

"Cadence" Treatment.

by

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## Cadence - Screenplay Synopsis

Tagline: "You can find yourself in the strangest places"

The film begins with a break-in at the Natural History Museum, a jar containing the pickled remains of a Dodo is stolen by three masked men. The main character is Ben Darlington an emotionally cold and arrogant 38 year old TV producer..Ben is having a mid-life crisis, he is starting to question what he thought was important and true, but because he is so divorced from his real self, he has no idea where to start to put things right. He hasn't spoken to his father Peter in over 15 years, blaming him for his mother's death. His father is a rich prog-rock musician from the 1970's living in California and dying from throat cancer. When Ben gets a phone call from his father's lawyers, he is dismayed to find out that he won't receive a penny from his father's estate unless he fulfils his father's dying wish to complete the mysterious "Project Cadence" which his father started 10 years ago with Professor Vic Kovak at Caltech.

Peter loves old books and his library in Big Sur is filled with rare volumes. In 1998 he found a rare manuscript that led him to develop "Project Cadence". The project is to sample the electric vibration emitted by every species past and present and feed the results into a specially designed computer which can convert the individual vibrations into notes the human ear can hear. The computer is linked to a piano which can then play this universal chord. The theory is simple: Every living thing has a vibration and depending on its genetic species vibrates at a unique frequency. A musical note is simply the ear translating that vibration into sound. If every living thing's unique vibration was sampled into a computer and turned into a note, then this would be the perfect chord. The father's theory was this was the chord of creation and once played it would heal the universe, possibly bringing about the second coming or endtime or paradise (depending which religion is subscribed to). For the sound wave to envelope the earth, (and for Ben to

collect on his father's will) he must play his Peter's favourite piano, linked to the computer, at the elevated points on three continents (Gibraltar, Antarctica, Big Sur California), to set up equipment as triangulation points and finish sampling the remaining organisms. In doing so Peter hopes Ben will himself go on a healing spiritual journey to rediscover his love of music, find his true self and forgive him for the mother's death and let go the past which he has chained himself to - whilst also finishing an important scientific project. Ben has to learn the code of emotional communication through feeling music. To get connected to the real him he must learn to love music again.

But, Ben has developed a phobia of music, and especially the piano, having found his mother dead, when he was 14, at the same piano he is now expected to play round the world. To help him get over this, Peter asks one of his session musician friends, Rachel, 28, to help Ben get over his fear and finish the project. At first Ben lusts after her but eventually falls for her and she represents part of his healing process. But Rachel is not all that she seems. Ben decides to try to complete Peter's project, not just to get some money from the will, but he realises this could be a media circus and exciting TV project - plus he also gets to see the disappointment in his father's face when the "perfect chord" is played and nothing happens! Over the following months, Ben comes to realise with Rachel's help, that even though Peter loved music more than anything he sacrificed this to try and save his wife/Ben's mother. Ben has a sudden realisation that his dad gave up music and even brought on his cancer by trying to save her. Once he realises this,

he has a personal epiphany and forgives Peter and realises that Rachel is the one. But when they play the chord it reveals a truth no-one had ever expected.

Cadence - Principle Character Studies.

Ben Darlington. 38. An egotistical, arrogant and emotionally stunted TV producer. His mother died when he was 14 and he blames his father for the death. He has a hatred for his father and hasn't spoken to him in about fifteen years. Ben's inability to deal with his mother's death has led him to have a very cold and cavalier attitude to the women in his life, for fear that if he opens up to them, they will leave like his mother did. Worse than this he has become a two-dimensional character even to himself. Ben feels nothings and projects an image that he's finding harder and harder to maintain - his real self is poking out from behind the wall and he can't stop it. He loves the TV media and editing his programmes because it allows him to be in control of the projected reality, this reflects his own personality. Ben was a keen pianist until his 14th birthday when he found his mother dead at his father's favourite grand piano. From that moment on, Ben refused to even play a note - partly because he knows how much this hurt his father who wanted him to follow in

his footsteps as a musician. He shut down emotionally and became a focused and angry person. Ben is 5foot 9inches tall and always well presented. Highly intelligent and perceptive, but almost sociopathic in his lack of empathy for others.

