

Walter Evans' Unusual Request

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FADE IN:

INT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

ALICE EVANS (39) is standing in the kitchen making lunch and talking on the phone.

Alice looks out the kitchen sink window.

Alice P.O.V. - Her father Walter Evans (68) is standing next to a MAPLE TREE. He is giving it a big hug.

BACK TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' KITCHEN - DAY

ALICE
Walter is hugging the tree again.

CUT TO:

Title Over:

WALTER EVANS

TREE WHISPERER

EXT. WALTER EVANS - BACKYARD - DAY

Walter looks the tree up and down. He puts his ear on the trunk.

SUPERIMPOSE: Walter Evans- Environmental Artist

WALTER (V.O.)
My name is Walter Evans. I'm a
self-taught environmental artist.
Trees are my muse.

Walter walks over to a plastic bin and begins to pull out random objects: tin cans, ribbon, aluminum pie pans, etc.

Walter takes some of the objects and holds them up to the tree forming a crude face.

CUT TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter Evans is sitting in his recliner.

WALTER
Basically, I put faces on trees.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Walter walks through the woods with lots of trees studying everyone. He stops, closes his eyes and listens.

WALTER (V.O.)
Trees are just wonderful. They're majestic giants. When I close my eyes, I can hear them talking to me.

CUT TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' KITCHEN - DAY

Alice is sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee.

SUPERIMPOSE: Alice Evans - Walter's Daughter

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
Would you say your father is a little eccentric?

ALICE
(laughing)
I think he's bat shit crazy.

BACK TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Walter pulls a RED WAGON with various household objects. He studies each tree. Occasionally, he stops and closes his eyes.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
Walter does not have a studio. The canvas he uses is the landscape around him. When he finds a suitable tree, he'll create his art and leave it for others to find.

MONTAGE:

Walter Evans examines a tree.

He touches another tree and nods his head with approval.

Walter creates a face on a tree with the household objects.

Walter sits at the base of a tree eating a sandwich.

BACK TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

How many pieces of art have you made over the course of your art career?

WALTER

I've lost count. Possibly in the hundreds.

MONTAGE:

Show Walter's tree art as a series of photos.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Each face is unique. Each piece of art meant only to last as long as the objects stay on the tree. Some say when you discover one of Walter's faces, it is like finding a four-leaf clover.

CUT TO:

INT. HAVENESBURG ART MUSEUM - DAY

MICHAEL FINCH (49), an art curator, is sitting in front of a sculpture.

SUPERIMPOSE: Michael Finch - Curator of Contemporary Art - Havensburg Art Museum

Walter is a treasure. His work is the truest definition of contemporary folk art. I absolutely get excited when I find out another piece of his work has been found. I immediately send a photographer out to document it.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Do you think Walter's work stands up to some of the great contemporary folk artists?

MICHAEL

Absolutely. Not being able to bring his creations into museums forces an art lover like me to venture outside and experience his craft. It's not just a face on a tree. You have to take into account the way the tree moves, the air feels, the sound of the leaves being blown. Everything is connected. Brilliant stuff.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Didn't you grow up with Walter's daughter Alice?

MICHAEL

I did. We were best friends and still are to this day.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Would you say Walter creative has always been creative?

MICHAEL

Definitely.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAVENSBURG UNIVERSITY - DAY

Havensburg University is shown with cars driving by and people walking around campus.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Walter was a ceramics professor at Havensburg University for 25 years. It wasn't until after he retired that he discovered a new muse.

BACK TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walter Evans sits in his recliner.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Did you like retirement?

WALTER

No. I hated it.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
When did you get the idea to do
environmental art?

WALTER
I don't know. Divine intervention?

EXT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - MORNING

Walter leaves his house and starts walking down the driveway
and out onto a country road.

EXT. SOLAR FARM - MORNING

Walter walks by a SOLAR FARM. On the other side of the road,
in a weird, unexpected moment, a COSPLAYER (20s) dressed as
CAPTAIN AMERICA walks by Walter in the opposite direction.

The cosplayer waves at Walter.

Walter smiles and waves back.

EXT. BESTWAY GROCERY - MORNING

Walter walks past BESTWAY GROCERY stopping to put on his
READING GLASSES so he can read the new flyers posted on the
window.

BRITTANY MAYWEATHER (22) awkwardly exits Bestway backward
holding a bottle of SUNDROP and carrying a LARGE WHITE
CANVAS.

She turns around and bumps into Walter.

BRITTANY
(smiling)
I'm so sorry!

WALTER
No, it's okay. Are you alright?

BRITTANY
Yeah. Didn't drop my Sundrop.
That's a good thing.

Brittany puts the canvas under the arm holding the Sundrop
and holds her hand out to Walter.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
My name is Brittany Mayweather. I'm
a Grad Student at the Art Dept.

Walter shakes her hand and smiles.

WALTER

What is your concentration?

Brittany raises the side of her where the canvas is tucked under her arm.

BRITTANY

(laughs)

Painting.

WALTER

Of course. Silly me.

Brittany notices the flyer Walter is reading.

CLOSE ON a yellow flyer that reads:

Havensburg University Art Dept. Student Show with visiting artist Colin Colman. Saturday, May 14th.

BACK TO:

BRITTANY

Are you going tonight?

WALTER

I don't know. I used to be a professor there long ago.

BRITTANY

You should! Colin is amazing.

WALTER

I've been keeping up with his work.

BRITTANY

Hey... it was nice meeting you.

WALTER

Nice meeting you too.

Brittany walks to a parked truck, puts the canvas in the truck bed and drives off.

Walter crosses the road and heads over to a COFFEE SHOP.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUING

Walter walks into the coffee shop and approaches the counter.

JIMMY ERIC (30s) stands at the register.

JIMMY
Morning Walter.

Jimmy looks at his watch.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
9:30. Right on time. How's your
walking going today?

WALTER
Good. You never know what you'll
see.

JIMMY
(smiles)
What can I get started for you?

Walter looks over at the COFFEE MENU with all sorts of
elaborate drinks WRITTEN out in chalk on the WALL behind the
counter.

WALTER
Oh, I don't know. Just a black
coffee with cream.

Walter gives Jimmy a couple of dollars for his coffee and
sits on a stool at the counter.

On a TELEVISION, in a corner of the shop, is the local news.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAVENSBURG UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM - DAY

A NEWS REPORTER (20s) is interviewing COLIN COLEMAN (40s)
standing in front of a large TRANSPARENT CUBE.

