

I 'M WITH CANCER

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FADE IN:

OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. SAN DIEGO - DAY

It's another picture perfect day in San Diego. The beaches, golf courses, and yacht clubs are packed with hundreds of rapturous citizens.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

A BUS pulls up and unloads it's passengers.

We follow ADAM SCHWARTZ(25), a kind faced, mild mannered, pragmatist - who despite his youth has the cynicism of an old man. He steps off the bus, crosses the street and approaches MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL.

INT. MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL - DAY

Adam enters the Hospital. The mood is calm. All the chaos one would expect to find in a hospital of this size is tucked away behind the sterile and monochrome walls.

Adam walks to the reception counter. The RECEPTIONIST is engrossed with the latest edition of *US Weekly*. She ignores Adam who just stands there awkwardly, unsure of what to do.

Adam gives out a small cough to grab her attention. The Receptionist keeps her eyes fixed on her magazine.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I help you?

ADAM
I have an appointment.

RECEPTIONIST
Name?

ADAM
Adam Schwartz.

The Receptionist says nothing. Adam stands silent, not knowing what to do. He coughs again.

Annoyed, the Receptionist looks up but says nothing.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 (confused)
 Um, am I supposed to go somewhere?

With her eyes the Receptionist points to the waiting area.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Oh, should I go sit?

The Receptionist rolls her eyes and returns to her magazine.

Adam looks around the empty waiting room. He takes a seat and browses through a dozen outdated magazines: Highlights, Time, Life, Modern Maternity, etc. Only moments later, as though he hadn't just introduced himself, the Receptionist calls out:

RECEPTIONIST
 Adam Schwartz.

Adam looks around the waiting room. There's no one else there. Again the receptionist calls out again -

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
 Adam Schwartz.

ADAM
 Yeah, that's me.

RECEPTIONIST
 Follow me.

The Receptionist leads Adam to a small changing room and hands him a hospital gown.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
 Put this on.

ADAM
 Do I need to take off all my
 clothes?

The Receptionist stares blankly at Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 I'll figure it out.

The Receptionist leaves. Adam awkwardly undresses and slips on the hospital gown. Unsure which end of the gown is the front, Adam adjusts the garment a few times until he decides he has it right.

Adam pulls back the curtain of the changing room to find JOANNE, an overly cheery nurse.

NURSE JOANNE

Hi Adam, my name is Joanne, so nice to meet you.

Adam scratches his chest, the hospital gown is beginning to irritate his skin.

ADAM

You don't happen to have anything in a cotton blend?

NURSE JOANNE

(laughs)
Cotton. You're funny.

Joanne hands Adam a giant specimen cup marked with a thick yellow line.

NURSE JOANNE (CONT'D)

Now I'm going to need you to fill this cup with urine. You think you can do that?

ADAM

You want me to fill this entire cup.

JOANNE

Yup.

Adam looks down at the cup in total disbelief.

ADAM

It's gonna take me at least a week to fill this. Can I take it home?

JOANNE

(laughs)
Take it home. You're so funny.

The CAMERA PANS to reveal a group of MEDICAL STUDENTS taking diligent notes in the background. WE PAN AGAIN this time to the next room:

INT. HOSPITAL. BATHROOM

Adam struggles to fill the cup. After a few beats, there's a knock on the door.

JOANNE (O.S.)

You okay in there Adam?

ADAM
Just another minute.

Adam looks down at the empty cup in frustration. The CAMERA PANS to the next room:

INT. HOSPITAL. X-RAY ROOM

Adam stands in front of an X-Ray machine. The APATHETIC TECHNICIAN has him stand in a dozen uncomfortable positions for long periods of time: sideways, one arm in the air, then the other arm, on one leg, then the other, one leg in the air, then the other, and so on.

Again we see the group of Medical Students taking notes. The CAMERA PANS to the next room:

INT. HOSPITAL. EXAMINING ROOM

Joanne pulls out a giant needle.

JOANNE
Here comes the choo-choo!

In the back we see the Med Students still taking notes. The CAMERA PANS to the next room:

INT. HOSPITAL. MRI ROOM

Adam is lying on the gurney of an MRI machine. He is slowly drawn into the enclosed body scanner.

TECHNICIAN
(Authoritatively)
Now make sure you lie completely still. Otherwise we'll have to do it all over again. Which we're not going to have to do, right?

INT. HOSPITAL. MRI ROOM - LATER

Adam lies perfectly still in the enclosed body scanner.

ADAM
Hello? Is anybody out there?

There's no one there. He's been left unattended. The MRI Technician is watching the Laker game in the next room.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I have to pee.

The Med Students continue to take notes.

END OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. SAN DIEGO - EVENING

Through the window of the hospital the CAMERA PULLS OUT and PANS across the San Diego skyline. We watch as the Sun sets to night, then rises to morning...

EXT. SAN DIEGO BEACH - MORNING

SUPER: JUNE

It's a gray morning as the thick spring fog slowly begins to lift. With no one in sight, the only sound that can be heard is that of the waves crashing onto the shoreline and then rolling back out to the Pacific Ocean.

About a mile inland, we come upon:

EXT. GRAND VIEW GATED COMMUNITY - DAY

Rows of identical two and three bedroom town houses with lawns groomed to perfection fill the community. This is Southern California Suburbia.

The sound of the waves crashing gets increasingly louder and louder as we PUSH IN ON:

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The interior of Adam's house is spotless. Pictures on the walls: Adam and his dad sailing. Adam and his parents at his Bar Mitzvah. Adam and his best friend, Seth, at High School Graduation. A University of Berkeley hat. A National Academic Achievement Award in the Sciences.

Curled in a fetal position, Adam sleeps peacefully next to RACHEL (25), his loving girlfriend. Cute, charming, and artsy, Rachel is "Winnie Cooper" all grown up.

The sound of the waves crashing stops abruptly. A loud obnoxious alarm clock goes off. Startled, Adam jumps up. Drenched in sweat, and completely disoriented, he looks around in confusion.

After a moment, Adam pulls an earplug out of each ear, and turns off the alarm. The sound of the crashing waves turns back on. Adam pushes a button on the alarm clock and the sound of the waves stops, but the loud obnoxious alarm returns. He pushes the clock again. The alarm turns off but now we hear the sound of crickets chirping. Again Adam pushes a button, this time we hear the sound of a loud thunder/rain storm, he pushes a button again, this time we hear the sound of loud clanging church bells. Rachel rolls over -

RACHEL
(asleep and incoherent)
Make it stop.

ADAM
(whispers)
It won't turn off.

Frustrated, Adam tries pushing all the buttons. This only makes it worse. We hear ALL of the previous sounds simultaneously sound off. Rachel rolls over and moans as she puts a pillow over her head.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Sorry.

Adam reaches down and unplugs the alarm clock, bringing an end to the noise. He sits for a moment at the edge of the bed, collects himself.

Adam looks down at Rachel and begins kissing her neck.

RACHEL
Mmmmm.

Rachel gently strokes her fingers through Adam's hair. Something catches her attention - a single strand of hair. She holds it up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Oh my god.

ADAM
What?

RACHEL
I think you have a gray hair.

ADAM
Really?

RACHEL
I'm gonna pull it out.

ADAM
No! Don't touch it.

Adam jumps from bed. He rushes into the bathroom. Rachel rolls back to sleep.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adam stands in front of the mirror and searches for the gray hair. Once he finds it, he holds it out for a closer look. It is in fact a gray hair. He smiles.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Adam showers, he tries to squirt shampoo into his hand, but the bottle is empty. He looks over at Rachel's large assortment of shower products, finds one that smells pleasant, Fructis by L'Oreal, and squirts some into his hair. He then proceeds to lather his entire body in the product.

INT. BEDROOM CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Adam dresses in front of the bathroom mirror. His outfit is well put together, but not what you would expect of someone his age - more of a Mr. Rogers look. He pulls out a LINT BRUSH and meticulously combs his cardigan.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LATER

SETH (25), pulls up in front of Adam's house in his white Neon and HONKS the horn. On the bumper is a sticker: "Let's put the Christ back in Christmas."

Overweight, well dressed, and wearing an air of confidence, Seth pulls out a massive joint, lights it and takes a hit.

Just then Seth looks over at 3 YOUNG SCHOOL CHILDREN and their MOTHER waiting for the school bus. The mother's jaw is on the ground in shock. Seth hides the joint and smiles in embarrassment.

SETH
Hi kids. Beautiful day isn't it?

The mother quickly moves her kids out of sight.

Adam approaches Seth's car. He spots his neighbors ANDREW and MISSY DONNELLY (late 40's) getting into their car. They wave to Adam.

ANDREW
Hey Adam.

ADAM
(seems annoyed)
Hey Andrew.

ANDREW
Sorry about the noise last night.

Adam shrugs as if to say "what the fuck?" Andrew and Missy giggle as they get into their car.

INT. SETH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Adam gets into the car.

SETH
Yo.

ADAM
Yo.

SETH
...What's that smell?
(sniffs Adam)
Are you wearing perfume?

ADAM
No.

SETH
Well, you smell like the cast of
Steel Magnolias.

ADAM
(smells himself)
I ran out of shampoo. I had to use
Rachel's.

SETH
For a second there I thought maybe
you'd fucked Olympia Dukakis.

Adam tries to close his window. The child safety lock is on.

ADAM
Can you unlock my window? There's a
lot of pollen in the air.

Seth ignores Adam and turns up the music.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

Seriously, my allergies are flaring up. It feels like my nasal cavities are on fire.

Adam begins to clear his throat, Seth turns the music even louder.

SETH

Sorry music's too loud, it's making it hard for me to hear your whining.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

We see the morning bustle as BUSINESS MEN and WOMEN stand in line waiting for their morning coffee. Adam and Seth stand at the end of that line watching the YOUNG COUPLE in front of them who can't keep their hands off of each other.

SETH

I don't get it, that guy is clearly a total douchebag...He's wearing Capris!

ADAM

Rachel and I used to be like that; like two wild animals in heat...

(thinks)

I guess it is only natural though, as we get older, more mature, things begin to slow down.

(beat)

Sex every three weeks is normal? Right?

SETH

(in shock)

You haven't had sex in three weeks?

ADAM

(shrugs)

You think maybe she's mad cause I haven't asked her to move in?

SETH

What the fuck are you talking about? I don't think she's waiting for you to ask anything. You're using her shampoo. Next thing you'll be using her tampons.

Seth laughs at his own joke.

SETH (CONT'D)

But seriously, let me get this straight - she has her own place, yet she spends every night with you, in your bed, but she won't sleep with you?

ADAM

It's not that big a deal.

SETH

So when does it become a big deal? Five weeks? Six weeks? A year? My cut off...4 days. That's when I begin to worry.

ADAM

Do you realize how lucky I am to be with Rachel?

SETH

Look around, there are like a million Rachel's in this city alone...well, she's kind of hot, so maybe half a million.

ADAM

But they're not Rachel. I don't know how to explain it, but being with her just feels right. And I'm not going to overlook that just cause we're in a lull.

SETH

My parents are in a lull, which is what happens after 35 years of marriage. You've only been dating her four months. At our age sex is all we have. Every time she refuses to sleep with you a small piece of every man's soul dies. She's killing us Adam...You're a semi-smart, semi-successful, semi-average looking dude. Just based on that you could get with at least one third of the female population.

Adam and Seth step up to the counter. They're greeted by the SUPER GAY BARISTA, who loves his job way too much.

BARISTA

Morning gentlemen.

SETH
(to Barista)
Would you sleep with my friend.

BARISTA
Like, right now?

SETH
No just in general.

BARISTA
Yeah, I'd fuck him.

The Barista yells to DEMETRI, the other Barista.

BARISTA (CONT'D)
Hey Demetri,
(Re: Adam)
Fuckable?

Demetri examines Adam. He's not impressed with what he sees.

DEMETRI
I'd let you blow me.

SETH
(to Adam)
See this is what I'm saying.

The Barista hands Seth and Adam two cups of coffee, they each leave a dollar.

INT. SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - LATER

Adam and Seth enter the museum. They pass JENNY (30) at the information desk.

SETH AND ADAM
Good morning Jenny.

Jenny ignores them.

SETH
(under breath)
I love you.

PHIL (60), the museum's vivacious director approaches.

PHIL
Salutations gentlemen.

Phil sniffs the air and looks at Adam.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Are you wearing perfume?

ADAM
It's Rachel's shampoo.

Phil goes in for a closer sniff. Then an even closer sniff.
Adam looks uncomfortable.

PHIL
(Declarative)
Fructis by L'oreal.
(Impressed)
My wife uses that.
(to Seth)
What are you wearing?

Seth's eyes open wide as Phil goes in for a sniff.

PHIL (CONT'D)
What is that?

SETH
Ah, mothballs?

Seth spots a GROUP OF SECOND GRADERS with their TEACHER
assembled by the entrance.

SETH (CONT'D)
Looks like my group is here.

Seth slaps on a button that reads "DOCENT" and rushes off to
greet the students.

SETH (CONT'D)
See you guys later.

Phil turns to Adam.

PHIL
How's the Origins exhibit coming
along?

ADAM
We're almost done with Upper
Paleolithic.

PHIL
I'm counting on you not to screw
up.
(looks into Adam's eyes)
You're the only one I can trust.
(beat)
(MORE)

PHIL (CONT'D)
 The Board is talking about bringing
 in sponsors...We're a dying art
 Adam.

Phil stares into Adam's eyes for what feels like an eternity.
 It's incredibly awkward.

ADAM
 Phil?

PHIL
 Yeah?

ADAM
 I should probably get to work.

PHIL
 That's probably a good idea.

Phil looks at the clock - 10 a.m.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 I think I'm gonna go to lunch.

Phil wanders off.

INT. MUSEUM. ORIGINS OF MAN EXHIBIT - LATER

Adam and GREG (45), Adam's slightly moronic co-worker, place the finishing touches on the CRO MAGNON exhibit - it's an elaborate life sized diorama depicting the life of a family of four Cro Magnons. Outside their hut it's snowing, but inside there's a large fire and decorative horse drawings on the walls. The MAN instructs his SON to paint as the WOMAN teaches her DAUGHTER to sew. We see Greg positioning the fossil of a VELOCIRAPTOR next to the mother and daughter. The dinosaur looks poised to pounce. Adam notices.

ADAM
 Greg. What are you doing?

GREG
 It's a velociraptor.

ADAM
 Where did it come from?

