

50/50

by  
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Shooting Script

EXT. SEATTLE - DAY

It's an unusually clear winter day as the peaks of Mount Rainier look down on the avenues and harbors of Seattle.

ADAM LERNER (27) jogs through the streets of Seattle. The morning mist envelops the PIER. Adam's iPod blares in his ear as he passes the FISH MARKET.

Adam arrives at a street corner. Ahead, a "Don't Walk" sign blinks. So he does. Running in place, Adam looks from side to side. There's not a car, person or thing in sight this early in the morning. He looks again at the orange hand, urging him to stop.

Another JOGGER runs up behind Adam, and disobeys the crosswalk, running past him and across the street. Adam continues to wait for the light to change.

The light goes green. He crosses.

INT. SHOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Adam tries to squirt shampoo into his hand, but the bottle is empty. He looks over at a large assortment of women's products, grabs the first one - Fructis by L'Oreal - and squirts some into his hair. He proceeds to lather his entire body in the product.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Adam dresses in front of the mirror. His outfit is well put-together. He pulls out a LINT BRUSH and meticulously combs his cardigan. RACHAEL (24), wearing her oversized "KEEP TAHOE BLUE" shirt, enters the bedroom brushing her teeth.

ADAM

So are you staying over tonight?

RACHAEL

Uh...Not sure. There are a couple of gallery openings I want to check out.

Rachael goes through Adam's drawers looking for something.

RACHAEL (CONT'D)

I'm so nervous about my show. I still have so much work to do.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHAEL (CONT'D)

I need two more paintings and everything I've been coming up with is completely derivative of what I've been seeing at the Henry.

(confused)

Where's my stuff?

ADAM

It's in your drawer.

RACHAEL

(honored)

I have a drawer?

ADAM

(sheepish)

Yeah, I just figured I'd put some of your things... there wasn't anything in the drawer. Well there were a few things, but I just moved them to a different one because... It made sense that way.

RACHAEL

(touched)

Awwwww. Honey. We're getting so domestic.

SFX: A CAR HORN.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Kyle sits in his car front of Adam's house, his seat reclined, his eyes squeezed shut, hungover. He honks the horn again, winces at the noise.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Adam rushes to gather his things.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Good luck with the paintings.

He moves to her, leans in - despite her mouth full of toothpaste.

RACHAEL

Oops, I've got toothpaste in my mouth.

She wipes it off his nose. He gives her a small kiss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHAEL (CONT'D)  
Have a good day.

ADAM  
(big smile)  
Bye.

INT. KYLE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Adam gets into the car.

KYLE  
Yo!

ADAM  
Sorry I'm late.

Kyle sniffs the air.

KYLE  
...What's that smell?  
(Sniffs Adam)  
Did you sit in jam or something?

ADAM  
What are you talking about?

KYLE  
You smell all fruity.

ADAM  
No.  
(smells himself)  
I ran out of shampoo. I had to use  
Rachael's.

KYLE  
Well, you smell like you fucked the  
cast of "The View".

Adam looks at his watch.

ADAM  
Are we gonna go? We're gonna be  
late.

KYLE  
If you really care about being on  
time, you should probably learn how  
to drive.

ADAM  
I deserve that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

You know what's really going to make us late? When I stop for cappuccinos.

ADAM

No, no, no. We have coffee at work.

KYLE

Delicious cappuccinos.

Kyle drives off.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Adam and Kyle stand in line. Kyle watches as Adam yawns repeatedly. He looks exhausted.

KYLE

Back still hurts?

ADAM

Yeah, I'm going to see the doctor today.

KYLE

Have you been fucking in weird positions?

ADAM

Of course that's where you have to go with it.

KYLE

Sometimes it happens when I try new positions - like I tried froggy style for a while; fucked up my back.

ADAM

"Froggy style"? I don't even want to ask what that is.

KYLE

It's kind of like doggy style but you get way higher up.

ADAM

(beat)

We haven't done it in three weeks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

(shocked)

You haven't had sex in three weeks!?

ADAM

Well, she had a yeast infection, and then she had her period.

KYLE

You can fuck on a yeast infection.

ADAM

No, it hurts.

KYLE

It does?

ADAM

Well, that's what she says.

KYLE

I think that's bullshit.

ADAM

No, I've heard that before.

KYLE

Has she been sucking on your dick, giving you blow jobs?

ADAM

No, she doesn't like to.

KYLE

(a little upset)

No fucking shit she doesn't like to! Who likes putting dicks in their mouths? That's why they call them jobs!

ADAM

Don't get hysterical, it's not that big a deal.

KYLE

I'm not hysterical. She stays at your house all the time. She leaves her fucking shit everywhere. You clean it up. You're a nice person. The least she can do is felate you.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Kyle and Adam walk down the sidewalk. Adam's a few steps ahead, walking at a hurried pace as Kyle takes his time, sips his coffee.

KYLE

You put up with a lot of shit when you date a hot girl. Truthfully, that's why if you recall in high school I didn't date any hot girls.

ADAM

That's why?

KYLE

Yes. That's why.

ADAM

Well, we're not in high school anymore. The relationship I have with Rachael is about more than sex.

KYLE

(condescending)

What is it about, Adam?

ADAM

We care about each other -- talk to each other.

KYLE

Wouldn't it be nice if you could do that and bang the hell out of each other afterwards?

They walk up the front steps of SEATTLE PUBLIC RADIO.

ADAM

Ideally, yes. But it's not a perfect world, OK?...Can you hurry up please?

Kyle stops and leans over.

KYLE

Ugh...Just got to tie my shoe.

INT. SEATTLE PUBLIC RADIO - DAY

Adam and Kyle enter the offices of Seattle Public Radio. They pass JENNY at the reception desk. Kyle shoots her a smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE  
Morning Jenny.

She ignores him. As they continue, Seth looks over at Adam nervously biting on his finger nails.

KYLE  
That's so gross man. You shouldn't do that.

PHIL (40), Adam and Kyle's boss, passes by.

PHIL  
Kyle...Adam.

KYLE AND ADAM  
Hey Phil.

ADAM  
(worried)  
Sorry we're late.

Phil looks at his watch, not even aware of the time.

PHIL  
Huh. Look at that, you are late.  
Don't do that.

ADAM  
Listen, I wanted to talk to you about the volcano piece, it's coming along really well, I've done all the research and interviews-

PHIL  
Great.

ADAM  
Yeah but the narration is turning into a bit of a problem. Whoever did it, he kept clearing his throat and he didn't pause, he just kept talking - there aren't any edit points. If he had just stopped and cleared his throat I could cut around it, but he didn't--

Phil's cell phone rings.

PHIL  
Cool.

KYLE  
Yeah, grab that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Phil pulls out his Blackberry and walks off, ignoring the conversation.

ADAM

OK. I'm just going to--

Adam and Kyle watch Phil walk away. Adam turns to Kyle.

ADAM

It's like he doesn't care.

KYLE

It's like we got to put shit on the air. And it's pointless to spend months working on something that someone's going to hear for two seconds stopped at a red light.

ADAM

I like it when my work is good.

KYLE

Good luck with that.

INT. ADAM'S CUBICLE - LATER

Adam sits at his desk, head phones on, editing his volcano story on Pro-Tools. He meticulously edits the same audio point over and over. He cringes at the deafening sound of Kyle's laughter across the office.

KYLE

(into phone)

You're in Wales? So does that make you Welsh? Or Wale-ish?

Adam looks at Kyle in annoyance.

KYLE

OK. World Music...Can you hear me? You sound like a robot...Does it sound weird to you? It sounds weird to me...

ADAM

You have to be quieter, I'm--

Kyle is oblivious to Adam.

KYLE

I said you sound like a robot...  
Wait, wait, wait. Go back.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (cont'd)  
It's unbelievable. I know. I don't  
know what 'World Music' is either!

Annoyed, Adam imitates Kyle to himself.

ADAM  
(as Kyle)  
I'm such a fucking asshole. I'm the  
king of the world, suck my dick. I  
hear Adam hasn't gotten his dick  
sucked in six fucking months.

EXT. PACIFIC GENERAL HOSPITAL - LATER

Adam steps off a BUS and walks toward the hospital's vast  
sunlit entryway. He enters through the sliding double doors,  
eventually disappearing into the din of the crowd.

INT. DR. ROSS' OFFICE - LATER

Adam leafs through a pamphlet on incontinence when the  
pedantic DR. ROSS enters.

DR. ROSS  
(curt)  
Hi.

Dr. Ross looks over Adam's chart, examines his MRI scans, and  
pulls out a DICTAPHONE -

DR. ROSS  
(into the dictaphone)  
Patient has been complaining of  
back pain, and night sweats. Blood  
tests and urine analysis are  
normal. MRI suggests a massive  
intradural malignant schwannoma  
neurofibrosarcoma 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.  
Will send patient for biopsy to  
confirm.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)

Yes?

ADAM

I'm so sorry, I didn't follow that.  
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  
neurofibrosarcoma.

ADAM

I'm sorry, I still don't--

DR. ROSS

It's a malignant tumor.

ADAM

A tumor?

DR. ROSS

Yes.

ADAM

Me?

DR. ROSS

Yes.

ADAM

That doesn't make sense...I don't  
smoke. I don't drink. I recycle...

DR. ROSS

Well your case 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 walks over to the window and peers out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. ROSS

People can go years without knowing they're sick. We're lucky we caught it before it metastasizes. Given the placement and size of your particular tumor, the wisest course of action is to see if we can possibly reduce this thing down to a more manageable size.

(Beat)

I'm going to put you on a four month regimen of chemotherapy.

(beat)

Now Chemotherapy can result in fertility issues--

ADAM

But I'm going to be okay?

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

DR. ROSS (CONT'D)

If you need to talk to someone... We have an excellent staff of social workers and psychologists here in the hospital. They specialize in cases...in these...sort of matters. They'll be able to help you.

Dr. Ross continues to talk as Adam looks out of the window.

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - DUSK

CLOSE ON a computer screen:

"Neurofibromasarcoma Schwannoma is a malignant or cancerous form of Schwanoma.

Treatment Forms: Chemotherapy and Radiation. Surgical resection proven to be most effective. Risks of surgery: Amputation of limbs. Paralysis. Death.

It is a rare tumor type, with a relatively poor prognosis.

Patient response to treatment will vary based on age, health, and the tolerance to medications and therapies.

5 Year survival rate: 50%.

5 year survival rate after metastasis: 0%."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He stares at the screen. This is not good. Everyone else is leaving for the day, shutting off lights. Adam stays, immobile and alone.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Adam sits deep in thought - or in shock - hard to tell. The dusky pink sky of Seattle streaks by through tinted glass.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Adam and Rachael are on the couch, her eyes filled with tears.

RACHAEL

Oh Adam...

ADAM

Listen. I don't expect you to take this on. It's not like we're married or anything. If you have to bail, bail.

