AWAKENINGS

Sceneplay by

Steven 2ailIan

Based on the Book by

Olive r Sac ks

1. A dusty deserted street - saloon, livery stable, sunset. Only there is something unsettling about it all. The colors are too muted and the angles not quite in perspective. Pulling slowly back eventually reveals the edges of a narrow wooden picture frame ...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - 1930
Drifting away from the painting and slowly across a room. Across Venetian blinds, open, letting in moonlight, across intricate handmade wooden models, dime novels and comic books, across the arm of a metronome gently slapping back and forth, and settling finally on a small hand writing slowly and deliberately, over and over, in synchronization, it seems, to the rhythm of the metronome, the word, "LEONARD."

2. INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING - 1930
The pendulum of a clock. An adult hand placing a bowl of cereal on a table. Leonard, ten or eleven, waits a moment for the adult to leave, grasps his spoon, and manipulates it from bowl to mouth in time with the soft regular rhythm of the
3. EXT. STREET - NEW YORK - MORNING - 1930
Schoolbooks slung over their shoulders, Leonard and another boy his age, a classmate, move along a street. All around them are "visual rhythms" - lines in the sidewalk, the even placement of trees, the sunlight breaking through the branches above them - and somewhere unseen, the rhythmic pounding of an elevator train. As they climb a fence, a pocket watch, Leonard's, falls to the ground.

4. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY - 1930
An adult hand chalking the words of a poem on a blackboard. Children at desks dutifully transcribing the lesson. All but one. Leonard. Whose hands are trembling slightly and whose paper is blank. There is a noticeable lack of rhythms. A cold silence. The broken watch rests on his desk. The boy from the train, glancing at Leonard, begins gently tapping the end of his pen against his desk. Leonard, "guided" by the cadence of his friend's tapping, begins to write.

(o The teacher's hand at the blackboard hesitates. Distracted by the rhythmic noise, he traces it to the offender and silences him with a look.

\)

Without the rhythm, and without, apparently, inner natural rhythms to replace it, Leonard's hand begins dragging the pen across the paper, forming vague scrawl, each word less defined than the last, until they begin melding together into what resembles nothing so much as a child's rendering of ocean waves. The teacher resumes chalking on the board. The boy from the train begins tapping his pen again, and, "guided" again by the rhythm, Leonard is able to give definition to the "ocean waves," to form recognizable letters and words. The teacher hesitates again and glares at the boy making the irritating noise. The boy stops tapping and Leonard's writing again becomes formless.

5. INT. CLASSROOM - LATER - DAY - 1930
The finished poem on the blackboard. The sounds of children at play on the schoolyard. The teacher, alone in the classroom, at his desk grading the penmanship lesson. He circles offending errors on the last page of the last composition book. He scribbles a grade opposite the student's name in a grade book. He notices the absence of a grade in
Leonard's column.

Leonard's desk. The teacher locates the missing composition book buried under textbooks. He takes it back to his own desk, opens it, and stares curiously at the last lesson, the poem, or rather Leonard's illegible representation of it. He considers earlier lessons in the book. He begins to see in the script a pattern of deterioration. He reaches the last entry again and stares at the few recognizable words drowning in "the waves."

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6

6. INT. LEONARD'S BEDROOM - DAY - 1930 - WINTER
The painting on the wall. The intricate wooden models and dime novels. The Venetian blinds, closed, shutting out sunlight. Voices, barely audible, from somewhere else in the house:

BOY'S VOICE
When can I see him?

WOMAN'S VOICE
When he's well.

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6.CONT. BOY'S VOICE 6.CONT,
When will he be well?

After a moment --

WOMAN'S VOICE
I don't know.

-- and the sound of a door closing.

A small twisted hand lifts a slat of the Venetian blinds revealing the snow-patched street below. Leonard's friend, crossing it, glances back . . . then disappears around a corner. And the small gnarled hand lets the slat slide down, extinguishing the single ray of light.

FADE TO BLACK

6A. EXT. BAINBRIDGE -HOSPITAL - THE. BRONX - DAY - 1970 6A
Tight on the face of a man (SAYER), late thirties, glasses, staring up at the face of a building, imposing in its institutional dullness.

6B. INT. LOBBY - BAINBRIDGE - DAY 6B.
A dim, sleepy cavern of a lobby. No one but a switchboard operator thumbing through a magazine. Echoing footsteps reach her station and she glances up and at the man from outside.

OPERATOR
Yes?

7. INT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - BAINBRIDGE - DAY
He seems uncomfortable. Perhaps it's the suit. Or the place. Or the situation. Or the hard straight-backed chair he's in. When he does finally speak, it's with great sincerity --

**SAYER**
When you say people ... you mean living people.

Behind an old oak desk, the hospital's Director glances over to its Chief of Medicine, Dr. Kaufman, with a look that seems to wonder, As opposed to what?

**DIRECTOR**
Living people, yes. Patients.

---

There's some mistake. And Sayer's chair begins to feel more uncomfortable. He tries to clear up the confusion -

**SAYER**
I'm here for the research position ... in your neurology lab.

**DIRECTOR**
Neurology lab?

Sayer tries to share the Director's amusement with a good-natured smile, but doesn't really understand it. Kaufman seems to have less time for this, and in plain English, unadorned -

**KAUFMAN**
- The-position-ds-Staff-^Neurologist. Sayer looks like a man who's just learned that everything he knows about the world is wrong.

**DIRECTOR**
(pause)
A doctor ... doctor.

The Director refers to stapled sheets of paper in his hands, Sayer's resume.

**DIRECTOR**
The Camel Institute. Tell me about that, anything with patients there? Or . . .

**SAYER**
(burying it)
Earthworms.
The Director isn't sure he heard right.

    DIRECTOR

    Sorry?

    SAYER

    It was an immense project. "
    I was trying to extract a decigram
    of myelin from four tons of
    earthworms.

The director offers a slow tentative nod before consulting the
resume again.

    DIRECTOR

    (pause)
    Really.

    SAYER

    I was on it for five years.
    I was the only one who really
    believed in it. The rest of them
    said it couldn't be done.

    KAUFMAN

    It can't.

    SAYER

    Well, I know that now. I proved
    it.

As the Director retreats back to the resume, hoping against
hope of finding in it something germane, Sayer glances away to
a window. He wishes he were outside it. He has no business
being here. He should leave.

    SAYER

    Excuse me, I made a mistake coming
    here. Clearly you're looking for
    someone with more of a clinical
He stands up to leave. Kaufman stands to see him out. But the director keeps searching the resume.

Q

7. CONT.

7.

I've taken enough of your time. You must have a hundred applicants more suitable.

KAUFMAN

Thanks anyway.

DIRECTOR

Back in medical school ...

Kaufman shoots the Director a look that says, No, we're not that desperate.

DIRECTOR

I mean, you couldn't have graduated without some clinical experience.

Sayer hesitates. And eventually manages sort of a shrug and a nod.

Sayer isn't so sure. He thinks about it long and hard . . .

8. INT. CORRIDOR - BAINBRIDGE - DAY

Moving along a corridor crowded "with patients, some ambulatory, some in wheelchairs, "living people" living with profound neurological disease.

ANTHONY O.S.

Spent much time in chronic hospitals, doctor?

A patient approaches, and, passing Sayer and the orderly who's escorting him (ANTHONY), offers -

FEMALE PATIENT 1
Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello...

8.CONT. ANTHONY
8.
(to Sayer)
You'd remember.
SAYER
I guess not.
As they pass an old patient in a wheelchair -
ANTHONY
Hey, how you doing?
(calling to someone
down the hall)
Dr. Sullivan.
Staying on the old patient, he eventually manages, too late -
OLD PATIENT
Fn ...
Sullivan thrusts his clipboard into Sayer's hand.

9. OMITTED

9.
10. INT. DAYROOM (A) - DAY
10.
A woman in a wheelchair uttering high-pitched screams (FEMALE
PATIENT 2). Sayer in a lab coat trying to calm her.
They're just pencils, pens. He tries to prove it to her by removing one of them from the pocket of his white coat. Screaming louder at the sight of it, she tries to protect her face with her hands like a boxer being beaten senseless.

11. INT. DAYROOM (B) - DAY
A man in his sixties confronts Sayer with an announcement in a loud commanding voice -

**MALE PATIENT 1**
sir.- i Who the* hell >are.*v.ou? .

12. INT. DAYROOM (C) - DAY
Stepping around a wheelchair, Sayer finds in it an elderly woman, nicely dressed, her hair done-up, a ribbon in it. Glancing at the chart in his hand -

**SAYER**
Mrs. Cohen?
**MRS. COHEN**
He's here?
She smiles, glances around. Sayer hesitates, uncertain who she means.

**SAYER**
I'm here.
(pause)
To examine you.

**MRS. COHEN**
Oh, no, I'm leaving today. My son's coming to take me home.

(6) Confused, Sayer tries to find a discharge form among the papers on the clipboard. Unsuccessful, he excuses himself from her and crosses the room to a nurse.

**SAYER**
Excuse me. Mrs. Cohen's son.
He's coming today?
**NURSE 1**
I wouldn't bet on it, he hasn't for twenty years.
The nurse turns away. Sayer crosses slowly back to Mrs. Cohen, trying to find the words to tell her. He doesn't have to; his discomfort does it. Her hand slowly reaches up and pulls the ribbon from her hair.

13. OMITTED
14. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM/OFFICE - LATER - DAY
Sayer alone at one of three old desks in the large room, still unsettled from the experience with Mrs. Cohen. Eventually, he gets up, crosses to a window and tries to open it.
It's jammed shut, painted shut perhaps, but finally gives way, sliding up. He lets the air from outside wash over his face as he stares out absently at children on an elementary school playground beyond a debris-strewn field.

MISS COSTELLO O.S.
(a matter of fact)
It gets easier.
Sayer turns to the voice, to Miss Costello, the hospital's head nurse, a veteran of this place, a woman who has seen it all.
She's standing in the doorway.

MISS COSTELLO
You don't think it will, but it does.
A moment and she A urns and leaves.

14A. EXT. TENEMENT (LUCY'S) - ESTABLISH - DAY

15. INT. TENEMENT - NEW YORK - DAY
The needle of a Victrola clawing at the endless music-less inner bands of a 78 . . .
Cold eggs and toast and prescription medicine on a kitchenette table. A puddle of coffee on the floor. Ceramic shards, a broken cup.
An old woman on her knees, eyes closed, arms tangled in an aluminum walker, limp and stiff at once somehow, like the limbs of a discarded marionette. Beyond her, beyond a threshold, a shuttered living room. Furniture from another era and the clutter of a lifetime.
A shadowy figure in a wicker wheelchair near the Victrola. Another old woman, with spindly limbs, profoundly afflicted and preposterously still. The back of her head is flat and bald, the result of lying supine upon it for much of several decades. On her passive face rest round wire-rim glasses. Insane or retarded and unaware of the dead woman, she mumbles, just barely audibly, a melody.

SAYER'S VOICE
Can you hear me?
16. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM/OFFICE - BAINBRIDGE - DAY
Distant music of children's laughter. Perhaps real, emanating from outside; perhaps imagined, remembered, playing in a remote region of the woman's damaged mind. Arrested of all movement, she stares, transfixed, at the blades of a fan.

SAYER'S VOICE
Do you know where you are?
(nothing back)
Do you remember being brought here?
(nothing back)
Do you know what has happened?
If she does, she gives no indication. No word or gesture. No change of expression on her mask of a face. She is elsewhere (or nowhere), cut adrift by her illness, living in a private world (or hell).

SAYER'S VOICE
Can you hear me?
Sayer, wearing a white lab coat, tries to read her eyes. Behind thick lenses, uncleaned for weeks or months, the eyes are inscrutable.

Sayer reaches to her face and carefully pulls the glasses from it. He cleans them with a flap of his lab coat -- they are loose, bent out of shape*-- and gently slides the temples back over her ears.
He turns away from her and types at a manual Underwood. The form in the machine, at the top, reads -- BAINBRIDGE HOSPITAL / ADMISSIONS / CONSULTATION REQUEST / NEUROLOGY. Sayer types in a lower section headed -- FINDINGS / DIAGNOSIS.
He turns back in his chair to find the woman doubled-over in her wheelchair, one arm very close to the floor, the hand clutching the glasses. She is not moving, but she has moved. That, or she is dead.
Sayer rights her, takes the glasses from her hand and slips them back onto her face. He studies her for a moment, and for that moment remains as still, as entranced, as her.
He takes the glasses from her face again and sets them on the floor. He waits. She doesn't retrieve them. He picks them up and holds them out to her. She doesn't move to take them. He lets go of them and she lunges forward, catching them the instant before they hit the floor. Sayer just stares.