NEWS REPORTER
Your project is offering someone
after they die the ability to come
back as a tree.

COLIN
Correct. There are other similar
services, but they don't see the
beauty in it as I do. Instead of
cremation, we place the body in
full-size capsule sort of like an
astronaut.

BACK TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Jimmy gives Walter his coffee.

WALTER

Thanks.

JIMMY

That guy is pretty interesting huh?

WALTER

(interested)

Very.

EXT. HAVENSBURG UNIVERSITY PARK LOT - DAY

ALEX EVANS (19) parks and gets out of his beat-up JEEP.

CYNTHIA MCCOY (20) runs up to Alex.

They both walk to the school.

CYNTHIA

Hey, stranger!

ALEX

Hey back.

CYNTHIA

Did you get that script I emailed you?

ALEX

Um. Hold on.

Alex looks at his CELLPHONE and begins to check his email.

CYNTHIA

Haven't you even looked yet?

Cynthia hits Alex in the shoulder.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

I really want you to read it.

ALEX

What is it about?

CYNTHIA

Now, don't laugh.

Alex stops and looks at Cynthia.

ALEX

Okay. I'm listening.

CYNTHIA

It's about three high school kids who help their lunch lady defeat interdimensional aliens trying to destroy their school.

ALEX

Wow.

Alex continues walking.

CYNTHIA

It takes place right here in Havensburg at our old high school.

ALEX

We can't film that.

CYNTHIA

No, but it's the first feature I've ever written. I want you to look through it before I submit it to some festivals.

ALEX

Fine. Meanwhile, we really need to come up a topic for our documentary.

CYNTHIA

Hey, you're the idea guy. I'm just an editor.

ALEX

Who writes about aliens.

Alex and Cynthia walk by the Havensburg University School of Art and Design building and see the local news crews finishing up their interview with Colin Coleman.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What's going on over there?

CYNTHIA

That's Colin Coleman. The visiting professor who is building the Death Cube.

ALEX

Death cube?

CYNTHIA

That's what I've been calling it.
He's the guy who wants to use
someone's body after they die and
incorporate them into his
sculpture. Haven't you seen him on
the news?

ALEX

I don't watch the news.

CYNTHIA

At all?

ALEX

Depresses me.

Alex stops and watches the new crew pack up.

ALEX (CONT'D)

How can he put a body into a
sculpture?

CYNTHIA

Well, if you watch the news, you'd
know he wants to put a body into a
sculpture and bury it so the body
can turn into a tree.

ALEX

A tree?

CYNTHIA

Weird huh?

ALEX

Cynthia. I do believe we have found
the topic of our documentary.

INT. WALTER EVANS' KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Alice is standing in the kitchen by the sink talking on the
phone and drinking a large GLASS OF WINE.

ALICE

No. I'm here. Dad just got in from
his morning walk. He's outside
right now.

Alice looks out the kitchen sink window.

Alice P.O.V. - Her father Walter Evans is trying to climb a
tree.

BACK TO SCENE

ALICE (CONT'D)

Shit. Hold on Nancy. Dad is trying
to climb the tree again.

Alice knocks on the window to get his attention and runs out
the back kitchen door onto the deck.

EXT. DECK - AFTERNOON

Still holding the phone, Alice calls out to her dad.

ALICE

Dad! What in the hell are you
doing? Get down.

Walter stops and turns around.

WALTER

Will you leave me alone?

ALICE

I'm starting to think I can't
anymore. What are you doing?

WALTER

What does it look like? I'm a
climbing a tree.

ALICE

Why?

WALTER

I'm trying to get Bauhaus.

ALICE

Why are you lying to me? Bauhaus is
right there.

Alice points to BAUHAUS, Walter's pet BLACK CAT, laying on
the ground cleaning itself.

WALTER

You used to climb trees when you
were younger.

ALICE

Well, don't. You'll get hurt.

Walter turns back around and attempts to scale the tree
again.

ALICE (CONT'D)

DAD!

Walter waves his hand at Alice and walks away.

Alice continues her conversation on the phone with Nancy.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Okay. I'm back. He was trying to
climb the tree in the backyard!

Alice walks back into the house, turning one more to check on
her dad.

INT. NANCY'S CAR - SAME DAY

NANCY FINCH (49) is driving through town and talking on her
CELL PHONE with Alice.

NANCY

Climb a tree? Did he get hurt?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ALICE

No. He's okay.

NANCY

Maybe he's depressed.

ALICE

I don't think he's depressed.

NANCY

Let him climb the damn tree, Alice.
Go out there and join him.

ALICE

(laughing)
That would be really something.

NANCY

How has Walter's health been since
the last round of chemo last year?

ALICE

For someone who fought renal cancer
and had a kidney removed,
surprisingly good.

Alice looks out the window again.

Walter is now sitting in his chair petting his cat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

There's a student art show tonight at Havensburg University. Dad wanted me to take him.

NANCY

I know. Michael is all excited about it.

Alice makes a face.

ALICE

I forget Michael is Dean of the Art Dept. now.

NANCY

Everyone has been talking about the guest artist from Portland. He brought a big transparent cube thing with him that's part of his big art project.

ALICE

Are you going?

NANCY

No. Sorry. I got a thing over at the church. Michael will be happy to see you.

ALICE

Okay. Let's get together next week for lunch.

NANCY

Sounds good. Bye bye, sweetie.

ALICE

Talk to you later.

BACK TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Alice hangs up the phone and sits down at the kitchen table with her wine.

ALICE

Shit.

CUT TO:

INT. NANCY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Nancy slams on breaks as the cosplayer dressed as Captain American walks across the street in front of her car.

NANCY
That's weird.

BACK TO:

EXT. WALTER EVANS' BACKYARD - SAME DAY

Walter sits in a beat-up lawn chair, pulls out his READING GLASSES and SMARTPHONE.

Near Walter, working in the flower garden is Walter's wife CINDY EVANS (60s).

CINDY
(laughing)
She really does love you.

WALTER
I know.

CINDY
How did you your doctor's
appointment go yesterday? I forgot
to ask you.

Walter doesn't look up from his phone and tries to avoid the question.

WALTER
The movie we want to see is playing
on television tonight.

Cindy puts down her SMALL HAND RAKE and stares at Walter.

CINDY
Walter.

WALTER
The blood tests haven't come back
yet. Maybe next week.

CINDY
Are you going to the art show
tonight? I think you should.

WALTER
Yeah. I'm going.

CINDY

It'll be nice for you to see some
of your old students and
colleagues.

WALTER

You should come with me.

CINDY

No thank you. You go enjoy your
evening of being worshiped and
fawned over. I've already got plans
with a big glass of wine and that
movie on television.

Walter smiles and looks at the wonderful job Cindy is doing
in the garden.

WALTER

The garden this year is going to be
the best yet.

Cindy wipes her forehead with the back of her glove.

CINDY

I think so too.

WALTER

Hey. You want to see me climb that
tree?

Cindy looks over at the house and then back at Walter.

CINDY

Go for it.

INT. WALTER EVANS' KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Alice finishes her glass of wine, walks over to the sink and
puts the empty glass in it.

She looks up and sees Walter and climbing the tree again.

ALICE

Damn it.

Instead of running outside this time, she takes another
bottle of wine from the WINE TREE and opens it.

INT. STUDENT ART SHOW - NIGHT

A small crowd of students, school faculty and guests mingle in the lobby of the Havensburg University School of Art and Design.

Several graduating students have their projects on display.

Walter is standing by the hors d'oeuvres table filling his plate with cubes of cheese.

MICHAEL FINCH (50), Dean of the Havensburg Art Dept. walks over to Walter.

MICHAEL

Walter! I am glad you made it tonight. You are looking really well.

WALTER

Hello, Michael. I'm fine. Don't worry, I'm not going to embarrass you.

MICHAEL

I see you haven't lost your sarcastic wit. People still talk about your last art show here. Topless dancers. Robots. Holy cow. You didn't bring any strippers with you tonight, did you?

WALTER

No. Not this time.

Michael looks at Walter for a moment and then slaps his back.

MICHAEL

You're a hoot.

Michael gets a little closer to Walter.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Say, did Alice come with you tonight? Nancy told me both of you were coming. Where is she by the way?

WALTER

You never give up, do you? You know you are married right?

(beat)

(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)
 You'll find her at the table with
 the wine.

CUT TO:

P.O.V. - Wine table

Alice is holding a large wine glass instructing the SERVER to fill it to the top.

BACK TO:

MICHAEL
 Some of the work our students have
 created is really wonderful. A few
 pieces remind me of your stuff.

WALTER
 Good for them.

Walter and Michael are interrupted by ERIC MANCHESTER (24) a graduate student from the Sculpture Dept.

ERIC
 Walter. Colin is outside in the
 courtyard. He is waiting for you.

WALTER
 Gotta go Michael.

MICHAEL
 Oh okay. We'll talk later then.

Michael watches Walter walks off with Eric and then makes a beeline to where Alice is standing at the wine table.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

Outside in the courtyard, GUESTS mingle while drinking wine and looking at various outdoor sculptures.

Eric walks Michael over to a sculpture resembling a TRANSPARENT CUBE with mirrors inside.

ERIC
 He's right over there.

Eric points to a bench tucked away in a dark corner where visiting artist COLIN COLMAN (48) is talking to Brittany Mayweather the student he met earlier in the day.

WALTER
 Thank you.

ERIC
(touches Walter's shoulder)
You bet.

Colin notices Walter and motions for him to come over.

COLIN
You must be Walter.

Colin stands, SHAKES Walter's hand and introduces him to Brittany.

COLIN (CONT'D)
This here is my new friend.
(beat)
Brittany, right?

BRITTANY
(smiling at Walter)
We've met already.

COLIN
Well okay. Brittany and I were just getting ready to partake in the joys of alternative smoking pleasure. Would you like to join us?

Walter looks behind him.

WALTER
Sure.

Colin pulls out a JOINT, lights it, takes a huge drag and passes it to Brittany who does the same.

Brittany gives the joint to Walter who takes a hit.

COLIN
Eric tells me you are interested in my new project.

Walter EXHALES and passes the joint back to Colin.

WALTER
I am. Your work really speaks to me.

Colin INHALES DEEPLY and looks at Walter as if he is studying him.

COLIN

That is kind of you Walter. I have to say, I really like the work you did here. Absolutely outstanding stuff.

WALTER

Thank you.

COLIN

And your tree art? Genius.

WALTER

I appreciate it.

COLIN

So how does my stuff speak to you? I'm interested.

Colin directs Walter's attention to a large TRANSPARENT CUBE with a circular on the side.

Walter is silent for just a moment. He approaches the cube.

WALTER

It's... it's beautiful. Almost Bauhaus in tradition with natural function and design.

COLIN

That's a textbook answer. How does it make you feel?

WALTER

At peace.

COLIN

It's the new prototype.

Walter softly TOUCHES it.

WALTER

I think it's amazing.

INT. STUDENT ART SHOW - NIGHT

Michael stands beside Alice at the wine table. He watches her drink a glass of wine and get a refill.

MICHAEL

You better pace yourself.

ALICE
 (motioning to Michael)
 I got a reason to drink.

MICHAEL
 How have you been Alice?

ALICE
 I'm good. Just here with dad.

MICHAEL
 (whispering)
 Do you still think about it? About
 us?

Alice looks around and pulls Michael to the side.

ALICE
 Are you crazy? Keep your voice
 down.

MICHAEL
 You drive me crazy.

Michael tries to rub Alice's back.

Alice twists away from Michael bumping into a WAITER carrying
 a SERVING TRAY of hors d'oeuvres.

The tray falls to the floor.

ALICE
 I need a cigarette.

MICHAEL
 I'll go out with you.

Michael attempts to follow Alice.

Alice pushes him back.

ALICE
 No. You stay here.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

Walter runs his hand along the top of the cube sculpture.

WALTER
 I didn't know it was transparent.

COLIN

The prototype is transparent so you can see inside. It's made out of 100% plant-based plastic material.

WALTER

How does it work?

COLIN

A body is placed inside, buried and a tree is planted on the surface. As the body and cube disintegrate, the nutrients fertilize the tree. Perfect environmental harmony. Go on, get inside. Try it out for size.

Walter looks at the circular opening and steps inside.

COLIN (CONT'D)

I have a full-scale version at the studio where I am staying.

Alice walks over and finds Walter inside the cube.

She SNIFFS the air and has a look of shock on her face.

ALICE

Dad! Are you smoking pot?

COLIN

Would it help if I told you, it is medicinal?

ALICE

(waving the air)
No, it wouldn't!

WALTER

And you're smoking again?

ALICE

No, I'm not.

Alice looks down at her hand holding a pack of CIGARETTES and a lighter.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Um... no this is not what it seems.

COLIN

Relax. We're at an art party. No one cares.

Colin offers the joint to Alice who immediately FROWNS at him.

Colin gives the joint to Brittany and reaches out to shake Alice's hand.

COLIN (CONT'D)

It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Colin Colman. Visiting sculpture professor from Portland.

ALICE

Colman? You are the guy my dad has been talking about.

COLIN

(smiling)
Yes, I am.

ALICE

Dad. What the hell are you doing inside that thing?

WALTER

Colin wanted my opinion.

ALICE

You are going insane. Come find me when you're ready to leave.

WALTER

Where will you be?

ALICE

Somewhere avoiding Michael.

Alice walks away.

Walter steps out of the cube.

Brittany offers Walter the joint again, but he turns it down.

COLIN

What do you do now Walter?

WALTER

Just trying to enjoy life.

COLIN

I'm with ya. What's up with your daughter?

WALTER

Long story.

COLIN

Hmm. Hey, come out to my studio on Monday. We can continue our talk. Around 1 pm?

WALTER

Sure. Sounds good.

COLIN

I live about 45 minutes outside of town.

Colin takes out a BUSINESS CARD and PEN from his pocket. He writes on the back of the card and hands it to Walter.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Colin looks at Brittany and takes her hand.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Okay, Brittany my new friend. Let's go have our own adventure.

BRITTANY

(smiling)

Finally.

COLIN

(looking at Walter)

You are doing the right thing. See you Monday.

Colin and Brittany walk back into the art building.

Walter sits on the bench and stares at the cube.

INT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - MONDAY MORNING

The doorbell rings. Walter is EATING an APPLE.

CINDY

Are you going to answer the door?

WALTER

I'm on it.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Walter opens the front door to find his grandson Alex standing on the porch.

WALTER
Hey, buddy come on in!

ALEX
You ready to go?

WALTER
Sure thing.

ALEX
(looking at Richard)
Do you want to get lunch first?

WALTER
Great idea. Lunch is on me. Let's
roll.

Walter and Alex walk out to Alex's Jeep.

EXT. BEAT UP JEEP - YUM YUM'S - SAME DAY

Walter and Alex walk out of Yum Yum's eating HOTDOGS and
drinking MILKSHAKES.

ALEX
When are you getting your license
renewed Pop-pop?

Walter takes a sip of his milkshake.

WALTER
(smiling)
Why? I have you to drive me around.

Walter and Alex sit down at an outdoor table.

WALTER (CONT'D)
It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

ALEX
Sure.

WALTER
How is that documentary coming
along?

ALEX
Slow going.

WALTER
I'm sure it'll be something great.

Walter watches students walk by on the sidewalk. He sees a WOMAN Alex's age and nudges his grandson.

WALTER (CONT'D)
What do you think of her?

Alex looks and shrugs.

ALEX
She's okay.

Walter nods and points out another girl.

WALTER
Wow. She's something.

ALEX
I guess.

WALTER
Do you see your mom much?

ALEX
I go over to the house sometimes to do laundry.

WALTER
(laughing)
Do you talk to her?

ALEX
I try. She's always so serious. She got a promotion. Business analyst.

WALTER
I didn't know that.

ALEX
Doesn't sound like you talk to her either.

WALTER
You know your mom use to be fun.

ALEX
Before dad left right?

WALTER
Yeah.

Walter notices Alex watching a boy walk by them.

WALTER (CONT'D)
How about you? You, okay?

Alex doesn't respond.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Earth to Alex.

ALEX
I'm fine.

WALTER
(smiling)
You know it's okay.

Alex is confused and looks at Walter.

Walter gestures to the boy Alex is watching.

ALEX
What are you talking about?

WALTER
I've known for a while.

Alex stares at his grandfather.

ALEX
Mom doesn't know.

WALTER
She'll find out eventually.

ALEX
Not now.

WALTER
Okay. You know I love you? You're my buddy. I am sometimes envious of your youth and creativity, but I'm mainly proud.

ALEX
I just want to be like you.

WALTER
(smiles)
Everybody should.

Walter watches the cosplayer dressed as Captain America walk past.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Hey! How about him?

Alex pushes Walter's shoulder.

ALEX
Now you're picking on me.

Alex and Walter both laugh.

EXT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - SAME DAY

Alice drives up Walter's driveway.

She gets out of the car carrying a CASSEROLE DISH and walks to the front door.

She is wearing conservative office attire.

Alice rings the DOORBELL and KNOCKS.

Alice turns the doorknob and finds it unlocked.

She walks inside.

ALICE
Dad?

Alice walks around the house.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Dad? You home? I brought you a
casserole I made yesterday.

Alice goes to the kitchen and puts the casserole dish in the REFRIGERATOR.

She looks out the kitchen window at the tree.

Alice walks into Walter's office and sees his COMPUTER is on.

She sits down at the computer.

ALICE (CONT'D)
If I find porn on here so help me.

CLOSE ON the computer screen showing an article about natural burials.

CUT TO:

Alice finds brochures on the desk. She picks one up.

CLOSE ON a brochure that reads: Coping with a Brain Tumor.

BACK TO:

ALICE (CONT'D)
Brain tumor?

Alice sees a folder labeled MEDICAL RECORDS. She opens it and looks inside.

Alice thinks for a moment and then makes the connection.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Fuck!

EXT. COLIN COLMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex's Jeep pulls up into the driveway of an older house with a front porch. The grass is a little tall and YARD ART is stationed here and there.

Alex's cell phone RINGS. He looks at the phone.

ALEX
It's mom.

WALTER
Don't answer it.

ALEX
She'll just keep calling.

WALTER
Alright. Do what you need to do.

Walter climbs out of the Jeep and goes to the front door.

ALEX
(answering phone)
Hey, mom. How are you? Yes, he's with me. We are at that artist's house. Colin...?

WALTER
Colman

ALEX
Colin Colman. Okay. 45 Hillsdale Road.

Alex hangs up.

WALTER
What did she want?

ALEX
She's on her way.

EXT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - DAY

Walter walks up to the door and notices it is slightly ajar. He opens it while KNOCKING.

WALTER
Hello? Anyone home?

Walter walks into the living room crowded with books, sculptures and unfinished paintings.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Hello?

COLIN (O.S.)
We're in the kitchen.

Walter walks into the kitchen area and finds Colin sitting in front of an easel.

Brittany is standing in front of him totally naked.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Hey! You remember Brittany.

BRITTANY
Hello again.

WALTER
I loved the way the morning sun was coming in through the window perfectly accenting every curve on her body. What do think so far?

Walter looks at the painting in progress.

WALTER (CONT'D)
It's beautiful.

COLIN
Exactly. See dear? I told you. Who is your friend Walter?

Alex standing perfectly still not knowing what to do.

WALTER
This is my grandson, Alex.

COLIN
A pleasure to meet you, Alex. Brittany dear. Let's take a break. Why don't you see if Alex would like something to drink.

BRITTANY
I'd be glad too.

Brittany puts on a robe and walks over to talk to Alex.

COLIN
Walter, let's go outside on the
patio.

EXT. BACK PATIO - DAY

Colin and Walter sit in chairs and look out at the overgrown
grass.

A WORK BUILDING sits in the very back of the yard.

COLIN
How are you, Walter?

WALTER
Good. I'm good.

COLIN
No. I mean how are you?

Walter continues looking at the backyard.

WALTER
For a guy who has a brain tumor,
I'm surprisingly well. Maybe it's
because I'm focused on this
project. I use to be busy all the
time creating things, being
creative.

COLIN
Are you getting treatments?

WALTER
It's past the stage of doing
anything about it. I did not want
to do chemo. Said fuck it. Just
enjoying life now. You know what's
crazy?

COLIN
What?

WALTER
I'm dying and I'm the happiest I've
ever been.

(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)

Well, the happiest since the day of my marriage and when Alice was younger and more carefree.

COLIN

Time changes a person. Where is your wife now?

WALTER

Cindy? She is at home.

COLIN

Is Cindy on board with you working with me?

WALTER

Oh yes. She suggested it.

Brittany comes outside in her robe and hands Colin and Walter glasses of ICED TEA.

COLIN

Thank you beautiful! Are you and Alex getting along?

BRITTANY

Oh yes. We're discussing his film documentary assignment.

COLIN

Fantastic!

They both watch Brittany go back inside the house.

WALTER

Grad student huh?

COLIN

(laughing)

I didn't plan it. It just happened. She will be moving on after this semester. For now, we are having fun... being creative. Surely you had some TAs who liked a little adventure.

WALTER

I did, but I chose not to do anything. I love my wife too much.

COLIN

I saw some of your artwork in the university art gallery. There is some good stuff.

WALTER

Thanks.

COLIN

When did you start doing the environmental art with the trees?

WALTER

I started last year. The idea just came to me. I love creating things.

COLIN

The more we create, the more we love and lose those whom we love, the more we escape from death.

WALTER

Romain Rolland

COLIN

You know your poetry.

Colin takes a sip of his iced tea.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Have you ever noticed when you have something do and are experiencing and discovering new things, time actually goes by slower?

WALTER

Of course. I'm trying to devour as much life force as I can.

COLIN

(raising his tea glass)
Hear, hear!

WALTER

I just wish my daughter Alice would reevaluate things.

COLIN

Yes, Alice. What is her story?

WALTER

(laughing)
She has been through a lot. After her husband left her, she turned to work and became a big-shot manager at IBM. Never makes time anymore for the important things. She should remember what she used to be like.

COLIN
What do you mean?

WALTER
When Alice was about 10 years old,
we had marvelous adventures
together. She would often come to
the art department with me dressed
as her favorite superhero Captain
America and try to instruct the
students.

COLIN
I love it!

Colin takes a drink and looks at Walter.

COLIN (CONT'D)
You want to walk over to the studio
and see it?

Colin points to the detached work building in the backyard.

WALTER
Oh yes.

EXT. COLIN COLMAN'S WORK STUDIO - DAY

Walter stands in front of the building's garage door.

Colin unlocks the garage door, raises it up and walks into
the building.

Walter sees his BURIAL CUBE sitting on a large table.
Although not transparent, it is made of the same clear
plastic material as the prototype.

Walter walks into the building.

INT. COLIN COLMAN'S WORK STUDIO - DAY

Walter stands perfectly still admiring the cube.

COLIN
What do you think?

WALTER
She is beautiful.

COLIN
Look inside.

Walter looks into the opening on the side at a padded astronaut-like seat.

WALTER

It's like a space capsule.

COLIN

Exactly. A space capsule to launch you into the undiscovered country.

Colin walks beside Walter and examines his work.

COLIN (CONT'D)

The wood inside is made from planks of Peroba Rosa, a Brazilian hardwood, I've reclaimed from barns, benches, and fences that once stood in a rural Brazilian village.

Colin points to the seat.

COLIN (CONT'D)

The upholstery is made of completely organic bamboo fabric.

Colin walks around the cube to a step ladder and removes a hatch on top. Inside is a curved area filled with soil.

COLIN (CONT'D)

This is the location of your pod's engine, so to speak. The top section is exposed above the ground and the Red Oak seedling is placed inside. Did you want an American Red Mapel?

WALTER

Yes.

COLIN

During the tree's initial growth, its roots are fed by the cube, as it breaks down...

WALTER

Me.

Colin climbs down the step ladder.

COLIN

Do you want to do this?

WALTER

Yeah. I do. My mortality just hit me. That's all.

COLIN

If you change your mind, let me know. Otherwise, we will proceed as planned with the funeral home whenever the time comes.

WALTER

Thank, you Colin. Thank you so much.

COLIN

(smiling)

You are welcome. Thank you for allowing me to go on this adventure with you.

Walter nods.

WALTER

Well. I hate to do this to you, but my daughter is on her way here. I don't want to be around when she gets here.

COLIN

She doesn't know?

WALTER

No. I haven't told her.

COLIN

This should be interesting.

EXT. COLIN COLMAN'S HOUSE - SAME DAY

A car drives up the driveway and parks. Alice walks quickly to the front door and knocks.

Colin goes to the front door.

COLIN

Howdy. We met last night. I'm Colin.

ALICE

Where is my dad?

COLIN

You just missed him.

Alice pushes her way inside the house.

Colin closes the door.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Okay. How can I help you?

ALICE

I want you to leave my dad alone.

COLIN

He came to me. I can assure you.

ALICE

I just found out his cancer has returned!

COLIN

I'm sorry. He is just trying to do what he feels is right for him.

ALICE

How much is he paying you?

COLIN

What?

ALICE

How much money is he giving you for this burial pod thing.

COLIN

Nothing. You got me all wrong. This is strictly an art project. He contacted me.

ALICE

Art project? My dad is not thinking clearly.

COLIN

He is an adult Alice. This is his decision.

ALICE

He has a brain tumor! Clearly, he is not himself.

COLIN

I personally think it's a natural and peaceful way to be laid to rest. Even if you don't support him, your mother does. Try to loosen up.

ALICE
My mother? Seriously?

COLIN
He told me she is the one who
suggested contacting me.

ALICE
My mother is dead!

COLIN
Excuse me?

ALICE
She drowned in a swimming pool at
Disney World when I was 10!

Colin's eyes grow wide, and he just stares at Alice.

ALICE (CONT'D)
How dare you to tell me to loosen
up. Clearly, my father is not of
his right mind to make any
decisions especially wanting to be
buried and become a tree.

COLIN
I'm sorry. I didn't know.

Alice sees Brittany walk naked out of the bedroom and go into
the bathroom across the hall.

Alice steps closer to Colin and points down the hall where
she saw Brittany.

ALICE
(shouting)
You think this is all fun and games
don't you! Don't contact my father
again!

Alice opens the front door and leaves.

INT. ALICE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Alice is crying while driving.

She has her CELL PHONE to her ear.

ALICE
Dad where are you? Please, call me
back.

Alice dials another number.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Alex? Damn! Where are you two? Call
 me back as soon as you get this
 message.

Alice's car starts to SPUTTER, slows down and stalls. She
 pulls off to the side of the road.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 (crying)
 God damn! Why is this happening to
 me?

Alice sits in the car for a few moments and then dials
 another number.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Nancy? Nancy!

Alice starts to cry.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 My dad is dying, and my car broke
 down.

Alice wipes her tears and runny nose with the back of her
 hand.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Yes. I'm on Hicone way out in bum
 fuck Egypt. I'm okay. Okay. See you
 soon.

Alice hangs up and composes herself.

She gets a CIGARETTE out of her purse but can't find her
 lighter.

She reaches for the car CIGARETTE LIGHTER, and it is missing.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Seriously?

Alice gets out of the car.

EXT. ALICE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Alice SLAMS the door. She leans against the car and cries.

A lone figure approaches Alice in the distance.

Alice looks at him and goes back to her car and retrieves her MACE SPRAY.

As the figure gets closer, she sees it is the cosplayer dressed as Captain America holding a SHIELD.

ALICE
You got to be kidding me.

Captain America walks up to Alice and attaches his shield to his back.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Do you need help?

ALICE
What?

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Your car. Are you having trouble?

ALICE
My car. Yes. It doesn't start. Who are you?

CAPTAIN AMERICA
I'm Captain America.

Alice looks up and down the road both ways. Except for Captain America and herself, there are no other people.

ALICE
This is crazy.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
I'm a superhero. I help people.
It's what I do.

Alice opens the car door and pops the hood latch.

She gestures towards the engine.

ALICE
Go ahead. Take a look. You wouldn't have a lighter, would you?

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Superheroes don't smoke and neither should you.

ALICE
Of course not.

Alice tosses the cigarette to the ground.

Captain American looks at the engine.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Can you try starting the car?

ALICE
Sure.

INT. ALICE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Alice sits in the driver's seat and turns the ignition. The car doesn't start.

CAPTAIN AMERICA (V.O.)
Okay. Do it again.

Alice turns the ignition key once more. Nothing.

Captain America walks over to Alice.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
You have a dead battery. Someone coming to get you?

ALICE
Yeah.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Well, I've got time. I can keep you company until they arrive.

ALICE
Alright. Thank you.

Alice gets out of the car.

EXT. ALICE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

She holds her hand out to Captain America.

ALICE
My name is Alice.

Captain America shakes Alice's hand.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
(smiling)
My name is... well you know who I am.

ALICE
So where are you heading too?

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Saving the world.

Alice nods.

ALICE
When I was a kid, you were my most
favorite superhero.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Thanks.

ALICE
I just loved everything about you.
Overcoming obstacles to become the
best you could be. I wanted to be
you.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
That's sweet. Did you?

ALICE
What?

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Become the best that you can be?

Alice pushes a strand of hair behind her ear, looks away and
laughs.

ALICE
Far from it.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Tell me.

ALICE
Where do I begin?

Captain America looks at Alice.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Okay.
(beat)
My mom drowned in a swimming pool
when I was ten. My husband left me
on our 10th anniversary. To
alleviate any depressive moods, I
basically have become a bad mom by
working too much and ignoring my
son. I had a brief affair with my
best friend's husband. I drink too
much.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

I started smoking again and, to top things off, I just found out my dad has a brain tumor, and he wants to become a tree after he is dies.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Wow!

ALICE

You asked.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

You know, it's never too late to become a better person.

ALICE

I feel like it is.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

It sounds as if there are three things you need to do.

ALICE

Really? Three things?

CAPTAIN AMERICA

First, you need to support your father. He needs it. If he wants to become a tree. Let him become a tree. Embrace his desire. Appreciate everything about him.

ALICE

But it's crazy. Who wants to do that?

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Your father does.

Alice doesn't say anything.

CAPTAIN AMERICA (CONT'D)

Second, if you are still able, spend more time with your son. Before long, if he hasn't already, he'll be gone and off on his own adventure. You'll miss him.

Alice looks at Captain America.

CAPTAIN AMERICA (CONT'D)

Third, do what makes you happy. Find another job. Take up an old hobby.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (CONT'D)
When you become a better person,
you make the world around you
better.

ALICE
It makes sense coming from you.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
That's why I'm in the hero
business.

Alice sees a car approach and recognizes Nancy's car.

She waves to Nancy.

Nancy lowers her window.

NANCY
Hey good looking. Need a lift?

ALICE
Yes! Thank you. Let me get my purse
and say thank you to my new friend.
He might need a ride.

Alice turns around and discovers Captain America is gone.

She looks around for him.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Captain! Captain America? Do you
want a ride?

NANCY
Who are you calling?

ALICE
I was talking to Captain America.
Well, somebody dressed as Captain
America. He was right here.

NANCY
Captain America?

Nancy thinks for a moment.

NANCY (CONT'D)
(whispers)
It couldn't be.

ALICE
What did you say?

NANCY

Nothing. Get in the car you weirdo
and tell me everything.

Alice grabs her purse and jumps into Nancy's car.

They drive off.

EXT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - LATER

Nancy drives up Walter's driveway.

NANCY

You want me to go in with you?

ALICE

No. I need to do this alone.

NANCY

Okay. Michael will make sure your
car gets to the service garage.

ALICE

Thank you. I love you.

Alice leans over and hugs Nancy.

NANCY

I love you too. Call me.

ALICE

Okay.

Alice gets out of the car.

Walter is standing in the front doorway.

Nancy waves at Walter and drives off.

Alice walks to the house.

INT. WALTER EVANS' KITCHEN - SAME DAY

Walter and Alice sit on the couch facing each other.

WALTER

You know I love you. Very much.
Remember when you use to be my
pumpkin?

ALICE

I still am.

WALTER

I'm talking about the little girl who was so creative, artistic and carefree.

ALICE

Dad. This isn't about me right now. God, there is so much going through my head right now.

WALTER

It is about you. Don't you understand?

ALICE

No. No, it's not. Why didn't you tell me about the tumor? According to those papers in your office, you first found out about it almost a year ago! You also refused treatment? What the hell?

WALTER

I didn't want to worry you.

ALICE

Dad, we have got to get you to the doctor tomorrow morning.

WALTER

No. It's too late. I'm good.

ALICE

You're not well. Why did you tell Colin mom was still alive?

WALTER

What do you mean? Of course, she is alive. She's sitting right there.

Walter points to a chair directly across from them.

ALICE

There is no one there dad. Mom is gone. She has been gone for over 30 years.

Walter shakes his head and frowns.

WALTER

Your mom hasn't gone anywhere. She is right there.

Walter gets up and walks to the chair.

WALTER (CONT'D)

She is sitting right here. Tell her
baby. Tell your daughter you are
okay.

Alice stands up, goes to Walter and holds his hands.

ALICE

Dad. Mom is dead.

WALTER

God dammit. What's the matter with
you?

ALICE

Dad.

WALTER

She says she loves you very much.

ALICE

Dad.

WALTER

She talks about all the time. She
knows you started smoking again.

ALICE

Well, you know that.

WALTER

And the missing car cigarette
lighter is under your driver's
seat.

ALICE

Wait. How do you know that?

WALTER

Can't you see her? Please tell me
you see her.

ALICE

Dad.

WALTER

Her flower garden is so beautiful.
I can't do that sort of thing. Go
look at the garden.

Walter gets up and walks out into the backyard.

Alice continues to sit at the table and stares at the chair
her mother is supposed to be sitting in.

Alice sighs. She gets up and walks out to the backyard.

EXT. WALTER EVANS BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Walter is kneeling on the ground beside Cindy's FLOWER GARDEN. A barren flower garden with no flowers.

Walter begins sobbing and clutches the ground with both hands.

WALTER
(crying)
Cindy. My beautiful wife.

At first, Alice just stands at a distance and watches her father come to the realization his wife, her mom, is gone.

Alice goes to her dad, gets on the ground and holds him tightly.

ALICE
It's okay dad. I'm here.

EXT. HAVENSBURG FOREST - DAY

Walter and Alice walk through a grove of hardwood trees.

Walter is wearing a HAT.

ALICE
This is a nice place dad. Can you hear them speaking to you?

WALTER
Who?

ALICE
The trees.

WALTER
Of course not. I'm not crazy.

Walter and Alice laugh. They continue walking not saying anything for a minute.

WALTER (CONT'D)
You know it is really all about you.

ALICE
I don't understand.

WALTER

Ever since Rick left. You went into an impenetrable shell. You stopped writing. You quit having fun.

ALICE

I had to in order to survive dad. The bills weren't going to pay themselves.

WALTER

Alex has definitely picked up the creative baton in the family with his filmmaking. You're lucky he's right here going to Havensburg University and not some school out of state.

ALICE

I know. I know. I was recently reminded by someone that family is important. But the job...

WALTER

Is important. I know, but so is your health and your family. Look. It took the discovery of my tumor to tell me to keep on living. So it that's what I'm doing. Don't make bad health make that decision for you.

Alice looks at Walter. She starts to cry.

ALICE

Dad, I don't want you to die. I don't want you to go.

WALTER

Remember sweetheart. I love you very, very much. I'm not afraid and neither should you.

ALICE

Are you in pain?

WALTER

Sometimes. The chemo has given me a cool new look.

Walter takes off his HAT and rubs a BALD HEAD.

WALTER (CONT'D)
I've got pills too. It's good stuff. You can have them when I'm gone.

ALICE
You never stop with the jokes.

WALTER
Hey. I made you something.

Walter takes out of his pocket a small gray woodsman face made from clay.

WALTER (CONT'D)
For you. When my tree has grown enough, put this on it. It'll make you smile.

Alice takes the clay face and looks at it.

ALICE
You're a weird dad.

Walter just smiles.

INT. WALTER EVANS' HOUSE - DAY

Walter sorts through stuff in his garage.

He puts various items into a plastic bin along with a HAMMER and a box of NAILS.

Walter walks out of the garage with the plastic bin and goes into the woods.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WALTER EVANS' BEDROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Alice and Alex are going through Walter Evan's clothes in his closet.

ALICE
What do you think he would want to wear?

ALEX
To tell you the truth? Nothing.

Both Alice and Alex laugh.

ALEX (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
This funeral is becoming quite the event. I think the entire town is showing up.

ALICE
Walter would love it. All the attention is on him.

Alice takes out a modest suit from Walter's closet.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I think this looks nice.

Alice smooths out some wrinkles with her hand. A piece of folded PAPER falls out of an inside POCKET.

ALEX
What's that?

Alex picks up the paper and unfolds it.

ALEX (CONT'D)
It's a letter to us.

ALICE
What?

ALEX
It's a letter to you and me from Pop-Pop.

Alex sits on the edge of the bed with his mom and reads the letter.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(reading)
Dear Alice and Alex. Hey, by now you are probably scurrying about looking for clothes to put my body. I only have one suit so it was easy to guess what you would pick. If you want my opinion, I say send me off to the great beyond the way I came into this world. I have created one final art piece. It is yours to find. I won't tell you the location, but I'm sure both of you will spend some good quality time together searching for it. Have fun and don't ever forget me. - Walter

Alex looks at his mom.

ALEX (CONT'D)

A new project? This is kind of big news.

ALICE

Let's keep this to ourselves.

ALEX

Agreed. I'll go get my camera.

INT. WOODS - DAY

Alice and Alex walk through a hardwood forest.

ALEX

Where do you think he put it?

ALICE

No telling. Your grandfather loved his morning walks. It could be on the other side of town.

They both walk in silence for a bit.

ALEX

Do you like your job?

ALICE

It's a job and has provided for us.

ALEX

Are you happy?

ALICE

What do you mean?

ALEX

Are you happy?

ALICE

Considering we're preparing for grandfather's funeral; I can actually say I've actually been better.

ALEX

I have an important question to ask you and I don't want you to get angry.

Alice stops.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Is Michael Finch my dad?

ALICE
(shocked)
What do mean?

ALEX
Exactly that. Is he? It would
explain why dad left us.

ALICE
Where did you get that idea?

ALEX
I remember seeing Michael sneaking
out of our house when I was
younger.

ALICE
You were 5-years-old. How can you
remember that?

ALEX
I can't. I just took a chance and
asked you.

ALICE
I don't know. I never did a blood
test to find out.

ALEX
Weren't you interested?

ALICE
Scared is more like it. I was doing
a stupid thing. Sleeping with my
best friend's husband.

ALEX
Are you and Michael?

ALICE
No. God no. He tries, but it's not
happening.

ALEX
Nancy know?

ALICE
I think she has suspicions, but
I've always been too chicken shit
to say anything.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)
I don't want to lose her. I'm
forever stuck in a weird quandary.

ALEX
What do you mean?

ALICE
I did a bad thing that resulted in
a beautiful thing.

Alex looks at Alice.

ALICE (CONT'D)
You. You're my beautiful thing.

Alex doesn't say anything. He just starts to cry.

Alice takes Alex into her arms and hugs him tightly.

They both don't say anything for a long moment.

The wind picks up a little.

ALEX
I found it.

Alice releases Alex.

ALICE
What?

ALEX
I found Pop-Pop's sculpture.

ALICE
Where?

Alex points in front of him.

EXT. WALTER'S LAST SCULPTURE - DAY

Alice and Alex slowly walk up to Walter Evans' last sculpture
looking up at it.

Note: The sculpture is not seen by the viewer.

Alex films the moment.

Alice covers her mouth with her hand and starts to cry.

ALICE
Oh, dad.

ALEX
It's amazing.

ALICE
Dad, I'm really going to miss you.

The wind picks up again and the trees sway in response.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - MORNING

A flatbed TRUCK, with the BURIAL CUBE secured in back, arrives at the cemetery.

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

Colin jumps out of the truck and walks over to the plot where two CEMETERY WORKERS are preparing the burial area.

COLIN
Good morning fellas.

CEMETERY WORKER #1
Good morning Mr. Coleman.

The second cemetery worker walks over to the truck and looks at the burial cube.

CEMETERY WORKER #2
It looks just like a spaceship.

COLIN
Yes. That is exactly what it is.
Now be careful with it. Our
occupant is inside ready to blast
off.

EXT. BURIAL SITE - LATER

Colin walks to the front of the group.

COLIN
Thank you, everyone, for coming to
wish Walter Evans a safe journey in
his next adventure.

Colin looks around.

COLIN COLEMAN'S P.O.V. -

Alice and Alex are sitting up front.

Other familiar faces such as coffee shop owner Jimmy Eric, Brittany Mayweather, Michael and Nancy Finch are also seen.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Walter was an extraordinary man. I slowly grew to know him during our work on this project. He visited me about a year ago when I first arrived at Havensburg. Most everyone thought I was insane, but not Walter. He got me. Over the last year and a half, I've grown to know Walter and his family.

Colin looks at Alice.

Alice smiles.

COLIN (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Walter would and probably is absolutely enjoying today.

Colin looks over at the local news crew doing a live feed a few yards away.

COLIN (CONT'D)

He loved getting attention, but only on his own terms. He got a lot of attention from my project. What many thought to be a crazy idea wasn't that crazy to Walter. Life is a continuing thing moving from one source to the next. We are all connected.

MONTAGE:

The burial cube is lifted into the air by a small crane.

The cube is lowered into the ground.

A young oak tree is planted.

Family members and friends hug, cry and laugh.

EXT. CEMETERY - ANOTHER DAY

A year passes and it is spring.

Alice comes to visit her father's tree which is now grown.

Alice takes out the ceramic face her father made from a bag she is carrying along with a HAMMER and NAIL.

She NAILS the face on the tree.

ALICE

Hey, dad. I did what you asked.
Your tree has a face now. Even in
death, you're still weird. But I
love it.

Alice shakes her head and laughs softly.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Things are good. I turned down a
promotion. Only you would think
that is smart business move.

(beat)

I've been making sure I'm home more
spending time with Alex. He has
finished his student documentary
about you. It's called Walter Evans
Tree Whisperer. He loved you so
much.

(beat)

I've also taken up an interest in
art again. God help me for even
admitting this. I've been seeing
Colin. We've gone out twice. He has
taken a permanent residence at the
University, and I even let him
paint my portrait.

Alice gestures towards herself with a sweeping wave of her hand.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I've been exploring my creative
side. Aren't you proud of me?

The wind picks up a little.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I love you dad and I miss you.

Alice turns to walk away and is met by Colin who puts his arm around her.

COLIN

All good?

Alice nods her head and looks up at Colin with watery eyes.

ALICE
(smiling)
Yes. All good.

Alice and Colin walk away towards a PARKED CAR.
The wind gently picks up and blow through the trees.

EXT. WALTER EVANS BACKYARD - DAY

Walter sits under the Maple Tree in his lawn chair.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
What would you say is your best
piece of work?

WALTER
(smiles)
That's easy. There are two things I
had a part in creating that are far
and above anything I've ever done.

Walter sits for a moment.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Your mother and you.

The interviewer gets up and walks around in the front of the
camera to turn it off. It's revealed Alex is the documentary
interviewer.

Alex walks over to Walter and hugs him tightly.

ALEX
I love you pop-pop.

WALTER
I know.

FADE OUT.

THE END