(off her look)

I hope you won't--I mean, I want you with me. But if you have to--

She looks at him, into his eyes, closes hers:

RACHAEL

I'm not going to bail on you, Adam.

She leans over, hugs him.

RACHAEL (CONT'D)

I'm here for you.

ADAM

Thank you.

Rachael rubs Adam's back.

RACHAEL

It's going to be okay.

Rachael leans in and puts her forehead against Adam's.

RACHAEL

Everything's going to be okay.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Adam and Kyle stand outside the coffee shop. Kyle looks sick.

KYLE  
I'm going to throw up.

ADAM  
Don't throw up -- you'll be fine.

KYLE  
I actually think I'm going to throw up.

ADAM  
You're not going to throw up.

KYLE  
I'm going to throw up.

ADAM  
Just open your eyes...Look at me.  
Alright?

They both take a deep breath.

KYLE  
What kind of cancer is it?

ADAM  
It's something rare.

KYLE  
Well, what's it called?

ADAM  
Schwanoma something...

KYLE  
(confused)  
Schwanoma?...What's Schwanoma?

ADAM  
That means tumor basically.

KYLE  
Do you have a picture of it, can I see it?

ADAM  
Why would I have a picture of it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

It's common practice to fucking get pictures of shit now!

ADAM

It doesn't look like anything, it's just a lump.

KYLE

Well are you going to be okay? What are your odds?

ADAM

I don't know, I looked it up and it said 50/50, but that's the internet so...

Kyle sighs in relief.

KYLE

(upbeat)

That's not that bad. That's better than I thought. You're going to be fine. You're young...People beat cancer all the time. Every celebrity beats cancer. Lance Armstrong, he keeps getting it.

ADAM

Yeah.

KYLE

The guy from "Dexter"? He's OK. Patrick Swayze; he's fine.

ADAM

Patrick Swayze?

KYLE

And he's older.

ADAM

But dude, that guy's dead.

Kyle looks at Adam in shock.

KYLE

Really?

ADAM

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KYLE

That's really fucked up. I didn't know that.

(beat)

Don't even think about him...Don't worry about that. You got to look at the bright side here--

ADAM

The bright side of what?

KYLE

You'll be fine.

Kyle quickly tries to change the subject.

KYLE

What did your parents say? Did they freak out?

ADAM

Oh, I...they...I'm not going to tell them.

KYLE

You're not going to tell them? You've got to tell them. Your mom'll probably deal with it better than most people...Your dad has Alzheimer's.

ADAM

Yeah, but you know how she gets.

KYLE

You have to tell her.

ADAM

(concedes)

I know. I'll tell her.

Kyle takes another deep breath.

KYLE

You'll be fine. 50/50! If you were a casino game you'd have the best odds!

Kyle pats Adam's shoulder.

ADAM

Yeah. Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KYLE

Good talk.

Kyle begins walking away from the coffee shop.

ADAM

You don't want coffee?

KYLE

I'm awake now.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam's mother, DIANE LERNER (58), steps out of her car and onto the curb where she's greeted by her son.

ADAM

Hi Mom.

DIANE

Hi Honey!

She gives Adam a big hug and kiss. Based on his body language, it's clear Diane's very existence annoys the shit out of Adam.

RICHARD LERNER (60) wanders out from behind Diane. On first glance he seems like a perfectly normal middle aged man, but on closer examination it's clear that Alzheimer's has altered his sense of reality. He extends his hand to Adam.

ADAM

Hi Dad.

RICHARD

Hi, I'm Richard.

DIANE

(to Richard)

This is Adam -- your son. Remember?

Adam shakes his dad's hand and gives him an awkward pat on the shoulder. It's clear Richard makes Adam uncomfortable.

RICHARD

Adam...

Meanwhile, Rachael stands on the porch, awkward smile plastered on her face.

RACHAEL

(from porch)

Hi!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Diane politely nods and waves in her direction as she and Adam walk toward the house.

DIANE  
So what's the big news?

ADAM  
It's nothing...I'll tell you inside.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
She's not pregnant?

Adam stops, turns and looks at his mother.

ADAM  
Mom!

DIANE  
I know, I know, you use protection.

Adam cringes, totally mortified. He stares at her for a beat then turns and walks into the house, shaking his head.

As Diane follows behind she notices the paint on Adam's porch is chipping.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
You need to talk to your landlord about painting this.

ADAM  
It's fine.

Adam rolls his eyes and walks:

INSIDE

Diane follows after him.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
Just give me his number and I'll call him.

Diane notices an ABSTRACT PAINTING hanging on the wall above the TV.

DIANE  
That's new.

ADAM  
Rachael made it for me...It's called "Oppression".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Rachael leans over and corrects him.

RACHAEL  
"Liberation".

ADAM  
That's right! That one's  
"Liberation". "Oppression" is in  
the bathroom.

Diane feigns a smile, trying to seem impressed.

DIANE  
Nice.

RACHAEL  
Thank you.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Adam, Rachael, Diane, and Richard sit at the dinner table, eating pizza. Diane hands Richard a fistfull of pills. Richard takes the pills, puts them in his mouth and swallows. He smiles...Diane scans the house.

DIANE  
So, what's the special occasion?

Adam hesitates.

ADAM  
I need to tell you something. But,  
before I do, you have to promise me  
you're going to stay calm.

DIANE  
Oh Adam, don't be so overdramatic.

ADAM  
Mom, just promise me. Okay?

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

ADAM  
Have you ever seen "Terms of  
Endearment"?

RACHAEL  
Oh, Jesus, Adam...Just tell her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIANE  
Tell me what?

Here goes nothing.

ADAM  
(mumbles)  
I have cancer.

DIANE  
What do you mean, "I have cancer"?

ADAM  
I have cancer. What do you want me  
to say?

DIANE  
When did this happen?

ADAM  
(reluctant)  
I found out a few days ago.

DIANE  
A few days ago?! You waited a few  
days to tell me?!

ADAM  
I'm sorry.

DIANE  
Honey.

Adam nods. Diane's face literally crumples. She tries to  
compose herself.

DIANE  
(beat)  
I'm moving in.

ADAM  
What? No. Absolutely not.

DIANE  
I'm your mother Adam.

ADAM  
You already have enough on your  
plate with dad.

DIANE  
Who's going to take care of you?  
You can't even drive! Who's going  
to take you to your appointments?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Adam looks over at Rachel, who notices.

RACHAEL  
(hesitates)  
Me. I will. I'm going to take care  
of him.

Diane sits motionless for what seems like 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?

Diane calmly rises from her seat and heads to the:

KITCHEN

Adam follows after her:

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

Diane lights the stove, puts up a kettle:

DIANE  
I'm making you green tea.

ADAM  
Please, will you come sit down?

Diane holds up the package of Green Tea.

DIANE  
I saw on "The Today Show" that it  
reduces your risk of getting cancer  
by fifteen percent.

ADAM  
Well -- I already have cancer.

Adam puts his arm on his mother's shoulder.

ADAM  
Please come back to the table.

Diane hugs him and begins to weep.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Adam walks down the corridor and stops at a reception desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

I'm looking for Dr. McKay?

THE ATTENDANT silently points to an office a few doors down.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office is a pit of chaos; small with stacks of psychology books and files strewn about. An attractive young woman, KATHERINE (24), sits on the couch reading a file while she eats a rather messy sandwich. She, like her office, is scattered in appearance. She takes a bite of her sandwich as Adam pokes his head in the door. She looks up-

KATHERINE

(mouth full of food)

Can I help you?

ADAM

I have an appointment with Dr. McKay.

KATHERINE

Oh... please come in...

Katherine removes her files from the couch, while awkwardly balancing her sandwich on top. She rises and puts her hand out to shake Adam's - he reluctantly shakes it.

KATHERINE

...and please, call me Katherine.

ADAM

(confused)

You're Dr. McKay?

KATHERINE

I am. Have a sit.

(corrects herself)

Sit down please.

Katherine wraps up her sandwich and puts the rest away. Adam looks her up and down.

ADAM

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

KATHERINE

(slightly defensive)

Why? Did someone say that's what I look like?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

No. But, if you don't mind...How old are you?

KATHERINE

(put off)

Twenty-four.

ADAM

Twenty-four? What are you like Doogie Howser?

KATHERINE

Who?

ADAM

Doogie Howser...

Off Katherine's blank look.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...The teenage doctor.

KATHERINE

Does he work here?

ADAM

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

KATHERINE

(almost laughing)

Oh, technically I'm not a doctor yet. I wish. I'm actually working on my doctorate.

(off Adam's look, trying to be serious)

This is a training hospital.

ADAM

I see...So have you had many patients?

KATHERINE

My patient history is not--

ADAM

(shocked)

I'm your first patient, aren't I?

KATHERINE

No. Not at all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM  
Your second?

ADAM (CONT'D)  
Third.

Katie looks at him in silent acceptance. Adam's eyes widen with concern:

ADAM (CONT'D)  
How are the first two doing?

Katherine doesn't answer. She bites her tongue.

KATHERINE  
Can't talk about that.

ADAM  
And this is like part of your training?

KATHERINE  
It'll be part of my dissertation.  
But, don't worry I'm not gonna use your real name.

ADAM  
(uncomfortable)  
Okay. I guess that's fine.

An awkward beat. Katherine pulls Adam's file:

KATHERINE  
So, Dr. Ross filled me in on your situation. This must be incredibly difficult.

Adam shrugs.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
How are you feeling?

ADAM  
You know, honestly, I feel fine.  
I've actually never been more calm.

KATHERINE  
(proud of herself)  
That's a very common symptom found in patients like yourself. Right now your body is in survival mode. What you're actually experiencing is shock...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ADAM

No, I think I'm fine.

KATHERINE

...That's why you feel that sense of calm. Would you describe what you're feeling as a kind of "numbness"?

ADAM

I would describe it as fine.

KATHERINE

Because certain patients--

ADAM

(defiant)

I feel great.

Katherine bites her tongue.

KATHERINE

Wonderful, I think that's wonderful -- if it's alright with you, today I'd like to start with some very simple relaxation exercises.

Adam nods, tense.

ADAM

But I am relaxed.

KATHERINE

I know you are. But if you want to lie down...

ADAM

Lie down?

KATHERINE

Yeah.

Adam clearly doesn't trust her, but lies down. Katherine presses play on her laptop - playing new agey meditation music.

KATHERINE

And close your eyes.

ADAM

Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KATHERINE  
Yeah, for this to work, you're  
gonna have to trust me.

Adam closes his eyes.

ADAM  
They're closed.

KATHERINE  
OK.

MATCH CUT TO:

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

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam is in the living room with his eyes closed.

RACHAEL  
OK. Open your eyes.

Adam opens his eyes to see Rachael standing next to a very  
old and giant GREYHOUND. The dog stands motionless.