SAYER'S VOICE
Her name is Lucy Fishman . . .

16B. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE EXAMINATION ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON
Dr. Kaufman, the hospital's Chief of Medicine, notices a number
of patients lined up in their wheelchairs as he passes them on his way into Sayer's examination room -

SAYER'S VOICE
She was found by neighbors with*
her sister, several days after the, sister had died . . .

17. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

The same room as before. The same woman. All that has changed is the light. It's late afternoon.

SAYER (CONT'D)
According to the neighbors,

* she's never set foot outside her
* apartment, has no other living
* relatives, and has always been the
* way she is now - without any
* comprehension or response.

Kaufman tries to feign interest. He glances to the others 1
Sayer has summoned to the room -- two other doctors, Tyler and Sullivan, and Miss Costello.

SAYER

And yet . . .
Without any warning whatsoever Sayer tosses a tennis ball at her. Her hand suddenly jerks up out of her lap and catches it. And stays there, stiff, still. Sayer is delighted but the expression on Kaufman's face is that of one who has long ago learned and tired of simple card tricks. Dismissing the phenomenon --

DR. KAUFMAN

A reflex.

SAYER
If she batted it away I might call that a reflex. She doesn't bat it away, she catches it.

DR. KAUFMAN

- It's still a reflex.

. . . . . . .

SAYER
I'm sorry, if you were right I'd agree with you.
Kaufman, understandably, takes some offense at the comment. Sayer, however, is unaware that he has caused any.

SAYER
It's as if . . . having lost all will of her own on which to act, she borrows the will of the ball. Awkward silence. Eventually--

**DR. TYLER**
The "will of the ball?"

Sayer nods. Kaufman and the other doctors concur with glances that the theory and theorist are absurd.

**DR. SULLIVAN**

Excuse me. Sullivan has better things to do and leaves the room. So does Tyler. Kaufman and Miss Costello remain.

**DR. KAUFMAN**

I (hopefully)
You're trying to make a good impression. That's it, isn't it? You're still settling in.

Sayer isn't sure if he should agree or not. He does neither.

**DR. KAUFMAN**
Miss Costello, you'll see that Dr. Sayer's patients waiting out there are rescheduled for tomorrow?

**MISS COSTELLO**
Yes, sir.

**DR. KAUFMAN**

Good night.

Sayer watches Kaufman leave. So does Miss Costello. Lucy, looking less like a woman than a Diane Arbus photograph of one, doesn't.

18. **EXT. PARKING LOT - BAINBRIDGE - LATE AFTERNOON**

Sayer climbs into his Toyota and, as he buckles his seat belt, recites in a mumble to himself --

**SAYER**

One . . .

* (he turns the key)
Two . . . (puts on sunglasses)
Three . . . (releases the brake)
Four . . . (shifts out of 'park')
Five.
Just as he's depressing the accelerator, someone raps on his window. He slams on the brakes. Miss Costello's face appears at the window. Recovering, Sayer rolls it down.

SAYER
What'd I forget?

MISS COSTELLO
I just wanted to say to you I preferred your explanation. () It's unclear whether he knows what she's referring to.

MISS COSTELLO
And that I'll look after things for you until you've "settled in."
Good night, doctor.

She leaves. He stares blankly out after her, then at his dashboard. To it eventually, quietly --

SAYER
Thank you . . .
He glances to his rear view mirror and can see her walking away toward her car. To the reflection --

SAYER
Thank you very much.

18A. EXT. SAMMY'S FISH GROTTO - ESTABLISH - NIGHT

19. INT. SAMMY'S GROTTO, CITY ISLAND, THE BRONX - NIGHT Sayer at a table eating dinner alone. He should've brought along something to read. He glances at the little "Catch of the Day" notice on his table for the tenth time, then absently in at an eel in a fish tank, which seems to be peering back out at him.

SIDNEY V.O.
I am not mad ... not mad . . .

20. EXT. SCHOOLYARD & BAINBRIDGE HOSPITAL - DAY

A tether ball dangling from a rope, resting against a pole. The chains of a swing. Pigeons scavenging scraps on the asphalt of the elementary school playground, deserted.

SIDNEY V.O.
I know the difference between what is real and what is not . . .

Beyond a chain-link fence, across the field, on the roof of one of Bainbridge's brick buildings, peering down from the edge of it, coat over his smock, hat on his head, an elderly man.
21. INT. SIDNEY'S DAYROOM - DAY

Tight on the elderly man's face.

SIDNEY
The voice was real.

21. CONT.
Sayer nods in agreement though he is not altogether as certain
of the claim. They are in a ward crowded with many patients
who are mad, obviously and irretrievably so.

SAYER
What did the voice say?

SIDNEY
"Mr. Titch, get your coat and hat,
go up to the roof and jump off."

SAYER
Did you recognize it as belonging
to a person? Or was it just a
voice?

Sidney considers Sayer suspiciously ... then smiles slyly. *

SINDER
You don't deny it was you.

SAYER

Me?
Sayer is taken aback. As is Sidney. One of them, and Sidney
believes he knows which, is lying or crazy.

'S * SAYER '
I do deny it. It wasn't me.
It wasn't real.
(pause)
We've only just now met, sir. »

Sidney, suddenly completely disoriented, withdraws.

SIDNEY
If that's true ... I'm in a
predicament.

22. INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - BAINBRIDGE - DAY

Sayer in line with Drs. Tyler and Sullivan, both younger than
himself. He seems distracted, Sayer, lost in the color of the
beets on his tray. Or a thought.
Like George telling Lenny again about the rabbits:

DR. SULLIVAN

*We'd be high up - 40th, 50th
22. CONT. DR. TYLER

Aquarium in the waiting room,

George.

DR. SULLIVAN

We could have all that ... but
we'd miss all this. We'd miss the
wards.

DR. TYLER

The smell of them.

DR. SULLIVAN

We'd miss this place -
(this cafeteria)
We'd miss this . . .
(the plate of mush as
it's set down onto
his tray)
Whatever this is.

SAYER

Ye ....

Sayer glances up at them, having paid attention to nothing
they've said, and nods at some other thought.

SAYER

Yes . . .

He leaves his tray where he stands, and heads out of the
cafeteria.

23. INT. SIDNEY'S DAYROOM - DAY

Sayer back with Sidney.

SAYER

Did you see me when-1 "spoke?"
Sidney thinks about it, tries to remember, to summon back the
moment in question, to picture it exactly as it happened, or
didn't happen.

SIDNEY

No.

SAYER

You see me now though.

SIDNEY
Yes.

Sidney turns to a patient, an elderly woman in a wheelchair beside him. Her state resembles that of Lucy's, that is, she appears to have no awareness of Sidney, Sayer, or anything else in her environment. It is only now, in fact, as Sidney spoons soup into her mouth, careful not to spill any, that Sayer notices her.

CONTINUED:

Sayer smiles, pleased with his solution. Sidney watches, unless you use the P.A. system.

Sayer's smile fades. Sidney is still in a predicament and Sayer has not the answer.

24. INT. NURSE'S STATION - DAY

Sayer dials the hospital operator.

SAYER
Mainenance, please.

Waiting to be connected, he notices another "state" (BERT).

What's uncommon about this one, a part from the body, is the angle of his wheelchair.

Perhaps the chair, I think, is slightly odd as if whoever was wheeling it simply let go of it and its cargo happened to come to rest, facing the wall.

Sayer
Unleash you the P.A. system.

Sayer
Unleash you the P.A. system.
Not wanting to lose the call, Sayer moves to war d the patient, keeping the receiver to his ear.

At full extension of the cord, unfortunately, he's still two places short. Reaching back with the arm with the phone, he gains distance and turns the telephone quick, just as his call connects.

SAYER

Yes. Hi. I need a lock installed on the door to the East Wing roof. A big lock. The sooner the better.

(Space)

I'm sorry, this is Dr. Sayer.

(Space)

I'm sorry, form . . .

He scribbles a number on the back of his hand and hangs up. He wanders over to the "statue" again.

SAYER

How are you?

No response whatsoever. Sayer manages his pen into the man's hand and searches his pockets for paper.

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He glances around. Sees an orderly reading a newspaper.

(Pause)

Borrows a section, returns with it, slides it under the pen and waits. The man doesn't write. Doesn't move.

Sayer takes the pen back, returns it to his coat pocket, hesitates, pulls it out again, holds it out . . . and lets it go.

The man, lightning quick, catches it.

25. INT. ANOTHER DAYROOM (B) - LATE R - DAY

Another man rigid as stone (FRANK). This one peering up at a television set with a horizontal hold problem.

Sayer drags a chair over, stands on it, adjusts the set, corrects it, gets a picture . . . but the man's "attention" slowly drifts away. Sayer "reads" it, gets the jumping horizontal lines again, and the man's vacant eyes return.
26. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - LATER - DAY

Another dayroom crowded with patients, one of which stands before a table, absolutely motionless, on thin bird-like legs. It is Lucy, the one who caught the tennis ball. The movement of nurses and other patients only accentuates her stillness. Sayer considers her from all angles as one considers an abstract art piece that baffles but intrigues. Unlike the others, she's on her feet. And unlike the others, she seems, to Sayer, to have been headed somewhere before turning to stone again.

"..."

He decides that her destination was the drinking fountain across the room. And that it's the table, like a barrier, that has arrested her progress. He moves the table. In what appears to be slow motion, she takes a tiny step. And another. And another before encountering and being "blocked" by an empty wheelchair. She stops. Sayer moves the wheelchair and all other obstacles out of her path. She continues and eventually makes it halfway to the fountain before mysteriously stopping again. Sayer studies the puzzle ... there are no longer any barriers in her way, but she's not moving. Defeated, he goes to the fountain himself, fills a paper cup, and takes it to her. Across the room, a man in a wheelchair, another "ghost" (LEONARD), stares through eyes which seem more dead than alive. "At" Sayer.

27. INT. FILE ROOM, BAINBRIDGE - DAY

An admission form, yellowed and brittle with age --

BAINBRIDGE HOSPITAL / ADMISSIONS
STATE OF NEW YORK

A typed date / AUGUST 2, 1929. The admitting physician's name. The patient's name. And age / 15. An identification number and ward assignment number.

As Sayer pulls the folder and closes the drawer of one of several filing cabinets lining the walls of a claustrophobic room, Miss Costello slides open another, locates a particular folder in it and in the folder another admitting form -- The date / MAY 7, 1932. Names and numbers. Another drawer. Sayer pulling another folder. Another admission form - Date / DECEMBER 12, 1930. Age of the patient / 22.
28.  INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER - DAY
The files spread out on a table. Sayer and Miss Costello leafing through them.

Sayer considers one's original admission forms. He scans bodies of text and finds a diagnosis -- ATYPICAL SCHIZOPHRENIA. He sets it aside and picks up another.

MISS COSTELLO
"Atypical Hysteria," this one. Sayer nods to himself and keeps reading his. He eventually finds in its text -- ATYPICAL RABIES. He flips to the end of the file. "No change since last examination" it reads. He turns the page. "No change, no therapy recommended." He turns the page, the last entry. "No change." The date, "11/9/44."

SAYER
There must be more recent files we missed somehow. "Part Twos" to their medical histories.
(Miss Costello is shaking head 'no.')
In some other filing cabinet somewhere.

MISS COSTELLO
NO.

29.  EXT. PARKING LOT - BAINBRIDGE - EVENING
Sayer and Miss Costello walking to their cars.

SAYER
One would think that after a point enough atypical somethings would amount to a typical something. But a typical "what?"
Miss Costello, no doubt, has less of an idea than Sayer what the "what" could be.

MISS COSTELLO
Doctor . . . would you like to get a cup of coffee somewhere?
(pause)
Tea?

SAYER
Ah . . . normally I'd say yes . . .
only I've made other plans . . .
She nods quickly. She seems, strangely, relieved.

MISS COSTELLO
Some other time.

SAYER
Yes.

MISS COSTELLO

, Good night.

SAYER

Good night.

They veer apart to their respective cars.

30. INT. SAMMY'S GROTTO, CITY ISLAND - NIGHT

30.