Peter Darlington, 72. (Loosely based on the musician Peter Gabriel). Peter Darlington was an influential prog-rock musician in the 1970's. Now he is fascinated by technology and the interaction between music and science.

Peter is dying from throat cancer with arthritis - a particularly cruel twist of fate as it means he can't sing or play his beloved piano anymore. He is open-minded, kind and forward thinking - the antithesis of his son, who he is heartbroken no longer sees him or plays the music that used to give him so much pleasure as a child. Peter also wrote the most beautiful film scores. Ben got his love of the film/media world by hanging round some of the film sets as a child that his father was scoring. Thanks to this and other royalty checks, he is a multi-millionaire but has invested his money in his final project - Cadence. He has a flat in Notting Hill and a large beachfront property in Big Sur, California, with an Eden project style bio-sphere in the grounds. Peter's dying wish is for Ben to go round

the world and learn for himself the inter-connectivity of things and in doing so open up. He wants Ben to feel reality rather than the manipulated reality of his media programmes and life.

Rachel Dubios, 28. Sleek, gorgeous, highly intelligent. At Peter's request, Rachel pretends to be nothing more than a piano tutor when she is first introduced to Ben to help him practice for the trip, but really she is a trained psychologist and confidence trickster whom Peter met when she tried to rip him off. She was part of a trio of sexy women set out to get as many rich/famous/scientist/artists to sleep with them so they can sell their semen. They have a special collection device inside their uterus with liquid nitrogen to store the spunk which can then be sold on a special secret website to the highest bidder. Everyone wants the spunk because these people have succeeded. Peter caught her and they became good friends.

Vic Kovak, 58. A professor of bio-mechanics at Caltech in California, Vic still retains the greying ponytail of an old hipster who turned on, tuned in but refused to drop out at Woodstock. He lives in Haight-Ashbury and is a free-spirit who shares Peter's love of music and technology. He and Peter were working on aural implants, so humans can hear more than the current range of notes, but project Cadence was just too tempting and Vic agreed to devote all his time to collecting the samples necessary to test the theory. He is Peter's right-hand man now he's too ill to travel.

Pat Buchanan, 37. The closest thing Ben has to a best mate. Pat is also the half partner in Ben's production company based in Soho. He is married to Aggie a beautiful Polish teacher and they are trying for kids. Pat is laid-back but hardworking and is similar to Ben in his drive and ambition, but less arrogant and selfish. Pat enjoys making time for the finer things in life and works to live rather than lives to work.

**Cadence - the screenplay**

1st Treatment. Rough draft scene analysis.

Act 1 Scene 1a: Intro.

A hand delicately plays three chords on a piano. The camera goes into the black key until the screen is filled with black. From this darkness a white square of light appears. The camera holds over this square of light until the silhouette of three people appear round the edges. One of the men lifts a kosh and smashes into the centre of the light. It is an aerial view of a skylight.

Scene 1b: The Natural History Museum, London.

Night Midnight. Three men smash through a skylight at the Natural History Museum, London. They drop down to the fourth floor, using a well-placed bear as a stepladder, and progress with spotlights through the main hall with dinosaurs looking on disapprovingly. They pass all the rare looking finds and enter a side door. They move to a collection of labeled drawers and pass the flashlights over the wording. One of the men taps the other on the shoulder and motions he has obviously found what they're looking for. It is a jar containing a preserved Dodo. He smashes the jar and stuffs the decaying bird in a hold-all bag. They turn off their spotlights and make good their escape.

Scene 1c: Soho Square, London. Day.

The tune "Obvious Child" (Paul Simon) plays as Ben Darlington jogs round Soho square. He pushes himself harder and faster, a look of anger on his face. After two final laps he veers off and into a non-descript building on Brewer Street.