GREG
 The dinosaur exhibit.
 (off Adam's look)
 Why can't we just say it was the
 first domesticated pet?...People
 love dinosaurs.

Adam cringes in frustration.

ADAM

Greg you can't just...that's a 75 million year old fossil...just please, put it away before someone sees it.

Greg reluctantly goes to put the dinosaur away. He flaps the dinosaur's arm in the air - waving goodbye to Adam.

Seth leads his tour of second graders. He speaks like a tour guide at Universal Studios.

SETH

Coming up here on our left is the "Origins of Man" exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian Institute. It won't be open to the public for a few more months, so you're one of the first groups to see it.

(spots Adam)

Adam!

Adam looks up. He hates this part of his job.

SETH (CONT'D)

Everyone this is Adam, he's the curator of ancient civilizations here at the museum.

Adam gives a reluctant wave.

ADAM

Hey kids.

SETH

(to Adam)

Why don't you tell us what we're looking at.

ADAM

(begrudgingly)

This here is a family of homo sapiens who lived in Europe about 25,000 year's ago...

In excitement, the kids move in for a closer look. Unaffected, the teacher stays back and files her nails.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...these Cro Magnon's as they're often called, are the closest in the evolutionary chain to modern day humans...

KID 1 touches the Cro Magnon father. Still talking, Adam steps in and moves Kid 1's hand off.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...What made Cro Magnon so advanced was their sense of community...they were the first to settle on a single plot of land, devote to one partner, raise a family, and take care of the sick.

KID 1

(to Seth)

This is lame! I thought you said we were gonna see dinosaurs.

GREG

(to Adam)

See, I told you.

Damage control. Seth points to a life sized NEANDERTHAL MAN holding a spear.

SETH

(in excitement)

Who wants to hear about the caveman?

Seth picks up the spear and pretends to charge Adam.

SETH (CONT'D)

Caveman. RRRRRR!

The kids cheer.

Annoyed, Adam takes the spear out of Seth's hand.

ADAM

This is Homo Neanderthalensis - the Neanderthal Man. For over 150,000 years his ancestors dominated all of Europe. But then about 30,000 years ago, Neanderthals began to disappear, until one day, their entire civilization was gone.

GREG
What happened?

ADAM
Greg you know what happened.

GREG
I do?

SETH
Come on! Tell us what happened to
the caveman.

ADAM
Well no one knows for sure. But
it's suspected that because
Neanderthal was a nomadic huntsman,
he roamed the land, only fending
for himself - never learning to
cohabitate with others. So as Cro
Magnon families settled into
Europe, they took over the land.
One by one, Neanderthal was pushed
out...and never seen, or heard from
again.

SETH
(game show voice)
That's quite a story. Thank you
Adam.

Seth and Adam look at the kids, they look bored.

SETH (CONT'D)
(Quietly to Adam)
You really know how to win a crowd.

ADAM
(to the kids)
But you never know, just cause they
vanished doesn't mean they're gone.
For all we know, there could be a
Neanderthal walking among us right
now. And by the looks of this guy
here -
(points at Neanderthal)
I'd say he probably plays defense
for the Raiders.

Adam's joke gets a small laugh from the teacher, but zero
response from the kids.

KID 1
This sucks ass.

Adam and Seth look at each other in shock...Seth chimes in -

SETH
I see dinosaurs.

Seth runs down the hall towards the dinosaur exhibit. The kids follow in excitement. The teacher barely bats an eye as she takes her time slowly trailing after the group.

EXT. MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL - LATER

Adam enters the hospital...

INT. HOSPITAL. EXAMINING ROOM - LATER

Adam leafs through a pamphlet on Incontinence.

The pedantic DR. ROSS enters and completely ignores Adam. Instead, he looks over Adam's chart, examines his MRI scans, and pulls out a DICTAPHONE -

DR. ROSS
(into the dictaphone)
Patient has been complaining of excessive urination, back pain, and night sweats. Blood tests and urine analysis are normal. MRI indicates a massive intradural extradural malignant schwannoma neurofibrosarcomas extending into psoas muscle with nerve root compression syndrome and bone erosion.

We see Adam's face gradually look more and more confused, he slowly begins to raise his arm as if to ask a question.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)
Growth extends from the L2 to L5. Cytotoxic antibiotics are recommended.

Dr. Ross turns to see Adam holding his arm in the air.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)
Yes. Questions?

ADAM
(Dumbfounded)
I have no idea what you just said. Is there something wrong with me?

DR. ROSS
(points to MRI)
If you look here on your MRI, you
see this cephalopod like object
spreading down along your spinal
column?

Adam squints. It all looks the same.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)
That is a massive schwannoma
neurofibrosarcomas.

ADAM
I still have no idea what you're
talking about.

DR. ROSS
It's a malignant tumor.

ADAM
What?!...A tumor? No.

DR. ROSS
I'm afraid so.

ADAM
How is that possible?...I don't
smoke. I don't drink. I eat
healthy...I even recycle.

DR. ROSS
Well Adam it's actually quite
fascinating. Your cancer is the
result of an incredibly rare gene
mutation in chromosome 17p in the
p53 Gene that causes the growth of
malignant cells in tissue around
the nerves. In your case it's grown
along the nerves in your lower
spine.

Adam looks at himself in the mirror.

ADAM
(still in denial)
But, look at me. I don't look sick.

DR. ROSS
Cancer often has no specific
symptoms. People can go years with
out knowing they're sick. We're
lucky we caught it before it
metastasizes.

(MORE)

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)

(beat)

I'm going to put you on a 4 month regimen of chemotherapy. It's an aggressive dosage so you might want to think about taking some time off from work.

This is real. Adam walks to the window and presses his face against the glass. He looks down at the city below. From 15 stories up, the people on the street look like miniature figurines.

Adam turns back to Dr. Ross.

ADAM

Can't you just cut it out of me?

DR. ROSS

Yes, that is an option. But because the tumor has spread to a such significant size. Cutting it out now would be risky.

ADAM

Well what are my chances of beating this?

Dr. Ross puts on his best act of reassurance. His words are seemingly genuine, his tone is anything but.

DR. ROSS

Listen, you're in good hands. The best thing for you to do right now is to not worry...Let me do the worrying. Alright?

Dr. Ross takes a long look at Adam's devastated face.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)

Maybe you should talk to someone.

Dr. Ross hands Adam a business card for the "Mount Sinai Psychology Group".

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)

We have a whole department of psychologists here in the hospital. They specialize in cases...in these...sort of matters. They'll be able to help you.

Not knowing what else to say, Dr. Ross looks at his watch, looks back to Adam, and moves to the door.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)
Hang in there champ.

INT. SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY - EVENING

CLOSE ON a computer screen:

"Neurofibrosarcoma Schwannoma. Treatment Forms: Chemotherapy and Radiation offer negligible success rates. Surgical resection proven to be most effective. Risks of surgery: Amputation of limbs. Paralysis. Death. 2 Year survival rate: 50%. If tumor metastasizes systemically, 2 year survival rate: 0%."

Adam sits staring at the screen. This is not good.

The LIBRARIAN, a tall blond surfer type, taps Adam on the shoulder.

LIBRARIAN
Hey bro, time's up.

Startled. Adam looks up at the librarian.

ADAM
Can I have just a few more minutes?

LIBRARIAN
Sorry bro. Twenty minute limit.
(Embarrassed)
Rules.

The librarian motions to the LONG LINE of mostly HOMELESS CUSTOMERS waiting to use the computer.

INT. BUS - EVENING

Adam sits deep in thought.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

The bus stops. Adam gets off, walks to his house, and takes a deep breath...

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adam enters the living room - it's empty. NPR News is on the radio. Fresh paint dries on a canvas resting on an easel. The sound of someone cooking comes from the kitchen.

RACHEL (O.S.)
Adam? Is that you?

Adam walks into the kitchen. Rachel is at the stove cooking in her underwear. Adam stands in the doorway watching her. God she looks sexy. Rachel turns -

RACHEL (CONT'D)
(in a Hungarian accent)
Welcome home Mr. Adam. I made
vegetarian goulash.

Like a ballerina, Rachel crosses to Adam on her tip toes holding out a spoon of her goulash. She holds up the offering to Adam's mouth. He takes a small bite and smiles, trying to hide his internal distress. His sad eyes tell Rachel another story.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
(still using accent)
What is wrong?

ADAM
Nothing.

RACHEL
(still using accent)
Liar.

This is not going to be easy.

ADAM
We need to talk.

Rachel drops the accent. This seems serious.

RACHEL
Why? What's going on?

ADAM
I had a doctor's appointment today.

RACHEL
(worried)
What kind of doctor's appointment?

Adam has no idea what to say.

ADAM
Have you ever seen the movie
"Beaches"?

RACHEL
You mean with Bette Midler?

ADAM
Yeah that one.

RACHEL
Not as good as "The Rose", but
good.

ADAM
Remember the end of "Beaches"?

RACHEL
(confused)
Yeah. Sad....What does that have to
do with you?

Adam just looks her in the eyes...Rachel gets it.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Oh. Oh my god.

In total shock, Rachel covers her mouth.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
What kind?

ADAM
I don't know.

RACHEL
You don't know?

ADAM
Well I do know, but I can't
pronounce it. Neuroscharnoma or
something.

RACHEL
Well how bad is it?

ADAM
It's not good.

Rachel hugs Adam. Soaking in the comfort, Adam rests his head on her shoulder. She gently strokes his hair. Adam's hand slowly moves down Rachel's back. He starts kissing her neck. He knows it's wrong, but can't help it, the only thing running through his mind is sex.

After a beat Rachel pulls away.

RACHEL
(begins to cry)
You have cancer.

Heart racing, Rachel opens the top pantry. She reaches back as far as she can and pulls out a cookie jar. She sticks her hand in the jar and pulls out an old pack of American Spirits. Adam looks at Rachel disapprovingly.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Not now.

ADAM

I just think it's an interesting time to take up smoking again.

RACHEL

Adam I'm 24 years old!
(catches herself)
You're 25.

Rachel puts one of the cigarettes to her mouth, lights it on the stove and takes a drag.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

What are we going to do? I don't know what to do.

Rachel begins compulsively pulling drags from the cigarette. Adam takes the cigarette out of her hand. He goes to put it out, but takes a drag instead. He then hugs Rachel with one hand and opens the window with the other; he proceeds to discreetly fan out the cigarette smoke.

ADAM

Sshhhh. Everything's going to be alright Yammy. I'm going to start chemo in a few days.
(positive)
We're going to get through this.

They embrace in total silence...A beat. And then Adam groans with the realization -

ADAM (CONT'D)

Ugh...and my parents are coming over for dinner.

RACHEL

Do they know?

Adam is clearly not in the mood to see his parents.

ADAM

No.

PRE LAP: The sound of a doorbell...

SMASH CUT:

INT. FOYER - ADAM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Rachel and Adam stand in front of the door.

ADAM
3...2...1...

Rachel opens the door.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(big smile)
Hey.

Adam's mother, EDITH SCHWARTZ (55) enters. Edith is a short, portly woman with thick glasses and a bright red sweatshirt bearing a cross-stitched cat on it. If the borough of Queens and the city of Milwaukee had a child, it would be Edith.

EDITH
(excited)
There they are!

Edith gives Rachel a big hug, and grabs for her left hand.

EDITH (CONT'D)
I can't wait to hear the big news.

ADAM
Where's dad?

ART SCHWARTZ (58) enters the house carrying a CAT. Due to a stroke 10 years prior, he carries a limp and is a little out of it.

ART
I found your cat playing in the neighbors yard.

ADAM
Dad, I don't have a cat.

Art drops the cat and it bolts out the door.

EDITH
So what's for dinner?

INT. ADAM'S DINING ROOM - LATER

Everyone sits around the table. Edith pokes at her plate of vegetarian goulash, confused as to what she's looking at.

RACHEL

If I had known you were coming I would have made something else.

EDITH

I'm just glad to finally be sharing a shabbat dinner with my son...

(looks at her plate)

So this isn't meat?

RACHEL

No it's called sei-tan.

ADAM

It's made of wheat gluten.

Edith looks more confused.

EDITH

But it's not meat.

RACHEL

No, but it has a texture just like meat.

Edith reluctantly takes a small bite of the goulash.

EDITH

(insincere)

Mmmmm. It's Good.

Edith puts her spoon down. She pulls a handful of pills out her fanny-pack and puts them in front of Art.

EDITH (CONT'D)

Art, take your pills.

Art picks up the pills and puts them in his mouth, but doesn't swallow.

EDITH (CONT'D)

Swallow.

As Art swallows, Edith eagerly turns her attention to Rachel.

EDITH (CONT'D)

So? Did you set a date?

RACHEL
(confused)
A date?

EDITH
(to Adam)
Do not do summer like your cousin,
remember how awful that was?
Schlepping around in the heat like
that. Plus the bugs and the gnats.

ADAM
(whispers to Rachel)
What is she talking about?

EDITH
And now Rachel. I know we haven't
discussed this, but are you going
to convert?

RACHEL
(whispers to Adam)
She thinks we're getting married.

ADAM
Mom. We're not getting married.

EDITH
Oh thank god.
(to Rachel)
No offense.
(to Adam)
So then what's the big news that
you made us rush all the way over
here.

Not knowing how to tell his mother the upsetting news...

ADAM
Have you ever seen "Terms of
Endearment"?

RACHEL
Oh Jesus Adam, just tell her.

EDITH
Tell me what?

ADAM
Alright fine. But, before I tell
you, you have to promise me you're
going to stay calm.

EDITH
Oh Adam, don't be so overdramatic.

ADAM
Mom, just promise me. Okay?

EDITH
I promise...You make me out to be
some kind of irrational loon.

Here goes nothing.

ADAM
(mumbles)
I have cancer.

EDITH
What?

ADAM
(mumbles)
I have cancer.

EDITH
(to Rachel)
What is he saying?

ADAM
(takes a deep breath)
I have cancer.

EDITH
Cancer? What do you mean you have
cancer?

ADAM
I - HAVE - CANCER.

EDITH
I don't understand.

ADAM
Mom, I have a giant tumor in my
spine.

Edith sits motionless for what seems an eternity. The only indication that she's not dead is the movement of her index finger, which twitches uncontrollably. Adam sits uneasy, trying to anticipate his mother's next move.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Mom?

Edith calmly rises from of her seat and heads to the kitchen.
Adam follows after her.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Mom, what are you doing?

Edith lights the stove, and puts up a kettle of Tea.

EDITH
I'm making you green tea.

ADAM
Please, will you come sit down.