The tiny gree/i eyes in the head of the eel staring out at refracted light and shadow. Sayer, alone at the same table as before, finished with his meal.

WAITER

Tea, right? Sayer

Sayer

P e s. '...-

lae

The waiter leaves. Sayer glances back into the fish tank at the eel behind the rock, its rock, its home.

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31. EXT. CITY ISLAND - LATER - NIGHT

31.

Sayer strolling down a dark side street. He reaches a snail wooden house near the water and climbs three steps to the porch. He gets the front door opened and bends to pick up mail (including a few book parcels from antiquarian shops) just inside the threshold.

*

*

32. OMITTED

33. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

33.
Tight on (Ernst Heckle) drawings of primitive life forms.

Sayer, in his dining room, leafs through the old first edition, pleased it has arrived, intrigued by its pictures. The parcel paper lies beside it on the table.

34. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

Fingers on the keys of a baby grand piano that seems out of scale with Sayer's small living room. Wrapped in a robe, he plays a melody.

All around him lay packing boxes, some empty, many not. The books are out at least - many of a medical nature, many others on nature itself, botany, many first editions - two and three deep on shelves, on the floor, on tables, stacked on the couch and chairs almost like figures of people.

35. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

A lamp, on, in the living room. Sayer asleep on the couch, an open book and reading glasses resting on his chest. His eyes blink open. Not at a noise. At a thought.

36. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - BAINBRIDGE - LATER - NIGHT

A night janitor with a pail - on - wheels past darkened offices. He pauses a tone, the file room, light under its door, and opens it.

* JANITOR
I'm sorry, doctor. I thought someone left the lights on.

Glancing up from files strewn across the table, Sayer shares a discovery with the janitor -

SAYER
They all survived encephalitis years before they came here. In the 1920's .

He taps a finger at the files - the patients' medical histories.
prior to admission - forms listing childhood diseases and ailments. The janitor, having no idea of course what he means, retreats with his pail and mop, closing the door.

36A. EXT. MEDICAL LIBRARY, NEW YORK - ESTABLISH - DAY 36A.
37. INT. MEDICAL LIBRARY, NEW YORK - DAY 37.
Sayer displays what he has written on the back of his hand to

* an assistant librarian: NEJM 4-6-35.

SAYER
The New England Journal of Medicine, April 6th, 1935.

*

38. INT. MEDICAL LIBRARY - LATER - DAY 38.
A microfilm machine. Sayer manipulating its levers and eventually finding what he's after, an article titled:
ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA, TEN YEARS LATER.
Accompanying the text are grainy black and white photographs taken in an old operating theatre. An anatomical skeleton, a doctor in a white coat, subjects-- men, women and children with haunting eyes.

39. EXT. RESIDENTIAL GARDEN, NEW YORK - DAY 39.
Close on the doctor from the photographs - ancient and ill.

OLD DOCTOR
(philosophically detached)
Pus and pain, that's the final
*
reward. Pus and pain and obscurity.

He's in a small unkept rose garden. With Sayer.
*

Note: To get clearance from the New England Journal of Medicine, we must indicate that it is a weekly publication, *
which is why the "6th" has been added.

OLD DOCTOR
I believe you when you say some still live. But I can assure you they're medically irrelevant. As they were thirty years ago when I fought to get my work published.

He smiles at a thought, at once wistful and bitter.

OLD DOCTOR
That's the problem with a unique disease. Once it no longer rages, I'm telling you, it becomes very unfashionable.
He buries his face into his mask, manages to get some deep breaths into his lungs and shakes his head at Sayer.

OLD DOCTOR
What would I be without this thing? A man with a1 shred of dignity left.

SAYER
Should I get your nurse?

OLD DOCTOR
God forbid, no.

He lights a cigarette, coughs and puts it out.

OLD DOCTOR
How many have you found there?

SAYER
Five. So far. I think there may be more.

The old doctor nods. He has the torn look of someone reminded of an unfaithful lover just when he'd managed to forget about her. He wants and doesn't want to know how they're doing. Finally --

OLD DOCTOR
How are they?

SAYER
As you described them. As they were back then. As "insubstantial as ghosts." Only I guess most of them were children then.

OLD DOCTOR
Yes. Children who fell asleep.

o 40. INT. OLD DOCTOR'S STUDY - DAY

Boxes of ancient history have been dragged out of storage, the emphysema-plagued doctor's post-encephalitic research, files and photographs and cans of 16mm film.

OLD DOCTOR
Most died during the acute stage of the illness, during a sleep so deep they couldn't be roused. A sleep that in most cases lasted several months.

The doctors, in the dark, watch forty year old footage projected onto a screen by a pre-World War II Bell & Howell - a motionless man in a chair, his head thrust back, mouth gaping open, arms suspended out from an emaciated torso as if from invisible strings.

OLD DOCTOR
Those who survived, who awoke, seemed fine, as though nothing had happened. Years went by - five, ten, fifteen - before anyone suspected they were not well. .
They were not.

A doctor, this doctor decades younger, appears beside the subject on the screen and lowers the man's arms.

**OLD DOCTOR**

I began to see them in the early 1930's - old people brought in by their children, young people brought in by their parents - all of them complaining they weren't "themselves" anymore. They'd grown distant, aloof, anti-social, they daydreamed at the dinner table. I referred them to psychiatrists.

The man on the screen disappears and is replaced by a seal-shaped woman in whom a hundred strange diseases seem to reside. They conspire against her, torment and harass her, force her to perform incessant and meaningless actions with her hands, to paw her chin, to flutter, to adjust glasses that aren't there.

---

40.CONT. **DOCTOR**

Before long they were being referred back to me. They could no longer dress themselves or feed themselves. They could no longer speak in most cases. Families went mad. People who were normal, were now . . . * (searches for the word)

. . . elsewhere ...

The woman on the screen is replaced by a young man, a teenager, who seems composed less of flesh than wax, a wax figure with real eyes.

**SAYER**

What must it be like to be them? On the screen, the young man's eyes, entranced, gaze upward as if trying hard to remember something. Or trying hard to forget it.

**SAYER**

What are they thinking?

**OLD DOCTOR**

They're not. The virus didn't spare the higher faculties.
Sayer waits for the old doctor to tell him the reasons, the data, to support the merciful truth. But he doesn't seem to possess it any more than Sayer does. Long silence before:

Old Doctor

Because the alternative is unthinkable.

40A. INT. DAYROOM (C) - DAY

The hand of a stone-like woman catches the tennis ball while the rest of her remains absolutely still. Sayer gestures to Anthony, Okay, and the orderly wheels her out of the crowded room.

40B. INT. WARD 5 DAYROOM - DAY

The hand of an otherwise still-life man snaps to catch the ball. Sayer nods to an orderly who wheels him out past younger patients, Ward 5's residents.

40C. INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

The ball glances off the face of a nan who turns in his wheelchair and glares at Sayer.

Sayer

Sorry.

41. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - LATER - DAY

Sayer has assembled them all, the fourteen or fifteen he has decided are post-encephalitics, and wanders among them like a naturalist in a garden of stone.

He lifts an arm of one particularly remote male patient. It remains suspended, doll-like.

He tries to follow the trajectory of another's gaze. It leads only to blank space.

He considers another who appears "deeply involved" in some minute and curious activity with his twisted hands, a kind of tearing, shredding motion.

Across the room, paying no attention to Sayer, are Sidney and
Lolly. He's gently brushing her hair.
Sayer manages a pen into the hand of another woman and she "draws" a kind of circular shape that spirals in on itself until it reaches a "vanishing point" in the center.

42. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER - DAY
The results of standard perception tests scotch-taped to a wall of the examination room.
Sayer and Miss Costello, like visitors to a museum, consider each for a moment before moving onto the next.
Printed in the left column of each are a circle, square, triangle and daisy. In the right are the post-encephalitics' failed "attempts" to copy them.

Sayer keeps coming back to one in particular. Unlike the others which, if you use your imagination, vaguely correspond somewhat positionally to the pre-printed shapes, this one bears no resemblance. This patient has instead scrawled over the shapes, seemingly violently.
Miss Costello joins Sayer and ponders it along with him. Eventually, as if to excuse it and its maker--

MISS COSTELLO
It's different.
SAYER
Quite. It's quite bad.
Sayer keeps studying it.

SAYER
(more to himself)
Did he fail to understand? Or was he unwilling to fail?
He isn't really asking her to answer, which is fine with her since she doubts equally both hypotheses.

SAYER
Could he be saying, "I can't draw a triangle, don't make me"?
(before she can respond:)
Could it be willfully bad?
She doesn't say it but it's clear she thinks Sayer is reading far too much into the "badness" of the patient's scrawl. To himself--

SAYER
Which one is this?
He leans closer to see the typed name . . .

43. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - DAY
The painting of the Western town from the prologue - saloon, livery stable, sunset. Below it, in his wheelchair, Leonard. His face is unlined and passive, like a mask. His body is still, like the dead.
Sayer's Voice

Does he ever speak to you?

Leonard's mother, a woman of seventy or so, is combing her son's hair, being careful to get the part straight.

Mrs. Lowe

Of course not. Not in words.

Sayer

He speaks to you in other ways.

How do you mean?

Mrs. Lowe

You don't have children.

Sayer

No.

Mrs. Lowe

If you did you'd know.

Finished with his hair, she wheels him from the sleeping ward and into the

43A. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Sayer, trailing after Mrs. Lowe and her son, becomes momentarily distracted by Lucy, the most recently arrived post-encephalitic, the one he tried unsuccessfully to coax to the drinking fountain. She is there again, "stuck" at the same point, angled toward the fountain but unable to reach it. Sayer brings her a cup of water and rejoins Mrs. Lowe.

Sayer

I'd like to examine him again-if that's all right with you.

Mrs. Lowe

He did well.

Sayer

In a sense.

Mrs. Lowe

He's very clever. Aren't you, Leonard.

Sayer shows her the perception test "drawing** Leonard made.

Sayer

Does this mean anything to you?

Mrs. Lowe

(more to Leonard)

It's very good.

She glances back to Sayer who nods uncertainly. She recognizes the look on his face; she's seen it before on the faces of more doctors than she cares to remember.

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MRS. LOWE
(becoming impatient with him)
Well it's abstract, isn't it.
Sayer can't bring himself to agree with her.

MRS. LOWE
That's the problem with all you doctors, you have no imagination.
Everything has to be real to you.
No longer having any use for him, she pointedly ignores him.

* 
Taking the hint, Sayer's wanders off, past Lucy, looking like a statue, holding the paper cup he brought her.

43B. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING (MRS. LOWE'S) - ESTABLISH - NIGHT 43B.

44. INT. MRS. LOWE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT
The door opens from the inside revealing Sayer in street clothes. Judging from the look on Mrs. Lowe's face, he has arrived unannounced.

SAYER
I want to know more about him.

44A. INT. MRS. LOWE'S APARTMENT - LEONARD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 44A.
An old photograph. A sixth grade class picture from 1930?, Moving slowly across the young faces to Leonard, eleven, at the end of a row.

MRS. LOWE 0.8.
Something was wrong, they said, with his hands. He couldn't write anymore, he couldn't do the work, I should take him out of school, they said. He was eleven.
They're in Leonard's old bedroom, Sayer and Mrs. Lowe. Except for the Western painting that's missing, nothing has changed in it in thirty years.

CONTINUED:

MRS. LOWE
He slowly got worse. He'd be talking, suddenly he'd come to a stop. After a few seconds he'd finish what he was saying like nothing happened, but these standstills got longer. Sometimes he'd call to me and I'd come in
and find him at his desk in a trance. An hour, two hours. Then he'd be okay again.

CONTINUED:

Sayer glances around the room. It's been preserved, like a shrine.

MRS. LOWE
One day I came home from work and found him in his bed, his arm like this, reaching.
(pause)
"What do you want, Leonard?"
She pictures the moment in her mind, and waits, it seems, for the young Leonard to speak, to tell her what it is he wants. Finally she lowers her arm and shrugs.

MR. S LOWE
He never spoke again. It was like he'd disappeared. I took him to Bainbridge later that year.
November fourteenth, 1937.
He was twenty.

Sayer glances away from her to the room itself again.

SAYER
What'd he do with himself, Mrs. Lowe, those nine years he stayed in this room?
She smiles to herself, proudly it seems.

MRS. LOWE
He read.

45. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - BAINBRIDGE - DAY
Leonard's face in shadow. Wires emerging from his scalp. A sluggish EEG pattern.
A blinding flash from a strobe. Suddenly lights up the room. The pupils of Leonard's eyes shrink, but his EEG remains stuporously slow.