Scene 1d: Yugen Films Offices, Brewer Street.

Ben continues to job up the stairs and into the office. Pat Beachanan is waiting for him and stops the watch as he hits the desk. Ben is annoyed that he's slower than usual. Pat asks him what the matter is and Ben tells him to mind his own business. Pat invites him to his party that evening.

Scene 2: Pat Buchanan's House in Baker Street.

A party. Early Evening Ben arrives with a sneer that shows he has an ego bigger than the Grand Canyon. Pat Buchanan introduces Ben again to his wife Aggie. Ben then meets Adam, an old classmate from his primary school. As they reminisce, Adam recounts a different version of events to the ones that Ben recalls. Ben was bullied at school and not the cool aloof god he thought he was. Ben questions him as to who is remembering correctly, Adam assures him that he's wrong.

Ben interacts with a few more media types and it becomes clear the conversation has put him in a bad mood. He meets a coke head production manager girl and they leave.

Scene 3 - Ben's Canary Wharf Apartment.

Late Evening Ben is in his Canary Wharf apartment, same night. It is a well considered intelligently designed flat, but empty impersonal. Girl walks out onto his impressive balcony. No music system or CD's when she asks. She asks why, he gets stroppy and kicks her out. As she leaves, disgusted, she picks the nearest object to throw at him - a china Buddha, but in doing so, she dislodges some books off the shelf. When he goes to pick them up he sees one of them is a photo album. He pours himself a drink and sits down on the sofa to look through. The dust shows it's been a while. Inside are school photos, concert tickets, fliers. Pictures of his dad on stage in a Pink Floyd style gig, playing piano in the 70's. His eyes fix on a photo of him and his father playing piano together, both smiling and happy. We hear the three notes of a chord in his head (a recurring theme of the film) like a child practicing. He closes his eyes. But with supreme effort, comes back to the flat and chucks the album angrily back to the bookcase whence it came. He gets up and pours himself another large rum moving out to the balcony to ruminate on the view. The phone rings and it is from Japan, telling him his dad has had a fall on Mount Fuji. He is being repatriated but he should be there to meet him. Ben is incredulous knowing that his dad has cancer - what the hell is he doing in Japan. Either way, he doesn't give a shit and puts the phone down.

Scene 3a. Ben's dream.

Ben is asleep on the sofa. The glass slips out of his hand and he starts to dream. He is in a large marbled mansion. From his POV as he walks past a mirror we see he is about 14 years old. He comes to a large set of closed double-doors. He reaches out for the brass doorknob but is too scared to open it. He wakes up suddenly and wipes away a tear from his eye, chastising himself for his weakness.

Scene 4 - Int. Yugen Films Production Office. Day

Ben's office. He is being excessively rude to his PA, questioning condescending, arrogant. They discuss the problem with the current project Ben's working on - they've spent the last 6 months creating a backstory for a guy they want to pass off as "real" in a celebrity Big Brother style house. They make up a band of which this guy pretends to be the lead singer. However, he's got on so well with the other fake band members that he's forgotten it's all meant to be a joke and is actually becoming successful with the band, and refusing to go into the house. The phone rings. It is the hospital saying his dad safely made it back to St.

Georges, but with his cancer he has taken a turn for the worse and is requesting to see him. Pat enters and catches the tail end of the conversation. He quizzes Ben if he's going to visit the old man? Ben tells him to mind his own fucking business. During this exchange we can see Ben's computer screen which has an advert for Autism about a child being trapped behind a Perspex screen, trying to reach out to communicate, to feel. Strangely the child is reminiscent of the kid from the photo playing piano in the photo last night. Ben's PA buzzes through that his meeting has arrived. Pat takes the piss out of him that he's got to open up sometime and relax. No man is an island. He should think about seeing the old man. Ben gets angry saying he's got a meeting now - don't mess with his head.

Scene 5: Int. Ben's TV Production Office Meeting Room. Day.