Edith holds up the package of Green Tea.

EDITH
I saw on the *Today Show* that it
reduces your risk of getting cancer
by fifteen percent.

ADAM
Mom, I already have cancer.

Refusing to look at her son, Edith frantically rifles through
her fanny pack.

EDITH
Here take these.

Her hands now shaking uncontrollably, Edith hands Adam a
large number of prescription pills.

EDITH (CONT'D)
Aspirin, Zoloft, Lexapro, Lipitor,
Flagel, Ditropan, Alka Seltzer.

ADAM
Mom, please, stop. I don't need
these.

EDITH
(yells)
Just take the god-damn pills.

Adam take Edith's hand.

ADAM
Mom.

Edith's a nervous wreck, frantic and hysterical.

EDITH
How could this happen?

ADAM
It's genetic.

EDITH
Genetic? It must be from your
father's side of the family,
they're always getting sick. Your
uncle Bobby just got Crohns.

Adam's father looks up from his plate of goulash...

ART
That's a disorder of the bowels,
son. How are your bowels?

ADAM
The problem is not with my bowels.

ART
You're a lucky man.

ADAM
Thanks dad.

EDITH
I'm moving in.

ADAM
What? No. Absolutely not.

EDITH
Adam, I'm your mother, and I need
to be close to you in your time of
need.

ADAM
That's a terrible idea.

EDITH
Well who's going to take care of
you?

ADAM
Mom, I'm fine.

EDITH
I think I have a right to take care
of my son with cancer.

ADAM
It's nothing. Really.

EDITH

Nothing! You tell me you have cancer of the spine and now you tell me it's nothing.

Adam looks to Rachel for support.

RACHEL

Edith, I can't even imagine how hard this must be for you. But I promise, there's nothing for you to worry about. I'm going to be here every step of the way, to help take good care of your son.

EDITH

(to Adam)

You're a very lucky boy to be with such a good girl. You know that? You don't deserve her.

Adam looks at Rachel and smiles.

ADAM

I know.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Adam and Seth stand on an endless line of BUSINESS MEN and WOMEN waiting for their morning coffee. Greg is at the front of that line - he's taking forever to decide what he wants. Adam impatiently looks at his watch.

ADAM

What's taking him so long? How hard is it to buy a cup of coffee?

Seth ignores Adam as he stares at the cleavage on the WOMAN behind him.

SETH

(quietly to Adam)

Look at how tight that shirt is. She's totally aware of how large her breasts look too. This morning when she got dressed, she said to herself - "I have these things and I want the world to see them."

Greg looks up at the menu of endless options.

GREG

What about that frozen drink,
what's that like?

BARISTA

(Enthusiastic)

The Bavarian Blender. It's absolute
heaven.

GREG

I don't know. Does it have a lot of
sugar?

ADAM

We've been here 20 minutes. What's
he shopping for a car?

Seth's eyes are still fixed on the woman's breasts.

SETH

Why are you in such a rush?

Adam looks around at all the stodgy business men all having
menial conversations.

ADAM

Is this really how you want to
spend the rest of your life?
Wasting away in this place?

Greg still hasn't made up his mind. Adam snaps.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I don't believe it. Why can't he
just get a latte like he does every
morning.

SETH

Relax. We have plenty of time.

ADAM

No we don't have plenty of time!
Life is finite.

SETH

What the fuck is wrong with you?

ADAM

(quietly)

I have cancer.

SETH

(laughs)

Yeah right.

ADAM
I'm serious.

SETH
Get the fuck out of here. You have
cancer?

People in line look at Seth.

ADAM
Maybe a little louder, you can make
a special announcement.

SETH
(quietly)
When did this happen?

ADAM
Yesterday. They found a tumor in my
spine.

SETH
Who?

ADAM
What do you mean who?

SETH
Who found the tumor?

ADAM
Lewis and Clark...The doctors found
it.

SETH
When were you going to tell me?

ADAM
I'm telling you now.

SETH
If I had cancer I'd tell you right
away.

ADAM
What do you want the Better Friend
award? It's not an easy topic to
bring up.

SETH
Holy shit!

Seth takes a deep breath. A look of panic sweeps across his
face...he quickly shakes it off.

SETH (CONT'D)
 Okay, let's relax here.
 (Beat)
 I think the best thing to do is to
 look on the bright side.

 ADAM
 The bright side of what?

 SETH
 (Emphatically)
 This is your chance to do all the
 things you've always wanted. This
 is it. This is your time to live it
 up.
 (a beat)
 Plus, do you know how much pussy
 we're going to get?

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Rachel pulls her car up to the front of the hospital. Adam
 kisses her goodbye and gets out of the car. He takes a few
 steps and then turns back. He gives her a nervous smile and
 then continues into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Adam walks down the hospital corridor passing dozens of
 patients, none of whom are under the age of 40. In Adam's
 hand is the business card with "Mount Sinai Psychology Group"
 written on it. He finds the office and knocks on the half
 opened door.

The office is small, cold and emotionless - with stacks of
 psychology books and files strewn about.

An attractive young woman, KATIE (26), sits behind a desk
 reading a file while she eats a rather messy sandwich. Katie
 takes her job very seriously, but has not quite mastered the
 art of speaking without sounding like a rigid grad student.

Kate looks up as she takes a bite of her sandwich.

 KATIE
 (mouth full of food)
 Can I help you?

 ADAM
 I have an appointment with Dr.
 McRae.

Katie puts down the sandwich, rises from her seat and puts her hand out to shake Adam's.

KATIE
Please call me Katie.

ADAM
(confused)
You're Dr. McRae?

KATIE
You were expecting someone else?

Katie wraps up her sandwich and puts the rest away.

ADAM
Aren't you supposed to be like
sixty-five and wear earth toned
sweaters?

KATIE
(slightly defensive)
Why? Did someone say that's what I
look like?

ADAM
No, no, no. I was just expecting
someone older.

KATIE
Sorry to disappoint you.

ADAM
No believe me, you're fine. Better
than fine, you're Dr.
McRae...you're a doctor? How old
are you?

KATIE
Twenty-six.

ADAM
Twenty-six? What are you like
Doogie Howser?

KATIE
Who?

ADAM
Doogie Howser...

Off Katie's blank look.

ADAM (CONT'D)
...The teenage doctor.

KATIE
Does he work here?

ADAM
No. Nevermind...but aren't you
young to be a doctor?

KATIE
I'm actually in my final semester
of medical school.
(off Adam's look)
This is a training hospital.

ADAM
So have you had many patients?

KATIE
You're actually my first.

That did not help to ease Adam's anxiety.

ADAM
Oh.

KATIE
Please sit.

Adam notices a dark stain on the couch. He sits as far from
it as possible.

Katie pulls out Adam's file and sits in a chair across from
him. Adam looks anxious, this is his first time in therapy.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Dr. Ross filled me in on your
situation. Tell me, how have you
been feeling?

ADAM
Honestly. I feel fine.

KATIE
I think that's great considering
what you're going through.

ADAM
Yeah, but I tend to internalize
everything so, who knows.

KATIE

You mean you repress as a coping mechanism.

ADAM

Is that what I do?

KATIE

That's what you just said.

ADAM

The way I say it sounds cute in a neurotic way. When you say it, it's like an indictment. The word "repress" - sounds so harsh.

KATIE

It's actually quite common.

ADAM

Oh good, I'd hate to think I'm anything but an emotional sheep.

KATIE

Don't think of it in those terms. It's not like it's been a conscious decision on your part. What's important now is for you to be aware of the way you treat your emotions and for me to help you make adjustments.

ADAM

So how do we do that?

KATIE

The first thing I want you to do is to stop looking at cancer as a burden. Cancer has come into your life to show you that your emotional and physical bodies are out of balance. This is your chance to correct that.

ADAM

You're not in a cult are you?

KATIE

Now, why do you say that?

ADAM

I don't know, it was a bad joke.

KATIE

But there's a reason. You chose to use humor rather than express how you really feel.

Katie is losing Adam.

KATIE (CONT'D)

In order to heal the body, you must heal the mind. It's imperative that you free yourself from stress and anger. Get rid of all those negative emotions stored deep inside.

Adam's mind drifts away from Katie. He focuses on all the clutter. The slanted clock. The wilting plant. The crumbled paper on the floor. The mess is driving him crazy.

KATIE (CONT'D)

So today what I want to do is start you on some very simple relaxation therapy.

Katie presses play on her iPod. We hear the soothing sounds of new agey flute music. Adam looks up in confusion.

ADAM

Huh?

KATIE

I want you to lay back and close your eyes.

Adam looks down at the coffee stained couch.

ADAM

Lay here?

KATIE

Yes, I want you to just lay back, and let go.

ADAM

Shouldn't we be analyzing my childhood? Or my days as a call girl?

KATIE

Another joke?

ADAM
(shrugs)
Oh come on. Nothing? That was
funny.

KATIE
Sssshhhh...

Katie stands behind Adam and places her hands on his shoulders. Despite the fact that this is all too strange, he doesn't mind, in a weird way, Adam is enjoying the attention.

He finally lies down, contorting his body so as to avoid the stain.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Close your eyes and relax. Find a
place inside yourself where you can
escape the cancer.

Adam closes his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK:

RACHEL (O.S.)
Keep your eyes closed. No peeking.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam is seated at the dining table with his eyes closed.

ADAM
I can't believe you got me a
present.
(Beat)
Is it that Prada handbag I've been
eyeing?

RACHEL (O.S.)
Even better.

ADAM
What is it?

RACHEL (O.S.)
Keep your eyes closed.

ADAM
You know how I feel about
surprises. Last surprise I got my
parents told me I was adopted.

RACHEL (O.S.)
You're not adopted.

ADAM
Yeah, but sometimes I wish I was.

Rachel crosses into the room and stands over Adam.

RACHEL
Okay. Open your eyes.

Adam opens his eyes to see Rachel holding a tiny SHIH-TZU wearing a pink ribbon in it's hair.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Surprise!

Adam stares in confusion.

ADAM
(disappointed)
What is it?

RACHEL
It's Noodle.

ADAM
It's so small. What do you do with it?

Rachel
(annoyed)
Adam, IT's a he, and HE's adorable...Having a dog is supposed to help with the healing process.

ADAM
Why, did it go to medical school?

RACHEL
(pissed)
I thought you'd be happy...

ADAM
It looks like a gremlin. What happens if you get it wet after midnight?

Rachel looks furious. Adam backtracks.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(reasoning)
They're a lot of work.
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

I can barely take care of myself, I don't think I can handle another living, breathing, needy, thing in my life.

RACHEL

I didn't realize it would be such a big deal.

(passive aggressive)

I can bring him back to the shelter in the morning.

ADAM

I know what you're doing.

RACHEL

No, you're right, it's not a good idea. Tomorrow I'll take him back where he'll be kept in a tiny cage with 10 other dogs who will bully him, and rape him, and then he'll eventually be euthanized.

The dog looks at Adam. It's hopeless, there's no way Adam's going to win this one.

ADAM

Alright. Fine, we can keep the dog.

RACHEL

Really?

ADAM

Really.

Rachel's face lights up. She hugs Adam.

RACHEL

This is going to be so good for you.

Adam turns to see the dog shitting on the carpet.

EXT. SAN DIEGO - EVENING

The sun sets over the San Diego skyline.

INT. SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - NIGHT

It's Adam's going away party. Draped across the entrance is a "Bon Voyage" banner with an image of a Cruise Ship.

Adam, Rachel and Seth enter to find a crowd of mostly unfamiliar faces. Phil, who has had one too many vodka tonics, approaches Adam - drink in hand.

PHIL
(announces)
There he is, the man of the hour.

ADAM
Here I am.

Phil takes a sip from his glass, and then offers it to Adam.

PHIL
Martini?

ADAM
No thanks.

Phil puts his arm around Adam and gestures wildly - causing his drink to splash on Adam.

PHIL
So cancer?

ADAM
Yup. The Big C.

PHIL
Man!

Phil tugs on Adam's hair.

PHIL (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Are you wearing a wig?

ADAM
Nope, this is my real hair.

PHIL
(sentimental)
I'm gonna miss you so much buddy.

ADAM
(uncomfortable)
I'm going to miss you too.

Phil puts his head on Adam's shoulder.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Excuse me for a moment, I think I see someone over there from a previous life.

CUT TO:

Adam is talking with his co-worker JOE.

JOE

Have you started chemo yet?

ADAM

No, not yet.

JOE

Don't do it man. It'll fuck you up. That's like some Nagasaki shit.

CUT TO:

Adam stands with SUSAN.

SUSAN

You want to know the secret?

ADAM

Ah, okay.

SUSAN

Eat nothing but green foods.

ADAM

Like a specific kind of green food?

SUSAN

No, any green food. It works, my sister's friend survived lung cancer.

CUT TO:

Adam stands with TED.

TED

(suspicious)

So what kind of cancer do you have?

ADAM

Schwannoma Neurofibrosarcomas.

TED

Never heard of it.

ADAM
It's pretty rare.

TED
Yeah well, you don't look sick.

ADAM
Cancer often has no specific
symptoms. People can go years with
out knowing they're sick.

TED
(suspicious)
Huh.

CUT BACK TO:

Adam with Susan again...

SUSAN
There's spinach, zucchini,
broccoli, kale, cucumbers, green
beans, snow peas, seaweed, kiwi,
Zucchini,

ADAM
I think you already said zucchini.

SUSAN
(annoyed)
Zucchini...

From across the room, Adam and Rachel lock eyes. He gives her a defeated look, as if to say "help me." Rachel gives a sympathetic smile.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Are you paying attention?

ADAM
(caught off guard)
Uh huh.

SUSAN
Cause I'm only trying to help save
your life.

From across the room, Rachel laughs at the entire episode, Adam sparks a smile.

CUT TO:

Adam is talking with EDDIE.

EDDIE
 (secretly)
 There's this guy on the beach who
 injects oxygen into your blood.

ADAM
 Is that legal?

EDDIE
 No, but it's totally safe.

CUT BACK TO:

Adam with Susan...

SUSAN
 ...Brussel Sprouts, Turnip greens,
 Asparagus, Celery, Cabbage, Okra,
 Honeydew Melon, Limes, Green bell
 peppers, green chiles...

CUT TO:

Jenny cries hysterically as Seth consoles her.

JENNY
 (crying)
 I can't believe that he has cancer.

SETH
 I know, it's crazy.

JENNY
 I've seen him every day for the
 past two years and I've never once
 made an effort to talk to him.