45A. EXT. RESEARCH LAB, NEW YORK - ESTABLISH - DAY

46. INT. RESEARCH LAB - DAY
A monkey flipping switches on a panel built into a laboratory room, searching for a sequence.
In an observation booth, years of collected data - charts and graphs, EEG's and notes.

There, Dr. Mann, a contemporary of Sayer's, stares at Sayer...
curiously. Eventually he manages --

**MANN**
When you say you're working with people, you don't mean living people.

---

**SAyer**
Living people, yes. Patients. Mann just stares. He's a scientist, they both are, and the idea of Sayer working with living people, rather than expired ones laid out on the pathology table, is inconceivable to him.

**MANN**
(fearing the answer)
Where?

**SAyer**
It's in The Bronx. It's a poor private chronic hospital called Mount --

**MANN**
(appalled)
Oh, Malcolm, Malcolm, come back, come on. You're a benchman, you're no clinician, why would you lower yourself?

Sayer hasn't an answer for him.

**SAyer**
How's Hank?

**MANN**
How's Hank? He's great, he's brilliant, look at him.

Sayer glances away to Hank the monkey, watches him. Mann studies Sayer, chagrined and incredulous.

**MANN**
A physician? You?

He slaps him angrily across the shoulders with some papers. The monkey completes a complex sequence which opens a chamber revealing an electric train. The animal jumps and hoots with wild glee. Sayer reaches out and presses the button on the stop watch dangling from Mann's neck.

**SAyer**
Subtract two seconds off his time.

---

47. OMITTED

47

48. **INT. RESEARCH LAB - LATER - DAY**

48

Rats in cages, wired up, manipulating elaborate series of ladders and pulleys, traversing catwalks, or ratwalks, leading to glucose rewards.

While Mann, with something less than great enthusiasm,
considers an EEG Sayer has brought, his monkey drags toys over to Sayer and tries to engage him in play. One of the toys is an Ouija Board.

MANN
(to, Sayer)
Don't look at me like that. It's for his alphabet lessons.
(to the monkey)
We're busy, Hank, go play solitaire.
The monkey obediently goes off in search of a deck of cards. Gesturing at patterns on the EEG --

MANN
Asleep. First stage normal.
Second a little dull. Normal
RM...
E

He shrugs, lays out a second EEG, and gestures at patterns on it --

MANN
Awake. Slightly erratic. No more so than a lot of people walking the streets of New York.
(shrugs again)
I give up, what's wrong with him?

SAYER
You have them backwards. This is him awake . . .
(points to one EEG; then the other)
This is him asleep.

Mann thinks Sayer is kidding. He isn't.

MANN
This is him awake? This is him asleep?
Sayer nods. Mann tries, without success, to make some sort of sense out of that.

MANN
What are you saying? When he's awake, what, he's dreaming?

SAYER
When there's any brain activity at all, which is infrequent, yes. Dreaming or hallucinating.

MANN
And when he's asleep . . . ?

SAYER
When he's asleep he manages to create a kind of reality. What we might call reality.
MANN
That's what you think these say?

SAYER
I don't know.
Mann studies the "waking" EEC. He points to its one and only large electrical peak.

MANN
What's this peak? Strobe?

SAYER
No. This is the strobe.
Sayer indicates a flat section of the pattern where there is scribbled in pencil a small "s."

SAYER
This... (the large peak, marked with an "L") /... is me saying his name to him.

Mann stares rather dumbly at Sayer. Then at Hank the monkey on the floor dealing solitaire.

49. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY
Tight on Leonard. Something blurs past him but his eyes don't follow it. Pulling back, the object blurs by again from the other direction.
Tight on Sayer. The thing blurs past his face. His eyes don't follow it either. Pulling back, it blurs again.

A circle of patients in wheelchairs. The post-encephalitics reunited. "Waking" just long enough to catch and release the object, a small beach ball.
Leonard and Sayer, on opposite sides of the circle, ignoring the ball and the other patients. He's reached a dead end, Sayer, right where he began, his only "accomplishment," this, ball-catchng patients.

50. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY
Sayer alone in the examination room, tired, at its window staring blankly out.
His perspective: The empty lot below littered with abandoned couches, refrigerators, rusting automobile carcasses.
And beyond the lot, the elementary school playground. Laughing children on swings and slides. Jumping rope. Batting tether balls. Playing hopscotch.
Moving slowly in on one of the hopscotch games. On a girl tossing a bean bag into a square. Jumping over it and into the next square. Turning and jumping back. Balancing on one foot. Retrieving the bean bag and tossing it down again. Into the next square of the tile pattern chalked on the asphalt.
51. **INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY**

From above, patients in wheelchairs dot the black and white checkerboard linoleum-tile floor like chess pieces. The pattern is regular to a point but then breaks up -- is interrupted by an area of solid white, where a wall once stood -- before being restored. It forms a kind of narrow "sea," the white area, on either side of which lies "land."

At floor level Sayer and Miss Costello, on their hands and knees, are "blacking in" the missing tiles with shoe polish, "bridging" the gap between the two checkerboards. The retarded patients around them ignore them. The ward nurses pretend to. 'Completing the pattern Sayer glances across the room to Leonard. He seems to be "watching." His mother, nearby, idly thumbing through a magazine as she brings Leonard up to date on neighborhood news, isn't.

Sayer crosses to Lucy. Lifts her gently out of her chair. Points her in the direction of the drinking fountain. She begins to move. To step slowly over each tile. She reaches the "bridge" and hesitates. Then crosses it.

Sayer doesn't know whether to applaud or cry. He does neither, burying his emotions behind a professional mask instead, and watches as Lucy, "delivered" to the other side, free now, lets the regularity of the pattern guide her toward the fountain. She nears it. She is almost there. Then she is. there. But doesn't drink. Doesn't stop. She continues past it . . . To a window, the window beyond the drinking fountain which Sayer hadn't noticed before, had no reason to notice, had no need to notice, with a broken pane allowing a view to the outside.

She stares out at the traffic below, in hopes no doubt of figuring out where she is. And Sayer's eyes, behind which exhilaration and horror rise up, shift from her to Miss Costello, and then to Leonard, in whose mask of a face Sayer thinks he sees a faint glimmer.

These people are alive inside.

52. **INT. DAYROOM (B) - DAY**

A soap opera on a portable black and white TV in a narrow passageway of a nurses' station. Beyond it, beyond a glass partition, a crowded idle dayroom.

Miss Costello crosses into and out of view and reappears moments later next to the TV. She switches it off and turns to face the three RNs who were watching it. In their defense --
NURSE
The patients have all been given
their morning medication.

MISS COSTELLO
Good. Dr. Sayer was hoping you'd
have some free time.
She hands a book to the nurse who spoke (MARGARET), a first
dition worn /rom many readings. Margaret glances from it to
the other nurses and back to Miss Costello.

53. INT. DAYROOM (B) - LATER - DAY
53
The nurse holds the book like it's something quite foreign to
her. She finds the beginning of the first chapter, clears her
throat, and reads --

MARGARET
"Call me . . . Ish-ma-el . . ."
She glances up at her audience: three blank-faced post-
encephalitics. Miss Costello, who is nearby, nods to her to
continue. She clears her throat again, and, feeling like a
fool, reads --

MARGARET
"Some years ago, never mind how
long precisely, having little or
no money in my purse, and nothing
particular to interest me on
shore, I thought I would sail
about a little and see the watery
part of the world . . . "
Miss Costello leaves.

54
54. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY
Leonard's head locked on his shoulders at an improbable angle
that forces his entranced gaze upward to a point well above
Sayer.

SAYER
Can you hear me, Leonard? I want
to hear you speak your name.

Sayer waits . . . but Leonard remains mute.

55. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - MORNING "
55
Tight on Sayer pulling record albums from his extensive
classical collection.

56. INT. DAYROOM (D) - DAY
56
An old box-style phonograph. The kind whose top is also a
detachable speaker.
An orderly, Fernando, dusts it off, rigs it, takes the record
Miss Costello holds out to him, gets it spinning, and sets the
needle down.
Opera music. For the "enjoyment" of two more post-
encephalitics. The eyes of one narrow slightly, almost
imperceptibly.

57. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY
57
The keys of Sayer's old manual Underwood typewriter. And
Leonard's claw of a hand hanging over them like one of those
unmanageable penny arcade cranes.

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SAYER
57
Leonard's hand remains still, suspended above the keys, for
what seems an eternity.

58. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY
58.
Under Miss Costello's supervision, maintenance men remove the
gratings from the windows and wash the panes.

59. INT. DAYROOM (D) - DAY
59.
30's jazz music. The orderly from before with "his" two post-
encephalitics. Each has a tray of cafeteria food, but only one
is eating, and mechanically at that. <

FERNANDO
. . . not just any music, it has to
be the right, music for them. Jazz
does nothing for Bert. Only Rose.
(pause)
It's like they're only moved by
music that moves them. I'm that
'**'*
way .

SAYER
(intrigued)
Yes, so am I. >
The moment Fernando takes the record off, Rose stops eating,
stops moving. The orderly puts on Mozart and waits. Neither
patient moves.

FERNANDO
I haven't found anything that moves Bert yet.

59A. INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

A "normal" patient with multiple sclerosis has managed to intercept Sayer on his way somewhere else, his arms full with an 8mm camera and tripod and screen.

MS WOMAN
I don't interest you like those other people, those ones with that disease.
SAYER
That's not true.

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MS WOMAN
I wish I had something like that. Something that would interest you instead of this stupid boring MS.

60. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Leonard in his wheelchair, absolutely motionless. Sayer behind the lens of the 8mm camera on the tripod. Drs. Tyler and Sullivan, at the doorway, watch with some amusement.

60A. INT. DAYROOM (A) - DAY

Miss Costello wheels the man who shreds invisible things to a window and places a piece of toast from a tray into his hands. He tears at it, the crumbs sailing out onto a landing, and a flock of pigeons swoops up.

61. INT. DAYROOM (C) - DAY

Three post-encephalitics with cards in their hands and the best poker faces you ever saw.

MARGARET
They'll sit there all day like that if I let them. I have to play the first card.

Sayer watches her pull a card from one of their hands and place it on the table. All three "wake" and begin throwing down cards, one after another.

SAYER
Is it a real game I wonder?
MARGARET
If it is, I don't know it. Maybe
it's three different games.

**SAYER**
(delighted)
Yes.

62. OMITTED

63. INT. CORRIDOR / DAYROOM (B) - DAY
Sayer moving past "normal" patients lined up in the hall like planes on tarmac. Suddenly, from a dayroom, booms the opening bass line of Hendrix's "Foxy Lady."

(White) Rev.

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63.CONT. . . . . . . . , , , ,
«
Sayer peers slowly into the room. Bert is eating and Anthony is grinning. He sees Sayer in the doorway and sends him self - satisfied thumbs up sign.

64. INT. DAY ROOM (C) - DAY

Miss Costello sitting with a post-encephalitic man. (Frank)

**MISS COSTELLO**
There's something else that reaches them.
She touches the man's hand, holds it, and his head slowly turns to face her.

**MISS COSTELLO**

Human contact.
She pulls him gently to his feet and walks with him a few steps.

**MISS COSTELLO**

He can't walk without me. If I let go - (to the patient) I won't let go of you' - (to Sayer) - if I let go, he 'll fall. H e'll walk with me anywhere .
They walk a few more steps and tears begin to form in Miss Costello's eyes.

**MISS COSTELLO**

It's like the ball . . . only it's my will he's borrowing.

Sayer, too, is moved. But as he watches Miss Costello and her patient walk away, his expression changes; something she said or done has struck a chord, or unlocked a door:

Close on their hands . . .

65. **OMITTED**

66. **INT. BAINBRIDGE—NIGHT**

Empty corridor. Echoing footsteps.

67. **INT. LEONARD'S WARD—NIGHT**

Leonard. Tucked in but "awake." Staring at the ceiling.

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SAYER O.S.

Leonard?

68. **INT. LEONARD'S WARD—LATER—NIGHT**

In a far corner of the darkened ward, in a pool of lamp light, two silhouetted figures. Sayer and Leonard. Sleeping patients all around them.

Sayer carefully, awkwardly, places his hand on Leonard's. After a moment, the contact brings the useless appendage "to life." As it slowly turns over and grasps the doctor's hand, a glimmer of life seems to appear in Leonard's eyes as well. Sayer, unfamiliar, it seems, with the feeling the contact produces in him, nonetheless places his other hand on Leonard's other. Soon it too turns and holds onto Sayer's. The doctor draws both of Leonard's hands toward him and sets them down on the pointer of an Ouija Board.

**SAYER**

I'll begin moving the pointer toward the "L." For "Leonard."
Once I feel you beginning to move it, I'll stop and you'll take over. Do you understand? Leonard, of course, cannot say whether he does or not. The look on his face is "thoughtful." The look on Sayer's, hopeful and foolish.

**SAYER**

I'm beginning . . .
The pointer begins to slowly move past stars and moons. Judging from Sayer's expression he begins to feel Leonard's movement of it and, presumably, stops his own.

**SAYER**

Yes, good . . .
The pointer moves across the letters, but passes the "L" without stopping. It stops on the "R."

**SAYER**

No. No, I didn't make myself clear. My fault. I . . .
The pointer begins moving again, "interrupting" Sayer. It passes the "I" again, reaches the "I" and stops.

```
SAYER


It begins moving again. But not to the "E." To the nK," where it hesitates briefly before moving again.

**SAYER**

(realizing, to himself)

. . . you're spelling something els e . . .
```

Keeping one hand on the moving pointer, Sayer fumbles a pen from his shirt pocket and scribbles on his lab coat what Leonard has and is continuing to "write":

**RILKESPA**

---

**69. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - NIGHT**

Sayer alone in the examining room, standing over his desk. The lab coat is on it. And on it is scrawled:

**RILKESPANTHERILKE**

He has to study it only a moment before he sees the meaning of it; he quickly scratches out the last four letters and adds a slash between the "S" and the "P," so that it reads:
69A. EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - ESTABLISH - DAY

70. INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

A card catalogue. Cards flipping by, stopping on one that reads:

831 R Rilke, Rainer Maria
   German poet and fiction writer;
   1875-1926; Collected Poems
   tr. fr. German by --

71. INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - LATER - DAY

Moving slowly in on Sayer at one of the library tables with a V book.

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SAYER'S VOICE
"His gaze from staring through the bars has grown so weary that it can take in nothing more . . .

INT. LEONARD'S WARD - DAY

72.

Moving slowly into the Western painting.

SAYER'S VOICE
"For him it is as though there were a thousand bars, and behind the thousand bars, no world . . .

72A. EXT. BRONX ZOO - DAY

Moving in on a panther, limbs weakened, spirit broken, slowly pacing back and forth before the bars of a small cage.

SAYER V.O.
"As he paces in cramped circles, over and over, his powerful strides are like a ritual dance around a center where a great will stands paralyzed . . .

Moving slowly away from Sayer watching, moving high above him; the place is virtually deserted.

73. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - DAY

73.
Moving slowly in on Leonard as, in bed, flannel pajamas, as his mother diapres him for the night.

SAYER V.O.
"At times the curtains of the eye
lift without a sound . . .
Moving slowly< in on Sayer, unseen in a doorway, staring at Leonard, at the look of contentment on his face. Or is it a look of impotent rage?

SAYER V.O.
".    . . and a shape enters, 'slips
thr    ough the tightened silence of
the    shoulders, reaches the heart
and    dies .i."  

FADE TO BLACK  . ' .'

73A. EXT. AUDITORIUM - NEW YORK - AFTERNOON
Professional and professorial types filing in past a placard, an enlargement of an article from the Journal of Neurochemistry titled: LEVADOPA IN THE TREATMENT OF PARKINSONISM. Below it: A DISCUSSION WITH MARTIN S. THOMAS, PH.D. There's excitement (and jealousy) in the air.

74. INT. AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON
An anatomical skeleton dangling from a metal stand.

NEUROCHEMIST
There's an ordinary medicine with which we are all familiar. An everyday medicine of stubbed toes and bunions and boils.

A man at a podium in a modern version of the 1920's basement operating theatre.

NEUROCHEMIST
And then there is another kind.
A medicine that holds out to the afflicted the promise of restored life.

He glances to a point above his listeners, and an overhead projector splashes a diagram of molecular structure (and the silhouette of a raised hand) onto a screen. The neurochemist traces the shadow to its maker in the audience.

SAYER
Thank you. Yes. Yes, I'm very much interested in your work with this drug. I'm curious if . . .

NEUROCHEMIST
Doctor ...?

SAYER
(pause)
Sayer. I'm curious if you . . .

**NEUROCHEMIST**

After I'm through, Dr. Sayer. If you wouldn't mind.

Sayer glances around the auditorium. Everyone's looking at him. He grasps the offending hand and holds it in his lap with the other.

75. **INT. AUDITORIUM LOBBY - LATER - AFTERNOON**

Refreshments on tables. Sayer, uncomfortable in his suit, wandering around the crowded room with a glass of wine. He approaches its hub of activity, the neurochemist surrounded by several impressed colleagues, but can't manage to get close enough to speak with him.

76. **INT. MEN'S ROOM, AUDITORIUM - LATER - AFTERNOON**

The neurochemist walks in and crosses to the urinals. A moment later, he hears the door opening, and footsteps, and then nothing, until --

**SAYER O.S.**

Do you think it's possible that simple Parkinsonian tremor taken to its furthest extreme could appear as no tremor at all? When no one answers, the chemist glances over his shoulder. Sayer is there, quite alone, looking at him.

**NEUROCHEMIST**

Are you speaking to me?

Sayer is. And really wants to know the answer. The chemist zips up and moves to the sinks to wash his hands.

**SAYER**

If jail the compulsions in the Parkinson's patient were somehow accelerated -

(demonstrating what he means)
- the hands, the shaking, the tics, the head bobbing, the quickening speech -
  (he's become a mass of tics and accelerated speech)
- might they not cave in on themselves and, in effect, turn the person into stone?

He comes to an abrupt stop, his eyes transfixed like a post-encephalitic's, staring. The chemist slowly dries his hands with a paper towel.

**NEUROCHEMIST**

Dr. Sayer, yes?

(Sayer nods)
I'm a chemist, doctor. I leave it to you guys to do the damage.
He drops the paper towel into the trash and leaves

77. EXT. PARKING LOT - BAINBRIDGE - MORNING
Emerging from his car with some papers, Dr. Kaufman is ambushed by Sayer.

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77.CONT.  SAYER
Did you have a chance to look at any of the -.

KAUFMAN
Freud believed in miracles.
Prescribing cocaine like it was candy . . .
Sayer has to hurry to keep up with his supervisor as he heads toward the hospital.

KAUFMAN
We all believed in the "miracle" of Cortisone until our patients went psychotic on it. Now it's L-Dopa.
He hands over the papers - xeroxed articles from medical journals and newspapers which Sayer gave him to read - and keeps going, Sayer straggling a few steps back.

SAYER
With all due respect, I think it's rather too soon to say that.

KAUFMAN
With all due "respect," it's rather way too soon. Let the chemists do the damage.
The gap between them widens as Sayer slows. He expected this sort of reaction from Kaufman, but had hoped for another. Kaufman disappears into the building.

77A. INT. KAUFMAN'S OFFICE - LATER - MORNING
The stack of papers drops onto Kaufman's desk. The one on top reads, NEW DRUG LETS SHAKING PALSY PATIENTS EAT JELL-O.

SAYER
Did you read the case - the husband who came home to find his wife singing. She hadn't felt like singing in years.
Kaufman, on the phone, glances to Sayer long-sufferingly, lets him wait while he finishes with his call, and eventually sets down the receiver.
I read them all. Soberly. All thirty cases had mild Parkinson's. Your Parkies - if that's what they are - haven't moved for decades. You know better than to make a leap like that, you want to believe there's a connection, that doesn't mean there is one.

SAYER
What I believe, what I know, is that these people are alive inside.

KAUFMAN
How do you know? Because they catch tennis balls?

SAYER
I know it. Sayer doesn't elaborate, but his tone is resolute. And it has the intended effect on Kaufman, causing him to consider the possibility that Sayer could, somehow, know it as a fact.

KAUFMAN
And what if this drug were to kill them?

SAYER
And what if this drug were to cure them? Somewhere behind Kaufman's eyes Sayer can see, he thinks, a change, or reminiscence, long ago, long buried, of things he once believed or wanted to believe.

KAUFMAN
How many did you think I'd let you put on it?

SAYER
All of them ... some of them ... one of them ...

KAUFMAN
One. With the family's consent. Signed.

Sayer tries to hide his elation and turns to leave before Kaufman changes his mind.
77A. CONT.

KAUFMAN

Sayer -
Sayer turns. He was almost to the door. He had almost made it out.

KAUFMAN

That "immense" project of yours. The myelin? The worms? When that failed, what was the reaction of your lab supervisor?

Sayer thinks about lying, but senses Kaufman knows the answer already and just wants to hear him say it. So he does:

SAYER

He asked me to leave.

Kaufman nods like, Just checking. And -

KAUFMAN

Good luck.

Sayer leaves.

78. INT. MRS. LOWE’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

78.

A standard consent form and pen on a kitchenette table. Two coffee cups. One used tea bag.

SAYER

People with ordinary Parkinson's Disease sometimes complain that they've "lost their grace . . . " (he picks up a cup with a shaking hand) They have to think about the things we just do . . . (with great "trouble" he sets it down) It has to do with a chemical in the midbrain, or rather the lack of it, called dopamine. L-Dopa replenishes this dopamine, making it possible for these patients to move more naturally. He picks up the cup again, gracefully, and sets it down.

MRS. LOWE

Leonard has Parkinson's Disease?
78. CONT.  

SAYER
No. No, his symptoms ... are like Parkinsons ... and then again they're not.
She doesn't understand what he means; there's no reason why she should.

MRS. LOWE
(pause)
Then what will this medicine do for him?

SAYER
I don't know what it'll do for him, if anything.

MRS. LOWE
What do you think it will do?

SAYER
I don't know.

MRS. LOWE
What do you hope it will do?

SAYER
I hope it'll bring him back from whatever he is.

MRS. LOWE
To what?

SAYER
To the world.

MRS. LOWE
(pause)
What's here for him after all these years?

SAYER
You are here.
She ponders that and the enormity of the whole situation, all the while staring at the consent form.

79. INT. PHARMACY, BAINBRIDGE - DAY
The hospital pharmacy, a subterranean structure built into the basement, cluttered from floor to ceiling with medicines. Ray, the pharmacist, dips into a bag of powder. He spoons some out onto a scale and looks to Sayer to tell him the dosage.

SAYER
I have no idea. What do you say we ease into it with ... what, » fifty milligrams?
Ray begins to measure five milligrams.

SAYER
Let's say a hundred.
Ray shrugs; it's okay with him. He knifes at the powder, removing all but 100 milligrams.

80. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY
Leonard, sphinx-like in his wheelchair, his mother by his side. Sayer, stirring the L-Dopa into a paper cup of orange juice. Miss Costello, in the doorway, watching. Sayer hands the glass to Mrs. Lowe.
(Note: Consult w/Sacks on this; may need the contents of a * capsule emptied into the cup) - ' - RN.

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SAYER
Leonard? Your mother's going to give you some juice. There's medicine in it which is why it may taste more bitter than usual.
Sayer glances to Mrs. Lowe. It's as if they've rehearsed it all. She holds the glass to her son's lips and gradually drains the liquid down his throat. Nothing immediately happens, of course, but they all, with the exception of Leonard, look as if they expect it to. Mrs. Lowe hands the empty glass back to Sayer. And they all wait.

81. INT. THE PHARMACY, LATER - DAY
Ray measuring out another 100 milligram dose.
RAY
Maybe the acid in the orange juice, neutralized it.
SAYER
Or maybe it's not enough.

-Ray tosses Sayer a look that says, "don't push it." Sayer nods."

SAYER
I'll try it in milk.

82. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - NIGHT
An empty milk glass on a night table. Leonard, in his wheelchair, in pajamas, still and silent under the painting of the boat.
His mother, Sayer and Miss Costello watch and wait while around them nurses and orderlies hoist other patients into bed.

83. INT. THE PHARMACY - DAY

Ray scrapes powder from the scale into a pharmaceutical funnel which takes it down onto a miniature glass dish. Handing the dish to Sayer --

RAY

Five hundred milligrams.

84. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY

Another empty milk glass. Leonard, stoic, or so it seems, in his wheelchair. His mother and Sayer and Miss Costello waiting for a movement, a change of expression, a sign of any kind that something is happening inside him. But there's nothing . . .

85. INT. BAINBRIDGE - NIGHT

A corridor. Mrs. Lowe is leaving. Sayer is with her, seeing her to the door.

SAYER

I'll call if there's any change.

MRS. LOWE

Yes.

Neither really knows what else to say except for good night. She leaves.

86. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - NIGHT

Sayer and Miss Costello lift Leonard out of his wheelchair and into his bed.

MISS COSTELLO

I'm going home too. If you need me . . .

SAYER

Yes, I'll call.

They nod "good night" at each other and Miss Costello leaves. Sayer slumps into Leonard's wheelchair. And waits.

87. INT. THE PHARMACY - NIGHT

Ray has gone home, too. Sayer, alone in the pharmacy, measures out 1000 milligrams, ten times the original dose.

88. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - NIGHT
Sayer at Leonard's bedside, holding the glass to Leonard's lips, draining the liquid into him, all of it.

89. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - LATER - NIGHT
Sayer asleep in the wheelchair. He stirs. Wakes. And takes a moment to remind himself where he is. And why. His eyes narrow, uncomprehending. Leonard's bed is empty.

90. INT. DAYROOM - LATER - NIGHT
A claw of a hand dragging a crayon across a sheet of paper. Tight on Sayer, framed in a doorway, as still and silent and entranced as a post-encephalitic. His perspective of the dayroom -- deserted except for a figure, a patient, Leonard, hunched over the table. As Sayer crosses toward him, Leonard's head slowly rises. Sayer sits opposite him and they consider each other in silence for several moments. Leonard struggles to speak, to form words. They come out in a halting cadence, flat, without inflection, and are only barely recognizable as words:

LEONARD
It's quiet.

SAYER
It's late. Everyone's asleep.>

LEONARD
I'm not asleep?

SAYER
No. You're awake.

Though he nods, it's unclear whether Leonard realizes how significant that is. Sayer gestures at the piece of paper beneath Leonard's hands.

SAYER
May I?


LEONARD
Me.

91. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAWN
Alone in the room, Leonard moves slowly around it, feeling things: the smoothness of the cabinet glass/ the warmth thrown by a desk lamp, water from the cooler splashing onto his hand.

SAYER O.S.
Leonard?

Leonard turns to Sayer's voice with an expression of child-like wonder on his face.

SAYER
Your mother is here.
She appears in the doorway of the room. She's done her hair, her face, she's put on a nice dress, yet she remains unprepared for this reunion. She can do nothing but stare at her "infant son" who is now, "suddenly," a man. As he slowly crosses toward her, she is struck by the fact she must look up in order to meet his eyes. He reaches her. Reaches out to her. And she embraces him.

92. INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

A corridor crowded with patients in wheelchairs with nowhere to go and nothing much to do.

MISS COSTELLO
My name is Elizabeth. It's a pleasure to meet you.

Leonard, standing, reaches for her hand and struggles to pronounce her name correctly. Fighting to keep from crying in front of him, Miss Costello glances to Sayer and Mrs. Lowe.

93. INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - MORNING

Miss Costello, flanked by Sayer and Mrs. Lowe, watches as Leonard extends his hand to the "card playing nurse."

MARGARET
How do you do, sir? My name is Margaret.

LEONARD
Margaret.

94. INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - MORNING

Margaret has joined the "tour, group" and introduces Leonard to the "music orderly." They shake hands.

LEONARD
Fernando. How are you?

FERNANDO
Great, man. How're you?

LEONARD
Great, too.

95. INT. THE PHARMACY - MORNING

Fernando is along for the ride and watches Leonard shaking Ray the pharmacist's hand.

RAY
How do you do, Mr. Lowe?

LEONARD
Good, sir.

95

95A. INT. CAFETERIA KITCHEN - MORNING
The cooks and kitchen workers around Leonard and his entourage, shaking his hand.

96. INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - LATER - DAY

A tray of truly awful cafeteria food. The group, minus Sayer and Miss Costello, watches Leonard dip a fork into some mush-like concoction and manipulate it, with difficulty, to and into his mouth. He seems amazed by its flavor.

LEONARD
It's delicious.

FERNANDO
I wouldn't go that far, Len.

Sayer and Miss Costello, at another table, glance over to the others who are all laughing. Sayer smiles.

MISS COSTELLO
I don't think I could deal with losing 3D years of my life. I can't even imagine it.

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Sayer's smile fades. The possibility that Leonard might not have realized the extent of the passage of time had not, until this moment, occurred to him. He stares blankly at Miss Costello.

MISS COSTELLO
He does realize it, doesn't he?

Sayer nods uncertainly.

SAYER
He must.

97. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER - DAY

(NOTE: CONSULT SACKS ON THIS SCENE:)

Sayer demonstrates a clapping motion. Leonard repeats it more slowly but with decent motor control.

SAYER
Splendid.

Sayer makes a note. They are alone in the examination room which, like most of the hospital, has little in it to indicate that it is not the 1930's.

SAYER
Can I see you walk the length of the room? *

Leonard walks slowly across the room past the perception tests
and notes and Polaroids cluttering the wall. Coming back, he pauses. He's looking at a picture of himself taped there. Sayer watches him slowly reach his hands to his face to feel his features. He stares at the photograph of himself, trying to comprehend that which cannot be comprehended. He's not young anymore.

98. OMITTED

99. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - NIGHT

Sayer and Mrs. Lowe at Leonard's bedside.

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LEONARD

I'm afraid to close my eyes.

(y)

He hesitates, as if saying it may make the fear more real.

SAYER

... you'll sleep. And when you wake up in the morning, it will be the next morning. I promise.

Sayer's smile tries to assure them both that it will happen just that way. He excuses himself, leaving Leonard with his mother, joins Miss Costello by the door and glances back. Mrs. Lowe is stroking Leonard's head as she hums a lullaby.

100. INT. ROOM ADJACENT TO EXAMINATION ROOM - MORNING

Sayer comes in with some books, sets them on Miss Costello's desk and crosses to a closet.

SAYER

I didn't sleep, did you?

MISS COSTELLO

Does it look like it?

Sayer hangs up his jacket and slips into a lab coat.

SAYER

Do you know if Leonard's awake?

She smiles and points toward the adjoining examination room.

101. INT. THE EXAMINATION ROOM - MORNING

Showered and shaved and groomed and bright-eyed, Leonard sits listening to his own heartbeat with Sayer's stethoscope. Coming in --

SAYER

Good morning.

LEONARD

Good morning.

His speech is still rather flat, halting.

SAYER

Been waiting for me long?

SAYER
Some things have happened while you've been away. I thought you'd be interested.

Leonard opens one carefully, reverently, and begins reading from it to himself.

SAYER
You don't have to read them now, Leonard. They're yours. At your leisure.

Leonard closes the book but holds onto it and the others like they're gold.

LEONARD
I used to read quite a lot.

Before.

SAYER
Yes, I know.

LEONARD
Thank you for these.

Sayer nods that he's welcome.

SAYER
Have you thought about what you'd like to do today?

LEONARD
Everything.

SAYER
(smiles)
I'm not sure I can arrange that.

LEONARD
Try.

Sayer smiles again. For a man who just yesterday learned he has been cheated out of the greater"- part of his life, Leonard seems to have recovered extraordinarily.

SAYER
Let's approach it this way. What do you think you'd like to do first?

LEONARD
I'd like to go outside.
Sayer and Leonard emerge from the hospital and move under trees along a path toward the parking lot. At a point, the doctor realizes his patient is no longer at his side; he's several steps back, feeling the sunshine on his skin.

102. EXT. PARKING LOT, BAINBRIDGE - MORNING

Though it is only a Toyota, its dashboard, to Leonard, resembles something out of Jules Verne. He allows Sayer to buckle his seatbelt for him and watches with fascination as Sayer performs the "complex" preparatory sequence necessary, apparently, to make the car go. The car pulls away. Above, framed in a second story window of one of the buildings, stands a lone figure looking out — Leonard's mother.

103. INT. SAYER'S CAR - MOVING - MORNING

Tight on the radio. Sayer switches it on. To Leonard's amazement, classical music fills the interior and CONTINUES OVER:

104. EXT. THE BRONX - MOVING SHOTS - MORNING

Billboards advertising color televisions and electric shavers. Buses which have grown over the decades to a behemoth scale. "Ultra-modern" housing projects and gas stations. "Futuristic" cars. Leonard cannot imagine a more enthralling re-introduction to the world and stares at it all with wonder. Everywhere he looks there is something "extraordinary."

LEONARD

What a wonderful place The Bronx has become.

The music CONTINUES OVER:

105. INT/EXT. NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

A rose. Leonard puts his face close to it to appreciate its fragrance. He touches its petals gently, explores them, and is quietly astonished by the tactile sensation. Sayer watches. He, too, can appreciate wonders of the real world, especially those of a botanical nature, but not with, the purity or intensity Leonard can. Pulling back reveals them in the middle of a vast garden of
countless thousands of roses.

106. INT. SAYER'S CAR - MOVING - DAY
Leonard turns the radio dial from the classical station to another playing a very different kind of music, and listens to it bemused but intrigued. It's John Lennon singing "A DAY IN THE LIFE" and it CONTINUES OVER:

107. EXT. PARK - THE BRONX - LATER - DAY
Children playing flag-football on an expanse of grass. Dogs running around, nannies with prams, lovers. A disk, a frisbee, falls at Leonard's feet. He retrieves it but has no idea what it is or what to do with it. Sayer demonstrates the wrist action with an invisible one. Leonard doesn't get it. Sayer takes it from him and flings it pathetically not halfway back to its owners. The music CONTINUES OVER:

108. EXT. STREET CORNER JOINT - THE BRONX - LATER - DAY
Leonard watches with interest a Carvel ice cream machine. He and Sayer are handed cones and Leonard's attention moves to a girl wearing an unbelievably short skirt. Her boyfriend stares at Leonard. Sayer tries to pull his charge's attention elsewhere. Leonard, finally, glances away, up, to a sound overhead. The music CONTINUES OVER:

109. EXT. KENNEDY AIRPORT - DAY
A 747 roaring down a runway. At the edge of it, it lifts off and thunders over Sayer and Leonard and the parked Toyota. Exhilerated, Leonard waves. The music CONTINUES OVER:

110. OMITTED

111. EXT. THE BRONX / CITY ISLAND - DAY
An expressway. The Toyota traveling at "astounding" speed, passing a sign that reads CITY ISLAND.

Boats and fish markets and lush vegetation. Paradise compared to the Bronx. The Toyota turns down a side road near the water and into the driveway of Sayer's small wooden house. And the music ends.

112. INT. SAYER'S KITCHEN / DINING ROOM - DAY

Tea bags steeping in a pot on a cluttered kitchen counter. Sayer, exhausted from the day, hunts in vain through packing boxes on the floor for crackers, cookies, something he can
offer his guest. He keeps glancing in at Leonard, who's wandering around the dining room, navigating around packing boxes, to browse at the spines of books. Noticing Sayer watching -

LEONARD
You just moved here.

SAYER
Yeah. Well, five years ago.

Sayer shrugs, disappears into the kitchen a moment . . . before peeking back in to see what Leonard is looking at now: a small framed photograph of a boy with a toy sailboat and a forlorn expression posed in front of a curtain; the boat obviously a photography studio prop.

LEONARD
Your son?

SAYER
Me, actually.

LEONARD
(looking closely at the photograph)
You seem uncomfortable.

SAYER
I probably was. Sayer disappears into the kitchen again. And a moment later.

As Leonard considers each pair of glasses ...

SAYER
Those are my normal interior glasses. And spare pair. Those, I wear outside. Two pairs, in case I lose one. Those, those are my daytime reading glasses. And spare. Those are for close work. For fine print. Those are my nighttime reading glasses -
Leonard's examining the frames of this last pair closely.

**SAYER**

That's heavy-gauge metal so when I fall asleep and roll over on them I don't wreck them. They're indestructible.

Leonard returns the indestructible ones to their proper place and considers them all together.

**SAYER**

As long as I pretty much know ahead of time what I'll be looking at, it works out, I don't have to carry all five pairs around.

**LEONARD**

What if you just want to go for a walk?

**SAYER**

(pause)

Walks are a problem. Walks are the hardest thing. You just never know.

He's absolutely serious, like a man plagued for years by an imponderable dilemma. He retires back into his kitchen before reappearing again with the pot of tea, two mismatched cups and some saltine% on a tray.

**SAYER**

I hope you'll forgive the inelegant presentation. I don't entertain much.

---

113.

113. INT. SAYER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

They've cleared places on the sofa and chair and sit there sipping their tea.

**SAYER**

I can date my interest in science precisely, actually. I'd been sent off to boarding school - a place perhaps not quite as Dickensian as I remember it - when I happened to come across the periodic table of elements. (smiles at the thought) I memorized it. Which I admit was a rather precocious thing for a seven year old to do. And I remember feeling . . . not so much a
sense of accomplishment . . . as comfort. The halogens were what they were. The alkali metals were what they were. Each element had its place, and nothing could
change that. They were secure, no matter what.

Leonard nods, perhaps more out of politeness than understanding. Sayer nods too, feeling, perhaps, a little exposed.

**Leonard**

You're not married.

* It seems to Sayer a non sequitor.

**Sayer**

No.

He smiles. Sips his tea. Silence except for the ticking of a clock somewhere. Then, very matter of factly -

**Sayer**

I'm not terribly good with people. I like them. I wish I could say I had more than a rudimentary understanding of them.

(pause)

Maybe if they were less unpredictable . . .

He shrugs. Silence again.

**Leonard**

Eleanor would disagree with you.

* Sayer stares at him blankly. He doesn't seem to know who "Eleanor11 is.

* --

**Sayer**

Eleanor?

**Leonard**

Miss Costello.

**Sayer**

Oh, yes, of course. (uneasy)

She's spoken to you about me?
Leonard nods. Sayer can't imagine why, nor what she might have said. Fearing the worst —

**SAyer**

What'd she say?

**Leonard**

That you're a kind man. That you care very much for people.

Sayer shifts in his chair uncomfortably.

But you meant normal people.

Sayer seems at a loss as to how to respond. The accompanying silence grows awkward.

**Sayer**

We should be getting back.

Sayer crosses over to the sideboard, to the pairs of glasses, stares at them for several moments, and picks up two pairs.

**114**

114A. EXT. PARKING LOT - BAINBRIDGE - DAY

Climbing out of his car, Kaufman sees Sayer striding toward him. He glances to the sky, Kaufman, to God, and silently complains to Him.

115. INT. STAFF CAFETERIA, BAINBRIDGE - LATER - DAY

Cafeteria workers carting serving trays back to the kitchen. Nurses and orderlies and office workers at tables with finished meals and cups of coffee. They seem unaware of Drs. Sayer and Kaufman at a table near the door.

**Kaufman**

When you say expensive, what are we talking about?

To put them all on the dosage Mr. Lowe is on . . . about twenty thousand dollars.

Kaufman stares at Sayer aghast. He knew L-Dopa was expensive, but not that expensive. He manages to recover somewhat.

**Kaufman**

That would be for how long?

**Sayer**

About a month.

**Kaufman**

A month?

KAUFMAN
I can't go before the board with that. I could...

He laughs to himself at the futility of it.

SAYER
I was thinking of speaking to the patrons.

KAUFMAN
The few patrons this hospital has give what they can.

SAYER
Well, we'd have to convince them to give more than they're accustomed to giving.

He hadn't intended as impudent a tone as that which came out. More calmly ~

SAYER
Perhaps if they saw Mr. Lowe.

KAUFMAN
I think you overestimate the effect Mr. Lowe has on people. We're talking about money here.

Kaufman sips at his coffee and slowly becomes aware of the silence around them. No one is talking. He glances up as Miss Costello walks by setting something on the table in front of him. She leaves the cafeteria without a word.

Kaufman glances down. She has left a Bainbridge payroll check made out in her name. Kaufman turns it over. She has endorsed it back to Bainbridge Hospital.

Fernando walks by and out, leaving his salary check on the table. Then Ray, the pharmacist, leaving his. Then the nurse who reluctantly read "Moby Dick" to the patients. Then a cafeteria worker. A secretary. A clerk. A janitor. The cafeteria is soon empty, except for Sayer and Kaufman.

Long silence.

116. INT. BOARD ROOM - NIGHT

8mm film of Leonard before L-Dopa -- a wide shot of him absolutely motionless in his wheelchair.

SAYER O.S.
There was extreme rigidity of the axial musculature... only vague
available motion in the neck . . .
no voluntary movement in the
limbs . . .

A tight shot of Leonard's entranced face appears on the screen.

SAYER O.S.
Perhaps most striking was the
profound facial masking -- which
we now know should not have been
confused with apathy. *

Tight on Sayer, the light from the projector flickering on his
face.

SAYER
Virtually aphonie, Mr. Lowe could
articulate no words, but rather
only, with considerable effort, an
occasional noise, a kind of,
"h . . . "

In the darkness sit Kaufman, the rest of the Board of
Directors, some elderly patrons of the hospital, and, near
Sayer, Miss Costello. She hands him a scribbled note.
"Less scientific" it reads.

SAYER
Isolated circumstances -- the
mention of his name, notes of
particular pieces of music, the
touch of another human being --
managed on occasion to briefly
summon him, but these awakenings
were rare and transient, lasting
only a moment or two.

Sayer glances to Miss Costello. She nods, "Good, that's
better."

SAYER
The rest of the time he remained
in a profoundly eventless place ~
deprived of all sense of history
and happening and self --
encysted, cocooned, enveloped in
this metaphorical if not
physiological equivalent of sleep
. . . or death.

Tight on the screen, on Leonard, as he was. Looking more like
a photograph of a man than a motion picture of one.

SAYER
This was his condition when first
seen by me in a remote bay of this
hospital. And the quality of his
life for the last 30 years.

The "before picture" of Leonard on the screen is replaced with
the "after" -- his eyes alert, his hands exploring a desk
microphone. He glances up and off at something.

LEONARD (FILM)

Now?

SAyer's voice
Whenever you're ready.

LEONARD (FILM)

My name is Leonard Lowe. It has been explained to me that I have been away for . . . quite some time . . .

He seems to withdraw, to wrestle with the thought, to try to somehow come to terms with it, to somehow resolve it. He nods as he finds within himself some source of strength and looks directly at the camera.

LEONARD (FILM)

I'm back.

117. INT. BOARD ROOM, LATER - NIGHT
The lights are on, the screen rolled up, the board members and patrons visibly moved, almost shaken, and silent. Eventually one of the patrons, an old woman, reaches into her purse for her checkbook and a pen. Another patron, an elderly man, pulls a checkbook and pen from an inside jacket pocket. Another already has hers out in front of her . . .

Sayer and Miss Costello exchange a glance. The room is absolutely silent, except for the muted scratch of pens on paper.

118. INT. THE PHARMACY - DAY
The raw L-Dopa powder, 20,000 dollars worth, has arrived. It sits on a pharmacy counter in large clear bags. Sayer and Ray peer between racks of medicine at two teenage girls and two very old men chatting in a corner of the pharmacy.

RAY
They're volunteers from the neighborhood.

SAyer
Wonderful.

119. OMITTED

120. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY
Several empty medicine paper-cups. The "garden of stone," reassembled. Sayer knows better than to sit and wait, that nothing is going to immediately happen, but he sits and waits anyway. As does Miss Costello. As does Leonard and his mother.

121. INT. STAFF ROOM - NIGHT
Sayer asleep on a couch that's too short for him. Miss Costello asleep on another.

VOICE
Dr. Sayer?
Sayer wakes to find a night nurse standing over him.

SAYER
What is it?

(continuity only)

121. CONT.
121.

NIGHT NURSE
It's a miracle.

121A. INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

They move along a silent corridor that seems to stretch out forever -- the doctor, the two nurses -- carrying themselves professionally, with sobriety and restraint. But as they near the ward, as they're joined by others, other nurses, orderlies, their steps and hearts quicken. They break into a trot.

122.
122. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT
They appear at the threshold, Sayer, Miss Costello, the night nurse, the others, and peer into the darkened room:
In the quiet, in the shadows, in the moonlight filtering in through the windows, the post-encephalitics are emerging from their "cocoons," rising from the "dead" like Lazarus from the earth, reborn.
Moving slowly past the beds: A figure rediscovering the feeling of her skin; another, the sound of his breath; another, the beating of her heart.
A figure still asleep . . . wakes. And for the first time in nearly half a century sees herself in the world.
Tight on Sayer, on the look of awe on his face as he stares at the scene going on in the darkened ward. His glance finds Leonard who is sitting up in his bed, smiling.

123.
123. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY

Tight on Lucy's face, deep in thought, lost in thought. After several moments of silence, she speaks -

. . . I just had the strangest dream . . .

A cacophony of off-screen voices - from a radio, the television, and the awakened post-encephalitics themselves - rises up as another woman, Miriam, moves past Lucy's face. We follow her, as does a nurse with a blood pressure guage on
wheels. "11/ b/ aa) tireen

Pg

123.CONT. NURSE

Miriam, please, I - (have to check your blood pressure - )

MIRIAM (interrupting)
I've been sitting for 25 years, you missed your chance.

Miriam and the nurse trailing after her pass in front of a man * with no English (Josef) trying to explain something to a couple of orderlies. One to the other - .

ORDERLY 1
You're Italian, he's Italian, what's the problem?

ORDERLY 2
I was born here - X don't speak · Italian.

Nearby, another man. This one does speak English -

BERT
I want a steak, rare. I want mashed potatoes and gravy, string beans, a slice of pie and a ' chocolate phosphate.

Anthony turns away with the tray he just brought in - broth, jello and juice - and carries it away, passing the "card playing nurse," Margaret.

ANTHONY
I think I prefer them the other way.

Having settled on Margaret: she smiles, glances to "her" patient, Rose, who, staring at her reflection in a hand mirror, tugs at her grey hair.

ROSE
And some dye. Black.

MARGARET (jotting down the request)
Black, are you sure?

ROSE
And some clothes . . . my. clothes.

i.1/ b/«y)Green Pg.
She pulls at her faded shapeless dress with great disdain.

ROSE
Who put me in this?

A bewildered man on stiff legs (FRANK) walks by. Following him, we catch a glimpse of a Dutch woman in a wheelchair, with a nurse -

MAGDA
... the gardener, he must prune
the fruit trees ... the roses ... 
I think he's forget ... 

- before setting on Miss Costello with a man whose legs are old of his own, his head nodding slightly to music from an unseen radio.

MISS COSTELLO
Can you speak to me, Rolando? 
Rolando, it's Miss Costello. Can you understand me?

Apparently not. A figure blurs past. And a moment later, another, the nurse with the pressure gauge, still trailing after Miriam. The camera follows them -

NURSE
Miriam ... Miriam ...

- before setting on a man, Desmond, doing a soft-shoe.
Leonard, and a few others, watch. Frank blurs by again, passes a woman, Francis, sort of lost, seated with a nurse:

FRANCIS
... I was aware of things, but
no thing meant anything, there was no connection to me. 
(vague recollection:)
There was a war ... 
(pause)
... or two ... 

Miss Costello no longer speaks to Frank, standing nearby, looking puzzled.
MISS COSTELLO
Frank? Are you all right?

FRANK
My wife and son. Are they well?

MISS COSTELLO
We'll find them for you. We'll track them down.

Lucy again, Sayer still at her side.

LUCY
... I called to my sister, but she couldn't hear me. No one could hear me. I was alone ...

(pause)
And then I woke up.

She smiles. Sayer tries to. He hesitates ... but finally can't help asking her -

SAYER
Lucy, what year is it?

LUCY
What year is it? You don't know?

He shakes his head 'no.' She glances around the place, then leans close to him and whispers -

LUCY
26.

MIRIAM O.S.
Doctor!

* 

Sayer turns to the urgent voice, concerned, and sees Miriam flanked by a large group of staff from other parts of the hospital gathered at the threshold of the room.

MIRIAM
I walked all the way over there.
And back. What a perfect day.

The group at the doorway applauds, and it CARRIES OVER:

123A. OMITTED
123B. INT- CORRIDOR - SAME TIME - DAY
The corridor, and the sound of a woman's voice, very faint, from somewhere unseen:

PAULA O.S.
"... Like crowds storming the
Sidney bursts into the room out of breath and scans the faces of the awakened post-encephalitics and staff. He spots Sayer, seated with a woman, her back to him and the door. She slowly turns to look over her shoulder and, seeing Sidney, smiles.

LOLLY

Hi, Sidney.

