

DUMONT - HEAVIER THAN AIR

Written by

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Inspired by a true story

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FADE IN:

1 INT. HOUSE - DAY 1

A 6 years old child is running in the house holding a balloon, his family is in the house, there are boxes everywhere as they are moving out. He runs to the second floor.

SUPER: BRAZIL, 1879.

2 INT. DAD'S OFFICE - DAY 2

HENRIQUE DUMONT, 47. His father, engineer, is working, he gets mad when the child disturbs him. He stands up angry, he pops the balloon. The child starts crying and runs away.

3 INT. CHILD'S ROOM - DAY 3

The child is crying, his mother walks in.

FRANCISCA DUMONT, 44.

FRANCISCA
What's the matter honey?

4 ALBERTO SANTOS DUMONT, 6. 4

SANTOS DUMONT
I was playing with the balloon and
dad pop it.

FRANCISCA
I'm sorry hun, but don't be sad.
It's his new job. We get you
another one on the way to Cabanju.

Santos Dumont clear his tears.

SANTOS DUMONT
Really?

FRANCISCA
I promise you. By the way, have you
finished packing?

SANTOS DUMONT
Not yet.

FRANCISCA
Okay, we're going after lunch, make
sure you are all packed.

SANTOS DUMONT
Okay mom.

She smiles at him and walks downstairs.

DISSOLVE TO:

5

INT. LOWER FLOOR - DAY

5

Francisca is finishing to prepare the table with Santos
Dumont's sisters.

FRANCISCA
All right everyone! Food is served!

All the 7 kids run to the table, grab a seat and start
serving their plates. The dad comes after.

Santos Dumont looks to his father scared.

HENRIQUE
(serious)
Alberto.

Everyone goes quiet.

SANTOS DUMONT
(scared)
Yes dad.

HENRIQUE
Don't you EVER, bother me again
when I'm working, do you
understand?

Santos Dumont's eyes waters.

SANTOS DUMONT
Yes father, I'm sorry.

FRANCISCA
Henrique, don't be harsh on the
kids. They're kids, they need to
play.

HENRIQUE
They need to learn. And I did NOT
speak with you.

Embarrassed, Santos Dumont stops eating and runs upstairs.

FRANCISCA
See? Look what you did.

Henrique keeps eating. Francisca follows Santos Dumont.

6

INT. SANTOS DUMONT'S BEDROOM - DAY

6

Santos Dumont is crying on his bed. Francisca walks in.

FRANCISCA
Son, don't be sad.

SANTOS DUMONT
Father always treats me like this.

FRANCISCA
Look son, you're old enough now,
and you need to understand your
father is a busy man. He's the
reason we have food on the table.

SANTOS DUMONT
I know, but I didn't do anything
wrong, I just walked into his
office by mistake, and he pop my
balloon. I didn't mean to disturb
him.

FRANCISCA
Oh Alberto, try to forget this,
okay?

SANTOS DUMONT
Okay.

FRANCISCA
I will talk to him. In the
meantime, make sure you're packed.

SANTOS DUMONT
I will. Thanks mom.

Francisca smiles and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

7

INT/EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

7

The train arrives.

FRANCISCA

I hope you didn't forget anything,
it'll be a long way and we will not
come back.

They get in the train and walks to their first class cabin.
They put their bags on the top shelf.

8 INT. TRAIN - DAY

8

Santos Dumont is sitting next to the window, looking outside.
The train starts to move.

ANGLE. While looking outside, his face is reflexing on the
window, TIME PASSES and Santos Dumont gets older.

SUPER: FRANCE, 1897.

9 EXT. PARIS' TRAIN STATION - DAY

9

The train arrives. Santos Dumont walks out the train holding
a suitcase. Outside the train station, he finds a taxi and
hops in.

SANTOS DUMONT

(speaking in French)

University of Paris please.

TAXI DRIVER

(speaking in French)

Yes.

The car drives away.