SETH
 Well I'm his best friend, so
 talking to me in a way is kind of
 like talking to him.

JENNY
 Oh what does it matter? It's too
 late.

Jenny walks away crying. Seth follows after her.

SETH
 Wait. It's not too late.

CUT TO:

Adam makes himself a drink at the bar. Greg approaches.

GREG

Hey Adam.

ADAM

(less than excited)

Hey Greg.

GREG

My uncle had what you have.

ADAM

Really?

GREG

Man that was the worst.

ADAM

Your uncle had Schwannoma
Neurofibrosarcomas.

GREG

Yeah, I think so. It's the thing
with the toe and the screaming, and
everything tastes like olives?
Right?

Adam looks perplexed.

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - LATER THE SAME NIGHT

Rachel and Adam drive home from the party. They're in
completely different moods.

ADAM

Well that was a nightmare.

RACHEL

Adam, those people just threw you a
party...They love you.

ADAM

Half those people don't even know
me.

The car stops at a red light. Rachel looks at Adam. She finds
his pouting adorable. He sees her staring,

ADAM (CONT'D)

What?

RACHEL

Nothing.

ADAM
(smiles)
What?

RACHEL
I love you.

ADAM
I love you.

Rachel takes Adam's hand.

RACHEL
Everything's going to be okay.

They look intensely into each others eyes and then kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Adam and Rachel make-out as they enter the house.

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

They make their way into the bedroom and clumsily undress one another. Adam looks at Rachel's naked body.

ADAM
You are so unbelievably sexy.

RACHEL
I'm totally yours,

Suddenly there's a loud scratching at the bedroom door, followed by a loud whimpering. Rachel stops.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Noodle.

ADAM
What?

RACHEL
The dog.

Adam continues to kiss Rachel.

ADAM
Ignore him.

RACHEL
I think he needs to go out.

ADAM
I'll do it after.

The two continue making out. The dog starts to bark.

RACHEL
I can't do this with him barking.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam stands on the sidewalk impatiently waiting for the dog to do his business.

ADAM
(to the dog)
Come on. Today...If I don't get
laid tonight because of you, I'm
going to take your little bow and
make a noose...

The dog sniffs around, trying to find the perfect spot.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(pleading)
Please! I need this.

ADAM'S NEIGHBOR walks by with A GIANT MASTIFF. He sees Adam yelling at the little Shi Tzu in ribbons. Adam looks up...

ADAM (CONT'D)
(embarrassed)
Evening.

NEIGHBOR
Nice dog.

Once the neighbor is out of sight-

ADAM
Will you please just finish.

The dog finally finishes. Adam runs back into the house. After a minute, he realizes he left the dog in the street. He runs back after the dog, scoops him up and then runs back inside.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adam fumbles around in the dark as he tears off his clothes. He then climbs back into bed, spoons Rachel, and begins seductively kissing her neck. He slowly moves his hand downwards. Rachel takes Adam's hand, pulls it up, and clasps it tight against her chest.

RACHEL

Hold me.

ADAM

(under breath)

Mother fucker.

The two lay silently with Adam's arms wrapped around Rachel's body. A beat.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Do you...want to move in?

RACHEL

Do you want me to?

ADAM

I was thinking it might be nice,
now that I'm not going to work
anymore. And with my chemo
starting...

Rachel turns to Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You're here all the time anyway.

RACHEL

(smiles)

Okay.

Rachel kisses Adam and lays her head on his chest.

ADAM

(whispers)

You wanna have sex?

RACHEL

(asleep)

In the morning.

EXT. BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE - MORNING

Edith's car whizzes down the street and peels into the Beth Israel Synagogue parking lot. The car comes to an abrupt stop as it parks in the last empty space.

Edith and Adam step out of the car and walk 20 feet before they realize Art is still in the car.

EDITH

Art come on.

ART

I'm coming.

Art, still in the car, doesn't move. Edith looks at her watch and walks back to the car.

EDITH

We're late.

Edith grabs Art's hand. He slowly gets out of the car.

INT. BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE - MOMENTS LATER

Edith, Art and Adam enter into the 600 seat synagogue. The service led by RABBI JACOBS (75) has already begun.

Edith spots three empty seats all the way in the left corner of the first row. Prime seats, but a bitch to get to since the service has begun - getting there would mean wading through a row of two dozen people. The USHER approaches.

USHER

Please take your seats.

The Usher motions for Edith and company to sit in the back.

EDITH

What about those seats up there in the front?

USHER

The service has begun.

EDITH

Please. My son has cancer.

Adam's jaw tightens, he can't believe his mother just did that. The Usher looks at Adam, sizing up the situation. Adam couldn't be more uncomfortable.

USHER
Please, follow me.

The usher leads the group to the front and directs the people in the front row to let them pass through.

Edith apologizes as each person they pass has to stand to let them by.

EDITH
(quietly)
Sorry, my son has cancer.

Adam smiles in embarrassment as he steps past.

ADAM
(quietly)
Hi. Nice to see you.

INT. BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE. ATRIUM - LATER

Edith and Art stand in a crowd of 600 congregants socializing and conversing after the service. ROSE (60) approaches.

ROSE
(concerned)
Edith. How are you?

EDITH
(overdramatic)
Oh Rose. Things are not well.

ROSE
I heard about the
(whispers)
cancer.

EDITH
I can't tell you how hard it's been on me. My only child. God only knows what terrible thing I did to deserve this. I've got a catatonic husband and a son with cancer. Not to mention my arthritis. I don't know how I'll ever get through it.

As Adam walks through the atrium, he notices everyone whispering and pointing at him.

Rabbi Jacobs (75) exits the bathroom, pulls up his fly and spots Adam. Jacobs has the face of a leather couch from all the tanning and face lifts. He spots Adam.

RABBI
Ladies and gentleman, Adam
Schwartz!

ADAM
Rabbi Jacobs.

RABBI
How are you son?

ADAM
Oh you know, just trying to live by
the Covenant.

RABBI
Don't bullshit me. You were the
worst student I ever had. I bet
you haven't even spoken a word of
Hebrew since your Bar Mitzvah.

ADAM
I don't like to brag, but I
couldn't speak it then.

RABBI
Your mother told me about your
situation.

Adam looks over to see his mother surrounded by a dozen
sympathetic listeners as she tells them her horror story of
having a son with cancer.

ADAM
I'm sure she did.

RABBI
It's not easy for a mother to see
her son go through something like
this,

ADAM
Nothing is easy for my mother.

RABBI
Have you thought about trying to
reconnect with the Torah?

ADAM
Honestly, I'm just here to make my
mother happy. It was either this or
I had to go see my cousin perform
in his high school theatre's
adaptation of "You've Got Mail".

RABBI

Well think about it. I'm always here.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

ALAN ALDA looks directly into the camera. The year is 1970.

ALAN ALDA

Hi there, I'm Alan Alda...

Alan Alda walks down the hospital corridor.

ALAN ALDA (CONT'D)

So you've been told you have cancer. Well, you're not alone. 1 in every 3 people living today will experience some form of the disease...

A shot of people walking in Times Square, arrows slowly pop up over the heads of every third person.

ALAN ALDA (CONT'D)

You may be wondering what is cancer? Well, cancer is a group of more than 100 different diseases characterized by the abnormal growth of cells. These cells form a lump or mass called a "tumor".

A reddish freckle dissolves into massive tumor.

ALAN ALDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Cancer is treated through the use of a revolutionizing medicine called Che-mo-therapy.

Shot of a very PRETTY WOMAN being administered a small pill by a Nurse. The woman smiles politely to the Nurse.

ALAN ALDA (CONT'D)

Chemotherapy is a very serious treatment.

Shot of a Doctor speaking intently to the Pretty Woman who listens closely.

ALAN ALDA (CONT'D)

It works by destroying cancer cells; unfortunately, it cannot tell the difference between cancer cells and healthy cells.

Shot of a poorly designed diagram of the human body. A milky substance runs through the body destroying all the various cells in it's path.

ALAN ALDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
As a result, it's going to make you
feel tired...

Image of yawning kitten.

ALAN ALDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And sick.

Shot of a School Nurse checking a child's temperature.

The music begins to ramp.

ALAN ALDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...You are about to embark on the
journey of a lifetime. So aim
high...

Shot of APOLLO 11 lifting off.

ALAN ALDA (CONT'D)
...and always remember, the road to
recovery is a team effort...

A shot of a girls volleyball team. One of the players serves up a pass and another spikes it down. All the girls high-five.

ALAN ALDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It's important that you talk openly
with your health care providers.
Ask questions so you can know all
the facts. Being prepared is half
the battle...

Back on Alan Alda.

ALAN ALDA (CONT'D)
Toward helping yourself begin to
feel in control again...On behalf
of all the great folks at Mount
Sinai Hospital, I'd like to thank
you for your time...make it a great
day.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A small group of patients, including Adam, have been watching the video. The people in the room applaud, Adam looks around baffled by both the video and the clapping.

GEORGE, a tall male nurse of Bahamian descent, enters the room.

GEORGE
Adam Schwartz.

Adam stands.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Come with me my baby.

Adam follows George into the elevator where they ride down into the bowel of the hospital: The Cancer Ward.

Walking through the long ominous halls of the hospital basement, Adam passes dozens of sick patients who are being shuttled into Radiation Therapy, Chemotherapy and other various treatment rooms.

A sick, fat, BALD ELDERLY WOMAN coughs as she passes. Adam winces in disgust.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
This way my baby.

George leads Adam into a Chemotherapy Treatment room.

INT. HOSPITAL. CHEMOTHERAPY ROOM - LATER

Adam is seated in a plush leather chair where he's hooked into a chemo drip. He's surrounded by a dozen gaunt, hairless patients. He is the youngest patient by at least 20 years. Completely overwhelmed, Adam spots A BALD WOMAN sitting quietly knitting. She's at peace with herself. Her Zen like state helps Adam relax.

Adam skims through a catalogue of clothing intended for cancer patients until he notices HENRY (50), a very small man sitting in a wheel chair which is attached to a respirator. Despite the fact that every breath Henry takes looks like it might kill him, he barks derogatory statements at the wall. Adam looks on in terror. The genial MITCH(85) notices.

MITCH
That's Henry.

ADAM
Is he okay?

MITCH
He's always like that.

ADAM
(terrified)
Is that going to happen to me?

MITCH
Best not worry about these things.

ALAN (84), the contentious old man sitting next to Mitch
chimes in.

ALAN
(to Adam)
Want a hit?

Adam looks down to see that Alan is holding a ONE HITTER full
of weed.

MITCH
It makes it all a little easier to
handle.

ADAM
(paranoid)
What if someone sees us?

ALAN
Don't be such an old man. Look at
this place, it's like Death Row in
here, they don't give a shit what
we do.

Adam reluctantly takes a hit.

MITCH
How old are you?

ADAM
Twenty-five.

ALAN
You're lucky. Life only gets worse
anyway.

MITCH
Alan, stop it.
(To Adam)
Don't listen to him, he's just
messing with you.

ALAN

No I'm not.

(To Adam)

It's all downhill from here. Trust me. First your hair's going to fall out, then your balls will shrink. You'll marry a woman, or man, who'll suck every penny out of your savings and then leave you for a fitness instructor in a teal Miata. Then, to top it all off, your kids will one day stop talking to you because their therapist, who you pay for, tells them you're the reason they're so fucked up.

MITCH

You'll have to excuse Alan here, he's going through a rough time.

ALAN

(to Adam)

I'm just being realistic. You want some advice?

ADAM

Not really.

ALAN

Don't end up a victim like the rest of 'em. Life sucks, the earlier you accept it, the better off you'll be.

ADAM

I got to tell you, I was really nervous about this whole cancer thing, and then I met you guys, and boy do I feel better.

Alan and Mitch laugh.

ALAN

(to Mitch)

I like this kid.

(to Adam)

I'm Alan Liebowitz: stage 4 lymphoma. Pleased to meet you.

MITCH

Mitch Horowitz, metastatic prostate cancer.

ADAM

Adam Schwartz, schwannoma
neurofibrosarcomas.

ALAN

What the fuck is that?...Sounds
like the greek dish I had for
lunch.

Adam is beginning to feel the effects of the weed.

ADAM

... man this pot is really strong.

MITCH

Medicinal.

ALAN

Good shit eh.

Adam stares off into space. He's really high, almost like
he's tripping. The walls start spinning.

FADE TO:

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY (DREAM)

Adam is standing on line for a Roller Coaster. He gets to the
front of the line when the CARNIE stops him.

CARNIE

Hey you! What do you think you're
doing?

Everything Adam says is in German and subtitled in English.

ADAM

I want to ride.

CARNIE

Read the sign.

The Carnies points to a sign that reads "No Cancer."

ADAM

I don't have cancer.

CARNIE

Then what's that?

The Carnie points out Adam's T-shirt, it reads "I'M WITH
CANCER."

Adam turns around to see a GIANT BALD FAT MAN eating cotton candy, his shirt reads "CANCER".

Adam tries to run away, but he's attached to the Giant Fat Bald Guy via an umbilical cord. The Giant Fat Bald Guy reaches out, picks Adam up, and swallows him.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam jolts out of bed. His clothes are drenched in sweat. He looks down to see Rachel sleeping peacefully next to him. He quickly gets out of bed and runs into the bathroom. And by the sound of it, throws up. A lot. Rachel mutters something incoherent and then sprawls out, consuming the entire bed.

INT. HOSPITAL. KATIE'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Adam looks worn and exhausted from the chemo. He's never felt worse.

KATIE

So how do you feel after your first treatment?

ADAM

I feel like I was just gang raped by the Buena Vista Social Club.

KATIE

Is everything with you going to be a joke?

ADAM

I'm serious. Have you heard their horn section?

KATIE

Adam, you have a responsibility to your mind and body.

ADAM

I was just injected with three pints of kryptonite. Can we please hold off on the new agey stuff.

KATIE

You can't just sit there and ignore what's happening to you...You need to stop bottling everything up.

ADAM

What I need is for people to stop telling me what I need.

KATIE

Have you considered that this cancer is nature's way of telling you to change the way you live your life?

(off Adam's look)

...There's an old saying - you can't change the wind, but you can adjust the sails.

ADAM

They teach you that in medical school?

Katie's patience is waning.

KATIE

I know you don't like to talk about your feelings, but you have to learn to find an outlet.

ADAM

(Frustrated)

An outlet for what? I have cancer.

KATIE

And how is your body ever going to fight the stress of that cancer if you can't even handle your own emotions?