RACHAEL (CONT'D)  
Surprise!

Adam's excitement quickly dissipates.

RACHAEL  
His name is Skeletor. He's a  
retired race dog.

ADAM  
You got me an old dog?

RACHAEL  
He's not that old.

ADAM  
Well, he's old enough to be  
retired.

The dog continues to stand motionless.

RACHAEL  
Having a dog helps with the healing  
process.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Why, does he have a medical license?

RACHAEL

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

ADAM

Well what's going to happen to him?

RACHAEL

He'll be put back in his tiny cage with ten other dogs who will bully, and rape him, until he's eventually euthanized.

Beat.

ADAM

Fine, I'll keep the dog.

RACHAEL

Really?

Rachael's face lights up.

RACHAEL

This is going to be so good for you, I promise.

Adam grumbles to himself.

INT. SEATTLE PUBLIC RADIO - NIGHT

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

Jenny stands to the side crying as Kyle consoles her.

KYLE

This whole party was my idea. Thought maybe we could just celebrate his life.

JENNY

He's going to get better, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

I hope so. But, tonight I thought  
it'd be best if we didn't think  
about whether he gets better or  
not. We should be celebrating the  
Adam we all know and love.

Kyle steals a quick glimpse of Jenny's cleavage.

CUT TO:

Adam stands in the middle of the party with JOE.

JOE

Started chemo yet?

CUT TO:

Adam stands with TED.

TED

So what kind of cancer you got?

CUT TO:

Adam stands with SUSAN.

SUSAN

Want to know the secret to beating  
this thing?

CUT TO:

Adam stands with GREG.

GREG

My uncle had what you got...

CUT BACK TO:

Kyle's with Jenny who's still crying. After a beat, he rubs  
her arm.

KYLE

I liked to be touched when I cry.

CUT TO:

Phil embraces Adam.

PHIL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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

Phil leans his head on Adam's shoulder.

ADAM  
Hey, Phil--?

PHIL  
Yeah, buddy.

ADAM  
I want you to know, I'm still going  
to finish that Mount Moha Moha  
story.

PHIL  
Take as much time as you need...I  
can't wait to hear it.

Phil continues to hold Adam.

INT. RACHAEL'S CAR - DAY

Rachael's Prius, which is covered in various Save-the-World  
type bumper stickers, is parked in front of the hospital.  
Adam turns to her.

ADAM  
I just wanted to say that you've  
been really great the past couple  
of weeks. Thanks for the ride. And  
breakfast.

RACHAEL  
Thanks for saying that.

Adam opens the passenger side door, and as he gets out,  
Rachael yells after him.

RACHAEL  
Adam.

He turns back and sticks his head in the door.

ADAM  
You coming?

She shakes her head hesitantly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHAEL  
If it's cool, I'll just wait here.

ADAM  
It's going to take four hours.

RACHAEL  
I know.

ADAM  
You're gonna sit here for four hours?

RACHAEL  
Honey, I don't want to mix that world and this world. It's like an energy thing, you know?

ADAM  
(confused)  
Right.

She gives him a kiss.

RACHAEL  
Good luck!

Rachael watches Adam as he walks off into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A small group of patients, including Adam, sit in the waiting room.

GEORGE, a tall male nurse of Bahamian descent, calls out-

GEORGE  
Adam Lerner.

Adam stands.

ADAM  
Yep.

Adam follows George into the:

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The doors slowly close as they ride down into the bowel of the hospital.

INT. CANCER WARD - CONTINUOUS

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 three other patients. An 74 YEAR OLD MAN, who munches on macaroons, a MIDDLE AGED BALD MAN, and a BALD WOMAN, who knits as she listens to music on her headphones, a Zen look on her face.

ALAN (84), sitting next Adam, whispers to him:

ALAN

(to Adam)

Want a macaroon?

ADAM

Thanks. I'm alright.

Adam looks down to see that Alan is holding box of macaroons.

ALAN

(whispering)

There's weed in 'em.

Adam looks to the middle aged man, MITCH (55), who smiles at Adam as he pops a macaroon in his mouth.

ADAM

I don't do weed.

ALAN

C'mon. Just get high with us!

Adam reluctantly eats a macaroon. Mitch leans over, stoned as hell.

MITCH

How old are you?

ADAM

Twenty-seven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALAN

That's just the worst? A perfectly good youth wasted.

MITCH

Alan, stop it. Don't listen to him, he's just messing with you.

ALAN

(To Adam)

Listen to me, this cancer is bull shit. First your hair's going to fall out, then your balls'll shrink. And if that isn't enough, your dick becomes a constant source of disappointment.

Alan and Mitch laugh like two teenagers.

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 Adam)

I'm Alan Lombardo: stage 3 lymphoma. Pleased to meet you.

MITCH

Mitch Barnett, metastatic prostate cancer.

ADAM

Oh, I'm Adam Lerner, schwannoma neurofibrosarcoma.

ALAN

What the fuck is that?

MITCH

Tough break. The more syllables, the worse it is.

Alan and Mitch laugh. Adam pops another macaroon in his mouth.

ADAM

These are really good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MITCH  
Thanks, my wife made 'em.

ADAM  
(chewing)  
...how strong are they?

ALAN  
Stroooooong.

Adam sits back and closes his eyes. Upbeat music swells...

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER

Adam walks in SLOW MOTION down the same ominous corridor he entered through before. Only it's no longer ominous to him. He wears a big huge goofy smirk on his face as he passes:

--a SICK MAN on a gurney

--an OLD LADY wheezing

--a BODY BAG being carted on a gurney

--a FAMILY crying

Adam stops, stares at all the misery around and laughs...

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam jolts out of bed. His clothes are drenched in sweat. He quickly runs into the bathroom and throws up. A lot.

Rachael wakes up, and knows she should go to him, but can't. Instead, she faintly calls out-

RACHAEL  
Adam, you okay?

Adam says nothing, he just slumps over the toilet seat and throws up again.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Adam looks and feels terrible. His head pounds, causing him to rub it. Katherine sits in the chair next to him. Her tone is a little rigid - masking her lack of experience.

KATHERINE  
So how are you feeling after your first treatment?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

It feels pretty bad, gotta say. My head is killing me.

KATHERINE

(empathetic)

Yeah I know. From what I understand it can be pretty rough. But it will pass.

She pats Adam on the arm. Her intention is to set Adam at ease, but the act just makes him more uncomfortable. Startled, he backs away.

ADAM

Uh...huh.

KATHERINE

I think it's important to remember that these side effects are very normal.

ADAM

Good. I'd hate to think I was special in any way.

KATHERINE

(nervous)

That's not what I meant. I was just trying to reassure you.

ADAM

(terse)

Well, thanks.

KATHERINE

I'm sensing some anger. Which is good.

ADAM

I'm not angry.

(beat)

Why is that good?

KATHERINE

Because you're expressing yourself. You're dealing with a really serious illness. That brings up a lot of emotions.

ADAM

You're trying to make me freak out, right? That's the goal here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHERINE

I'm not trying to make you freak out. I just want you to get in touch with what's going on inside. And if you're angry--

ADAM

(angry)

I'm not angry...Let's do the relaxation thing... Can we do that? I want to hear some sitars. Go to my happy place and feel the warm of beam of light. Can we do that?

Katherine's a little shaken by Adam's outburst. He feels bad - although that outburst did feel kind of good.

KATHERINE

I see...

ADAM (CONT'D)

(beat)

I'm sorry...I was being an asshole. I didn't mean to say that.

Katherine regains her footing.

KATHERINE

I don't need you to take care of me.

(smiles)

I'm trying to take care of you.

Adam nods, hesitant. Katherine exhales and scribbles on a piece of paper:

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

Listen, there's a few books I'd like you to read. A lot of people find them really helpful. You don't have to read them cover-to-cover. Just take a look to see if they resonate.

She pats her hand on Adam's shoulder.

ADAM

I'm sorry, are you going to keep touching me like that?

KATHERINE

What? This?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Katherine puts her hand back on Adam's shoulder. Adam pulls away.

ADAM

Yeah. That.

KATHERINE

(frustrated)

I'm trying to help you  
feel more at ease.

Adam imitates Katherine's touching.

ADAM

That's supposed to make me feel  
more at ease? It's like being  
slapped by a sea otter.

KATHERINE

Touching promotes trust. It's one  
of the key ways that hospital  
practitioners can help patients  
feel more secure in stressful  
situations.

ADAM

That's, um, it's not -- comforting.  
Sorry.

KATHERINE

Really, sea otter? Is this better?

Katherine tries again. This time it's too gentle.

ADAM

Now it's just getting creepy.

INT. ADAM'S BATHROOM - DAY

Adam stands in front of the mirror. Kyle stands behind him,  
tying a towel around his neck.

KYLE

I think you're making a big, big  
mistake. Please don't do this.

ADAM

What are you talking about?

KYLE

What if you have some weird  
Gorbachev bird shit thing on your  
head?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

I thought you liked this idea?

KYLE

I liked the idea in theory. Now that we're standing here about to do it, I'm a little worried you're going to look like fucking Michael Stipe.

ADAM

We have to do it.

KYLE

I'm not going to do it!

ADAM

You said you would!

KYLE

I changed my mind - because if it looks bad, you'll blame me every time you see your weird screwed up bald head.

Adam grabs the PAIR OF CLIPPERS and goes in for the shave. He pauses.

ADAM

Wait...what do you use this for?

Adam's eyes widen.

KYLE

You know, my body.

ADAM

When was the last time you cleaned it?

Kyle wipes the clippers on his shirt.

KYLE

Right now.

Adam takes the clippers and proceeds to shave his head. Kyle covers his eyes in horror.

KYLE

Fuck! Dude! Holy Shit!

After a beat, Kyle grabs the trimmers and joins in.

Once finished, Adam looks at his bald head in the mirror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

It looks okay, right?

KYLE

No. It looks really weird.

ADAM

Why didn't we go to a barber?

KYLE

That would have been a much better idea -- if we had paid someone to do it.

ADAM

Instead of using your balls trimmer-

KYLE

And I never wash them, ever. And it's not my balls, it's my asshole....I'm joking...

ADAM

You're not joking.

KYLE

No, I'm not.

INT. HOSPITAL. CHEMOTHERAPY ROOM - DAY

Adam, Alan and Mitch sit in their chairs, attached to their CHEMO DRIPS. Adam looks SLIGHTLY WORN.

MITCH

How come we've never met Rachael?

ALAN

Yeah. What the fuck?

ADAM

Hospitals kind of freak her out.

Alan and Mitch look at each other and groan.

ADAM

What?

MITCH

(being delicate)

Well Adam, no one likes going to the hospital. That's not why people go--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Adam looks at him.

ADAM

No, you don't get it. She doesn't want the negative mixing with the positive...it's an energy thing.

ALAN

Sounds to me like a bullshit thing.