10 EXT/INT. UNIVERSITY OF PARIS - DAY

10

Santos Dumont pays the driver and walks into the university.
He finds a flyer stand and grabs a map. He seems confused. He
stops a group of students.

SANTOS DUMONT

(speaking in French)

I'm sorry, where can I find the
engineering's wing?

The student point the direction.

STUDENT

(speaking in French)

That way to the right.

SANTOS DUMONT
(speaking in French)
Thank you.

Santos Dumont follows the direction.

He arrives the engineering's wings, he passes through a lot of doors with numbers, until he finds a door with a sign. AERONAUTIC ENGINEERING. He knocks the door and walks in.

11 INT. AERONAUTIC ENGINEERING - DAY 11

There are a 3 people dressed with suits. They look at him.

MAN 1
Are you okay? How can we help?

SANTOS DUMONT
Is this the aeronautic engineering?

MAN 2
That's what the door says, isn't it?

SANTOS DUMONT
Eh ... I guess.

He opens his suitcase.

SANTOS DUMONT (CONT'D)
I want to know if anyone of you can teach me more about this.

He gets a book: Andrée - Au Pôle Nord en ballon.

MAN 1
Balloons? Who are you?

SANTOS DUMONT
My name is Alberto Santos Dumont, but you can call me Dumont.

MAN 1
Okay, Dumont, my name is Pierre, I'm the professor of mechanics for the engineering courses.

PIERRE, 48.

PIERRE
These are Marc and Andre.

MARC, 45.

MARC

Nice to meet you, I'm professor of chemistry.

ANDRE, 42. He says hi with his hands.

ANDRE

Professor of physics.

PIERRE

What do you want to know about the book?

SANTOS DUMONT

I want to know more about how balloons work.

PIERRE

The balloons?

ANDRE

I think I can explain really quick.

Andre walks to a black board and starts drawing.

ANDRE (CONT'D)

Long story short, the gas generated by the fire fills the balloon, and since that gas is lighter than the air the balloon flies.

SANTOS DUMONT

I know that, but how can you control it?

ANDRE

Oh, I think the best person to teach you that is Julio.

SANTOS DUMONT

Where can I find him?

PIERRE

He'll probably be in his office, 2nd floor.

SANTOS DUMONT

Thanks.

Santos Dumont packs the book and walks away.

12 INT. JULIO'S OFFICE - DAY

12

Julio is sitting on his desk writing some notes. He hears the door being knocked.

JULIO, 41, is sitting on his desk with a sign showing coordinator.

JULIO
Come on in!

The door opens, Santos Dumont walks in.

SANTOS DUMONT
Excuse me, are you Julio?

JULIO
Yes, how can I help?

Santos Dumont walks next to his desk and stands the hand.

SANTOS DUMONT
Nice to meet you Julio, my name is
Alberto Santos Dumont.

They shake hands.

JULIO
Nice to meet you, what can I do for
you?

SANTOS DUMONT
I heard you know how to fly a
balloon.

JULIO
Yes, why?

SANTOS DUMONT
Can you teach me?

Julio looks to Santos Dumont and looks back down.

JULIO
I don't have time for that. Go find
someone else.

SANTOS DUMONT
But I came --

JULIO
-- And close the door behind you.

BANG, Santos Dumont puts a 20 Francs note in front of him.

JULIO (CONT'D)
What is this?

SANTOS DUMONT
Your payment ... per hour.

Julio looks at him for a second. He grabs the note.

JULIO
4 o'clock, at the backyard.

SANTOS DUMONT
Thank you very much. I'll see you
at 4.

Santos Dumont leaves the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 EXT. UNIVERSITY BACKYARD - DAY

13

Julio arrives. Excited, Santos Dumont stands up.

JULIO
You're on time.

SANTOS DUMONT
Always.

JULIO
All right, let's start.

Julio opens his bag and grabs a book.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Hot air balloons are basically
filled with the gas liberated from
the fire, which makes the balloon
to fly, the balloon will travel
according to where the wind will
blow. Controlling it is the art.