Adam snaps, raising his voice.

ADAM

Well excuse me. You'll have to forgive me for not having a firm handle on my emotions at this particular juncture of my life.

Katie's a little shaken by Adam's outburst. She stays firm.

KATIE

You don't have to be here.

Adam knows he went too far. Plus, that little outburst lifted a little weight off his shoulders, and he knows it.

ADAM

I'm sorry, I know you're only trying to help.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

This is all too much for me. I don't know what to do. Just tell me what to do and I'll do it.

Katie looks at Adam, is he being for real? She's skeptical.

KATIE

I want you to do some homework. Here's a list of books on mind-body therapy. They should help you get started.

Katie hands Adam a sheet of paper with a list of books scribbled on it.

WE PUSH IN ON THE LIST OF BOOKS:

INT. BOOKSTORE. SELF HELP SECTION - DAY

WE PULL OUT ON THE LIST OF BOOKS:

Adam and Seth browse through shelves of books. Seth is reading the author's bio from one of the books on Katie's list.

SETH

(in excitement)

"Franz Schlegel is an American 'medical intuitive' and 'mystic psychiatrist'. Schlegel's teachings are widely recognized as a global spiritual awakening that is transcending individual and collective human consciousness"... You're actually going to read this shit? This guy is a fucking tool.

Seth ditches the New Age book and picks up one on Mardi Gras.

SETH (CONT'D)

Let's go to Mardi Gras!

ADAM

Why would we go to Mardi Gras?

SETH

Because it's Mardi Gras man. It's like a giant orgy of the sexiest women you can imagine all throwing themselves at you, screaming to be fucked. It's a fuck fest.

ADAM
I'm getting chlamydia just
listening to you talk about it.

SETH
We need to go see the world.

ADAM
This isn't my bachelor party we're
planning here.

SETH
(frustrated)
Adam you can not let your cancer go
to waste.

Adam takes the book from Seth's hands and puts it down.

ADAM
I'm not going anywhere.

From across the store, Seth notices, CLAIRE (30), an
attractive employee stacking books.

SETH
Well if you're not going to take
advantage of your cancer, then I
will.

Seth yanks the list of books from Adam and crosses to Claire.

SETH (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

CLAIRE
Yes, how can I help you?

SETH
I'm looking to buy a few books -

Seth hands Claire the list of book titles. She reads.

CLAIRE
Oh.
(Concerned)
Are these for...I'm sorry it's none
of my business.

SETH
No that's okay. They're for my best
friend, Adam.

Seth nods towards Adam across the room.

SETH (CONT'D)
 He's pretty sick.

Claire shoots Adam a look - the way one looks at a dying puppy. Adam looks on in confusion.

 CLAIRE
 How awful.

 SETH
 Yeah. Cancer, not cool.

 CLAIRE
 Poor guy.

 SETH
 I know it's been really hard.

Claire leans in.

 CLAIRE
 It's bad isn't it?

 SETH
 Honestly?
 (feigning sadness)
 Sometimes I just wish it was me
 instead of him...to relieve some of
 the burden, you know? I just...I
 just want to help.

INT. BOOKSTORE - LATER

Adam and Seth exit the bookstore. They pass Claire who gives Seth a big smile followed by the "call me" motion.

 ADAM
 What just happened?

 SETH
 (to Adam)
 I'll tell you what happened. Cancer
 happened, and you need to get on
 the train.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam and Seth smoke a joint as they watch "Planet Earth" on a brand new 50" flat screen TV. There are a dozen oversized boxes marked "Rachel" scattered throughout the house.

Rachel yells from the bedroom.

RACHEL (O.C.)
Adam do you know where the dog
leash is?

ADAM
Are you going to the park again?

Rachel enters the room with the dog cradled in her arms.

ADAM (CONT'D)
This is the third time today.

RACHEL
He likes running around with the
other dogs.

ADAM
He can barely make it to the door
without shitting himself.

Rachel finds the leash and then smells the joint.

RACHEL
(taken aback)
Are you smoking weed?

ADAM
Yeah.

RACHEL
Since when do you smoke?

ADAM
It's medicinal.

Rachel's shocked, this is way out of character for Adam.

RACHEL
You got a prescription for
medicinal marijuana?

SETH
No, I did.

RACHEL
What's wrong with you?

SETH
Night blindness. Rods and cones are
off.

Rachel rolls her eyes. Seth is ridiculous. Then she notices the new flat screen TV on the wall and just like that, her demeanor switches. She looks pissed.

RACHEL
Where did that TV come from?

ADAM
The store.
(off Rachel's furious
look)
It's medicinal?

RACHEL
I thought we already agreed that my
painting was going there.

ADAM
(trying to reason)
Why can't we put up both?

RACHEL
You want me to put my painting next
to a television?

ADAM
(shrugs)
Yes?

RACHEL
(yells)
Art needs to breathe Adam!...Do
whatever you want. I'm taking your
dog to the park!...And open a
window. This isn't a dorm room.

Rachel walks to the door, scoops the dog up in one arm and a
bag of garbage in the other.

ADAM
(calls out to Rachel)
Love you.

The door slams.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I don't get it, they spend all day
at the dog park.

SETH
Great. Maybe she'll move there.

ADAM
Can you not talk about her like
that?

Seth nearly chokes as he inhales.

SETH

Are you joking? Do you see the way she treats you?

ADAM

She's got some kind of creative block...It's her process.

SETH

You have cancer for fuck's sake! If I was your girlfriend, I'd be baking you cookies and blowing you every thirty minutes. Instead, she's yelling at you over some fucking painting. Her art sucks. You don't want to put that on your wall. It looks like someone threw up a shrimp cocktail and then used it to spackle the Berlin Wall.

ADAM

We're going through a rough patch. That's what happens in relationships.

SETH

(serious)

Bullshit. She's fucking you in the ass Adam. This is the one time in your life you can do whatever you want. If you want to smoke weed, then smoke. You want a 50 inch flat screen TV, then get the fucking TV! And if you want to go to Mardi Gras, then LET'S GO TO MARDI GRAS!

ADAM

We're not going to Mardi Gras.

Seth takes a hit from the joint and hands it back to Adam.

SETH

(as he exhales)

You're totally missing my point.

INT. HOSPITAL. KATIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam sits in Katie's office.

ADAM

I've been reading your books, and you know it actually makes sense...Some of it.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna lie, I don't really get the "Dark Night of the Soul" stuff. But I get it, years of anxiety have taken over my body. I'm blocked...emotionally.

KATIE

(excited)

Adam! This is fantastic.

Adam is slightly taken aback by Katie's response.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You know if you're interested, there are some more advanced forms of therapy that I think could be really useful.

ADAM

Sure, if you think it'll help.

INT. LAUGHTER THERAPY - DAY

Adam and Seth are seated in a semi-circle with a half dozen middle aged men and women. At the front of the group is the LAUGHTER THERAPIST (50) - a short man with a long greying pony tail and a thick beard. All eyes are closed except for Seth and Adam's. Adam's hair is noticeably thin.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

Good morning class. Before we begin I'd like to introduce Adam and Seth, our two newest giggle gurus.

The class laughs. Adam and Seth look around paranoid.

SETH

(quietly to Adam)

What are they laughing at?

ADAM

(quietly to Seth)

Just go with it.

Seth and Adam laugh along with the others.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

(to Adam and Seth)

Now what you'll soon discover is the true miracle and gift of laughter.

(MORE)

LAUGHTER THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Learning to laugh at ourselves and others through non-judgemental means is far more effective than any prescription drug, or, rehabilitation center. You see, when we laugh, our bodies release endorphins that not only support the immune system, but also release deeply stored emotional pain, and give us a fresh new outlook on life.

The Laugh Therapist opens his eyes and stares intensely at Adam and then Seth.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST (CONT'D)

We don't tell jokes here, we tell the truth - and we laugh at that truth.

The Laughter Therapist closes his eyes.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST (CONT'D)

So let us share. Adam, why don't you tell us what brings you here?

Adam looks around in fear of saying the wrong thing.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST (CONT'D)

We're all friends here in the Laughter Pagoda.

ADAM

I, ah, have cancer.

The entire class laughs hysterically.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

Ah cancer yes. Yes. Laugh. Everyone. Beverly, share -

BEVERLY

Yesterday, I confiscated my son's pornography collection and then used it to masturbate 6 times.

The class laughs.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

Paul, share,

PAUL

My wife told me she's a lesbian. And then left me for my sister.

The class laughs.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

Jim -

JIM

(glum)

I owe two men eight grand by Friday.

The class laughs.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

Seth -

SETH

My best friend is a giant pussy.

The class laughs.

ADAM

My best friend's favorite band is Abba.

Everyone laughs except for Seth.

SETH

(defensive)

When I was 12.

LAUGHTER THERAPIST

(hysterical)

Abba! Wonderful. I love it. Seth laugh.

INT. ADAM'S BATHROOM - DAY

TIME LAPSE: Adam stares at himself in the mirror. His health slowly deteriorates. Hair begins to fall out. His face thins.

SUPER: JULY

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - DAY

Adam, Alan and Mitch sit in the corridor of the Cancer Ward. Adam is wearing a ski hat to cover his balding head.

ALAN

(confident)

Real.

MITCH

Fake.

ADAM

Fake.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal an INSANELY HOT WOMAN with giant breasts in a hospital gown walk by the three men.

ALAN

You're both wrong. I think I know
real when I see it.

The hot woman scratches her head, revealing that she's wearing a WIG.

ALAN (CONT'D)

God damn it.

Alan hands Adam and Mitch each a five dollar bill.

Mitch notices Adam watching one of the OTHER PATIENT'S sitting and laughing with HIS WIFE. There's a longing in Adam's eyes.

MITCH

How come we've never met Rachel?

ALAN

Yeah. What the fuck?

ADAM

She's been really stressed lately,

Adam looks around at all the sick people.

ADAM (CONT'D)

If I brought her here, she'd
probably freak out.

ALAN

Smart man. Save yourself the
headache.

MITCH

Don't listen to him Adam. It's
important to be with your loved
ones in times like these.

ALAN

Bullshit. Women are nothing but
trouble.

(MORE)

ALAN (CONT'D)

They're selfish animals who only add to the misery in your life. You want to talk about a cancer.

MITCH

Listen to me Adam, I've been married 40 years and it's my Margaret who keeps me going.

Mitch pulls out his wallet. He holds out a picture of his wife MARGARET (80).

MITCH (CONT'D)

She's my reason to live.

ALAN

That's precious Mitch, I almost want to wrap it up and tie a little bow around it.

(To Adam)

Honestly, I don't give a shit. You can do whatever you want. It's your life. All I know is that I'm not going to spend my last days on this miserable planet pining over a woman. The day my wife left me was the best day of my life.

Adam let's this soak in.

EXT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Adam's on his cell phone pacing in front of the hospital.

RACHEL (V.O.)

Hey, it's Rachel. I must be doing something really important. I'll give you a call when I'm done...yay!

ADAM

(into phone)

Hey it's me, just checking to see if you're on your way.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - LATER

Adam paces impatiently. He calls Rachel again, it goes straight to voice mail.

RACHEL (V.O.)
 Hey, it's Rachel. I must be doing
 something really important. I'll
 give you a call when I'm
 done...yay!

ADAM
 (into phone)
 It's me again. Just checking to see
 where you are. In case you're
 looking for me I'm now on the other
 side of the parking lot. Call me.

As Katie walks to her car, she sees Adam pacing and mumbling
 to himself.

KATIE
 Adam?

ADAM
 (embarrassed)
 Oh hey.

KATIE
 What are you doing?

ADAM
 Just waiting for Rachel to pick me
 up.

KATIE
 What time is she coming?

ADAM
 Uh, four.

Katie looks at her watch.

KATIE
 It's six thirty.

ADAM
 She must be stuck in traffic.

KATIE
 You want a ride?

INT. KATIE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Adam is seated in the front seat as Katie drives. The car is
 filthy - it's littered with papers, magazines, food wrappers,
 etc. Katie's body is pressed all the way up against the
 steering wheel with her eyes fixed on the road.

KATIE
Sorry about the mess.

Adam picks up a copy of "Organizing Your Way to Success," which is lying on the floor.

ADAM
I think you should ask for a refund.

KATIE
I know, I know. What can I say? I'm not good at getting rid of things. I get easily attached.

ADAM
Yeah, I can see.

Changing the subject.

KATIE
So you don't drive?

ADAM
Nope.

KATIE
But you have a license?

ADAM
Nope.
(beat)
I actually failed my test.

KATIE
No!

ADAM
(embarrassed)
It's true.

KATIE
But, I thought you can re-take the test.

ADAM
Eh. Let's just say, that the state of California felt it was best I didn't.

Katie stares at Adam in shock.

KATIE
What did you do?

ADAM

I kind of backed my mom's car down
an embankment...Into the Balboa
cactus garden.

KATIE

The garden with all the endangered
plants?

ADAM

They didn't want to tow it out in
fear of destroying more of the
vegetation, so they had to use a
giant crane.

Katie lets out a tiny chuckle, but quickly contains herself.

KATIE

I'm sorry. That's terrible.

Unable to hold back, Katie continues laughing. This is the
first time we've seen Katie let go of her rigid nature.

ADAM

(abrupt)
Stop the car.

Katie looks at Adam nervously.

KATIE

Why what's wrong?

ADAM

Just stop the car.

Katie stops the car. Adam grabs a handful of Katie's garbage
and gets out.

KATIE

What are you doing?

ADAM

I can't handle all this mess.

Adam tosses the garbage in a dumpster and comes back to the
car for more. Katie starts laughing, she can't believe Adam
is cleaning her car.

KATIE

Wait, no, not that, that's my
dinner.

Adam leaves Katie's dinner and throws out the rest of the
garbage. He gets back in the car and takes a deep breath.

ADAM
You can drive.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LATER

Adam and Katie arrive at Adam's house.

ADAM
Thanks for the ride...

Adam looks at his house. The lights are out. He's really not in the mood to be alone. He looks back at Katie.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Do you want to come in. For a beverage? Or something?

KATIE
It probably wouldn't be very professional of me.

ADAM
Come on, I'll let you analyze my Id.

Katie is hesitant, but she also feels in a strange way that Adam is more than a patient.

KATIE
Uh, okay. But I can't stay long.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Adam and Katie sit on the couch playing an ultra-violent video game. Katie is destroying Adam.

KATIE
You know you are terrible at this?