Adam takes this in.

ADAM

You guys can meet her after. She's picking me up. I'm sure she'd like to meet you all...She's really great, you guys.

ALAN

(not convinced)

Okay.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DUSK

Adam, standing next to Mitch and Alan, is on his cell phone.

ADAM

Hey it's me again, just checking to see if you're close...Talk to you soon.

He hangs up the phone.

ALAN

Sure you don't need a ride, kid?

ADAM

Oh no, she's gonna come. I'm sure she's just caught up with something. You guys should head out, you can meet her next time.

ALAN

Yeah. Sure.

Alan and Mitch give him a sympathetic look at Adam and then walk off together.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Adam's seated on the steps out front. He looks exhausted. Rachael's Prius speeds into the parking lot and stops in front of him.

RACHAEL

Adam! I know. I'm sorry. Please don't be mad.

ADAM

I've been calling you for an hour.

RACHAEL

My cell phone died.

ADAM

You don't have to do this, you know.

RACHAEL

(remorseful)

I'm sorry. I am. I know, I fucked up.

ADAM

I even gave you an out.

RACHAEL

I'm doing my best...Can we just go home?

Adam gets in the car, pissed, and they drive off.

INT. BOOKSTORE. SELF HELP SECTION - DAY

Adam and Kyle browse through shelves of books. Adam consults Katherine's list of books. Kyle grabs the book, and rather than hand it to Adam, he reads the AUTHOR'S BIO on the back jacket of the book.

KYLE

(in excitement)

"Kasper Schlegel is an American 'medical intuitive' and 'mystic psychiatrist'". 'Mystic psychiatrist'? What is he like Frodo's psychiatrist? Why would you buy that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Because my therapist said I should -  
(shrugs)  
I don't know.

Kyle ditches the book and picks up one on Mardi Gras.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Let's go to Mardi Gras!

ADAM

I have a girlfriend, why would I go  
to Mardi Gras?

KYLE

Oh yeah, your girlfriend, I forgot.  
Why go to Mardi Gras when you could  
be here, not getting hand jobs and  
blow jobs?

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

KYLE

(frustrated)

Well if you're not going to take  
advantage of this, then I am.

Kyle yanks the list of books from Adam and crosses to Claire.  
He throws on a charming smile.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hi-

Noticing Claire's name tag.

KYLE

Claire. Kyle. Could you help me  
find a few books, please?

CLAIRE

Sure.

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

CLAIRE

Oh.

(Concerned)

Are these for you?...I'm sorry it's  
none of my business.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KYLE

No, thank God. Actually, they're  
for my friend. The little guy in  
the hat.

Kyle nods towards Adam across the room.

KYLE

He's my buddy, he's really, really  
sick.

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

CLAIRE

How awful.

KYLE

Yeah. He has 'Type Four Back  
Cancer' - not cool.

CLAIRE

Poor guy.

KYLE

I know. It's been really hard.  
(Feigning sadness)  
But I don't focus on that, I focus  
on the positive, by taking him out  
to book stores. I like to take him  
for walks. Plays. While he has  
time.

CLAIRE

That's so nice of you.

Claire leads Kyle off to a stack of books.

INT/EXT. BOOKSTORE - LATER

As Adam and Kyle exit the bookstore, they pass Claire.

KYLE

(to Claire)

I'll see you tonight.

Then as they exit, and walk along the sidewalk, Kyle can't  
help but boast of his achievement; rubbing it in Adam's face.

KYLE

Thank you, Claire! Nice to meet  
you, Claire!

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Adam's lying on the couch with a cold washcloth on his head watching TV. The phone rings. He snatches it, checks caller ID: "Mom". He presses "Ignore". He checks his RECENT CALLS. The screen reads "Mom. Mom. Mom. Mom. Mom." On cue, his land line rings. Frustrated, he answers.

ADAM

What, Mom?

DIANE'S VOICE

Jesus, what took so long to pick up? Are you okay?

ADAM

I'm fine. I didn't hear the phone ring.

DIANE'S VOICE

Do you need anything? I was about to go to the Rite-Aid for your father...You want me to come over? I can bring dinner. I can make macaroni and cheese.

ADAM

Mom, I haven't liked macaroni and cheese since I was like ten.  
(softens)  
It's all right, Rachael's going to come over later.

DIANE'S VOICE

You sure?

ADAM

Yes. I'm totally fine...

In WIDE SHOT, Adam sits alone in his house. Seemingly not fine.

ADAM

...Don't worry so much.

DIANE

All right. If you say so. I love you.

ADAM

Love you too.

INT. ART GALLERY - NIGHT

A hip gallery opening. Kyle and Claire have drinks and stare at awful art.

KYLE  
This one is really cool!

CLAIRE  
(beat)  
My friend did this, actually.

KYLE  
(laughs)  
No way! Your friend is a real talent.

Claire moves on to another piece.

CLAIRE  
So what do you think of this one?

Kyle turns and looks.

KYLE  
Uh oh! I think I have a new favorite!...This is genius...It's making me a little emotional.

Just then Kyle sees Rachael across the crowded room.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Of course, I should have known I'd see her. We're at a *fucking gallery* opening.

CLAIRE  
Who is she?

KYLE  
You know my best friend, the one who's sick? That's his pretentious girlfriend.

They follow Rachael as she walks up to a WHITE GUY WITH DREADLOCKS and flirts with him.

CLAIRE  
She doesn't look like someone's girlfriend.

Just then Rachael gives the guy a passionate, deep kiss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE  
Fuck! I knew it!

The kiss goes on long enough for Kyle to take out his cell phone and snap a picture.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
(ecstatic)  
I nailed that cunt!  
(to Claire)  
Can you believe it?!

Claire walks away, disgusted. Kyle quickly follows after her.

KYLE  
Sorry - I - uh, don't usually use words like that.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Adam is asleep on the couch when he hears Rachael come in.

ADAM  
(sleepy)  
Hi.

RACHAEL  
Didn't mean to wake you.

ADAM  
(reaching for her)  
Come here.

RACHAEL  
Oh, I'm so tired. Can we just get into bed?

She holds out a hand to help him up just as Kyle opens the front door.

KYLE  
Hey! Surprise! It's Kyle! What's happening, guys?

He couldn't be in a better mood.

ADAM  
(confused)  
Hey Kyle.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
...bad time? Am I interrupting something?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Well it's midni-

KYLE (CONT'D)

Sorry, I was in the neighborhood. I had a date with Claire, the bookstore girl. It did not go well, due to a lack of chemistry and I think an overuse of profanity on my part. But, whilst on my date, I ran into - Rachael.

ADAM

Oh yeah?

Kyle pulls out his cell phone.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I would like to present...

Kyle holds the phone to Adam's face.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Exhibit...whore!

On the camera screen is a very grainy picture of Rachael kissing the guy at the gallery.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Look! Look at it!!! That's Rachael! And that's a fucking dirty Jesus looking motherfucker, and they're kissing! I did it!

(to Rachael)

I FUCKING NAILED YOU!!! I've hated you for months! And now I have evidence that you suck as a person!

Kyle looks at Adam and Rachael's silent faces.

KYLE

Nothing?

(beat)

You two should probably talk about this...

He steps into the kitchen.

ADAM

You're cheating on me!?

RACHAEL

No! I mean - yes but-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

Seriously?

RACHAEL

(coming apart)

Adam - you have no idea how hard it's been! I don't know how to do this, and it's been so stressful, and you've been so sick, and *shit*, you're the one who told me Kyle keeps using your cancer to get girls! Why should I be the bad guy?

KYLE (O.S.)

Because you're his girlfriend, and you cheated on him while he has cancer, you fucking lunatic!

RACHAEL

(ignoring Kyle)

Adam. We had problems long before you got sick. And then when you got sick, I didn't know what to do.

ADAM

So why are you here? Why do you spend every night in my bed?

RACHAEL

(quietly)

I don't know. I didn't want to abandon you.

(beat)

Let's go to bed, we can talk about this tomorrow.

Speechless, Adam sits on the couch: humiliated, heartbroken, ruined. Kyle re-enters.

KYLE

I can't stay in the kitchen any longer.

(to Rachael)

You got to get out of here! You're making this way too uncomfortable for everyone. Just leave!

Kyle leads her to the door. She resists.

RACHAEL

Adam, we'll talk tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KYLE

No you won't! Why would you talk tomorrow?

RACHAEL

Adam, I care about you...Adam.

KYLE

You are reprehensible!

RACHAEL

(to Kyle)

Will you shut up?!

(to Adam)

Kyle doesn't have your best interest in mind.

KYLE

I don't? Cause I'm pretty sure I'm not the one who got caught making out with some disgusting hippie.

RACHAEL

Fuck you!

KYLE

You're disgusting!

Rachael slams the door and leaves.

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam lies in bed. He looks over at Rachael's empty spot. He inhales, feeling very alone.

Just then Skeletor jumps up and lies down next to him, practically upending the bed. Adam looks at him, pets him.

EXT. STREET - NEXT DAY

Adam and Kyle are out walking Skeletor.

KYLE

This is the best thing that could have happened to you.

ADAM

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

You deserve better, way better. If I was your girlfriend, I'd be baking you cookies and blowing you every thirty minutes...

ADAM

What kind of cookies?

KYLE

Any kind.

ADAM

Would you make me Snickerdoodle cookies?

KYLE

I'd bathe you in Snickerdoodle.

ADAM

This conversation is making me nauseous.

KYLE

Actually?

ADAM

No, that was a joke.

Just then an attractive girl, BODI, walking a dog approaches Adam.

BODI

Hi! What's his name?

ADAM

Skeletor.

BODI

This is Marlowe.

KYLE

Why hello Marlowe!

BODI

You guys live around here?

KYLE

We sure do.

Bodi bends over and pets Skeletor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BODI  
I love greyhounds.  
(to Skeletor)  
Helllllooo. You're a good ol' boy.

Nervous, Adam suddenly gets very protective of Skeletor.

ADAM  
We should go, he doesn't like the  
cold.  
(to Bodi)  
Nice to meet you.

BODI  
Nice to meet you!

Adam pulls Skeletor away. The girl continues on her way.

KYLE  
You could've fucked that girl, you  
realize that, don't you?

ADAM  
No one wants to have sex with me.  
Look at me - I look like Voldemort.

KYLE  
You could've asked her to go on a  
doggie date, whipped out the cancer  
card, fuck the shit out of her!

Adam thinks-

ADAM  
You really think a girl's gonna go  
for me just because I have cancer?

KYLE  
I know it. Help me, help you get  
laid.

ADAM  
You think that would work?

KYLE  
It would totally work!

Adam thinks more.

ADAM  
Let's do it.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The bar is loud and packed with Seattle hipsters. With no room to move, Adam and Kyle stand pressed against the bar counter. The room is hot and Adam's knit hat is causing him to sweat uncontrollably. Adam scans the crowd - this is definitely not his scene. A very ATTRACTIVE WOMAN leans into the bar.

