

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 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 goes off: 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!

ROHAN

(polite)
Hello! How are you doing?

NEELA AUNTIE
(happy)
I'm good. Come sit!

Rohan takes a seat at the table.

NEELA AUNTIE
So how's it been with you. You're
in Year 13 now?

ROHAN
Yes.

NEELA AUNTIE
So, one more year here 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 can't
believe you're finally going. I
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 doing well. He's just started
Year 2. -- Oh, do you have the Lego
GTR car? Ever since his friends at
school told him about it, 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 alright?

ROHAN

(polite)

Yeah, um, sorry. I just remembered. My childhood friend who made the car with me is coming to town day after tomorrow. He wants to see it when he comes over.

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. I'd say it's flown by but -- it's certainly felt a long time, you know? -- 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. -- What about the Common App, you started on the essay?

ROHAN

(apprehensive)

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

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
Do you still have it? The collection?

ROHAN
(excited)
Yeah. However, this one's leaving it.

Rohan leans over and hands Friend the car.

ROHAN
(thrilled)
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, man.
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 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. There's clearly something holding you back. I'm here to talk. -- 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, things won't be the same. I won't be in this house. This city. And I'll be away from everything and everyone I've ever known. So, I think I'm still playing with Lego because -- it makes me feel like a kid again and -- I don't know whether I can accept that I'll never be one again.

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. I'm not going to scold you for reminiscing. It's difficult to resist basking in the warmth of the past. After all, back then, you were safe. Comfortable. Naïve.

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, the 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 so there are many more memories you could make, moments that you'll actually be treasuring 20 years from today instead of 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 may be over but his is 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

Anay 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 --

Anay 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.

Anay lets go of the door handle and walks off.

FADE OUT

THE END.