Adam is totally lost. He has zero sense of how to play.

ADAM
I've never played before.

KATIE
This is your Playstation.

ADAM
Doesn't mean I play it. Games these days today are so complicated.
(re: control)
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

There's too many buttons. I can't keep track of what does what.

KATIE

(laughs)

Perhaps you'd prefer something a little more simple. Maybe a nice game of Connect Four or Bingo.

ADAM

She has a sense of humor.

Katie's face lights up. She's proud of herself for that one.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Duck Hunt, now that was a game. You know why? One button.

Katie laughs.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You think I'm kidding. My dad and I used to have Duck Hunt tournaments. He was actually really good.

(beat)

Until he had his stroke.

KATIE

That must have been hard, seeing him lose his cognitive skills like that.

This is the most emotionally honest we've ever seen Adam.

ADAM

Well the funny thing is that the stroke actually made him a better player, he just lost interest.

Katie feels for Adam.

KATIE

You've never talked about your dad.

ADAM

Well whose fault is that? Doctor?

KATIE

Hey!

The two continue to play. Adam wildly pushes every button as Katie's character pins Adam's character and repeatedly slams his head into the ground.

Game over.

Katie pats Adam on the shoulder.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Rematch?

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Adam holds out a tray of wheat grass as he prepares to blend wheat grass shots.

ADAM
You ever had this stuff.

KATIE
No, but it's supposed to be really good for you.

ADAM
Well it smells like my grandmother.

KATIE
You complain a lot.

ADAM
You haven't met my mother.
It's a miracle I do anything but complain.

KATIE
I try not to look at the world like that.

ADAM
The world would be a boring place if we didn't complain. Come on. There's got to be something. One thing, just one thing, that drives you nuts.

KATIE
Hmmm.
(Fishing)
I really don't like it when people at work finish all the coffee and don't refill the pot.

ADAM
It's infuriating right?

KATIE

I wouldn't say infuriating. It's just not good work place etiquette.

Adam is far more excited by this revelation. He hands Katie a shot of wheat grass and takes one last sniff of the awful smelling drink. He raises his glass to make a toast.

ADAM

To complaining.

Adam downs the drink and cringes at the taste. Katie follows, and in total disgust, she spits her wheat grass all over Adam's face.

KATIE

Oh god, that's disgusting. I'm so sorry.

Katie grabs a towel as Adam stands speechless.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Hold on. I'm so sorry.

Adam keeps his eyes closed as Katie wipes his face.

ADAM

Is it all gone?

For the first time, Katie notices how cute Adam is. Adam opens his eyes to catch Katie staring at him. They lock eyes for a moment. Uncomfortable, Adam averts his look.

Suddenly, Rachel walks through the front door.

RACHEL (O.C.)

Adam?

Feeling a little foolish, Katie motions to leave.

KATIE

I should probably be going.

Rachel enters the kitchen.

RACHEL

Adam?

ADAM

Finally. Where have you been?

RACHEL

(mad)

I hope I'm not interrupting.

ADAM
Oh, this is Dr. McRae, my
therapist.

RACHEL
(suspicious)
This is your therapist?

KATIE
Please, call me Katie.

RACHEL
(suspicious)
OK. Katie. What are you doing here?

ADAM
She drove me home. Ring a bell?

RACHEL
Ugh. Shit.
(Sweet/nervous)
Thank you so much for doing that.
Life's been a little crazy lately,
which I'm sure Adam has told you
all about. I love those shoes.

KATIE
Thanks...

Awkward silence. The tension is thick.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I'm going to go. I'll see you at
our next session Adam.

Katie leaves.

ADAM
Where have you been?

RACHEL
I was at the gallery.

ADAM
(pissed)
You were supposed to pick me up. 8
hours ago.

RACHEL
I know. I'm sorry. I totally
spaced. With the opening only three
months away my head's just all over
the place.
(off Adam's look)
(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like that. You know this is a hard time for me.

ADAM

You're right. Let me go back and talk to the doctor - see if maybe they can diagnose me with something that better suits your needs.

RACHEL

(defensive)

I'm not just some car service here to shuttle you around!

ADAM

And my house isn't a summer camp. You can't just come and go as you please and not take some responsibility.

RACHEL

And what is it that I'm not taking responsibility for?

ADAM

This. Us.

RACHEL

I can't handle this! You make it sound like I'm your wife.

ADAM

You know what I thought the other day? That I might actually die without ever having sex again.

RACHEL

I'm sorry if your cancer isn't turning me on.

Rachel begins to cry.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

You think this is easy for me seeing you sick like this? The past few months have been hard on me too. It's not always about you.

ADAM

(relents)

I know.

Adam tenderly wraps his arms around Rachel.

A beat.

RACHEL
Why are you so good?

ADAM
You're my Yam.

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM - LATER THE SAME NIGHT

Rachel stares at Adam as he sleeps next to her in bed. She slowly moves her index finger along Adam's arm and then seductively kisses his neck. Adam firmly grabs hold of Rachel and the two begin to go through the motions. Clothes come off. Adam gets on top of Rachel...And then stops.

RACHEL
What's wrong?

ADAM
I can't.

RACHEL
Why?

Adam looks down.

ADAM
I don't know what's wrong.
(defeated)
It won't work.

Adam rolls over onto his back. He and Rachel lay silent - neither making contact with the other.

FADE TO:

SUPER: SEPTEMBER

INT. HOSPITAL. CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT ROOM - MORNING

Adam sits down next to Mitch, but notices there's no Alan.

ADAM
Where's Alan?

Speechless, Mitch looks up at Adam and slowly shakes his head. Tears roll down Mitch's cheek. Adam's face goes white.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Adam and Mitch stand next to the RABBI.

The tombstone reads "ALAN LIEBOWITZ (1923-2007) FINALLY."

THE CAMERA TILTS up to the sky, and then DOWN to reveal:

EXT. BOCA RATON RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY (DREAM)

A healthy Adam is surrounded by dozens of energetic elderly people who are swimming, playing bocci ball, shuffle board, bridge, etc. Adam looks on in confusion as an OLD MAN wearing an official looking badge drives by on a golf cart.

ADAM

Excuse me.

The old man stops his cart.

Old MAN

How can I help you?

ADAM

Where am I?

OLD MAN

The After Life.

ADAM

This is Heaven?

The old man scratches his balls.

OLD MAN

Pretty great huh? They've even got a frozen yogurt machine.

The old man points to a long line of excited seniors awaiting their turn at a massive Frozen Yogurt Sundae Bar. A sign in front reads "WAIT: 45 MINUTES".

ADAM

There are lines in Heaven?

OLD MAN

It's worth it.

End Dream.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam jumps from bed in cold sweat.

INT. SYNAGOGUE. RABBI JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam is seated in the Rabbi's office, he looks despondent.

RABBI

So you want to know what's going to happen when you die?

ADAM

I think it's a fair question.

RABBI

Fair yes, but impossible for me to answer. Our deaths, like our lives, have meaning and are all part of God's plan. How should I know what God has planned for you. Maybe if you came to service once in a while...

ADAM

Well am I going to go to Heaven?

RABBI

Probably.

ADAM

What if I want to just die? That's it. No Heaven.

RABBI

That's like buying a ticket for a cruise and then not going. The Afterlife is where the fun begins.

ADAM

How can being stuck in some nonexistent void with my grandparents be fun. I spent my entire life trying to get away from my family, now I'm going to have to spend an eternity with them.

RABBI

Adam, you can not look at death as a curse. Even in death we are all still part of God. Life on Earth is just the beginning.

ADAM
But that's not what I want.

RABBI
(frustrated)
Oy. Then find another religion. I
don't make the rules.

INT. HOSPITAL. KATIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam is lying on the couch staring at the ceiling. There is
total silence.

KATIE
You're being awfully quiet today.
Is everything okay?

ADAM
I'm going to die aren't I?

KATIE
What are you talking about?

ADAM
It's true.

KATIE
We don't know that.

Adam sits up and looks at Katie.

ADAM
I'm not getting any better.

KATIE
Don't say that, you're doing so
well.

ADAM
Did you know that they found a
Quasar 7 billion light years away?
7 billion light years! It's more
than 3 billion years older than our
planet, and we're just seeing it
now; and you think I'm going to
live?

KATIE
(totally baffled)
What are you talking about?

ADAM

Cancer is an epidemic! It killed Alan, it's going to kill me, and it's going to kill millions more after me. There's nothing anybody can do.

KATIE

This is really good Adam. Let it out.

ADAM

Will you stop!

(Beat)

I can't do this anymore. It doesn't matter. None of it. I'm going to die and with nothing to show for my life. 100 years from now my legacy be will be that of just another person dead of cancer. That's it.

KATIE

This helplessness you're feeling is normal. These emotions you're holding onto are what make you human. But it doesn't mean you can just stop living your life.

(Beat)

Look at how you've grown over the past few months, you can't just throw it all away...Talk to me.

ADAM

I know you're only trying to help, but this isn't working for me anymore.

(Beat)

I'm sorry.

Adam leaves. Katie is left feeling as though she failed.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Adam lies on the bed of an MRI machine. His body is slowly drawn into the enclosed body scanner.

INT. ADAM'S BATHROOM - MORNING

TIME LAPSE: Adam's stares at himself in the mirror. His health deteriorates even more.

SUPER: NOVEMBER

Looking at himself in the mirror, Adam takes note of his hollow cheeks and worn eyes. He looks awful, like an old man. There isn't any youth left. He's not getting any better, and he knows it.

Noticing a few renegade hairs sticking up, Adam pulls out a lint brush and combs his head.

Rachel enters and steps up on the scale. She examines herself in the mirror.

ADAM
I need a new lint brush.

RACHEL
Okay, I'll pick one up.

ADAM
And I have a doctor's appointment
next Thursday...The big one.

Rachel continues to examine her waist.

RACHEL
Am I getting fat?

Adam stares at Rachel.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
What?

ADAM
Are you listening to me?

RACHEL
(annoyed)
Yes.

ADAM
So you'll take me?

RACHEL
Of course.

Rachel leaves. In frustration Adam weakly picks up the scale and throws it against the wall, smashing it.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam sits alone in his empty house. It's a mess. He looks unhinged.

He slowly pulls a hit from a joint as he watches Matlock on his flat screen TV, which has been moved to the floor to make room for Rachel's painting.

Adam flips the channel to *Martha Stewart*, then to *I Love Lucy*, then to *General Hospital*, then to Body Building on ESPN. He turns the TV off. He's bored.

Adam crosses to the answering machine. It reads "10 Messages." He presses play. All the messages are from his mother. He hits delete.

Adam reads through a stack of unopened letters. He comes across a postcard from the Museum advertising "Mountain Dew Presents: The Origins of Man".

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - DAY

CLOSE ON: the "Mountain Dew Presents: The Origins of Man" poster in the Museum's main entrance.

Adam enters the museum and walks up to the sign. People stop and stare, stunned by Adam's gaunt appearance - like a ghost haunting the grounds. Adam carries a wide smile, he's overcome with a sense of nostalgia for his old job.

INT. PHIL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Phil and Adam sit in Phil's office.

PHIL
You look great.

ADAM
Really?

PHIL
(insincere)
Yeah, look at you.

ADAM
I want to come back to work.

PHIL
(in disbelief)
You want to come back? Here?

ADAM
What's so crazy about that?

PHIL
You could be anywhere right now,
and this is that place?

ADAM
Yeah.

PHIL
Are you sure that's a good idea?

Phil is treading a fine line...

PHIL (CONT'D)
...Given...your current health?

ADAM
You said I look great.

PHIL
Yeah for a guy with cancer.

Adam looks dejected. Phil feels bad, he went too far.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Alright, what the hell? I'd love to
have you back. Let's be honest this
place is falling apart without you.

ADAM
Thank you Phil.

PHIL
(sympathetically)
So you're really okay? I mean, the
cancer, is-

ADAM
Oh it's really good. We've come to
an understanding. It takes whatever
it wants and depletes me of my
every will to live, and I let it.

Phil, second-guessing his decision-

PHIL
Welcome back.

INT. MUSEUM. POMPEII EXHIBIT - LATER

Seth leads a tour of FOREIGN TOURISTS through the museum. He
speaks as he did earlier - like a game show host.

SETH

And if you look over on your left you'll see our newest exhibit "The Last Days Pompeii." Buried in 79 AD by the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, Pompeii remained hidden and forgotten until 1748 when archeologists began to excavate the site. Here we see exquisitely preserved objects that offer a glimpse into the day-to-day life of this ancient city.

Seth comes upon Adam who is working closely on a diorama.

SETH (CONT'D)

This here is Adam, one of our curators. Adam do you want to tell us what you're working on?

ADAM

(upbeat)

Gladly. This here is a depiction of what Pompeii's final 19 hours probably looked like.

Adam's exhibit is a highly morbid depiction of Pompeii's final hours. The scene is total chaos. Ash flies through the air. Hot molten lava engulfs the town. Miniature men, women, and children run through the streets in horror. People are sacrificing whatever they can for the Gods. There's a wild orgy in the streets. And a giant TYRANNOSAURS REX model devours a villager.

ADAM (CONT'D)

According to Pliny the Younger - "You could hear women lamenting, children crying, men shouting. There were some so afraid of death that they prayed for death. Many raised their hands to the gods, and even more believed that there were no gods any longer, and that this was one unending night for the world."

The tourists take pictures. In shock, Seth quickly shuttles the group away.

SETH

Ok. Moving along we see the beautiful watercolor paintings of John James Audobon.

Seth looks back at Adam like he's lost his mind.

INT. MUSEUM. HALL - LATER

The sound of someone vomiting can be heard booming from the men's bathroom. A crowd of Museum guests walk past in horror. They look at each other in fear. The toilet flushes. Adam walks out. Everyone stares. Adam smiles in embarrassment.

ADAM
(awkward)
I'll be in Pompeii if anyone needs
me.

Adam walks back to the Pompeii exhibit. Phil approaches.

PHIL
You feeling okay? You don't look so
good.

ADAM
Could be worse. Right?

Phil notices the Pompeii exhibit.

PHIL
(startled)
Jesus!

Phil feels terrible about what he's going to say next.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Listen Adam...I don't know how to
say this...

Phil places a comforting hand on Adam's shoulder.

ADAM
Don't worry...I get it. You're a
good guy.

PHIL
Come back when you're better. You
know you'll always have a home
here.