SANTOS DUMONT
I know that so far.

JULIO
Good, one less step to teach you.
The art of steering it starts to
the difference of altitudes ...

(While Julio keeps the explanation, a music starts from the background while Julio's voice fades out and a real clip about balloons fades in).

DISSOLVE TO:

14

EXT./INT. LACHAMBRE & MACHURON'S HANGAR - MORNING

14

WINTER. Santos Dumont walks into a hangar outside Paris.
LACHAMBRE , 37 is at the reception.

SUPER: FRANCE, 1898.

LACHAMBRE

Good morning gentleman, welcome to
Lachambre & Machuron. How can I
assist you today?

SANTOS DUMONT

I would like to fly in a balloon.

LACHAMBRE

That's perfect. We're preparing the
balloon just outside now. We can
take you in for 250 Francs.

SANTOS DUMONT

Is it any dangerous?

LACHAMBRE

Not at all.

SANTOS DUMONT

And how much is the descent damage?

LACHAMBRE

That would depend on the aeronaut,
my nephew Machuron. However, he has
ascended dozens of times and he has
never had a descent damage ...
Anyways, no matter what happens,
you will pay nothing more than the
250 Francs.

SANTOS DUMONT

It sounds good to me.

Santos Dumont pays the 250 Francs.

LACHAMBRE

This way please.

Lachambre shows him the back door, they walk outside.
MACHURON, 32, is preparing the balloon. There is another person there.

SANTOS DUMONT
This looks amazing.

Machuron looks back.

MACHURON
Oh, welcome mister ... --

SANTOS DUMONT
-- Dumont, Alberto Dumont.

MACHURON
Dumont, nice to meet you. You can
call me Machuron, are you joining
us today?

SANTOS DUMONT
Yes, I am.

MACHURON
Great. Come have a look.

Machuron walks inside the balloon, Santos Dumont follows him.

MACHURON (CONT'D)
What do you think eh?

SANTOS DUMONT
It looks so beautiful.

MACHURON
Yes it does ... It does indeed.

Machuron lost time while appreciating the balloon.

MACHURON (CONT'D)
Oh, it should be ready by now.
Shall we?

SANTOS DUMONT
Please, after you.

They walk out the balloon and embark in the basket. They
ascend. During the trip, Santos Dumont FOLLOWS the MACHURON
MANEUVERS.

They fly over Paris, Santos Dumont feels stupefied with the
view, smiling like a little kid.

15 INT. LACHAMBRE & MACHURON - DAY

15

They return to the office, the other person thanks them and leaves the scene.

MACHURON

So Dumont, what did you think?

SANTOS DUMONT

It was amazing, I couldn't believe how beautiful Paris was from the sky.

LACHAMBRE

I'm glad you enjoyed. We can do this as much as you want.

SANTOS DUMONT

Actually, what are the chances of building my own?

LACHAMBRE

Building your own?

MACHURON

I've seen people liking to fly, but building your own is a totally different story.

LACHAMBRE

I don't even know how to start. Because it's not only building but you need to learn how to fly it.

SANTOS DUMONT

I know, I've been getting classes at the university and I watched Mr. Machuron's maneuvers. I understood every single movement he did, and I think I can do it.

MACHURON

Wow. I don't know what to say. Uncle, any ideas?

LACHAMBRE

Well, if you really wanna do it, I'm not saying it's easy, but the factory we work for just got some silk samples from Japan, we're planning to build a new balloon with it, I can ask the manager if you can help or watch.

MACHURON

That's true. Beautiful silk and the weight is insignificant. It should fly like a dove.

SANTOS DUMONT

That's great, where is the place?

LACHAMBRE

The factory is in the heart of Paris, meet me at the Eiffel Tower at 5 in the morning and we go together.

SANTOS DUMONT

Fantastic. I'll see you there.

They shake hands and Santos Dumont leaves the scene.

16

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER - DAY

16

Lachambre arrives, Santos Dumont is having a coffee on a bench.