it's great to see you again. When's the last time I saw you?

ROHAN

Um, last day of primary school. Over 6 years ago now.

FRIEND

Wow. -- So, how's life? Which unis are you applying to?

ROHAN

(slightly bothered)

Well, the list is pretty long. I'm still trying to narrow it down.

FRIEND

Oh ok. -- Well, what about the Common App, you started on the essay?

ROHAN

(apprehensive)

Yeah, that's -- coming along. -- Oh, by the way, I have something to show you! Stay there!

Rohan walks off-screen for a moment while Friend sits in anticipation. Rohan comes back into frame with the blue Lego car.

FRIEND

Oh, the McLaren GTR! You still have it?

ROHAN

(joyful)
Of course, I do!

FRIEND

It's in the same condition it was when we made it. -- So you still have your collection?

ROHAN

(excited)
Yeah. But this one's leaving it today.

Rohan leans over and hands Friend the car.

ROHAN

(thrilled)
Because I want you to have it.

A look of shock suddenly appears on Friend's face.

FRIEND

(hesitant)
Um, Rohan, I can't take this. I -- don't play with Lego anymore.

ROHAN

(surprised)
Uhh, well -- you could still take it. As a souvenir.

FRIEND

(guilty)
I'm sorry, Rohan, but I really can't. It'll be a hassle to travel with and I won't be able to keep it in the great condition you've kept it in. It's better in your hands. -
- How come you want me to have it?

ROHAN

(anxious)

Well, one of my mom's friends has a kid who wanted this. His mom asked me if he could have it and I told them you wanted to see it. -- I was hoping you would take it.

FRIEND

(annoyed)

Seriously, Rohan? Why can't you give it to that kid?

ROHAN

(distressed)

Look, that car is just another toy to him. I didn't think he would value it like you would. -- Like I do.

Friend stares at Rohan a moment before taking a deep breath, sighing and adjusting themselves on the couch. They look back at Rohan with a softer expression.

FRIEND

(calm, concerned)

Look, Rohan. You can talk to me. What's wrong?

Rohan finally lets his guard down as his face drops, his shoulders slump and he looks down.

ROHAN

(vulnerable, unhappy)

I don't think I'm ready for it to end. I can do the applications, no problem, but -- every time I try to start or think about them, I'm reminded that a year from now, I won't be in this house. Or this city. I'll be away from everything and everyone I've ever known. So I play with Lego because it makes me feel like a kid. Like everything will be alright.

Rohan slumps further, looking on the verge of breaking down. Friend ponders for a moment and looks back at Rohan.

FRIEND

(soft)

Rohan, I get it. We all reminisce and look back at the past as the "good ol' days" when we were comfortable, stress-free and happily naïve. It's difficult to resist feeling the warmth of those memories.

INTERCUT WITH:

4 INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

4

Anay walks into the room, goes to his desk, breathes and starts taking the Lego off the desk, set by set.

ROHAN (V.O)
(motivational)
But the thing is, if you work hard enough for it, your future could be just as bright.

Anay sits on the desk and opens his laptop, clicks a bookmark on his browser, revealing the Common App essay input, and starts typing.

LOUNGE

FRIEND
You value Lego because as a kid, that was your world. But your world is so much bigger now. There are so many more memories you could make. Those are the moments that you'll be treasuring 20 years from today. Not what you're cherishing now.

Friend picks up the Lego car on the table.

INTERCUT WITH:

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY [SILENT]

5

Rohan is let in the house by Neela auntie who is happy to see him. Rohan sees Aarav playing with his small Lego car on the carpet in the living room. Rohan walks towards him.

FRIEND (V.O.)
(stern)

All that aside, you're putting your inner child over an actual child! Your childhood days may be over but his are only beginning. Think of the memories *he* could have with that car.

Rohan kneels down and taps Aarav who turns to look at him. He then shows him his Lego McLaren GTR car and places it in Aarav's hands, saying "This is for you". Aarav lights up and says "Thank you" with a smile. Rohan gets up and looks at Aarav playing with the car and grins.

LOUNGE

Friend puts the car down and looks at Rohan more hopefully than ever.

FRIEND

(motivational)

So, trust me when I say it's going to be alright and even better than that if you put your mind to it.

LIVING ROOM

Rohan walks back to the door.

FRIEND (V.O.)

(motivational)

Once you put yourself in your present and face the future ahead with a hopeful smile, the next time you look back at the past --

Rohan looks back from the door at Aarav and looks crestfallen for a moment. He smiles slightly as he closes the door.

FRIEND (V.O)

-- you'll be ready to let go.

Rohan lets go of the door handle and walks off.

FADE OUT

THE END.

Writers World