INT. MUSEUM. ORIGINS OF MAN EXHIBIT - MOMENTS LATER

Distraught, Adam walks down the Hall of Evolution. Slouched in defeat, he passes the various dioramas depicting human evolution. He begins at MODERN HUMANS and walks backwards in time.

He comes to the family of Cro Magnons, then Neanderthal man. He stops and looks at Neanderthal - their slumped profiles match. He continues down the hall towards the exit.

EXT. SAN DIEGO BOARDWALK - AFTERNOON

Adam walks along the boardwalk. He's surrounded by perfection. The beach. The water. The blue sky. Hundreds of beautiful men and women in their 20's and 30's: jogging, biking, surfing, skate boarding, playing volleyball, etc. He looks like a raisin among grapes.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam stands impatiently on his porch. He looks at his watch and then dials his phone.

RACHEL (V.O.)
 Hey, it's Rachel. I must be doing something really important. I'll give you a call when I'm done...yay!

Adam's face is red with fury. He does his best to hold back.

ADAM
 (sweet)
 Hey, it's Adam. Where are you? Maybe you forgot, but my appointment is today. So call me back.

Enraged, Adam hangs up.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Fuck!

Adam picks up his phone and dials again.

SETH (V.O.)
 Yoooooo.

ADAM
 Hey man, I need you to do me -

SETH (V.O.)
 Not around. Leave a message.

Adam hangs up and dials again.

EDITH (O.S.)
 (Yelling)
 Hello,

Adam holds the phone away from his ear and cringes. A pang of regret runs through his body.

ADAM
 Hi mom.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER

Edith, Art and Adam sit in the exam room, each reading their respective magazines - minus Art who is lost somewhere in his own world. The tension is thick. Edith looks at her watch and shivers. There's a knock at the door. A CUTE NURSE enters.

CUTE NURSE
 The Doctor wanted me to apologize for running late, he's just in with another patient, but should be out in a few minutes. You guys holding up alright?

EDITH
 It's very cold in here. Is there anyway you can turn down the Air Conditioning?

CUTE NURSE
 Unfortunately the temperature is controlled by a central thermostat.

EDITH
 My son has cancer.

CUTE NURSE
 (feels bad)
 I'm sorry, really, if I could I would, but there's nothing I can do.

Adam's pissed that his mother has just involved him.

ADAM
 (smiles to the Nurse)
 Don't worry about it.
 (Scowls at Edith)
 I'm fine.

CUTE NURSE
 Are you sure? I could get you a blanket.

ADAM
No, really, I'm okay. But thank
you.

EDITH
I'd love a blanket.

ADAM
(to the Cute Nurse)
We're fine.

CUTE NURSE
Okay, but you let me know if you
need anything.

The Nurse smiles at Adam in sympathy, he smiles back. The
Cute Nurse exits.

EDITH
(Re: the cute nurse)
I don't like her.

Edith puts her hand on Adam's forehead. He looks at her hand
and then picks up a magazine in an attempt to ignore her.

EDITH (CONT'D)
You feel warm.

ADAM
I'm fine.

Edith pulls some pills out her fanny pack.

EDITH
Take these.

ADAM
(annoyed)
You're like some kind of deranged
pusher.

EDITH
Do you know what it's like to fear
losing your son? No. You don't.
When you have children of your own
we can discuss it. Now take the
pills.

Adam puts the pills in his mouth and pretends to swallow.
Edith gets up from her chair. As soon as his mother turns
away, Adam spits the pills into his hand.

Edith paces around the room looking at the Doctor's various
degrees on the wall.

Adam looks on, annoyed at every step his mother takes. Edith closes in on one of the degrees and puts on her reading glasses for further examination.

EDITH (CONT'D)
(disapproving)
Huh.

ADAM
What?

EDITH
Oh nothing.

ADAM
(annoyed)
What?

EDITH
It's nothing, he went to a state college.

ADAM
You're unbelievable.

EDITH
I just worry that you're not getting the best care possible.

Adam can't take it anymore.

ADAM
Well who needs a doctor when they've got you and your fanny pack?

EDITH
You can be a little shit sometimes, you know that? You think I don't know what's best for you? I birthed you. You came out of me. I am your mother, for better or for worse, so accept it.

(Re: fanny pack)
You don't like this, well I'm sorry. It's my own way of caring.

ADAM
(snaps)
Well stop! You're driving me crazy. With the comments and the pills every five minutes. Just stop. I'm not dad. I can take care of myself.

Edith turns away, Adam's words hurt.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I didn't mean it.

Edith blows her nose as tears rolls down her cheek.

EDITH
Yes you did. I drive you crazy.

Adam gently puts his hand on Edith's shoulder.

ADAM
Mom.

Edith turns to Adam helpless and scared.

EDITH
You're all I've got. Look at your father.

We see Art sitting in the chair picking his nose.

EDITH (CONT'D)
I've lost him. My true love, gone.
I'm never going see him again, at least not in this life.
(Beat)
He spent his whole life priding himself on his independence, always too stubborn to ask for help and now look at the son of a bitch.
(To Art)
You happy? You like shitting yourself?

ADAM
Mom!

EDITH
He was the greatest thing to ever happen to me. And then I had you, and that was even greater. So if I hover and threaten your independence, so what? You have a mother who loves you more than anything. Is that so awful?

ADAM
No. It's not.

Adam and Edith share a moment...Dr. Ross storms in the room carrying a stack of MRI films. He seems rushed.

DR. ROSS
Sorry to keep you folks waiting.
It's been one of those days...car
got towed. Wife double parked it.

Adam and Edith look at Dr Ross with blank stares.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)
Anyway I'll cut to the chase. The
cancer's not responding to the
chemo.

Dr. Ross places the MRI into the light box.

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)
As you can see...The tumor is
continuing to grow here, along the
nerve.

Adam and Edith squint to see what Ross is talking about, but
see nothing.

ADAM
So what do we do?

DR. ROSS
We need to operate. If we don't
remove it soon we risk metastasis.

ADAM
But you said surgery was too risky.

DR. ROSS
We're out of options.

Tears roll down Edith's cheek. Adam grabs hold of her hand.

EDITH
But he's going to be okay, right?
You're going to fix it.

Dr. Ross sits, he knows this can't be easy for a mother.

DR. ROSS
This surgery is no guarantee. The
risks are tremendous. And, even if
we're able to remove the tumor
there's still the chance that Adam,
you'll never be able to walk again.

Adam looks at his mother. He firmly grabs hold of her hand.

ADAM
Does that mean...I can get handicap
parking?

Adam's line breaks the tension forcing a slight smile across Edith's face.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Distraught and emotionally worn, Adam enters to discover the smell of a home cooked meal. He walks through the house.

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He stands in the doorway of the kitchen staring at Rachel cooking. Rachel turns around. She's in high spirits.

RACHEL
Hey you.

Rachel gleefully skips over and gives Adam a sweet kiss on the cheek.

ADAM
Smells good.

RACHEL
The girls and I are having a movie
night. I somehow got suckered into
cooking.
(off Adam's look)
Don't worry I left you some.

Adam feigns a smile, hiding the pain of his heart breaking in a thousand pieces.

Suddenly Rachel's iPhone VIBRATES. She picks it up, and reads her text message. Her face lights up as she reads. She quickly types a reply.

ADAM
(suspicious)
Who's that?

RACHEL
Susan. She wants to know what time
I'm coming over.

ADAM
(even more suspicious)
That's what she just texted?
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

She wants to know what time you're going over to her house?

Rachel puts the phone down on the counter and returns to her cooking.

RACHEL

Uh huh.

ADAM

Alright, well I'm gonna go lie down.

RACHEL

I might be out late so don't wait up.

Adam walks to the bedroom. After a beat he moves back to the doorway and pops his head around the corner. He quietly watches Rachel cross from the kitchen into the living room.

He stealthily steps into the kitchen, picks Rachel's iPhone off the counter and scrolls through her text messages.

ADAM

(to self)

What the fuck?

Rachel enters the kitchen.

RACHEL

What are you doing?

ADAM

Who's James?

RACHEL

My art partner.

ADAM

(re: text message)

He wants to know if you're still coming over tonight. Should I tell him you're having a girls night?

(Continues reading)

Oh wait, you already told him to bring the wine.

(looks up)

That's funny. It seems as though you've double booked yourself.

RACHEL

I can't believe you just invaded my privacy like that.

ADAM
(reading phone)
Oh, you just got another text from him. He says "Your skin is the canvas upon which my dreams are painted..."

Rachel reaches for the phone. Adam pulls away.

RACHEL
(fuming)
Give me back my phone.

ADAM
(reading)
"Hope you're not too sore from this afternoon."
(a beat)
He seems sweet.

RACHEL
Adam, it's not what you think.

ADAM
Well now how do you know what I'm thinking?

RACHEL
Don't be like that. I didn't do anything wrong.

ADAM
(serious)
You've been cheating on me.

RACHEL
Adam you're being ridiculous.

ADAM
Am I?

Adam holds up Rachel's phone to display a photo of Rachel naked, covered in red paint.

ADAM (CONT'D)
What's this?

Adam scrolls through an entire series of nude photos of Rachel - all ridiculously artistic.

ADAM (CONT'D)
And this? And this? And this? There are over a dozen naked photos of you in here.

Suddenly the back door swings open. Oblivious, Seth enters.

SETH

Hey guys.

Adam and Rachel say nothing. Seth can tell he just walked into some major shit.

SETH (CONT'D)

Bad time?

Adam and Rachel say nothing. Seth takes a peak at Rachel's iPhone.

SETH (CONT'D)

(impressed)

Whoa! Nice! Now that I would put on the wall.

(off Adam's look)

I can see you're in the middle of something. I'll just be in the other room.

Seth crosses to the living room. Rachel picks up the conversation where they left off.

RACHEL

It's a portrait series, commenting on post-colonial patriarchy in the Congo.

(off Adam's look)

...That's it. Nothing more.

ADAM

Have you lost your mind? I had the most important appointment of my life today and you missed it because you were off with your "art partner"...And what the fuck do you know about Africa?

Rachel totally forgot about his appointment. The guilt runs through her body.

RACHEL

Oh shit. I forgot. Please, Adam, I'm so sorry.

(concerned)

What did the doctor say?

ADAM

Did you cheat on me?

RACHEL
(crying)
Adam stop. Tell me what the doctor
said.

ADAM
DID-YOU-CHEAT-ON-ME!?

Like a child being scolded, Rachel's face says it all.

RACHEL
(pouting)
Are you going to break up with me?

ADAM
No.
(beat)
I'm going to pretend you never
existed.

RACHEL
(crying hysterically)
Please. I don't want to break up.

ADAM
You know, you have a pretty fucked
up way of showing your commitment.

RACHEL
I told you I couldn't handle this!

Rachel stares at Adam with her adorable green eyes. She takes his hand.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry...I love you.

They embrace. A beat. Adam lets go. He looks Rachel in the eyes.

ADAM
I want you out my house.

Adam walks out the back door.

Seth enters the kitchen and gets in Rachel's face. He stares her down.

SETH
Shame on you.

Seth exits out the back door.

EXT. YACHT CLUB - LATER THAT NIGHT

Adam and Seth sit on the bow of a docked sail boat. The two have had a lot to drink. Adam is understandably upset.

SETH
Your skin is the canvas upon which
my dreams are painted?

ADAM
(disgusted)
I know.

SETH
(beat)
Is "dreams" a metaphor, for-

Seth makes a masturbating motion with his hand.

ADAM
You remember the last time we came
out here?

SETH
Prom night. How could I forget? Jen
Zabrowski went down on me right
where you're sitting.

ADAM
That memory is so far from me,

SETH
Jen giving me a blow job?

ADAM
No, prom night. It feels like a
lifetime ago... I know it happened,
but that's it. It's like someone
else's memory.

Adam stares out at the ocean. Reality check.

SETH
You okay?

Adam throws his beer bottle into the ocean.

ADAM
I can't believe this is all
actually happening.

SETH
The girl or the cancer?

ADAM

Both.

SETH

It's some pretty fucked up shit.

ADAM

You know, I used to think that I was actually going to spend the rest of my life with Rachel...granted that might not be so far off.

(shakes his head)

What a waste.

Seth puts his arm around him.

SETH

We need to get you laid.

ADAM

(annoyed)

Don't you ever give up?

SETH

No.

ADAM

Seriously, who's going to have sex with me?

SETH

Some girls are into it?

ADAM

I look like Powder.

(Beat)

Plus I have erectile dysfunction...temporary. I hope.

SETH

Then let's go get me laid.

Seth stands, and then stumbles. He's really drunk.

ADAM

I think I should drive.

SETH

You don't have a license.

ADAM

You're drunk.

SETH
Do you even know how to drive?

ADAM
How hard can it be?

SETH
Hard enough that you don't have a license.

ADAM
(somber)
This might be my last chance.

SETH
Driving! You care about driving! We could be on Everest getting high on Ayahuasca with Sherpas, and you want to drive!...Forget it, I give up. Drive.

The two get off the boat and climb into Seth's car.

Adam puts the key in the ignition. Without checking the mirrors, he backs the car up. BOOM the car slams into a giant statue of Neptune riding a sea horse.

SETH (CONT'D)
Hey Miss Daisy, will you please watch where your going?

ADAM
What? I didn't see it.

SETH
That's what the mirrors are for.

Adam pulls out of the parking lot.

SETH (CONT'D)
Turn right.

ADAM
I know what I'm doing.

Adam turns left onto a one way street. It's the wrong way.

SETH
Apparently not. YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!

An oncoming car honks and swerves out of the way - only nearly avoiding a head on collision.

SETH (CONT'D)
Adam! Turn the car around.

ADAM
No. I'm driving and I want to go
this way.

Another car swerves out of the way.

SETH
What the fuck is wrong with you?

ADAM
For once can you just shut up and
let me do this? So I'm driving the
wrong way? Big fucking deal.

Seth pulls the emergency brake. The car stops abruptly.

SETH
You're an idiot.

A beat.

ADAM
Get out.

SETH
This is my car.

Adam looks like he's about to erupt.

ADAM
GET! OUT!

Seth looks at Adam speechless, and then gets out of the car.

SETH
You're being a real douche.

Adam locks the doors and sits quietly for a moment. He then proceeds scream at the top of his lungs. 25 years worth of suppressed emotions come out.

Adam pulls out his cell phone. Seth notices. He tries to open the door. It's locked.

SETH (CONT'D)
Adam, open the door.

Adam ignores Seth and begins to dial.

SETH (CONT'D)
 Don't you dare call her. Not after
 everything she's done to you.

