

Requiem for Identity

By

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Twelfth Night

A magenta sky. The clouds are cotton candy, blushed by the warm touch of the sun. Camera pan stops at the Mini Cooper.

Fade to black.

Adeline by alt-J plays -- romantic and sweeping, yet there is a disconnected ambiance. A title card:

Requiem for Identity

1

INT. CAR - NIGHT

1

CHRISTIAN, 17, is a senior in high school. His lack of any physically intimidating attributes masks a very complicated inner psyche. He has trouble making eye contact and is overwhelmed by how his life is going.

VIVIAN, also 17, is Christian's girlfriend. She has an alluring personality and loves attention. Recently their relationship has been on the decline, but Vivian is hopeful that she can make it work. However, her temperament is about to be tested.

VIVIAN

I got you something.

CHRISTIAN

Really? What for?

VIVIAN

You don't know what day it is?

CHRISTIAN

Friday?

VIVIAN

You seriously don't know what day it is?

CHRISTIAN

I just told you, it's Friday.

VIVIAN

It's our one year anniversary!

CHRISTIAN

Oh my god, I'm so sorry, I completely forgot.

VIVIAN

You've been acting really weird lately Christian. You used to treat me like I was the most important

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN (cont'd)
thing in the world but now it's
like I don't even exist. Do you
even love me anymore?

CHRISTIAN
(after several seconds of
silence)
No.

VIVIAN
What?!?

CHRISTIAN
I just don't find you attractive.

VIVIAN
(slaps him)
Oh my gosh?!? Are you gay?

CHRISTIAN
I don't know! I don't even know who
I am anymore!

VIVIAN
Get out.

CHRISTIAN
Vivian.

VIVIAN
No. Get out.

And with that stinger, CHRISTIAN slams the door. A fuse has
been lit.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. CHRISTIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 2

CHRISTIAN storms off to his house. The intro to *Requiem:
Lacrimosa* by Mozart plays, which will take us to the
following sequence.

CUT TO:

3 INT. CHRISTIAN'S DINING ROOM- NIGHT 3

As the music continues, CHRISTIAN enters the living room.
His family of three has already begun eating.

ABIGAIL, 38, is Christian's mother. She was once an aspiring
singer but gave up her dream to take care of her husband and
children.

(CONTINUED)

ABIGAIL
How nice of you to join us
Christian!

JOHN, 44, is Christian's father. Resolute and strongly opinionated, he demands respect from his children and holds them to an impossibly high standard.

JOHN
Where were you?

CHRISTIAN
School project.

JOHN
With who?

CHRISTIAN
Vivian.

ABIGAIL
Vivian! I love Vivian, she's such a
sweet young lady.

JOHN
(to DANIEL)
Would you please pass the napkins.

ABIGAIL
So how are my dear boys doing in
school?

DANIEL, 18, is Christian's brother. Charismatic and intelligent, he is the perfect son that Christian helplessly aspires to be.

DANIEL
Splendid. Harvard offered me a
full-ride scholarship but I turned
it down in favor of Yale.

ABIGAIL
That's fantastic!

JOHN
How about you Christian?

Christian is thinking about his break-up and doesn't hear John.

JOHN
Christian?

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN

Sorry what?

JOHN

I said, how has school been for you?

CHRISTIAN

It's been fine I guess.

ABIGAIL

Just fine? You're not doing well?

CHRISTIAN

I'm gonna end the school year with a B in AP Literature. The timed writes are just too hard--

JOHN

That is unacceptable. We have a legacy to withhold and a B in AP Literature will not cut it.

DANIEL

Don't be so hard on him dad, some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them.

ABIGAIL

I agree. Perhaps you should get a tutor to fix your dilemma, Christian.

CHRISTIAN

(in a passive aggressive tone)

If you think it's for the best, mother.

JOHN

Don't talk to your mother like that!

CHRISTIAN

I didn't do anything wrong!

JOHN

Apologize to her right now!

Christian refuses to speak.

(CONTINUED)

ABIGAIL

It's all right dear, perhaps he's
just having a bad--

JOHN

No! If you don't have the common
decency to respect your mother,
then you don't belong in this
household!

CHRISTIAN

(stands up and slams the
table)

You know what! Maybe I don't!

Christian storms to his room while his family stares in
shock.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

4

AIRIN, 17, has a self-conscious posture and an androgynous
look. He has a strong reverence for music and photography.

Tracy, 33, is Airin's mother. Her exuberance of youth is
fading from balancing multiple jobs and raising Airin on her
own. Yet, she has an optimistic outlook and is supportive of
anything Airin pursues.

The interactions between Airin and his mom are very casual,
a stark contrast to Christian's family. *American Spirits* by
Banes World plays softly in the background.