KYLE

Lot's of hot girls. Good odds tonight. Ok, over there, blue shirt? Go for it.

ADAM

Yeah?

KYLE

Just talk, spark up a conversation.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN #1

(to the bartender)

One PBR.

Adam leans over to the woman, yelling above the music:

ADAM

How's it going?

The woman doesn't even look at him. Kyle leans in.

KYLE

Get into the cancer thing faster.

ADAM

Faster?

KYLE

It's your hook man.

ADAM

So that's the first thing I say?  
'Hello, I have cancer.'

KYLE

It's what sets you apart. You're sympathetic. Just try it.

ADAM

OK.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN #2 (30) squeezes in next to him. She drunkenly bobs her head to the song as she orders a drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Adam reluctantly looks over at the woman.

ADAM  
(to the woman)  
I love this song.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN #2  
Totally.

ADAM  
I have cancer.

Kyle pulls Adam away as the girl looks on, weirded out.

KYLE  
I was wrong, I was wrong. Doesn't  
work like that. It doesn't sound  
cool.

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kyle's talking to two girls in their mid twenties, ALLISON  
and JACKIE. Adam stands alone in the distance.

KYLE  
I'm Kyle, how's it going?

ALLISON  
Allison.

JACKIE  
Jackie.

Kyle shakes their hands.

KYLE  
Allison, Jackie. It's my birthday  
today.

ALLISON  
Happy birthday!

The girls raise their beers and toast Kyle.

ALLISON  
Cheers!

KYLE  
I'm here with my buddy actually.

Kyle points out Adam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKIE  
The skinny one?

KYLE  
One second.

Kyle rushes over to Adam.

KYLE  
I met two girls over there.

ADAM  
Are they nice?

KYLE  
They are, very nice.

ADAM  
Let's talk to them.

KYLE  
Yeah. Take the hat off.

ADAM  
What? No.

KYLE  
Take it off, take it off.

ADAM  
I'm not taking it off.

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

The bar's less crowded now. Kyle and Adam are seated in a booth across from Allison and Jackie.

ADAM  
What do you all do?

JACKIE  
I just designed the website for the Swiffer--

ADAM  
(excited)  
Are you serious? Sorry, I'm a fan. I love the Swiffer! I use it for everything. Sweeping, mopping -- well that's it really, so not everything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The girls looks bored. Adam looks at Kyle out of the corner of his eye-

KYLE  
(mouths)  
Do it.

Adam shakes him off.

ADAM  
I just got a dog and he's always shedding, and with the Swiffer all I have to do is attach the wet cloth and boom, I'm done.

JACKIE  
Oh, I love dogs. What's his name?

ADAM  
Skeletor.

Adam looks back at Kyle then reluctantly pulls off his hat, revealing his bald head.

ADAM  
It's kind of warm in here, isn't it?

JACKIE  
(stunned)  
Oh wow -- you're bald.

ADAM  
Oh no, it's just cancer.

ALLISON  
Cancer?

ADAM  
But don't worry, I'm not contagious.

JACKIE  
Oh my god, what kind of cancer is it?

ADAM  
Spinal.

KYLE  
It's in his spine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACKIE  
Spinal? I didn't even know that was possible. How'd you get that?

ADAM  
I don't know, bad mattress?

She laughs. Adam and Kyle look at each other. They're in.

KYLE  
He still has a sense of humor! It's inspirational!

JACKIE  
Can I touch it? Is that weird?

KYLE  
You can do more than touch it!

The girls rub Adam's bald head.

JACKIE  
This is a very nice head.

KYLE  
Let's rub it together.

Kyle reaches out, also rubbing Adam's head.

KYLE  
You know, it'll grow back if you rub it enough.

EXT. HOT DOG STAND - NIGHT

Adam slumps against a building, as the Jackie and Allison, now clearly drunk, order food. Kyle approaches.

KYLE  
How you doing? You OK?

ADAM  
Please let me go to sleep. All I want is sleep.

KYLE  
No! Do not close your eyes. You've got to keep going! All we have to do is stay awake until they decide to go to sleep, because if we're there when they do, sex will happen.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (cont'd)

We're *so close*... Don't waste my time, man!

Adam's eyes flutter.

ADAM

I'm so tired. Can you give me an approximate time I'll be having sex?

KYLE

In ninety-five minutes...

ADAM

I can't wait that long.

KYLE

That's how long it'll take!

The girls return with two jumbo hot dogs:

JACKIE

You guys want to hit up Lush? I know the DJ--

ADAM

I think I'm actually done for the night. I'm pretty exhausted.  
(feigning)  
The chemo really wears you out.

Jackie looks at him, disappointed. Kyle is incredulous.

ADAM

(beat)  
But, I have some really potent medical weed if you want to come over.

ALLISON

That sounds cool.

KYLE

Great idea! Let's get a cab!

Psyched beyond belief, Kyle nudges Adam.

KYLE

(whispers to Adam)  
That was pimp! Very impressive.

Adam smiles at Kyle.

INT. ADAM'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Jackie and Adam lie in bed. She's on top of him, eyes closed SCREWING HIS BRAINS OUT. Adam looks miserable. With each thrust, he winces in pain.

JACKIE  
Am I hurting you?

ADAM  
No.

JACKIE  
Are you sure?

ADAM  
Actually, yeah. It does--

JACKIE  
Sorry, I'll just get off you.

Jackie rolls off him. They lie next to each other awkwardly.

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN- DAWN

In the rising light of dawn, Adam, in boxers and t-shirt, pours himself some water from a Brita. He puts it back in the fridge. He turns, enters the

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kyle and Allison lie on the couch, both naked under a blanket, watching a gratuitously violent film on TV.

KYLE  
I wonder what the machine gun budget on this film was.

ALLISON  
Can we watch something else?

KYLE  
No, I want to see how it ends.

Adam stands in the doorway. Kyle locks eyes with him. Adam's not happy or sad - just lost. Kyle forces a smile. Adam shrugs and walks back into the bedroom.

MONTAGE VARIOUS DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT

--CU of a light being shone in Adam's face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

--CU of a doctor's hands pressed against Adam's lymph nodes.

--CU of a tongue depressor probing Adam's mouth.

--CU as a nurse slides the weight along a scale.

--CU of blood being drawn from Adam's forearm.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

Katherine walks to her car. She notices Adam sitting alone at the BUS STOP.

KATHERINE

Adam?

ADAM

(embarrassed)

Oh hey.

KATHERINE

What are you doing?

ADAM

Waiting for the bus.

KATHERINE

(beat)

I'm on my way home right now - want a ride?

ADAM

Oh, I'm used to the bus, but thank you.

KATHERINE

I can't let you take the bus.

ADAM

I live kind of far away.

KATHERINE

Won't take no for an answer.

INT. KATHERINE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER (DAY)

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHERINE

Sorry about the mess. I'm not very good at getting rid of things.

ADAM

Yeah, I can see.

KATHERINE

Let me know if you need me to pull over...I know that the chemotherapy can make you...you know...nauseous.

Silent beat as they both stare out the windshield, unsure what to say.

KATHERINE

So, you don't have a car?

ADAM

No. Don't even have a license.

KATHERINE

Why not?

ADAM

It's incredibly dangerous.

(beat)

It's the fifth leading cause of death. Only a couple after cancer.

KATHERINE

Still. The bus. The bus after chemo.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Rachael usually drives me -- but we broke up.

KATHERINE

What? When did this happen?

ADAM

A few days ago. She kind of cheated on me.

KATHERINE

Oh. Adam. Do you want to talk about it?

Adam's about to answer when...

ADAM

No. Nuh-uh. No therapy. You are giving me this ride as a friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHERINE

Adam--

ADAM

(looking around)

You know what we could talk about?  
All of this mess. Are you aware of  
the bacteria that's probably living  
in here?

KATHERINE

Adam, your girlfriend cheated on  
you--

(beat)

I know what's it's like. Break ups  
suck, I just broke up with someone  
a few months ago.

ADAM

I'm sorry.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

It's fine. I ended it.

ADAM

How long were you two together?

KATHERINE

Three months --

(uncomfortable)

And we shouldn't be talking about  
this.

ADAM

Why not? You know every thing about  
me.

KATHERINE

I just don't think it's appropriate  
for me to be telling you all this  
personal stuff. The whole  
therapist/patient relationship  
doesn't work if you know all my  
problems.

She smiles, awkward.

KATHERINE

Admittedly, I do check his Facebook  
page everyday to see if he's dating  
someone new. So pathetic--

(beat)

Probably shouldn't have said that.  
We can just listen to the radio.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Adam thinks for a beat. Then looks at the floor, looks at the pile of garbage at his feet.

ADAM  
(abrupt)  
Stop the car.

Katherine looks at Adam nervously.

KATHERINE  
Why? What's wrong? Are you okay?

ADAM  
Just stop the car.

Katherine stops the car. Adam grabs a handful of her garbage and gets out.

KATHERINE  
What are you doing?

ADAM  
I can't handle all this mess.

KATHERINE  
Are you serious?

Adam tosses the garbage in a dumpster and comes back to the car for more. Katherine laughs as she gets out and joins him.

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

ADAM  
Which one?

KATHERINE  
This.

Katherine grabs a food container from Adam's hands.

ADAM  
You're going to eat that?

KATHERINE  
Don't judge me.

They leave Katherine's dinner behind, then throw out the rest of the garbage.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DUSK

Adam and Katherine arrive at Adam's house.

ADAM

Well, this is me. Thanks for the ride.

KATHERINE

No problem. Thanks for cleaning my car.

Adam looks at his house. The lights are out. He's really not in the mood to be alone. He gives out a deep sigh and then gets out of his car.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'll see you next week.

KATHERINE

You'll be all right? By yourself?

ADAM

Yeah. Totally. I'm fine.

He gets out of the car and walks away. Katherine looks after him, with concern. She rolls down her window.

KATHERINE

Hey--

Adam turns around.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

I want you to have my cell number. Call me if you ever need anything.

Katherine scribbles her cell phone on a piece of paper and hands it to Adam.

ADAM

(teasing)

Did I just score your digits?

Katherine turns red.

KATHERINE

(uncomfortable)

No.

ADAM

That was a joke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHERINE

(awkward)

That's fine. Jokes make for a good coping mechanism...This is only for emergencies.

(beat)

Or if you need someone to talk to...Good night.

ADAM

Good night.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam and Kyle smoke a mini-bong bubbler as they watch "Planet Earth" on a brand new 50" flat screen TV. Skeletor is asleep on the floor.

KYLE

I thought the desert was crazy. The ocean's fucking nuts, man.

ADAM

I like the trees.

KYLE

The trees are going to be bananas.