Ben is in the middle of a Media pitch meeting for photocopier corporate video to two grey men who look like they've been drinking toner cartridge for 30 years. He is doing great until the powerpoint presentation shows a man photocopying his own face. It looks like he is trapped behind a glass wall and the white light of the machine scanning his face illuminates every hidden crevice. Ben continues the pitch but he's lost his focus and starts to struggle. Sweating and panicky he excuses himself and rushes out the room and down the buildings white staircase in ever faster circles. He kicks open the glass fire doors and catches his breath against the wall. His mobile rings, bringing him back to reality. It's his father's solicitor. The talk of money focuses his mind into the present. The solicitor requests that he meet him asap to discuss a change to his father's will. Pat comes out to check Ben is OK and after a brief discussing agrees to go with him to the solicitors.

Scene 6 - The offices of Mr. Rock Hamsey. Solicitor to the stars!

Rock tells us Ben's father's backstory. Musician in the 70's, cutting edge musician marrying technology and world music.

Scene 7 - Rock Hamsey's reception.

Pat and Rock's junior Derek are watching through the window. Derek has been preparing for the case by watching on a TV screen a documentary that Ben made about Peter Darlington, five years ago. It plays on and we get more of the back story through this. Pat discusses with Dave the events with the father to bring Ben here. Ben even made the documentary but sent someone else to do the interview because he still wouldn't speak to his father since his mother's death. Ben has developed a music phobia - especially for the piano, because he'd been practising on his father's beloved piano when he'd heard the news of his mother's death.

But now he's become such a cold hearted bastard that he made the documentary with Pat just coz he knew there'd be money in it.

Scene 8 - Main room of Rock's office.

Rock tells Ben about the changes to his father's will since his fall in Japan. He will not be getting anything or any future royalties unless he does two things asap. The first is to visit him in St. Georges Hospital to find out the second. If his father dies before the visit then all the money goes to a lady called Rachel. Ben asks who the fuck Rachel is.

Scene 9a - Ext.

Holborn. Day Ben and Pat are walking down Lamb's Conduit street discussing what has transpired. Through the debate, Pat tries to convince Ben that he really should visit the dad otherwise he'll lose millions. Ben shuts his ears and walks off into the "Perseverance" pub to drink his way out of having to think about everything that's hitting him all at once.

Scene 9b - The Perseverance pub, Holborn.

It is near closing time and Ben is ripped to the tits. He has his arm around a crusty looking student/aussie backpacker type. Ben is rambling shit about how much he hates his life, as if this guy is a priest or therapist. The student is being friendly and tells him he's happy currently cycling a rickshaw round the West End, and says if Ben is so miserable in his current career, why not take some time out and drive a rickshaw? The closing bell rings and Ben agrees.

Scene 9c - Ben's dream.

Ben is cycling a rickshaw round Theatreland. He is wearing an expensive suit and cycling like a madman, screaming at pedestrians to get out the fucking way. He's trying to make lights before they turn red and acting like the angriest most dangerous driver in London. His passengers are literally shitting themselves. He cycles past Pat coming out of Boujis nightclub with two women on each arm, he tries to hail Ben, but he carries on his mad mission. Ben pulls over to look in his wallet - it's empty. He looks down at his clothes, they are chavvy and dirty. He realises the only way he can make enough money to maintain his lifestyle is to go see Peter. We see that the bolt which joins the bike to the carriage is rattling and working itself loose, to reflect his mind losing grip of reality. He sees the traffic light ahead about to go red and he thinks in v/o if only he can get through on green before it changes everything will be fine.

He doesn't and almost hits a pedestrian trying to cross. The bolt snaps and Ben throws the bike away in perfect anger, walking back to the pedestrian and grabbing him by the throat. As he throttles him, the face becomes his own.

Scene 10 - St George's Hospital. Private Room. Day.