AIRIN

Did you hear the new album by Troye
Sivan yet?

TRACY

Of course! I love that guy!

AIRIN

Right! His angelic voice is
something else.

TRACY

I know! What's your favorite song
from him?

AIRIN

It's hard to say. I think I'm gonna
have to go with Wild though, but he
has so many good ones.

(CONTINUED)

TRACY

Oh yeah the song about forbidden love. It's just so sad that he has to hide who he truly is so that society doesn't view him as an outcast.

AIRIN

Right? I agree completely. Can we please go see one of his concerts?

TRACY

Is he gonna come to LA anytime soon?

AIRIN

(looks at his phone)

Let me check. December 1st!
Pleeeeeeeeeease?

TRACY

Ok fine, but only if you finish your college apps first. Deal?

AIRIN

Deal!

Airin hi-fives Tracy out of gratification.

TRACY

Hey can you go take Soohong for a walk when we get home? I have to run some errands.

AIRIN

Yea, for sure.

Music fades out.

CUT TO:

5

INT. CHRISTIAN'S PARENTS BEDROOM - NIGHT

5

Abigail and John are in their bedroom getting ready to sleep, John is reading Leviticus 20:13 out loud while Abigail is reading a classic novel.

ABIGAIL

So what are we gonna do about Christian?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

That's not my business, it's your job.

ABIGAIL

John! He's your child!

John closes his book with conviction.

JOHN

Adopted! Adopted child. I already feed him and clothe him, isn't that enough?

Daniel knocks on the door.

ABIGAIL

Come in!

Daniel opens the door.

DANIEL

I just wanted to say good night.

JOHN

Good night son.

ABIGAIL

Daniel?

DANIEL

Yes mom?

ABIGAIL

Can you check on Christian please?

DANIEL

Don't worry I'll talk to him. Good night.

Daniel leaves the room.

ABIGAIL

You seriously shouldn't have talked to Christian like that John.

JOHN

Christian needs to learn respect. Just because he is adopted doesn't mean that he's a part of this family.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. CHRISTIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT 6

Daniel walks to Christian's room and knocks on the door.

DANIEL
Christian? Can I come in?

There is no answer.

DANIEL
Christian?

Daniel opens the door and sees the window open. Christian has run away.

DANIEL
Christian, come back here!

CUT TO:

7 EXT. AIRIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 7

Airin leaves the house with his dog Soohong.

AIRIN
Alright mom, I'm gonna go take
Soohong out for a walk.

Airin plays *Wild* on his phone, which signals the cut to the next scene.

8 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT 8

Infuriated, Christian is running with no sense of where he's going. Shots of him running past several houses ensue. Meanwhile, Airin is on a leisurely stroll with his dog. Christian and Airin collide, making the music end abruptly.

CHRISTIAN
I'm so sorry.

AIRIN
Don't worry about it, it's not a
big deal.

Christian looks at Airin's phone and notices that Airin is playing Troye Sivan.

CHRISTIAN
I really like that song, by the
way.

(CONTINUED)

AIRIN

Finally! Someone else who appreciates good music.

CHRISTIAN

Don't get me wrong, I really like *WILD*, but my favorite song is *FOOLS*.

AIRIN

Yea that song's kind of depressing, but then again all of his songs are.

CHRISTIAN

I feel like he wrote this song for me, because usually I'm a rational person but when I listen to his music I feel like a total fool.

AIRIN

Hey, better a witty fool, than a foolish wit amirite.

CHRISTIAN

(smiles)

True, true.

AIRIN

This sounds kinda weird, but do you wanna grab some coffee sometime?

CHRISTIAN

No it's not weird, I'd love to.

AIRIN

Awesome! I know this coolplace by my house. How does tomorrow sound

CHRISTIAN

I'm sure I can make the time.

Frank Sinatra's *Fly Me to the Moon* plays as we transition the the next scene.

CUT TO:

9

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

9

Christian and Airin are out on their first date. They are both anxious, but their chemistry is apparent.

Shots of the coffee shop. Christian sips his coffee.

AIRIN

So what do you think?

CHRISTIAN

It's actually really good. I don't usually drink coffee but if it tastes like this I definitely will.

AIRIN

So tell me about yourself, I'm dying to know.

CHRISTIAN

Well, my biological parents died when I was little so I became an orphan. Then my adopted parents took me in and here I am.

AIRIN

That's really cool, I always wanted to be an orphan. Most of my favorite movie characters were and I think that their lives are something special.

CHRISTIAN

Do you like movies?

AIRIN

I love movies! I actually wanna be a filmmaker.

CHRISTIAN

Have you seen Moonlight?

AIRIN

Not yet, but I heard it was really good.

CHRISTIAN

Yea it got an Oscar for Best Picture.

