

Movie Case Report

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Name of Movie: *The Father*

Identifying Information about the Character: Anthony is an 83 year-old white heterosexual male. He is an English native residing in London.

Background Information: Anthony has been divorced for an undisclosed amount of time. His daughter Lucy passed away in an accident “years ago.” He was moved out of the flat he bought approximately 30 years ago and is cared for by his remaining daughter Ann and an at-home aid. He was initially moved out of his own flat because he had a verbal dispute with his previous aid. He was reported to have uncharacteristically threatened her with violence. For a brief time, his daughter’s husband, Paul, lived in the flat. Paul has physically struck Anthony.

Educational History: Not much is known about Anthony’s educational history. He is noted by his daughter Anne to have had a very long and successful career as an engineer, from which he is now retired.

Mental Health History: No known issues are mentioned to have existed prior to the onset of Anthony’s current symptoms. He was, by all accounts, a loving father with no mood or memory issues to speak of. Anthony now experiences progressive memory loss and routinely forgets small details, such as the location of his wristwatch, as well as large details, such as the passing of his daughter. He is progressively losing his ability to recognize the faces of others and is unable to uniquely identify people with accuracy. He experiences mood swings and is known to snap at those around him without warning. Anthony often becomes extremely confused and has trouble distinguishing time chronologically.

Medical History: Anthony is not known to have any outstanding medical issues, aside from the notable mental symptoms he is experiencing.

Substance Use: Anthony takes several medications for his declining memory and cognition, though it is unknown what specific medications he is consuming. He occasionally consumes alcohol but is not a regular user. He does not take any other mind-altering substances.

Primary Diagnosis: Anthony is suffering from Major Neurocognitive Disorder due to Alzheimer’s Disease (Dementia). He is also probably suffering from several comorbidities, such as depression and anxiety.

Criteria	How Character Meets this Criteria
Evidence of significant cognitive decline in one or more cognitive domains (e.g., memory, learning, executive function).	Anthony experiences memory loss, confusion, and difficulty recognizing people. He was unable to recognize his daughter at times.
Interference with independence in everyday activities.	Anthony is unable to live on his own due to his advanced symptoms. Anne hires aids for Anthony's everyday needs.
Cognitive deficits do not occur exclusively in the context of delirium.	Anthony's symptoms are consistent and progress over time, ruling out delirium as the cause.
Not attributable to other mental disorders (e.g., depression or schizophrenia)	Anthony's symptoms align very well with dementia. They are progressive and include memory loss and disorientation, rather than presenting as episodic, like other mental disorders.

References

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). Major neurocognitive disorder due to Alzheimer's disease. In *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed., text rev.). American Psychiatric Association. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425787>