Adam gives Seth the finger.

SETH (CONT'D)
 You're a pussy.

ADAM
 Well you're a selfish piece of shit
 who cares more about getting his
 dick wet than actually being a
 friend.

Seth looks hurt. Adam holds the phone up to his head.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME (INTERCUT)

The phone rings. A dark figure in bed sits up and turns on
 the bedside lamp. It's not Rachel, it's Katie.

KATIE
 (asleep)
 Hello.

ADAM
 I don't want to die.

KATIE
 Adam?

Katie sits up. She's awake now.

ADAM
 I'm 25 years old and I've never
 even been to Canada. I haven't
 lived my life!
 (Beat)
 I'm really, really scared.

KATIE
 I know.

ADAM
 I'm sorry for the way I acted. I
 should have never stormed out like
 that.

KATIE
 It was wrong of me to push you the
 way I did. I wasn't listening.
 (MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

I could never have handled all of
this the way you have.

ADAM

You mean like a complete asshole?

Katie laughs. And then silence, she really cares about him.

KATIE

I think you're really brave.

ADAM

If I don't die, I think we should
go on a date.

KATIE

Adam, I'm not sure if that's a good
idea.

ADAM

Why not?

KATIE

Not only am I your therapist, but
you're also my first patient, ever.
What kind of precedent would I be
setting?

ADAM

It makes for a nice incentive.

KATIE

I can't date you.

ADAM

(playful)
Yes you can.

KATIE

No I can't.

ADAM

Yes, you can.

KATIE

No I can't.

ADAM

A wise person once told me - you
can't change the wind, but you can
adjust the sails.

KATIE
(laughs)
Adam I can't date you.

ADAM
(coy)
That's what you think.

Suddenly Adam passes out. His head slams into the steering wheel. The Horn blares.

KATIE
Adam? Adam? Adam?

CUT TO:

EXT. SETH'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Seth and Adam stagger into the building.

INT. SETH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Adam and Seth enter the dingy studio apartment - it looks like it hasn't been cleaned in years. Adam scoops up some dust with his finger.

Seth is unusually quiet. Both guys are being distant. Seth pulls down the Murphy Bed and the two awkwardly avoid eye contact as they undress. Adam climbs into bed. He notices a book called "Coping with Your Loved One's Cancer" on Seth's bedside table. The book is worn and has multiple book marks - indicating it's been read. Adam looks at Seth, he had him pegged all wrong.

Seth claps his hands. The lights turn off.

ADAM
Good night.

SETH
Night.

Lying in bed, Adam hears a strange noise, he tilts his head to the side to see Seth breathing heavily and staring at him.

ADAM
(uncomfortable)
What are you doing?

SETH
Watching you sleep.

ADAM
It's a little creepy.

SETH
I know. I can't help it.

Seth lays back on his pillow and holds onto Adam's hand. They both stare up at the ceiling - terrified about the future.

EXT. FOX MEADOW GALLERIA PARKING LOT - NEXT DAY

Seth's car enters the Mall parking lot and parks.

VOICE MALL OPERATOR (V.O.)
You have 2 new messages. First message.

A beep.

RICHARD MATHESSON (V.O.)
Hi Adam, this is Richard Mathesson, your family's estate lawyer. Your mother asked me to call. We need to talk about potential, ah, well just call me, there are some potential arrangements we need to work out.

INT. MEN'S WEARHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Adam and Seth browse through racks of mens suits. Adam comes upon one he likes. The SALES CLERK approaches.

SALES CLERK
Sir can I help you with anything today?

ADAM
(holds up suit)
You think this is a good suit to wear to your own funeral?

SALES CLERK
No, what you want is on level 3.

CUT TO:

EXT. REDWOOD FUNERAL HOME/CEMETERY - SAME DAY

Seth's car drives up the long driveway of the Cemetery.

VOICE MAIL OPERATOR (V.O.)
Next message.

A beep.

DR. ROSS (V.O.)
Adam, this is Dr. Ross. Good news,
I was able to expedite the wait for
your surgery. You scheduled for
tomorrow morning at 7:00 am with
Dr. Lamb. Please call my office if
you have any questions.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME/CEMETERY - LATER

A MORTICIAN, stout and dignified, with a slight British
accent leads Adam and Seth on a tour of the cemetery grounds.

MORTICIAN
Here at Linden we're more than just
a stopping ground for the deceased.
We understand that life is
different for everyone, and helping
families to see their loved ones
off to the hereafter means
approaching every funeral and
burial with it's own dignity and
care...A funeral is a representation
of the individuals time spent on
earth, so I ask you to reflect on
your inevitable interment and think
carefully in choosing the service
and tomb that best befits you.

SETH
What about a Viking funeral?

MORTICIAN
(intrigued)
I'm not familiar.

SETH
(talking out of his ass)
You know, we put him on a boat...
cover it with...dirt
and...branches...whatever you can
find. We push it out...into the
sea...or the ocean...and then shoot
flaming arrows, boom! It catches on
fire...And that's it. It's awesome.

The Mortician stops and looks at Seth. He's not even going to
dignify Seth with a reply. A beat.

MORTICIAN

(points to grave plot)

Here you are, the Schwartz family plot.

Adam and Seth look at the rows of Schwartz family tombstones. Up front is an empty gap, presumably where Adam and his parents are to go. Adam and Seth stare at the graves as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL PRE-OP ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Adam lies on a gurney. DR. LAMB, the neurosurgeon performing Adam's surgery enters. He's wired on Espresso. Behind him is NURSE WONG who looks like she'd rather be anywhere else.

DR. LAMB

Good morning Adam, how are you feeling? Good. Good. Good. Good.

Despite Dr. Lamb's already thick glasses, he holds Adam's medical chart right up to his to his face.

DR. LAMB (CONT'D)

So we're going to be removing your kidney? Right? Or is it the left? Just kidding. That's doctor humor.

Adam forces a small chuckle. He's completely terrified.

DR. LAMB (CONT'D)

Nurse Wong here needs you to sign a few papers, so I'm going to leave her to do her job, and I'll see you after the surgery.

Dr. Lamb exits. Nurse Wong hands Adam a giant pile of disclaimers to sign.

ADAM

What is all this?

NURSE WONG

Hospital liability and disclaimer forms...in case they need to fuse your spine or remove any organs. You know, the usual.

ADAM

Oh, great.
(to himself)
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Glad to hear there's nothing
 unusual about removing organs.

Adam signs the documents and hands them back to Nurse Wong.

NURSE WONG
 You have some visitors.

As Nurse Wong exits, Edith and Art enter.

EDITH
 There he is.

Edith pulls a strip of pills out of her fanny pack. She hands them to Adam like she's slipping him illegal drugs.

EDITH (CONT'D)
 Here take these. They're special. I
 got them from Canada.

Adam looks closely at the pills - they read "NUPRIN."

ADAM
 (perplexed)
 Mom, this is Nuprin.

EDITH
 I know isn't it great?

Adam looks at his mother, perplexed by her logic.

ADAM
 (shrugs)
 What the hell.

Adam downs the pills. Art whispers closely into his ear.

ART
 I gotta new coat.

ADAM
 That's great dad.

ART
 Brooks Brothers. Silk pockets.
 Feel.

Adam sticks his hand inside the pocket of Art's coat.

ART (CONT'D)
 Feel.

ADAM
 I am feeling.

Art grabs hold of Adam's hand and stares at his son. A beat.

ART
I love you son.

ADAM
I love you too dad.

Katie knocks on the door.

KATIE
Hello?

Katie slowly enters holding a bouquet of flowers. Edith examines her. This is too awkward.

ADAM
Egh em. Mom. Mom.

Adam nods for his mother to leave.

EDITH
Alright. Come on Art, let's go to
the waiting room.

On her way out, Edith turns to Katie and notices a CROSS around her neck.

EDITH (CONT'D)
(displeased)
Hmmm.

Edith and Art exit. Adam is left alone with Katie. They're both nervous.

KATIE
I brought you flowers. Not sure
why, I didn't know what else-

ADAM
They're great, thank you.

Katie sits on the bed next to Adam.

KATIE
So how you doing?

ADAM
I'm a little freaked out.

A small GERMAN ANESTHESIOLOGIST enters. There is something incredibly unsettling about her thick accent.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Hello Adam, I am the
Anesthesiologist. I will give you
shot to make you sleep.

Adam holds Katie's hand.

ADAM

Will you be here when I wake up?

KATIE

I'm not going anywhere.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Now relax, this will take a few
minutes to feel the effect.

The Anesthesiologist injects the drugs into Adam's IV.

ADAM

(terrified)

About how long?

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Relax, you will soon begin the
sleeping.

ADAM

Well what if it doesn't work. How
do you know I won't wake in the
middle of the surgery? What if I-

Just like that, Adam's out cold.

INT. HOSPITAL SURGICAL AMPHITHEATER - LATER

Adam is face down on the operating table. Two Neurosurgeons,
Dr. Lamb and DR. HENRY are in mid surgery. Alongside the two
doctors are Nurse Wong and NURSE SCOTT.

DR. HENRY

I'm telling you Sir Francis Drake
was a Buccaneer.

DR. LAMB

No he was a privateer.

NURSE SCOTT

I thought he was a pirate.

DR. LAMB

A pirate works for no one but himself. A privateer has a mandate from a government.

DR. HENRY

I thought that was a buccaneer.

DR. LAMB

No, a buccaneer is a butcher turned pirate.

DR. HENRY

Then what's a mercenary?

DR. LAMB

(frustrated)

Nurse Wong. Will you Google it?

Standing to the side of the operating table is the group of Med Students from earlier. They're still taking notes.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Edith, Art and Seth sit impatiently watching the clock. Katie paces up and down the hall. Hours go by. Time can't seem to go by quick enough.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - LATER

Dr. Lamb finds Edith, Katie and Seth in the waiting room.

DR. LAMB

We were successful in the extraction of the tumor. However, as you can imagine, with something of this magnitude...there were some unforeseen complications. The bone corrosion was much greater than initially anticipated. We had to remove part of the hip and pelvis, as well as most of the psoas muscle. We also had to remove a good amount of sheath tissue around the sciatic nerve, the damage to that nerve is considerable, which is going to hinder his ability to walk...He's in stable condition right now, but it's touch and go.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - MOMENTS LATER

Adam's in his hospital bed - still asleep from the surgery. A NURSE comes in to change his IV. Adam slowly awakens. He is high on morphine. He stares, mesmerized by the nurse.

ADAM

That is the most beautiful dresses.
Where did you get it?

Dr. Lamb enters.

DR. LAMB

Adam, I see you're awake.

ADAM

I'm here.

DR. LAMB

How are you feeling?

ADAM

I feel wonderful.

DR. LAMB

That would be the morphine.

Dr. Lamb picks up a handle that's attached to the morphine drip and sticks it in Adam's hand.

DR. LAMB (CONT'D)

I want you to push this little
button any time you feel pain.
It'll trigger the morphine. You
think you can do that?

Adam moves his hands really slowly in the air -

ADAM

Magic!

Art and Edith enter the room. Adam reacts like a little kid being picked up from pre-school.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Mommy! Daddy!

EDITH

(crying)
My little boy.

ADAM

Remember the time you walked in on me masturbating?...That was so awkward...What hotel is this? We need to go on more vacations.

Katie pops her head out from behind Adam's parents.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You're here too! You're soooooo awesome...

(sing song)

Katie McRae, Katie McRae, Katie McRae. Mic-Rae, Dr. Awesome Mic-Rae...I'd love to make you pancakes sometime.

Suddenly the most excruciating pain runs through Adam's body causing him to scream in agony.

ADAM (CONT'D)

PAIN! PAIN! PAIN! PAIN! PAIN! PAIN!
PAIN! PAIN!

KATIE

Squeeze the morphine trigger!

Adam squeezes the trigger. The morphine offers immediate relief. He lays back in total bliss, and then...

FADE OUT TO WHITE LIGHT.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: NOVEMBER

A door bell. A hand reaches out. A finger on that hand pushes the door bell. The other hand holds a bouquet of flowers.

The hand belongs to Mitch's wife, MARGARET (80). She stands on the porch of a small beach bungalow.

The front door opens. Margaret looks straight ahead. Nothing. She then looks down, startled by Adam in a wheelchair.

MARGARET

(startled)

Oh, hello, I didn't see you, ah down there.

There's a glow in Adam's face - he looks younger and more jovial than we've ever seen.

ADAM
You must be Margaret.

MARGARET
Yes, I'm looking for Adam Schwartz.

ADAM
That's me.

MARGARET
(face lights up)
You're Adam? The way Mitch
described you, I always assumed you
to be much older. About 50 years
older. But, you're just a baby...

Adam blushes.

ADAM
I'm so glad you could make it.
(solemn)
I'm really sorry about Mitch.

MARGARET
Me too.

ADAM
Please come inside. You're just in
time.

Adam leads Margaret inside, past a dozen oversized boxes.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Sorry about the mess. I just moved
in...The ocean air is supposed to
be good for my recovery.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adam and Margaret enter the living room. Everyone's there:
Edith, Art, Katie and Seth.

Seth and Katie are playing a video game: DUCK HUNT. Edith
sets food on the table.

ADAM
(to Margaret)
We're having a Duck Hunt
tournament. You play?

MARGARET

(laughs)

Me? Oh I don't know how to play
video games.

Adam holds up the controller - an old Nintendo Gun.

ADAM

It's really easy. One button does
everything.

Edith chimes in from across the room.

EDITH

This food's not going to eat
itself.

Everyone makes their way to the table. Visibly weak, Adam slowly lifts himself out of the wheelchair. He yelps in pain. Katie starts to help when Seth intervenes.

SETH

I got it.

Seth grabs hold of Adam, and with his help, Adam takes a small step and then lowers himself into his seat at the table. Katie places a pillow behind Adam's back.

Adam takes Katie's hand, she looks down at him, they exchange a smile.

Adam notices and open window.

ADAM

(to Seth)

You mind?

Seth ignores Adam as he fills both their plates with food.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Please. I think there's a red tide
or something. My eyes are all
itchy. It feels like someone is
rubbing sandpaper on my corneas.

SETH

(as he serves Adam)

Nope. You don't have cancer
anymore. No more special treatment.

ADAM

I am still in remission.

EDITH
You gonna spend the rest of your
life complaining?

ADAM
(proud)
I like complaining.

We FREEZE on the family sitting around the dinner table.

We hear the song "That's the Way The World Goes Round" by
John Prine as we:

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END