

THE MANY LIVES OF NEWTON THOMAS

Written by

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EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT

A tired looking MUTLI-STOREY BUILDING with a PARKING LOT out front. A FADED SIGN with a rainbow arched over the top of it reads: 'New Beginnings Children's Home'.

An OLD STATION WAGON grumbles into the lot, stopping in front of the entrance. A MOM (25) steps out holding a BABY BOY wrapped in blankets while a DAD (23) exits the other side. They walk to a PORCH at the front of the building.

On the porch is a WICKER BASKET. The Mom kisses the Baby on the head, then gently lays him in it.

MOM
(holding back tears)
Mommy's going to miss you.

The Dad then places an ALTOID MINT TIN on the Baby's lap. The Baby stares into his Dad's eyes. The Dad turns his back on the baby, embarrassed. He starts to walk away as...

BABY BOY
Vrooom! Vroooooom!

The Dad turns back, smiling. He digs around in his pocket and pulls out a futuristic looking TOY CAR. The Baby's face lights up as he grabs the toy from his Dad and starts to play with it. The Mom and Dad watch for a second, then somberly walk back over to their station wagon.

NEWTON (V.O.)
I've imagined this night a hundred
different ways.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 2

NEWTON (V.O.)
Sometimes they cry.

In an almost identical ALTERNATE VERSION to what we just saw the Mom and Dad sob loudly as they lovingly lay the Baby in the wicker basket, much more emotional than they were before.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 3

NEWTON (V.O.)
Sometimes they don't.

In another alternate version the Mom lays the baby in the basket. She's sad but noticeably not crying. The Dad watches on from inside the station wagon, stone-faced.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 4

NEWTON (V.O.)
Sometimes they're just relieved.

The Mom and Dad approach the porch with a spring in their step, happy with their decision, as if they're merely dropping off a gift for a friend.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 5

NEWTON (V.O.)
Sometimes I imagine they had no choice.

The Mom approaches the entrance with the Baby in her arms. She turns to see a MASKED FIGURE holding a gun to the Dad's head.

MASKED FIGURE
Do it or I'll shoot!

The Mom reluctantly lays the Baby in the basket. The Masked Figure lowers their gun. The Dad sighs in relief.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 1

BACK IN THE FIRST VERSION the Mom and Dad walk back to their station wagon. A DOG BARKS. An OLD MAN yanks open the door. He spots the Baby Boy. The Mom and Dad.

OLD MAN
Hey, wait a minute!

The car zooms out of the parking lot. The Old Man chases after it, waving his hands in the air. He's too slow.

NEWTON (V.O.)
Sometimes I even find myself wondering what might have happened if things had gone differently that night.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 2

NEWTON (V.O.)
If they'd changed their mind.

The distraught Mom and Dad walk away from the entrance. The Baby cries out. The Mom looks back. She can't do it.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 3

NEWTON (V.O.)
 If someone had managed to stop
 them.

The Mom and Dad jump into their car and start the engine, but just as they're about to drive away the Old Man stands in their way. The Dad hits the wheel, annoyed.

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 5

NEWTON (V.O.)
 Or Iron Man had saved the day.

WOOOOOSH as IRON MAN blasts out of the sky and disarms the Masked Figure. The Mom and Dad rush back over to their baby while the Masked Figure cowers in fear.

MASKED FIGURE
 I'm sorry, I didn't mean it!

EXT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S HOME - NIGHT - VERSION 6

The Mom and Dad lay the Baby in the basket. They're sad but not distraught. The Mom rings the bell.

NEWTON (V.O.)
 I do this cause I'm afraid what
 really happened was more like this.
 No tears. No guy running down the
 street - and definitely no Iron Man
 trying to stop a guy from shooting
 my Dad.

The two of them walk back towards their car in silence. No-one answers the door. No-one runs after them. The engine starts up. The vehicle accelerates away. Silence.

NEWTON (V.O.)
 Which is why I like to imagine it
 differently.

We PAN back to the NOW CRYING Baby Boy in the wicker basket, all alone, left with nothing but the toy car as we-

CUT TO BLACK.

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