There's a knock at the door. Too engrossed in the TV, neither guy moves. Rachael pops her head in the door. She looks at Adam nervously as he puts on his hat, covering his bald head.

RACHAEL

Hey -- I'm just here to pick up my things and then I'll be out of your way.

Adam does his best to play it cool.

ADAM

I put all of your things in a box. It's outside the door on the porch.

KYLE

Walked right past it.

RACHAEL

Oh. Okay. Well then I guess I'll be on my way.

(then noticing)

Are you smoking weed?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Since when do you smoke?

ADAM

It's medicinal.

RACHAEL

(impressed)

You got a prescription for medicinal marijuana?

KYLE

No, I got a prescription for medicinal marijuana, Adam was too afraid.

RACHAEL

What's wrong with you?

KYLE

I have night blindness. Rods and cones are eschew, and weed fixes it.

Rachael grins and rolls her eyes. She notices the new TV, which has replaced her painting on the wall. The painting sits stashed in the corner. Sadness sweeps across her face.

RACHAEL

(disappointed)

You took my painting down.

KYLE

It didn't really fit there with the new TV.

RACHAEL

Adam, can I talk to you outside for a second please?

EXT. ADAM'S PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Adam and Rachael exit Adam's house and sit on the porch stoop.

RACHAEL

So...how are you feeling?

ADAM

Pretty awesome.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHAEL

I wanted to tell you I'm sorry.

ADAM

(contrite)

I'm sorry too, I know this wasn't easy for you. And I'm sorry I didn't come to your opening, it's only because I hate you so much.

RACHAEL

(embarrassed)

I'm glad you didn't come. It was a complete disaster. No one bought any of my paintings.

ADAM

(smiles)

Really?...But they're...so...great.

RACHAEL

Really?

ADAM

Yeah, you'll get it next time.

She hugs him.

RACHAEL

I don't want to break up. I can be better. We can start over again.

She kisses him.

RACHAEL

I'll just be better.

He kisses back. After a beat.

ADAM

You should go.

She continues kissing him. He continues kissing back. He struggles to pull back, but does. He stares at her, shakes his head-

ADAM (CONT'D)

Please...I need you to get the fuck off of my porch now.

Rachael looks at Adam, pissed, hurt, ego shattered. She picks up her belongings, turns and walks toward her car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Adam notices Rachael's painting still on the porch.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
Your painting.

RACHAEL  
I made it for you.

Rachael continues to her car. A beat. Adam then gets up off the porch and walks inside.

EXT. ADAM'S BACKYARD - DAY

TIGHT ON: Rachael's Painting.

Adam and Kyle are hammering it to a tree. From a box of various supplies, they pull out the following items and destroy the painting: kitchen knives, screw driver, garlic press, a Molotov cocktail made out of hair-spray, eggs, orange juice, shaving cream, and an ax.

Adam and Kyle look down at the destroyed painting.

ADAM  
It actually looks a lot better.

KYLE  
It's not that bad.

ADAM  
Yeah, we could hang this up.

EXT. MITCH'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - DAY

Adam, Kyle, Mitch and Alan laugh hysterically as they smoke a joint.

ADAM  
(to Alan)  
You were around before TV, right?  
Because I want to hear about the  
radio...They talk about people just  
sitting around and listening to the  
radio--

ALAN  
Glued to the radio.

ADAM  
What did you listen to?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALAN  
"Little Orphan Annie".

KYLE  
What did you look at when you were listening, nothing?

ALAN  
It engaged everything.

ADAM  
I'm doing a radio piece on a volcano.

KYLE  
I do radio I think people will actually like. Mostly stuff about food...Like hamburger. People like listening to that versus "Coming up next, a volcano!".

MITCH  
You know what I'd do? I'd turn on the TV.

ADAM  
It's not the same.

Just then, an attractive fifty-something woman, BERNIE, carries out a tray of wheatgrass.

MITCH  
Thank you, sweetheart. Bernie just blended up some wheatgrass. Beware, it's like drinking liquid lawn cuttings.

(beat)  
Oh, Bernie, this is Adam.

ADAM  
Hi. This is my friend Kyle.

Kyle takes a sip of wheatgrass and nearly gags.

BERNIE  
(re: wheatgrass)  
You like it?

KYLE  
(in disgust)  
It's not good.

Bernie smiles, amused by Kyle, then turns back to Adam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BERNIE

So, you're Adam? From the way Mitch described you I thought you were much older.

KYLE

He was eighty-five years old when he was three.

Mitch looks at his wife adoringly and takes her hand.

MITCH

Come here.

Mitch pulls her close her for a kiss. Adam looks at them, envious, a thin smile on his face.

INT. KATHERINE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Adam walks in, flustered and annoyed as he talks to his mom on the phone. He sits down -- wrapping up the conversation.

ADAM

(annoyed)

Mom it's not a virus!...No, it's the screen saver.

Adam mouths sorry to Katherine.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...Please, I'm telling you, just move the mouse...mom I can't talk now. I have an appointment. Yes, right now. I'm standing inside the office as we speak...I don't know what I'm making for dinner...something, I'll figure it out.

Adam looks at Katherine, embarrassed.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...Mom, I really have to go. OK, hanging up the phone now. OK, I know...Love you too.

Adam hangs up the phone. Takes a deep breath.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Sorry about that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHERINE

Don't worry about it. I have parents too.

Adam grimaces.

ADAM

Do yours give you migraines?

KATHERINE

My parents are something I would talk about with my therapist.

ADAM

Really?

KATHERINE

Yeah, we could role play. I can be your mom.

ADAM

(repulsed)

Oh God, no. That's disgusting.

KATHERINE

Why is that disgusting?

Adam sighs.

ADAM

My mom is a crazy person who worries incessantly. Honestly, it annoys the shit out of me. And it's not helpful...I can't talk to her.

Katherine thinks - connects the dots in her head.

KATHERINE

So now she has a husband she can't talk to, and a son who won't talk to her.

Adam's taken aback by Katherine's bluntness.

ADAM

Well, yeah, I guess.

KATHERINE

I mean, aren't you being kind of a dick?

ADAM

I'm sorry? Is that a medical term?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHERINE

Your parents are who they are, you can't change that. The only thing you can change is how you choose to deal with them.

ADAM

Aren't you supposed to subtly manipulate me into being aware of my faults? Not call me out.

KATHERINE

I think we're beyond that point. You did clean my car.

Katherine looks at Adam with tenderness, grabs hold of his shoulder, squeezing it.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

It's weird, isn't it? Shouldn't have done it. Shouldn't have gone for it.

ADAM

No, it was good, it was good.

KATHERINE

No, it wasn't. It's so forced.

ADAM

Here try again, I was too far. Come in a little closer.

He inches closer to her, and sticks out his shoulder.

KATHERINE

I'm going to make it real natural.

Katherine places a hand on him, testing.

ADAM

That was better.

They share a smile. After a beat Katherine looks down - self consciously.

INT. HOSPITAL. CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT ROOM - MORNING

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

NURSE

You're all set.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM  
Where's Mitch?

ALAN  
(somber)  
He died last night.

ADAM  
But we were just with him, what happened?

ALAN  
(shrugs)  
What does it matter, his heart stopped.

They can't look at one another.

EXT. LINDEN CEMETERY - DAY

Kyle's car drives up the cemetery's long driveway.

EXT. LINDEN CEMETERY - DAY

Dressed for a funeral, Adam and Kyle walk through the grounds passing hundreds of tombstones along the way. Adam is morose; Kyle is trying to cheer him up.

EXT. MITCH'S FUNERAL - DAY

Adam, Kyle and Alan stand next to a MINISTER as he speaks.

Bernie stands in front of them, trying to hold it together.

We PUSH IN on Adam, as the Minister's voice recedes into the background.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam lights a joint. He turns on the TV. Matlock appears on his flat screen TV. Adam flips the channels. And finally to the NEWS -- BREAKING NEWS: MT. MOHA MOHA ERUPTING. Adam watches the volcano erupt with bittersweet sadness.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

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

INT. HOSPITAL. KATHERINE'S OFFICE - DAY

Adam lies on the couch staring at the ceiling.

ADAM

I'm just beginning to realize that  
I'm probably going to die.

KATHERINE

Did something happen? Did you get  
the MRI results back?

ADAM

No, but look at me, I'm not getting  
any better. I look in the mirror  
and it's pretty obvious.

(beat)

Mitch died, Alan's probably going  
to die, and so am I.

KATHERINE

You don't know that...A lot of what  
you're feeling is from the  
treatment.

ADAM

Look. Thank you, but you don't need  
to try and cheer me up. I mean, in  
the end, what does it really matter  
anyway? We're all going to die.  
You're just going to die, hopefully  
a lot later than I am.

Not expecting this turn from Adam, Katherine's demeanor  
stiffens - she looks anxious.

KATHERINE

Adam, okay, what you're going  
through - is something called "The  
Alienation Phase"...And I know  
that you're feeling helpless  
inside, but you should know that  
this is totally normal for someone  
in your situation.

ADAM

(annoyed)

I'm sorry, but, I'm going to have  
to call you on that. It's bullshit.  
That's what everyone has been  
saying. "You'll get better" and  
"It'll be fine".

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM (cont'd)

I don't know why everyone is so fucking scared to say it. "You're dying, dude"...It makes it worse.

KATHERINE

(speechless)

Adam, I'm here to help you.

ADAM

Why? So that when you're at some dinner party in 30 years, you can tell some inspiring anecdote about you coached your third patient through the alienation phase, and helped him feel "normal" right before he died.

KATHERINE

Adam...I...I'm sorry - if - I said the wrong things. I-

ADAM

This isn't working for me.

Adam leaves. Katherine is overcome with a sense of failure.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

The place is a mess. Adam dials the phone.

KYLE (V.O.)

Not around. Leave a message.

ADAM

Hey man, it's Adam. I was wondering if you could give me a ride to my doctor's appointment today...It's the big one.

Adam hangs up and hesitates. After a beat, he dials again.

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

DIANE

Oh my God, what's wrong?

ADAM (CONT'D)

Hi Mom.

INT. DR ROSS' OFFICE - DAY

Diane, Adam and Richard are seated in the exam room. Diane and Adam nervously flip through magazines while Richard is lost somewhere in his own world. The tension is thick. Diane looks at her watch and shivers. There's a knock at the door. A friendly looking Nurse enters.

FRIENDLY NURSE

The doctor's just in with another patient, but should be out in a few minutes. You guys holding up alright?

DIANE

It's very cold in here. Is there anyway you can turn down the air conditioning?

FRIENDLY NURSE

Unfortunately the temperature is controlled by a central thermostat.

DIANE

My son has cancer.

FRIENDLY 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 Diane)

I'm fine.

FRIENDLY NURSE

Are you sure? I could get you a blanket.

ADAM

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

DIANE

I'd love a blanket.