AIRIN

Ok I have to see it now.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN

I love the color scheme of the movie, especially its emphasis on the color blue.

AIRIN

The visual aspect of a movie is important, but I definitely think the story is the most important.

CHRISTIAN

Well, you won't be disappointed, the movie's about a young kid struggling for self-discovery as he grows up in a neighborhood that doesn't really accept him for who he is.

AIRIN

That sounds awesome! We should go see it.

CUT TO:

10

INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

10

Airin and Christian are in the produce section of the supermarket. *Married Life* by Michael Giacchino plays in the background. They start making a commotion, causing a CUSTOMER to stare at them with disapproval.

CUSTOMER

What's wrong with this generation?

Christian looks downhearted.

AIRIN

Don't worry, foolery, sir, does walk about the orb like the sun.

CHRISTIAN

It shines everywhere.

CUT TO:

11

EXT. AIRIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

11

Christian and Airin are at Airin's home watching *Moonlight*. They are eating popcorn and staring intently at the TV screen.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN
Where's your mom?

AIRIN
She's out working right now.

CHRISTIAN
It's getting kind of late though.

AIRIN
Yea well my dad isn't here anymore
so my mom is barely home because
she has to work two jobs to keep us
afloat.

CHRISTIAN
What happened to your dad, if you
don't mind me asking.

AIRIN
He died in a car accident a long
time ago before I was even born.

CHRISTIAN
Oh my god, I'm so sorry.

AIRIN
It's fine. It's just that--

CHRISTIAN
You don't need to tell me.

AIRIN
No I do. My mom was 17 at the time
and she was pregnant and...she's
just had to go through a lot you
know (Airin cries).

Christian puts his arm around Airin.

CHRISTIAN
I need to show you something.

CUT TO:

12

EXT. HILL - SUNSET

12

Shots of Christian and Airin walking up the hill. *Mystery of Love* by Sufjan Stevens plays.

CHRISTIAN
Isn't it beautiful?

(CONTINUED)

AIRIN
I feel like I'm on the top of the
world!

CHRISTIAN
There's just something about the
view that makes me...appreciate
life.

Airin stares at the scenery in awe and screams at the top of
his lungs.

AIRIN
AHHHHHHHH

CHRISTIAN
AHHHHHHHH

AIRIN
I LOVE MANGOS.

CHRISTIAN
I LOVE WATERMELONS.

AIRIN
I LOVE CANABRU.

CHRISTIAN
I LOVE THE COLOR BLUE.

AIRIN
I LOVE YOU.

CHRISTIAN
(hesitates)
I LOVE YOU.

Christian helps Airin get up from the ground. Music fades
out.

CUT TO:

13 INT. CHRISTIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

13

Christian sneakily enters the house through his window only
to find Daniel standing in his room waiting for him.

CHRISTIAN
You scared me.

DANIEL
Sit down Christian.

Christian sits down on the bed.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL
It's pitch black outside. Do you
know what time it is?

CHRISTIAN
I say there is no darkness but
ignorance.

DANIEL
What are you even saying? Where
have you been?

CHRISTIAN
I was out with someone.

DANIEL
Vivian?

CHRISTIAN
No, we broke up.

DANIEL
What? When did this happen?

CHRISTIAN
Yesterday before dinner.

DANIEL
My god why didn't you say anything?

CHRISTIAN
I didn't want mom and dad to start
asking questions ok?

DANIEL
What's up with you Christian?
Really, you can talk to me.

Christian sighs.

CHRISTIAN
I think I'm gay.

Daniel is shocked.

DANIEL
How do you know?

CHRISTIAN
I was out with a person named Airin
and --

DANIEL

Christian, do you know how mom and dad will react to this?

CHRISTIAN

We're in love, we just wanna be together. What's wrong with that?

DANIEL

Christian, you're still young, you don't know what you want! Get your life together.

Blue Sunday by the Doors plays. Daniel leaves the room. Christian begins writing a letter.

CHRISTIAN(V.O.)

Dear family--

CUT TO:

14 INT. AIRIN'S HOUSE - NOON

14

Airin and Tracy are setting up the table in anticipation of their expected guest, Christian.

So this boy that you've invited.
Are you guys a thing?

AIRIN

Mom!

TRACY

Relax, I just want you to be with whoever makes you happy.

AIRIN

I've barely known him but I already feel like we're family.

The doorbell rings, creating a resonating echo in the house.

AIRIN

That must be Christian! Don't embarrass me ok?

TRACY

Embarrass you? I'm the cool hipster mom remember?

CUT TO:

15 EXT. AIRIN'S HOUSE - NOON

15

Airin meets Christian at the door. *Blue Sunday* continues playing.

AIRIN
Hey Christian.

CHRISTIAN
(nervous)
Hey.