Peter Darlington lies on crisp white sheets with Chopin playing softly. Ben orders that it be turned off before he'll even talk to the old man. Peter agrees and asks the nurse to leave. They are alone at last. Peter drinks in the view of his son who he has not seen for 15 years. He seems pleased and peaceful. Ben is cold, on edge and anxious mixed with anger. Peter tells him he may have found a way to cure his cancer and indeed all the diseases on earth because they are symptoms of a sick world, not a sickness in themselves. Heal the world, heal the life on that world. Peter tells him about the perfect chord. The chord of creation, a healing chord. He tells how he met Victor Kovak in a bar in Albuquerque 10 years ago. Vic is a CalTech philosopher scientist. Every living thing has a vibration due to the electrical field surrounding it and the way it's molecules are held in place. Vic created a machine that could turn this vibration into a sound (as all a musical note is a vibration). Peter gave him the idea of sampling every living genus and species to come up with the idea of the celestial perfect harmonious chord. The sound the angels made when heaven created the universe. They have spent the last 10 years sampling every genus - all living things can be categorised as belonging to some family. Shark, Homo Sapien, Reptile, etc. 3 Million in total. 500,000 of which are now extinct and so needed to be "obtained" from various museums around the world. Ben looks at the copy of last night's Evening Standard on the bed with the Natural History Museum break-in and asks Peter if he knows anything about it? Peter nods. Ben says the cancer must have spread to his brain - he's insane and will get power of attorney to change his will. Dad says too late, he's already given PoA to Vic. But, he'll gladly give Ben his money if goes to visit Vic in San Francisco and helps him finish the job. With Vic he has designed a piano that links into the computer to play all the sampled notes. To triangulate the signal so that it reaches around the world it needs to be played and left as a continuously looping recording at Caltech, Gibraltar and the Antarctic 500 south of Punto Araenas. He must take the piano and play it there to "Heal the world". Ben asks if he is the fucking Messiah now? Peter reminds him of the story he made up for Ben as child to help him sleep about a modern day fairy story about a monster that eats children's imagination when they get to 14. Peter gives him two tickets for San Fran leaving the next day Says perhaps he could take his girlfriend. Ben doesn't have one. Too cold. "Son you're not happy, perhaps the music can heal you too?"

Scene 11 - Int. Lap dancing bar. Night.

Ben is discussing the days events with Pat. He has a lapdance but is totally uninvolved and dispassionate. Pat gives him the idea to treat it like the documentary he made on Peter, why not film the exploit, that way even when it fails he can still make money by selling it to TV. He'll still get to stick it to the old man! With this nasty twist Ben decides to do it. Pat gives him a pretend doctor's certificate excusing his Tourettes Syndrome to show to customs to explain why he's such a rude aggressive prick! (Tourettes syndrome sufferers have to carry a doctor's certificate when they fly.)

Act 2

Scene 12. Flying to San Francisco. Aircraft interior. Virgin Atlantic 747.

Ben is watching a film on his laptop as the plane flies through the evening sky. His eyes flutter and close as he starts to dream.

Scene 12a. Ben's dream.

He is a 14 year old child again and wandering through his father's house at night. He comes to the large white door and this time reaches out to open it. Inside he sees a women in a white nightdress collapsed against the black grand piano. With a jolt he wakes up, causing the laptop to crash to the floor. The Captain comes over the intercom to inform then that they're on approach to SFO airport.

Scene 13 - Vesuvio Café, North Beach, San Francisco

Ben meets Vic. They discuss the plan and approach. Ben says he will film the trip, but he has totally forgotten how to play the piano. Vic tells him his father has organised a teacher to come to his father's house in Big Sur to help refresh his memory. Ben asks how Vic and his father met.

Scene 13a - Bar in Albuquerque, New Mexico. 1997.

Peter discusses with Vic how close science is to isolate the gene that controls artistic genius, but once they do and parents can decide to make their kids genius's, what value is there in that? Vic agrees and Peter goes on to tell him about the Cadence Manuscript he found. Vic is intrigued and they agree to meet up when he's back in Big Sur.