ADAM

(to the friendly Nurse)

We're fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRIENDLY NURSE

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

The Nurse smiles and then exits.

DIANE

(Re: the friendly Nurse)  
I don't like her.

Diane puts her hand on Adam's forehead.

DIANE (CONT'D)

You feel warm.

ADAM

I'm fine.

Diane gets up from her chair and paces around the room looking at the doctor's various degrees on the wall. Adam looks on, annoyed at every step his mother takes. Diane closes in on one of the degrees and puts on her reading glasses for further examination.

DIANE

(disapproving)  
Huh.

ADAM

What?

DIANE

Oh, nothing.

ADAM

(annoyed)  
What?

DIANE

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

ADAM

You're unbelievable.

DIANE

I just worry that you're not getting the best care possible.  
(beat)  
And I don't think you're eating right.

Adam can't take it anymore. He explodes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

Will you stop! I'm not him. I can take care of myself.

Diane is so frustrated, she's near tears:

DIANE

It's so hard that you don't let me help you. It's really hard.

ADAM

You are helping me. You brought me here, didn't you?

They sit in silence for a moment.

ADAM (CONT'D)

What about you?

She looks at him, baffled:

DIANE

What about me?

ADAM

How are you?

DIANE

(wiping her tears)  
How am I?

ADAM

How are you? What's going on in your life?

DIANE

Seriously? Nothing is going on in my life. The highlight of my week is this cancer support group I've been going to.

ADAM

You've been going to a support group?

DIANE

It's for parents whose kids have cancer.

ADAM

I didn't know you were doing that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DIANE

How would you? You never call me back.

He looks at her. He softens.

ADAM

I'm sorry.

DIANE

You don't have to say you're sorry.

Adam takes her hand in his. She's clearly moved. A beat. Dr. Ross storms into the room carrying a stack of MRI films. He seems rushed.

DR. ROSS

Sorry to keep you folks waiting.

Adam and Diane 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. We have to remove it now or we risk metastasis.

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

ADAM

So what do we do?

DR. ROSS

We need to operate. Now, I was able to move some things around, and I can get you in this Thursday morning with Dr. Walderson. He's one of our best neurosurgeons.

DIANE

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DR. ROSS

Considering the placement and size of the tumor, a surgery of this nature is very dangerous, and potentially life threatening itself. The surgeons will be very aggressive in their attempt. But if we're unsuccessful in removing the cancer...then unfortunately we're out of options.

Diane takes hold of Adam's hand. They sit silently as the doctor's words soak in.

EXT. PARK - LATER THAT NIGHT

Adam sitting in the park over looking the city. Kyle is drunk - Adam is still nursing his first beer.

KYLE

I'm not going to bring up the fact that your surgery is tomorrow. Not even thinking about it. So don't worry about it, cause I'm not going to bring it up.

ADAM

You remember the last time we came out here?

KYLE

It was prom night.

ADAM

That memory is so far from me...

KYLE

It was a long time ago, I don't even remember who you went with.

ADAM

(bitter)  
Nora Mattingly.

KYLE

Oh yeah. That girl sucked. You really know how to pick 'em. Even then I think you knew.

ADAM

She seemed so sweet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

She was never sweet. She always sucked.

ADAM

You just always hate my girlfriends

KYLE

That's not true... OK it is, actually. But it's because you date fucking dickheads. Needy bitches. Whhhhyyyyyy?

Adam looks like he's on the verge of falling apart. Kyle puts his arm around him.

KYLE (CONT'D)

It's fucking cold. And it's only midnight! Dude, let's go to a bar, try to get laid.

ADAM

(annoyed)

Don't you ever give up?

KYLE

C'mon! I had fun with that!

Kyle points at Adam's head as he stands, then stumbles. He's drunk.

ADAM

I know you had fun.

KYLE

You could too, maybe.

ADAM

You're drunk.

KYLE

It worked! Take your hat off!

ADAM

I think I should drive.

KYLE

I would let you drive but you don't know how. You don't have a license.

ADAM

(somber)

This might be my last chance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KYLE

Driving! That's what you want to do? That's your "Make A Wish"? To drive? We could be having sex with hookers while skydiving, and instead you want to do something I learned to do when I was fifteen!

(concedes)

Fine, but be careful.

Kyle hands Adam his keys.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Drive carefully. And don't adjust my seat settings.

The two climb into Kyle's car. Adam puts the key in the ignition.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(condescendingly)

Now, first thing you want to do--

Without checking the mirrors, he backs the car up. BOOM the car SLAMS into a BIKE RACK.

KYLE (CONT'D)

What the fuck!

Adam pulls out of the parking lot.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Make a left. Make a left! It's a one way street!

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

KYLE (CONT'D)

What the fuck? There's a car! Wrong way! Wrong way! Wrong way! What the hell!

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

KYLE (CONT'D)

Adam! Stop man - stop!

Kyle pulls the emergency brake. The car stops abruptly.

KYLE (CONT'D)

The fuck are you doing, man? You're being an idiot right now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

A beat.

ADAM  
Get out. Get out of the car.

Kyle stammers as Adam looks like he's about to erupt.

ADAM  
GET! OUT!

Adam starts hitting Kyle.

KYLE  
Jesus Christ!

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

Adam locks the doors and sits quietly for a moment. He then proceeds to scream at the top of his lungs. Twenty seven years worth of suppressed emotions come out. Adam then sits in total silence. After a beat, he pulls out his cell phone. Kyle notices. He tries to open the door. It's locked. Adam ignores Kyle and begins to dial.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Don't you dare call her! Not after everything she's done to you...You're a pussy, Adam.

ADAM  
You're a selfish piece of shit who cares more about getting fucking laid than being my friend.

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

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME (INTERCUT)

The phone rings. It's not Rachael...it's Katherine. She's sitting on her bed, reading a book.

KATHERINE  
Hello.

ADAM  
(nonchalant)  
Hey, it's Adam.

KATHERINE  
Adam?

She looks at the clock, it's midnight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHERINE

It's midnight. What's going on?

ADAM

(still nonchalant)

Oh, just having a nervous  
breakdown. I think I fractured my  
larynx.

KATHERINE

I'm really, really glad you called.

There's a long silence. Tears roll down Adam's face.

ADAM

I want this to be over. I'm so  
fucking tired of being sick...if  
this surgery doesn't work, that's  
it --

(crying)

I've never been to fucking Canada  
or told a girl I love her...it  
sounds stupid.

KATHERINE

No. It doesn't.

Katherine's eyes begin to well.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(beat)

I'm sorry I was such an asshole.

KATHERINE

I was the asshole. I was so totally  
unprepared - for you. This job is  
really hard. If I fuck up, I could  
ruin someone's whole life.

ADAM

I guess we're both beginners at  
this.

KATHERINE

(smiles)

Yeah.

A beat.

ADAM

What were you doing when I called?  
Were you on Facebook?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHERINE

(laughs)

You know, stalking my ex-boyfriend  
isn't the only thing I do in my  
free time.

A beat. Adam sighs:

ADAM

I wish you were my girlfriend.

She takes this in, kind of wishing it too.

KATHERINE

Girlfriends can be nice. You just  
had a bad one.

ADAM

Yeah, but I bet you'd be a good  
one.

Silence as Katherine blushes. Then: There's a loud knock on  
the window. It's Kyle. He's freezing.

KYLE

Let me in man, Jesus. It's fucking  
freezing!

ADAM

I'm going to go. Thanks...Thanks  
for everything.

KATHERINE

Good night.

Adam hangs up the phone. Kyle bangs on the car window  
desperately. Adam finally unlocks the car.

EXT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kyle and Adam enter the building.

INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Too drunk to stand, Kyle uses Adam as a crutch to support  
himself as they enter his apartment, which is a mess - it  
looks like it hasn't been cleaned in years. Kyle is unusually  
quiet. The mood is solemn - these guys never fight.

Kyle keels over to pass out on the couch. Adam walks into the  
bathroom.

INT. KYLE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

With his finger, Adam scoops some dust up off the counter. Groggied out, he looks around for a towel to wipe the dust off his hand. No towels. He wipes it off on his jeans. He then notices something on the ground, in front of the toilet. A book. He leans over and picks up "Coping with Your Loved One's Cancer". The book is worn and has multiple book marks - indicating it's been read. Adam looks out at Kyle, he had him pegged all wrong. Adam then turns and looks at himself in the mirror. He takes a deep breath. A beat. He claps his hands - the lights turn off.

EXT. SEATTLE STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT

It's 3 a.m. The streets are completely vacant of life. Adam walks along this normally busy avenue all alone.

EXT. STREET - DAWN

Adam walks along the sidewalk of his street and turns up his front walkway.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAWN

Adam packs a small DUFFEL BAG.

INT. ADAM'S KITCHEN - LATER

Adam kneels down, pours some dog food into a bowl for Skeletor. He looks at the dog, who looks back, confused.

ADAM  
Come here, boy.

Skeletor begins to eat. Adam looks in Skeletor's eyes and gives him one last pet.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Adam steps out onto the porch carrying his duffel bag. As he walks down the steps, he looks back at his house, takes a deep breath, and leaves.

I/E. KYLE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Adam gets into Kyle's car. The mood is eerie and quiet.

INT. KYLE'S CAR - LATER

Kyle and Adam sit silently parked in front of the hospital.

KYLE  
(beat)  
You ready?

ADAM  
Yeah.

KYLE  
It's going to be good. It's going  
to be fine.

ADAM  
Yeah.

We hear a voice from across the parking lot.

KYLE  
That's your mom.

Adam rolls down the window. Sure enough, his mom is yelling  
from across the parking lot-

DIANE'S VOICE  
Adam!

KYLE  
So I'll park the car I guess, and  
then come inside--

ADAM  
Yep.

KYLE  
--and I'll see you before you go in  
there?

ADAM  
Um...I'm not sure how it works.

KYLE  
Then I'll see you after...

ADAM  
Yep.

Kyle looks at him unsure what to say. Adam leans across and  
hugs Kyle.

KYLE  
So I'll see you in there...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Thanks.

Adam steps out of the car and walks across the vast concrete expanse toward his mother and father who stand waiting for him.

INT. HOSPITAL PRE-OP ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Adam lies on a gurney. His parents stand beside him. DR. WALDERSON the neurosurgeon enters.

DR. WALDERSON

Good morning, I'm Dr. Walderson,  
I'll be performing your surgery  
today...How are you feeling?

ADAM

Good.

DR. WALDERSON

Good. Good. Good. Good.

Dr. Walderson looks over her chart.

DR. WALDERSON

So we're going to take excellent  
care of you. Our surgical team is  
top-notch. You just try to relax.

Adam's completely terrified. Dr. Walderson exits. Nurse Stewart hands Adam a giant pile of disclaimers to sign.

ADAM

What is all this?

NURSE STEWART

Standard paperwork: hospital  
liability and disclaimer forms and  
organ donor authorization.

