All Of Us Strangers (Dir. Andrew Haigh)

Circumstance
Adam, now in his forties, has been reunited with his parents, who died when he was eleven. He brings them to his childhood favorite restaurant to share one last meal together. As their time together comes to an end, Adam struggles to let them go, while his parents try to reassure him and express the love they could not fully convey when they were alive.

INT. DINER - DUSK

Adam sits opposite his parents, who both try to be light and jovial. There is no-one else there. Adam tries to summon the same spirit as his parents, to give this 'last supper' some joy.

DAD
I want to ask something.

MUM
Oh God. Don't ask him.

DAD
I have to.
(to Adam)
Was it quick?

MUM
Jesus. I told you not to.

DAD
How can you not want to know?

MUM
What if it was slow and horribly painful?

DAD
What difference does it make?

MUM
It makes a big difference.

ADAM
It was quick.

MUM
It was?

ADAM
Yes.

MUM
For both of us?

ADAM
(lying)
Yes.

MUM
You don’t look like you’re sure. Don’t be fibbing. No secrets now.

ADAM
It was quick.

MUM
Okay. Phew. That’s a relief of sorts. It’s been playing on my mind.

DAD
What do you think we should say to each other? I’m not sure I’ve much wisdom to share. Maybe Adam, being older, should be sharing some with us!

ADAM
Maybe we don’t need to say anything.

DAD
Maybe. Although I will say that getting to know you has made us very proud.

ADAM
I’m not sure I’ve done much to be proud of. I’ve muddled through at best.

DAD
But you’ve got through it, some very tough times, I’m sure. And you’re still here. That’s what we’re proud of.

Adam throat tightens. Dad’s voice gets quiet. His eyes cloud over. He seems a little drunk.

DAD (CONT'D)
Wow. Fuck. I’m feeling, I don’t know what I’m feeling...

ADAM
Dad?

DAD
Yes, son.

ADAM
(his voice cracking)
Stay a bit longer.

DAD
I don’t think so.

Adam’s Mum takes her husband’s hand.

MUM
I love you, darling.

DAD
You sure? Sometimes I was never so sure.

MUM
Whatever problems we had, I’m glad I get to be with you at the end.

DAD
Me too. You always did feel a little bit like my lifeboat.

She reaches out and strokes his face, gently. Dad likes that. He looks back at Adam.

DAD (CONT'D)
I know I was never good at saying it -- I couldn’t get the words out, but I do love you, very much. Somehow even more now that I know you.

That is almost too much for Adam, his face crumpling. His Dad takes his hand and holds it tight.

DAD (CONT'D)
It’s important you believe me.

ADAM
I do. And I love you too Dad.

Suddenly his Dad exhales heavy and slumps in his chair, life draining from his eyes.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(voice breaking)
Did you hear me? Dad?

Mum gasps, reaches for her eye, inhaling sharply, her eyes tightly closed, terrified.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Mum?

Her eyes open wide in a panic.

MUM
Adam? Are you there?

ADAM
Yes.

MUM
I can’t see you. Why can’t I see you? Are you there?

Adam reaches out and takes her hand.

ADAM
I’m here, Mum.

MUM
Oh yes. There you are. I can feel you. Your skin is warm.

ADAM
It’s okay. I’m here.

Adam looks down at her hand now in his own, her skin almost transparent like she is now eighty years old, as if they have had a full life together.

MUM
Promise me you’ll try with this Harry boy. I’d have liked him, I just know it.
(a beat)
He might need a bit of looking after mind you. Such a sad face.

Adam doesn’t answer.

MUM (CONT'D)
You hear me?

ADAM
Yes.

MUM
Good. That’s good. I hope you can make each other a little happier.

She starts to sway a little as if she is seeing a song in her head, drifting away, but with a slight smile.

ADAM
Mum?

MUM
(her voice faint)
Are you still there?

ADAM
Yes.

MUM
You’re such a kind and gentle boy.

And then she is gone. They are both gone. Adam sits alone in the restaurant.