Scene 14 - Big Sur, California

Ben is driving up the Big Sur coast road towards his father's house near Hearst Castle. It is a perfect Spring day along the impossibly winding roads of Big Sur.

Scene 14 - Peter Darlington's Mansion, Big Sur

Ben drives up to the gates and heaves a big sigh in Big Sur. Memories; most of them unhappy come flooding in. He enters the grand mansion and dumps his bag in the hall; he passes photos and paintings of his childhood. Opens a main double door and recoils in visible horror - there is his dad's black piano, the one he found his mother collapses over when he was 14 . He fears it and resists touching it. He sees the large scar of a knife down the shiny black cover and touches it bitterly remembering. "He never got that repaired you know!" An old woman, He turns round to see Maria his old housekeeper, 20 years older than he remembers but still smiling the same. His first instinct is to rush over and hug her, but he is changed and cold and corrects himself. She hugs him instead and says she hopes he makes it up with Peter before it's too late. She had a brother whom she fell out with and never said she loved him before he died in a car crash. She makes him some dinner and says Rachel, the piano teacher will be here soon. After dinner Ben finds the Sonaflex machine his Dad created in the 1980's - a rough computer that turns music into light. Ben turns it on and watches the beautiful lights dance off the walls for a moment, then dispassionately switches it off.

Scene 15 - The House. Piano Room

Rachel Dubios arrives. Ben is attracted to her instantly but treats her with condescension and refuses to sit down at the piano. She plays and asks what the first tune he learnt was. She plays it. He has another drink but as she pushes him to play, his annoyance turns to fear and he orders her to leave. She says she will but HAS to come back as she made a solemn oath to his father that she wouldn't quit until he was up to speed..

Scene 17 - St George's Hospital, London

Peter is lying in his private bed, he is smiling and listening to music whilst having a live webcam chat with Vic in CalTech about how plans are progressing. Vic tells him Ben is an uptight arsehole but has agreed to do it. One last sample is a Barbary Monkey from Gibraltar - they can get it and then play the first triangulation point at the same time. What luck.

Scene 18 - Shipping the piano out to Gibraltar

Montage of shots moving the piano and the team getting ready for shipping out.

Scene 19 - Interior of a private jet.

White leather seats. Rachel sits down next to Ben on the private jet. Vic is toying with some equipment in the seats behind them, surrounded by his support team. Pat comes aboard with soundman Jeff and they begin filming. We start to feel the scale and seriousness of the operation.

Scene 20 - Gibraltar external shots

A montage of external images of Gibraltar.

Scene 21 - Top of Gibraltar, next to military installation

Vic and Pat scout out the top of the Rock and try to trap a Barbary Monkey. AS they work they discuss Ben and his coldness, relationship with his dad, phobia of music. Pat worries that Ben's coldness is a reaction to the emotional events currently going on and based on his panic attacks in the meetings and so on, he worries for his mental stability. He has never come to terms with his mother's death.

Scene 21 - The Trafalgar, a Costa del Sol Bar

Ben and Rachel are getting slowly pissed in a Costa bar. They are having a chat about her backstory.

Scene 22 - Cut to past. Rachel's Backstory

Rachel makes up a story (as Peter has requested) about playing piano in a small bar on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, for tips. Peter is there celebrating and goes backstage to meet her and is so impressed in a fatherly way, that he invites her to play session on his next tour.

Scene 23 - Trafalgar Costa Bar

Back in the bar Ben doesn't believe that she'd have the balls to play in a New Orleans bar. Rachel goes over to where the piano is and starts playing "You're So Vain" honky tonk style. There is obvious chemistry between the two of them.

Scene 24 - Ben's Rented Gibraltar Villa

Ben and Rachel are swimming pissed in the blue floodlit pool. He kisses her and goes to remove her top. She backs away and teases him to follow her into the house. He backs her into the piano by accident and she lifts the lid whilst in the throws of passion. She refuses to let him fuck her until he plays the first song he learnt. He tries back has another panic attack and has to admit to her that he has a mental block. He really CANT play it. She sits down on the stool and starts playing, removing her wet clothes as she does. His lust argues with his fear and wins. He sits down next to her and starts timidly playing the descant of her tune. She tries to replace negative memories associated with the piano with these new sexual positive ones. She turns on the Sonoflux computer and floods the room with dancing psychedelic light as they make love.