Richard whispers closely into Adam's ear:

RICHARD

I got a new coat... Brooks  
Brothers. Silk Pockets. Feel.

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

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Feel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM  
I am feeling.

Adam looks up at his dad, standing there in his confused state:

ADAM  
Dad, listen. I know it's probably hard to follow what's going on right now -- but I want you to know that I love you very much.

Richard looks at his son, blank expression on his face:

RICHARD  
OK.

ADAM  
OK, Dad.

Adam smiles at his father, and then looks at his mother. DR. LEE enters-

DR. LEE  
Hello Adam, I'm Dr. Lee -- I'm here to administer your anesthesia.

ADAM  
(nervous)  
Hi.

DR. LEE  
Now relax, I'm going to inject the anesthesia through your IV... It's going to take a few moments before you begin to feel the effects...

ADAM  
You're doing it now?

NURSE STEWART  
(to Diane and Richard)  
If you guys could just head over to the waiting room that'd be great.

ADAM  
How long will it last?

DR. LEE  
That really depends on the individual--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

Well, how do you know if it's going to last long enough so I won't wake up in the middle of surgery? Or what if I don't wake up after? Mom?

DIANE

Sweetie you're going to be just fine.

He leans over the bed into his mother's arms. She holds him for a long beat.

DR. LEE

I'm really sorry but we've got to get Adam to the operating room.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Could you just wait a moment, please?

Dr. Lee unlocks Adam's gurney.

DR. LEE

I'm sorry.

Diane kisses Adam on the cheek.

DIANE

I love you, Adam.

Dr. Lee nods to a couple nurses, who pull Adam's gurney through double doors. He disappears into fluorescence.

INT. HOSPITAL SURGICAL AMPHITHEATER - CONTINUOUS

Adam's gurney is PULLED INTO frame. We push in on Adam's unconscious face. Now, several ARMS reach out and grab him, placing him on the operating table.

SFX: The rhythmic beep of his heart monitor. The echoing sound of his breath. It initiates a

MONTAGE

--Katherine sits in her office, talking to a patient. She nods, jots notes, but her head is somewhere else.

--Diane and Richard sit in the waiting room. She holds a handful of pills. Richard takes them from her. She looks into his eyes, terrified.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- IN A WIDE SHOT, we see the operating table. Two neurosurgeons, Dr. Walderson and DR. PHILLIPS are in mid-surgery. Alongside the two doctors are TWO NURSES.

-- Kyle stands outside the hospital's front entrance. Next to him, a couple of NURSES on a smoke break talk animatedly. He stares ahead, nervous.

-- The operating room is empty. Adam lies on the surgical table, now face up with an oxygen mask over his mouth. His eyes are closed and his complexion is cold and pale.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - LATER

Diane, Richard and Kyle sit together, anxious. Katherine enters the room and sits across from the others. They exchange awkward looks.

DIANE  
(to Kyle)  
It's been five hours.

Kyle looks over clearly very aware of that fact:

KYLE  
Has it?

DIANE  
Something's wrong. We should have heard by now.

KYLE  
Don't worry. Adam's going to be fine, okay?

Katherine hears Adam's name. She leans over to Kyle, Richard, and Diane.

KATHERINE  
Adam Lerner?

KYLE  
(startled)  
Yeah.

KATHERINE  
Dr. Walderson is one of the best surgeons in the country, so he's in good hands.

DIANE  
Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHERINE  
I...uh, I'm Katherine.

KYLE  
The therapist! I'm Kyle, Adam's  
friend.

They shake hands.

KYLE  
These are Adam's parents.

KATHERINE  
It's nice to meet you.

She smiles and nods awkwardly. Long beat.

KYLE  
Did he say I was a dick? 'Cause I'm  
not.

DIANE  
I want you to know, I smothered him  
because I love him.

Katherine smiles politely.

KYLE  
Seriously, did he say anything?

KATHERINE  
I...I can't...I wouldn't...I  
wouldn't talk about that sort of  
thing.

Kyle and Diane turn their attention away from Katherine,  
dejected. In the distance, they spot Dr. Walderson. Everyone  
jumps up as she approaches:

DR. WALDERSON  
Mr. and Mrs. Lerner. So as you can  
imagine, with a surgery of this  
magnitude...there were some  
unforeseen complications. The bone  
erosion was much greater than  
initially anticipated. We had to  
remove part of the hip and pelvis,  
as well as most of the right psoas  
muscle. We also had to remove a  
good amount of sheath tissue around  
the sciatic nerve. It's not going  
to be an easy road back, but he's  
going to be okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DIANE  
(relieved)  
He's going to be okay?

Dr. Walderson nods.

KYLE  
You should start with that  
information. That should be the  
first thing you say.

He turns to hug Diane:

KYLE (CONT'D)  
He's OK!

Diane and Kyle hug, then pull Richard into the hug.

DIANE  
(to Dr. Walderson)  
Thank you, doctor, thank you!

Diane and Kyle start crying. Katherine sees this tender moment and shies away.

INT. HOSPITAL POST-OP RECOVERY - DAY

Adam's in his hospital bed - still asleep from the surgery. Richard and Diane enter the room. Adam reacts like a little kid being picked up from pre-school.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
Mommy!

DIANE  
(crying)  
My little boy.

ADAM  
It's nice here. I got a good room.

DIANE  
I know.

ADAM  
We need to go on more vacations.

DIANE  
Yes, we'll go on a huge vacation!  
We can go to Hawaii!

Kyle awkwardly stands over Adam, trying to act normal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Hey man? What's up?...I'm afraid to touch you, but um--

Adam sticks out his pinkie which Kyle gently fist bumps.

KYLE

Boom. You look really good.

ADAM

I'm high as a motherfucka.

Kyle looks at Diane with a guilty expression.

KYLE

Um...we don't do that.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Adam lies in bed. His eyes open, staring at the ceiling. It's quiet. Peaceful. Katherine knocks on the door and walks in. Adam speaks; woozy from the morphine, and very weak:

ADAM

It's you.

KATHERINE

It is me.

She stands next to the bed.

KATHERINE

How are you feeling?

ADAM

Grrreat. I love morphine...What time is it?

KATHERINE

It's eight o'clock. I was just working late, so I thought I'd stop by.

ADAM

(wide smile)  
Working late - you got a new patient?

KATHERINE

I got a few new patients, actually.

ADAM

That's good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Adam smiles. Looks into her eyes for a long beat.

ADAM

I'd like to make you pancakes some time.

KATHERINE

That's very nice, Adam.

ADAM

(dead serious)

You're going to like them.

Katherine laughs. She sits next to him on the bed, and takes hold of his hand. Unlike her previous attempts, this time her grip is perfect. Adam notices.

ADAM

I'm peeing right now.

KATHERINE

I'm not going to look.

We stay on Adam and Katherine looking into each other's eyes as Katherine moves her hand down his arm, finally clasping his hand in hers.

I/E. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

CLOSE-UP ON: WOUND

ANGLE ON: Kyle, staring at the wound with trepidation, absolutely disgusted.

KYLE

Ugh, it's gross! Oh God - I keep looking back at it thinking it's going to be less gross.

The wound is revealed to be on Adam's back. Adam -- hair slowly beginning to grow back, looking much healthier, relaxed -- looks back at Kyle.

ADAM

Can we just get it over with? Come on.

KYLE

Your mom does this?

ADAM

She does it all the time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE  
This is like some "Saw" shit.

ADAM  
(unaffected)  
Your words are so comforting.

KYLE  
I'm just gonna do it, I'm gonna act  
like it's nothing.

Kyle puts a gob of antibiotic ointment on his finger and very tentatively reaches towards Adam's back.

ADAM  
I'm going to be really proud of  
you.

KYLE  
Ugh! I'm doing it. I'm inside you!

Adam looks over his shoulder, notices Kyle applying the ointment.

ADAM  
Wait, wait, wait, is that your  
finger?

KYLE  
What?

ADAM  
Is that your finger?

KYLE  
(guilty)  
No.

ADAM  
There's Q-Tips!

KYLE  
I know, I know...

Kyle quickly applies some ointment on a Q-TIP.

ADAM  
That was your finger, wasn't it!

KYLE  
Would it be bad if it was?

ADAM  
Did you wash your hands?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KYLE

I used a Q-Tip the whole time,  
don't worry about it.

Kyle swabs the wound with the Q-Tip.

KYLE

This looks like Kuato from "Total  
Recall".

Adam grabs his back to imitate Kuato.

ADAM

The oxygen!

KYLE

(disgusted)  
No! Don't do that! Ugh!

Kyle feebly applies the DRESSING on Adam's wound.

ADAM

Can we get this going? It's seven  
thirty. Come on, put on the  
bandage.

Kyle gingerly applies the bandage whilst turning his head.  
Wound now covered, Kyle looks self-assured -- it's a pretty  
shoddy job.

KYLE

And you, are ready for your date!

Adam gingerly stands and buttons up his shirt. He walks over  
and looks in the mirror. He rubs his short hair in  
contemplation.

ADAM

It's crazy. I look pretty good.

KYLE

I'd fuck you.

ADAM

(smiles)  
Thanks.

The DOORBELL rings. Adam looks at Kyle, a bit nervous.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(excited)  
Who could that be? Go answer it,  
go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Adam takes a deep breath and opens the front door. He lights up when he sees KATHERINE standing in front of him. She's holding a PIZZA.

ADAM  
Hey.

KATHERINE  
Hi.

ADAM  
You look nice.

KATHERINE  
Thanks.  
(awkward beat)  
You too. You look super nice.

ADAM  
(smiles)  
You want to come in?

KATHERINE  
Yeah.

They walk inside.

KATHERINE  
Look at you, walking up a storm.

Kyle clears his throat and waves meekly from the corner.

ADAM  
You remember Kyle...

KYLE  
Good to see you...I see you brought a pizza, which is good because I haven't fed him all day. I just changed the dressing on his wound. There's Vicodin in the bathroom if you need it; I know people take it recreationally but he actually needs it for his aches--

Adam stares at Kyle, blankly. Katherine looks to Adam, unsure how to react.

KATHERINE  
(dead serious)  
Are there channels he can't watch?

Katherine cracks a smile. Kyle beams.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KYLE  
(to Adam)  
That's funny.  
(to Katherine)  
So, you're doing your doctorate I  
hear? That's--

Adam opens the door and ushers Kyle out.

ADAM  
Dude, you're awesome.

KYLE  
Alright!

Kyle moves toward the door and whispers to Adam--

KYLE (CONT'D)  
She's cool.

Adam smiles, and closes the door on Kyle. Adam then turns  
around and looks at Katherine.

KATHERINE  
So.

ADAM  
So.

KATHERINE  
(smiles)  
Now what?

A beat as Adam thinks, then flashes a smile.

MUSIC SWELLS as we go...

BLACK: