

Synopsis:

This coming-of-age screenplay tells the story of young Anna who must discover what it means to grow up as she discovers new relationships in her first year of college while also coming to terms with her grandfather's Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Catalyst & Debate.

At dinner with her family, including her grandparents, Anna hesitates opening up about her first week at college. As the dinner begins, John gets up out of nowhere and begins to walk away from the dining room. When asked why, he says that he forgot to take his meds, even though he distinctly said that he took them less than a few minutes prior. This leaves everyone in a bit of confusion.

After the dinner, Anna returns to school to find Mary not there (but she did leave cookies!). Someone knocks on the door and Anna opens it to reveal Liam, who wants to hang out. They end up sharing writing pieces that they have done, and Liam tries to make a move on Anna, but she tenses up and kicks him out of the room. Anna spends the week ignoring Liam in her class and attends Grace's get-together the following weekend. She has a good time with everyone and enjoys herself. During this get-together, however, she gets a call from her father, Michael, asking with slight worry in his voice if John is with her. She says no and asks if anything is wrong. Michael tells her there's nothing to worry about and they hang up. Not entirely convinced, Anna continues to enjoy the night.

An indistinguishable amount of time passes. While sitting in class, Anna gets a phone call from her father. She steps out of the classroom and takes the call. He tells her to come home as soon as she can. That night, she goes home, and her parents tell her that John has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Midpoint:

A few months pass and John's Alzheimer's/Dementia has progressed to the point where he barely speaks and when it does, it is incoherent. He can no longer complete basic human functions such as using eating utensils and going to the bathroom on his own and now resides in a chair all day.

Bad Guys Close In

The week later is John's birthday and the family holds a party at his house. Anna spends most of her time at his side where extended family members come up to her telling her that they're sorry and that it's all "so sad." She places dominos on his lap, and she starts to play with him, even though he isn't really giving any response.

As she's driving home from the party, she gets a drunk call from Liam. When she arrives at the house, he's visibly drunk, but they sit and watch a movie in his room anyway. Like the first time, he tries to make a move, but she shuts him down. He gets very angry and belligerent, telling her that he wants to have sex with her and calling her crazy for not wanting to. He tries to force himself on her, but she shoves him off and yells at him for not caring about her and only wanting her physically. Upset, she leaves the house to go home.

All is Lost:

John dies. Anna and her family drive over to his house. Anna walks into his bedroom and sees his body laying on the bed. It breaks her heart and she collapses onto the floor and cries.

Opening Image:

At a Greek festival in the summer, a group of young traditional Greek dancers prepare to perform, including the protagonist, Anna. After their performance, Anna's family congratulates her, especially her papou (grandfather), John.

Setup:

Anna prepares to depart for college and has a conversation with her mother, Kathleen, about her fear of messing up. Kathleen calms her down and reassures her that her family has her back. Anna moves into her freshman year dorm and meets her roommate, Mary. Mary brings Anna to a party that night where she meets Mary's boyfriend, Jason. She also meets Liam, the editor of the school's newspaper, and takes an interest in him.

In her first college class, Anna finds Liam in the same class. They exchange a look, but another girl in the class warns Anna that he's "bad news." The girl's name is Grace and she explains that he has a reputation and that she's only looking out for Anna. She invites Anna to hang out during the weekend, but Anna tells her that she's going home to spend time with her family.

Break Into Two:

To stay close to her family, Anna completely moves back home from college where she will now be a commuter. Even though her grandparents live in a different house than her, her brother, and her parents, Anna decides to move back home in order to be close by.

B Story:

After one of their classes, Liam approaches Anna while she's trying to leave. He asks her why she's been ignoring him, and she pulls him into another classroom that's empty so they can have a talk. She tells him how she was feeling at the time and how she's never been in a relationship or involved with anyone even remotely romantic, so she feels very awkward about it all, especially since they do not know each other. She makes it clear that she wishes to start as just friends. Liam agrees and thus a friendship commences.

Fun and Games:

Here is where we see the progression of John's diagnosis along with the growth of Anna and Liam's relationship

Dark Night of the Soul:

After the funeral home takes John's body away, Anna leaves the house and drives to the park that John used to frequent. She looks out onto the lake where they went fishing together just a few months ago. She sits and mourns.

Break Into Three:

Kathleen comes to the park looking for Anna. She sits down next to her and consoles her. Anna lets all her emotions out about everything. To calm her down and make her feel better, Kathleen tells her a funny story about a guy she was with during her college years. Anna calms down a bit and Kathleen reminds her that life will continue to go on, despite everything that happens, and that John is no longer suffering. They get up and go home.

Finals:

A few days later is John's funeral. It's a beautiful and emotional service. A few weeks after the funeral, the family goes to the cemetery to see the new headstone. As everyone is standing there admiring it, Anna gets a phone call from Liam. She ignores the call and blocks the number. Her mother gives her a side hug of support.

Final Image:

As everyone walks from the headstone and out of the cemetery, Anna leaves one of the dominos on the plot of the grave and then leaves.

INT. MARIA AND JOHN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Dinner time. Maria cooks in the kitchen while Kathleen lends a hand, setting the dining room table. In the living room, Michael and Chris watch a FOOTBALL GAME on the television while Anna and John play a game of DOMINOS on the coffee table, both sitting on the floor.

Anna looks at John. It's his turn. He holds one final domino in his hand, out of Anna's view. He looks at it slyly, then back at the board, then back at his hand.

He smiles as if he knows something she doesn't. Then he takes his domino and matches it up with one on the board and wins the game. He cheers and Anna groans.

Dinner! MARIA

Anna helps John get up on his feet and they walk towards the dining room.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone except for Maria is sitting around the table, with John sitting at the head. The food is passed around and put onto plates. From the kitchen, Maria enters the dining room.

MARIA
Does anyone need anything else?

MICHAEL
Mom just sit down. We're okay.

Maria turns back around towards the kitchen.

MARIA
Let me just get-

MICHAEL
(showing a little temper)
Mom.

MARIA
Okay, okay.

Maria takes her seat with the rest of the family. She fills her plate with food and then begins reciting the Lord's Prayer in Greek. Michael and John join in. After it is done, everyone at the table does their cross. Michael speaks.

MICHAEL
(to John)
Dad, did you take your medication?

JOHN
(in Greek)
Yes, son. Don't worry about me.

MICHAEL
Okay good.

Everyone begins to eat.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(mouth partly full)
So Anna, how was your first week at college?

Everyone at the table tunes in to listen to the answer.

ANNA
(dismissive)
Fine.

KATHLEEN
Just fine?

ANNA
Yeah.

MICHAEL
You gotta give us more than that? Did you make any friends? Meet any boys?

ANNA
Dad.

MARIA
(to Michael)
Leave her alone, Mihalis.

CHRIS
Can't you all see it's because she doesn't have any friends?

Anna grabs a piece of FOOD off of her plate and throws it forcefully at Chris. Commotion stirs as Anna and Chris are both chastised. Among the commotion, John gets up from his chair and walks to the kitchen.

MICHAEL
Dad, where are you going?

JOHN
(in Greek)
I forgot to take my pills.

John comes back to the table with a handful of PILLS

MICHAEL
You just told me you took your meds.

JOHN
I did?

MICHAEL
Yes. Just now.

John's brow furrows. His confusion stuns him into a silence. Maria stands up from her seat and approaches him with caution and also confusion.

MARIA
Sit back down, Yianni.

Maria carefully guides John, who still is confused, back to his seat. Everyone resumes eating, but now in silence.