Scene 25 - The Gibraltar villa

Morning after. Ben@s energized and up for the challenge of the day. Vic arrives in a low-loader truck.

Scene 26 - Truck internal and external

They transport the piano up to the top of the rock in spiral turns, first past the cafés and tourists then towards the military base at the top, monkeys and marines. They pass a military checkpoint, but Vic holds out a letter which gets them through with a salute from the grunt.

Scene 27 - Top of Gibraltar

The first triangulation is done. Vic attaches the computer to the piano and Ben plays a third of the partial chord. They leave the beacon recording and relaying ready for completion.

Scene 28 - La Butibamba Restaurant. Evening

The whole team are celebrating in a restaurant on the coast. The mood is upbeat. They discuss the next stage - the far more difficult Antarctic. Minimal equipment and the piano will need to be transported on dog sled on skis.

Scene 29 - Goldcrest Editing Suite, Soho, London

Ben and Pat are back in their production office in London watching the first rushes of the project. They discuss Rachel and it is clear Ben is only using her for sex. He has no respect for her. Pat thinks he recognises Rachel from somewhere but can't remember - she certainly doesn't look like any piano teacher he's ever seen. The phone rings and it's Peter after a progress report. Ben is cold and dismissive. After the call, Pat and Ben discuss the dad but Ben shuts down again and tells Pat to mind his business.

Scene 30 - Harbour front. Punto Areanas. South America

The piano is being loaded onto "The Caracas" cargo ship bound for the Antarctic. The team are dressed in cold weather gear and the mood is dark.

Scene 31 - On board "The Caracas" cargo ship

Stormy weather and stormy moods. We meet the survival expert double act who will lead them safely across the ice-shelf and glacier to a point high enough to set up the relay and get triangulation. They are ex-special forces and refuse to discuss where they got their snow training from on camera. They are the same two people who broke into Natural History Museum for Peter. Rachel is attracted to one of them and Ben seems jealous.

Scene 31b - Ship's Canteen.

Pat tells Rachel that he really recognises her from somewhere. She tells him her fake backstory. He is unconvinced.

Scene 31c - Pat's cabin.

Pat speaks to Aggie, his wife, via videophone. Over his shoulder the camera monitor is frozen on a picture of Rachel. Aggie asks who it is and looks more carefully. Pat tells her he recognises Rachel and Aggie tells him, her real name is Patrizia Gilgorovic. She was part of a trio of three Polish women who tricked rich and famous men to sleep with them and then sold their sperm for thousands to people who wanted their children to be sired by the top echelons of society. Pat uses the ships internet to double-check and is proved right.

Scene 32 - Starboard. Night

Icebergs pass the side of the boat like silent refrigerated clouds in the dark. Ben and Rachel have a row. She says he has no right to be jealous of the attention she's getting from the one of the survival experts because Ben doesn't want her anyway. She calls him as cold as the icebergs. They have big row. He asks her what she's doing there anyway now that he knows the piano? She runs off crying.

Scene 32b - Starboard gangway.

Rachel runs straight into Pat who holds her and asks if she's OK. She starts to walk off, but he speaks to her in Polish and she freezes. She confesses the truth and explains that she is indeed an expert in psychology as well as a pianist and ex-lover of Peter. She recounts how she tracked Peter down in New Orleans to try and steal his sperm via a special liquid nitrogen container inside her uterus. Peter was wise to it and instead of having her arrested, he asked her to help him help Ben out of his shut-off, hate-filled state and rebuild bridges. She tells Pat that they are so close to completing the task and helping Ben that he mustn't grass her up. Pat says he'll give her until the chord is played to tell Ben herself.

