



INT. MARTIN AND DAN'S KITCHEN – AFTERNOON

MARTIN, 62 years old, sits alone at a table in a contemporary kitchen, a glass of soda and bottle of soda in front of him. He stares blankly ahead, lost in thought.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Martin has been diagnosed with Early Stage Alzheimer's. Earlier today, he drove into a parked school bus, slightly injuring the driver, the only person aboard.

Martin takes a sip of the soda.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The police arrived on the scene and issued Martin a summons to appear in court. Confused, Martin called his partner, Dan, who rushed to the scene and explained Martin's condition to the officers. They suspended Martin's license, pending his court appearance and a driving assessment.

DAN, late 50s, enters, pushing a button on a cell phone to end a call. Despite the day's events, he appears casually buoyant, repressing the severity of the events.

DAN

I filled Elaine in. I tell you, every conversation with her – minimum 20 minutes.

Dan opens the refrigerator, looks around, and retrieves an apple.

DAN (CONT'D)

(eating) I love your sister, but she can talk.

He notices – finally – Martin, lost in thought. He sits next to him.

DAN (CONT'D)

Marty, it's OK. Thank God, no one was hurt, the driver was fine.



MARTIN

I still ... I don't, I don't know.
I don't know what happened.

Dan grasps the impact on Martin. A beat as he gathers himself and transitions to empathic and concerned.

DAN

Marty ... Marty.

MARTIN

I've never had an accident. Never.
I'm such a careful driver.

DAN

Always, you've always been great,
Marty.

MARTIN

I'll be more careful next time. (a
thought) I know, no more radio.
Complete focus.

A beat while Dan absorbs this. Martin finishes his soda.

DAN

Marty, this is serious. Very
serious. I know you didn't mean it,
but you were lucky, very lucky. No
one was hurt ... this time, no one
was hurt.

Martin stands, heads to the refrigerator, and begins looking for something.

MARTIN

Soda ... ! Where's the damn soda?!

Dan gestures toward the soda bottle, which is on the kitchen table. He refills Martin's glass. Martin watches and his eyes open wider as his anxiety heightens.

DAN

(soft but emphatic)
(gesturing for Martin to sit)
Marty, please.

Martin sits, takes a gulp of soda, and stares out the kitchen window, tapping his foot quickly. Dan reaches over, moving aside the soda glass, and grasps Martin's hand.



DAN (CONT'D)

You're a caring and loving man,
Martin Vinson. Your driving, it's
always been great. But things are
different. They're different,
Marty.

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Things are changing.

Martin stands, helpless and defiant, and begins pacing. Dan stands.

DAN (CONT'D)

Marty, the damn Alzheimer's, it's
begun impairing your judgment.

Dan stands in front of Martin, blocking him from further
pacing, and holds him close, comforting him.

DAN (CONT'D)

I know, Marty. I know.

Dan begins stroking Martin's head.

DAN (CONT'D)

Please, let's honor your years of
careful driving.

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

That was a school bus. Can you
imagine, we couldn't live with
ourselves if kids were hurt. It's a
sign, Marty. A lucky sign. Thank
God, no one got hurt.

Martin tries to speak but nothing comes out. Dan continues
stroking Martin's head.

DAN (CONT'D)

I know, Marty. It's awful, it's
really awful. (pause) But it's the
right thing to do.

A beat.



MARTIN

(lost in thought; slowly,
trance-like)

I started driving when I was 14. My
dad had died, my mom applied for a
special permit. I was driving
before I started high school.
Fourteen, you know? Fourteen years
old. Fourteen. Almost 50 years ago.

DAN

I'm sorry, Marty.

A beat. Martin is lost in thought.

MARTIN

Plenty of parking tickets, that's
for sure. But accidents ... never,
never had an accident. Forty-eight,
forty-nine years. Never.

DAN

I'm here for you, Marty ... every
step of the way.

Dan hugs Martin tightly.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

A long beat. Slowly, Martin reaches into his pocket for his
car keys. He eyes them for a long moment and then places
them gently into Dan's hand.

MARTIN

(softly)

Me, too.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

A BLACK SCREEN.

(NOTE: The following could be accompanied by still images
that recount the referenced interactions.)

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Speaking with someone about
Alzheimer's and driving is a



sensitive yet crucial event. Here's what you can do to ensure the safety of your loved one.

SUPER: Be supportive but firm.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Acknowledge the difficulty that relinquishing driving poses. Dan acknowledges that Martin's collision was accidental, but he stresses the gravity of the situation by reminding him that children could have been hurt.

SUPER: Acknowledge pain but appeal to one's sense of responsibility.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Driving is an empowering activity, especially for seniors. Dan acknowledges Martin's exemplary driving record, but gently reminds him of his medical impairment while appealing to his sense of responsibility.

SUPER: Offer unconditional love and support.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Agreeing to stop driving can be humiliating, leading to feelings of worthlessness. Reassure your loved one of your unconditional support and love. Dan tells Martin that he is there for him every step of the way, the reassurance Martin needs to finally hand Dan his car keys.

FADE TO BLACK.