AIRIN
What's wrong?

CHRISTIAN
What if your mom doesn't like me?

AIRIN
Don't worry, my mom is the most accepting person ever.

CHRISTIAN
Ok.

CUT TO:

16 INT. AIRIN'S HOUSE - NOON

16

Christian and Airin walk into the living room holding hands. A clear shot of the bracelet is shown.

AIRIN
Mom, this is Christian.

Holding a plate, Tracy makes eye contact with Christian and sees the bracelet. The plate drops slowly from her grasp and shatters on the floor and the music abruptly stops. She is speechless.

AIRIN
Mom, what the hell?!?

TRACY
You two can't be together.

AIRIN
Why are you of all people acting like this?

TRACY
Christian, can you step out for a bit? I need to talk to Airin in private.

(CONTINUED)

AIRIN
No, Christian stays.

TRACY
Fine. You two, sit down.

Airin and Christian sit down at the table.

AIRIN
Remember the story I told you about
your dad?

AIRIN
Yea, he died when I was a kid and
it's just been us two ever since.

TRACY
Yes, but that's not the complete
story.

AIRIN
WHAT?

TRACY
The truth is you had a brother when
you were younger, but after your
father died, I couldn't afford to
raise you both. I sent your brother
to foster care.

AIRIN
WHAT THE ACTUAL HELL.

CHRISTIAN
Wait how does that have to do with
us not being able to be together?

TRACY
Where did you get that bracelet?

CHRISTIAN
My mom gave it to me when I was
little and I've been using it ever
since.

TRACY
Yes, that's true, but it wasn't
your adopted mother that gave you
that bracelet, it was me. You,
Christian, are my son.

AIRIN/CHRISTIAN
We're related?!?

(CONTINUED)

TRACY

Do you see why you two can't be together now?

AIRIN

No actually, I don't. Do you Christian?

CHRISTIAN

Nope, especially because my whole life is a lie now.

TRACY

But this is repulsive! This is morally wrong!

CHRISTIAN

Thou shalt be both the plaintiff and the judge of thine own cause.

AIRIN

C'mon Christian let's go.

CUT TO:

17 INT. AIRIN'S CAR - NIGHT

17

To Build a Home by the Cinematic Orchestra plays. Airin is driving off to Los Angeles with Christian sitting shotgun, but Christian wants to visit his house first.

CHRISTIAN

Hold on, we need to go to my house, I need to drop something off.

AIRIN

You sure?

CHRISTIAN

Yea.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. CHRISTIAN'S DOOR - NIGHT

18

Christian drops off the letter, rings the doorbell and runs back to the car.

CUT TO:

19 INT. AIRIN'S CAR - NIGHT

19

Christian re-enters the car a changed person. He has discovered who he truly is. *To Build a Home* continues to play.

AIRIN

You good?

CHRISTIAN

Yea, I am.

AIRIN

Where to?

CHRISTIAN

Doesn't matter, home is where the heart is and my heart is with you.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. CHRISTIAN'S DOOR - NIGHT

20

Abigail opens the door, finds out it's a letter from Christian.

ABIGAIL

John, Daniel, come here!

DANIEL

What is it?

JOHN

In a minute!

ABIGAIL

No, it's from Christian, come here.

John bolts to the door. Daniel and Abigail are already reading the letter.

JOHN

What does it say?

Abigail reads the letter while we flash back to pivotal scenes. *To Build a Home* continues to play.

ABIGAIL

Dear family--

Abigail's dialogue is replaced by Christian's voiceover.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN(V.O.)

I haven't been the child that you want me to be. In fact, I never will be, but I'm ok with that. I used to wish that I was like Daniel, a perfect son with impeccable grades and a charming personality, but I no longer do--I'm proud of who I am and I look forward to who I will become. We are born into a world of oppression, restricted by labels like religion or sexual orientation. But nothing that is so, is so. Our own thoughts are the only thing we can control. The final judgment is based on nothing else but your soul. To conquer yourself is the greatest victory, then life will no longer be a mystery. If you don't love me anymore that's ok, because I've found someone who does.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. LOS ANGELES - AFTERNOON

21

With the V.O. still playing, cut to shots of the background -- city life, stores, skyline with the music continuing to play in the background.

Music fades.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

22

Under a sky of perfect midnight shines a moon so brilliant it draws eyes heaven bound.

AIRIN

You know what I like about our relationship? It feels natural.

CHRISTIAN

Yea, love sought is good. But given unsought is better.

AIRIN

(looking at the moon)
What do you see?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

21.

CHRISTIAN

I see the start of our new journey.

AIRIN

It can be our Requiem for Identity.

A Real Hero by Electric Youth plays.

A title card: **Requiem for Identity**

FADE OUT.

SNAP TO BLACK