Scene 33 - The Paxman Ice Shelf, Antarctica. The Piano is being pulled along behind a snow-mobile. The others are on snowmobiles with the two survival team. Pat holds the camera shakily on the back. Ben jumps off his snowmobile and "Five Easy Pieces" Style rips off the piano cover and starts to play as it rolls along. Black piano, white ice.

Scene 34 - Top of the Solomon Glacier

The piano almost slips at the top and Ben pulls it up like De Niro in the Mission, it is his tormentor and his salvation. He learns and struggles in a monologue as he heaves it back up.

He has a revelation about his relationship with women - his mother's death has made him scared to be close to any woman because he's sure they'll leave. At the top of the world he plays the piano and looks across at Rachel with clear eyes. Ben starts to allow for the possibility that perhaps his father wasn't to blame after all and it's actually time to forgive him.

Scene 35 - Bridge of "The Caracas"

Back on the ship he gets the call his father has died. He flies into a rage. Rachel tries to comfort him and it seems for the first time he's needing her and trusting her. She says that now his father is dead her obligation to Peter is fulfilled. She tells Ben the truth and he pushes her away in anger and disbelief that yet again he's been let down by a woman he trusted. Worse than this, he feels manipulated by his father and hates him with a renewed energy.

Act 3

Scene 36 - Caltech laboratories, California

Two weeks later. Ben is at Caltech lab meeting with Vic. Pat is filming. Vic tells Ben he missed his father's funeral. Ben refuses to talk about it. They prepare in silence for the final chord playing.

Scene 37 -The late Peter Darlington's Mansion, Big Sur

It is the night before the chord is played. Ben is with Rachel back at his father's house. She shows him a tape Peter made to be played on his death. At first he refuses to watch it, but his media roots make him curious - if only to see how it's filmed. He discovers that his mother actually committed suicide because of undiagnosed bi-polar depression. Peter had done everything to try and get her help. She had come to hate his music and because of his love for her he gave it up, only allowing Ben to play in the soundproofed room. On the day of her death Ben had left the door to the piano room open whilst he played and she was in such a black mood that she took her own life, blaming Ben in the suicide note. All these years Peter had protected Ben from this knowledge - even though it cost him his relationship. When Rachel hands Ben the original note, he breaks down, finally letting go the past and accepts his mother's illness was the only thing at fault. He holds Rachel so tightly and asks her forgiveness and for the forgiveness of his father. She tells him that despite the initial deception, she has genuinely started to fall in love with him too. They embrace as the sun starts to rise over Big Sur. The clatter of equipment being set up echoes across the shale beach. Scene 38 - Caltech laboratories, private area Amid cameras, equipment and unbelievable tension and anticipation, Ben plays the chord... Nothing happens.

Scene 39a - The Late Peter Darlington's Mansion, Big Sur.

Night Ben sits at the piano dejected. He gets up and looks at the photo of his father. Suddenly the motif three notes play and he turns around. It's his dad sitting at the piano. Peter asks for his forgiveness for the deception and tells him the chord DID work after all - in playing the chord Ben has now been healed: He's now capable of loving women. Has come to terms with his mother's death, forgiven his father, rediscovered his love of music and got over his fear of the piano. Peter's cancer too is in remission and with the help of Vic's bio-technology, his arthritis is relieved enough for him to resume playing the piano. Ben may not have ushered in the biblical peace or "Act 5" of the universe but he has achieved a peace for himself.

Scene 39b - Hallway.

The camera leaves father and son in the piano room and tracks down the hall to where Maria the housekeeper is watching television.

Scene 40. Sky News.

"Reports are coming in of a strange situation - it may just be coincidence but no crimes were reported happening today, no-one died in any wars and hospitals are reporting no new admissions in the last 24 hours and a marked improvement in all current patients. This could be a fluke but long may it continue!"

Scene 41

The sun rises again over Big Sur and the Pacific Ocean.  
External.

Fin.

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