There's a kind of hush. Conversations, activities cease. Everyone is looking at Sidney. Not knowing what else to say, he manages a hesitant --

SIDNEY

Hi.  

He smiles and crosses toward her, but by the time he reaches her the smile has disappeared. Something troubling has occurred to him. He glances to Sayer and whispers --

SIDNEY

Is it real . . . or . . .

SAYER

As real as real can be.

Leonard, moving along the corridor with Sayer's camera and tripod (or looking for something to read at the magazine table) slows and listens:

PAULA O.S.

. . . the Mighty Mets stormed 11
their locker room shortly after
nine o'clock on their night to
remember -

He moves toward the voice, traces it to a crafts area, where a young woman is reading from the sports page to an older man tied to his wheelchair. Though it's doubtful the man is even aware of her presence, she reads to him as if her were, and in the process, draws Leonard into the sound of her words until there are no sounds but her words:

PAULA

"Released from bondage and
ridicule after seven destitute
seasons, they raised the roof of
Shea Stadium - while their fans
attempted to dismantle it - in one
of the loudest, wildest victory
celebrations in baseball :"
The reverie is suddenly shattered, the real sounds of the hospital rising back up, as Sidney, wild with excitement, bangs through the far doors of the corridor. He sprints past the crafts area, past Leonard, runs the entire length of the corridor, and -

124-128. OMITTED

129. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - CONTINUED - DAY

Sidney bursts into the room out of breath and scans the faces of the awakened post-encephalitics and staff. He spots Sayer, seated with a woman, her back to him and the door. She slowly turns to look over her shoulder and, seeing Sidney, smiles.

LOLLY

Hi, Sidney.

There's a kind of hush. Conversations, activities cease. Everyone is looking at Sidney. Not knowing what else to say, he manages a hesitant --

SIDNEY

Hi.

He smiles and crosses toward her, but by the time he reaches her the smile has disappeared. Something troubling has occurred to him. He looks to Sayer and whispers --

SIDNEY

Is it real ... or . . .

SAYER

As real as real can be.

Sidney lowers himself to his knees before Lolly and, weeping quietly, rests his head on her lap. She strokes his head.

FADE TO BLACK

130. INT. CORRIDOR - ANOTHER DAY

Sidney and Lolly emerge from the dayroom, followed by the other post-encephalitics. They're all wearing suits and dresses and walk with purpose past wheelchair-bound patients with "uninteresting" diseases. As they wait for the elevator, Leonard wanders slightly down the corridor to see if the girl is there again reading in the crafts area. The chair she was in is empty.
130A. INT. ELEVATOR & CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

The elevator door slides open revealing them. Paula, inside, hesitates: the sight is almost surreal. As they crowd in, she wedges out, and down the hall, Leonard watching after her.

ANTHONY
Len - come on.
Leonard steps into the elevator, the last one in.

131. EXT. BAINBRIDGE - SAME DAY

They're going on a field trip. As they're escorted onto an idling hospital bus, Leonard, outside it, tries to reason with his mother:

MRS. LOWE
Sidney's going.
LEONARD
He's a patient, Mom.

MRS. LOWE
C-j
He's not the same kind of patient.

XX / XU / O y
/V aU J jU K NK U D  P

131.CONT.

LEONARD
He's still a patient. You're not a patient.

MRS. LOWE
I'm your mother.
Inside the bus, Miriam, anxious to leave, leans over the driver to honk the horn. Leonard kisses his mother on the cheek and turns away.

MRS. LOWE
Wait a minute.
(he turns back)
What on earth have you done to your hair?
He's parted it, apparently, on the "wrong" side. She pulls a comb from her purse, recombs it "correctly," straightens his jacket lapels and steps back.

MRS. LOWE
There.

LEONARD
There's your bus.

The public bus, behind her, coming down the street. As she hurries to the corner, Sayer climbs down off the hospital bus.

SAYER
* 

LEONARD
I've decided not to go.

He waves to his mother. Sayer stares at him.

LEONARD
I'm staying here.

SAYER
Why? What's wrong?

LEONARD
Nothing. Wave.

He waves again to his mother; she's boarding the public bus. Sayer does as he's told, waves too. Impatient, Miriam honks the horn again.

MIRIAM
'(_J)

Let's go, already.

As the public bus pulls away, Leonard pats Sayer on the shoulder.

LEONARD
I'll see you later, have a good time.

He climbs the hospital steps and disappears inside, Sayer staring after him. Miriam honks the horn again, and he climbs aboard. The doors hiss shut and driver turns to him.

BUS DRIVER
Where to?

Sayer suddenly realizes he has no idea "where to." He glances over his shoulder at the expectant faces of the patients, all dressed up with nowhere to go. It's up to him . . . His face brightens; he's thought of a good place.

132. INT. MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - NEW YORK - DAY
Moving slowly toward a herd of still and silent elephants in a cavernous, darkened room.
As a nun counts the heads of parochial school children filing past the huge beasts, Miss Costello counts the heads of the post-encephalitics.
Both come up short and glance frantically around.

NUN
(calling)
William?

MISS COSTELLO
(calling)
Dr. Sayer?

132A. INT. ANOTHER ROOM - NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM - DAY
A lifeless polar bear in a diorama "stares" out at Sayer who's peering in, intrigued. Miss Costello appears at his side.
MISS COSTELLO
It's very hard to keep everyone together, doctor.

SAYER
Has someone wandered off?

MISS COSTELLO
You.

(REV.11/10/89) GOLDENROD

Pg. 132A.CONT.

1
She leads him away by the arm.

133. INT. SIDNEY'S DAYROOM - SAME DAY

A dayroom thick with inactivity. And the voice:

PAULA O.S.
"From the sleek skyscrapers of Wall Street where a tickertape blizzard filled the sky . . .
From the doorway, from a distance, Leonard watches Paula across the room with her father, reading to him again from the newspaper:

PAULA
" . . . to the undistinguished bars of a hundred neighborhoods, New York yesterday went pleasantly mad over the World Champion Mets . . .

133A. INT. PATIENTS' CAFETERIA - LATER - DAY

Paula moving along the serving line with a tray. Leonard, next in line, moving along with his tray, a little too close. He steals a glance.

PAULA
You following me? 

Startled and embarrassed, Leonard withdraws.

PAULA
I'm kidding. I'm sorry. I saw you upstairs . . . just now.

Leonard nods without looking at her.

PAULA
Visiting someone?

LEONARD
No.

PAULA
You work here.
LEONARD

I live here.

PAULA

(pause)

You're a patient?

He admits it with a nod, lags back again, and eventually dares another glance at her.

PAULA

You don't look like a patient.

LEONARD

(pause)

I don't?

She smiles and shakes her head 'no.1

PAULA

I don't know if he knows I visit him or not. I don't know that he knows who I am. My mother doesn't think so. She doesn't; come around any more--

LEONARD

(pause)

But you do.

PAULA

Sometimes I think I see something.

* I think I see a change. And for a second, I see him like he was . . .

She smiles at the memory of her father like he was . . . but then it's gone and her smile fades.

PAULA

Does that make any sense?

A slow nod from him . . .

* LEONARD

Yes.

* His tone is that of someone speaking of a fact, rather than
offering an opinion. She studies him . . . and eventually: * 

PAULA
Why are you here?

(REV.11/10/89) GOLDENROD Pg
134.CONT.
He doesn't know how to begin to explain it to her.
LEONARD
(pause)
I receive medication.

, She waits for more, but it doesn't come. Only a

smile.
LEONARD
I'm okay now.

*, *, *

135. OMITTED

1

136. INT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM - ANOTHER ROOM - DAY

, , The post-encephalitics filing past still figures in African ·

s

, ceremonial costumes and masks.

s

NUN O.S.

""

(calling)
William?
MISS COSTELLO O.S.
(calling)
Dr. Sayer?

136A. INT. ANOTHER ROOM - NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM - DAY

136

A working display of a tide pool. Anthony's reflection joins
Sayer's in the glass.

SAYER
I've always loved tide pools,

Anthony doesn't answer. He seems troubled.

SAYER
What is it?

ANTHONY
You chose this place?

(Sayer nods)

Why?

SAYER
(pause)
I come here all the time.

ANTHONY

Why?
Sayer glances away, sees Miss Costello coming. She looks a little irritated. As she arrives-

SAYER

Miss Costello, I think Anthony thinks they're bored. He says it like, Have you ever heard anything so ridiculous?

MISS COSTELLO

They are.

Sayer, taken aback, glances back to Anthony, whose look says, There you go.

SAYER

I'd thought about the opera house. Do you think they'd prefer that?

ANTHONY

The opera house?

SAYER

The Botanical Gardens?

Anthony looks to Miss Costello and rolls his eyes.

SAYER

Well, where else is there?

137. INT. ROSELAND - LATE AFTERNOON

Roseland's Big Band belting out "That Old Black Magic."

On the dancefloor, the post-encephalitics dance with one another amidst "normal" middle-aged and older couples, all having a great time.

At the bar, Sayer tries to get the attention of a young bartender busy mixing drinks. Watching, it slowly dawns on Rose that something is "wrong" here. More to herself-

ROSE

It's legal again?

MISS COSTELLO

(pause)

For some time now.

Rose is delighted; she can hardly believe it. She gets the bartender's attention.

-( ) ROSE

A Rob Roy on the rocks.

137.CONT.

The young bartender has to think a moment. Rose turns back to watch the action on the dance floor. Gesturing to Rose, Miss Costello whispers to the bartender -
MISS COSTELLO
A Shirley Temple.

138. INT. LOBBY, BAINBRIDGE - LATE AFTERNOON
Leonard and Paula crossing toward the front doors.
She's just chatting but he's taking it seriously.

PAULA
Things happen, people are late.

LEONARD
They won't be angry.

PAULA
Oh, they'll be angry. What're they going to do, fire me?
He doesn't realize she's not asking him. He has to

shrug that he doesn't know.

(PAULA)
I'll just take the graveyard.

(U*T)
Her look to him says, Right? He has no idea what she

means,

but finally nods in agreement.

(LEONARD)
Okay.

] They're almost to the doors. She offers her hand
to him.

PAULA
(pause)
Bye.
He shakes the hand gently, lets it go.

LEONARD
Bye.

PAULA
Thanks for talking to me.

She steps away toward the door.

LEONARD
He knows.

*
PAULA
I'll see you.
She leaves.

138A.

138A. OMITTED

139. INT. ROSELAND - LATER - EVENING

The band in the middle of "You Made Me Love You."
At the bar -

ROSE
Is he betrothed, do you know?
Miss Costello doesn't know who she could possibly mean. She
follows her sightline to the opposite wall, to a chair, to
Sayer sitting alone.

MISS COSTELLO
Not that I know of. I kind of
doubt it.
Rose gets up and crosses toward Sayer. Seeing her coming,
he
smiles ... but the smile slowly begins to fade as she sings
to
him:

ROSE
You made me love you
I didn't want to do it
I didn't want to do it . . .
Singing as she does it, she pulls him out of his chair.
Embarrassed, he resists, but she finally gets on the dance
floor. Never more mortified in his life (it seems as if
everyone is watching) he "dances . . ."
And the band finishes the song.

(REV.11/10/89)GOLDENROD . Pg.76
(continuity only) . 14

140. OMITTED

141. INT.- CORRIDOR & LEONARD'S WARD

Returning from their night out, happy and satisfied, the post-
encephalitics come down a quiet corridor, trailed by their
chaperons.
Passing the examination room, Sayer hears faint typing, and
slows.

142. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Sayer steps into the room to find a figure hunched over his
typewriter in a pool of lamplight. Glancing over to the door,
the figure is revealed to be Leonard.

CONTINUED:

LEONARD

Everybody have a good time?
Leonard doesn't wait for the answer, returns to his typing.
Sayer comes closer.

SAYER

What are you doing?
He peers over Leonard's shoulder to read what he's typing, and
a slow smile crosses his face.

SAYER V.O.

"One - typewriters and writing
supplies in all dayrooms at all
times . . .

143. INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

Drifting slowly across the faces of Kaufman, the director and
the other board members as Sayer reads to them from a
typewritten sheet of paper --

SAYER

" . . . Two - music and dance
classes for those patients who
desire them. Three - technical
courses for those who wish to
learn a trade. Four - patients'
grievance committees. Five - the
same food in the patients'
cafeteria as in the staff's. Six
. . . " and I happen to think this is
an excellent idea, "the
establishment of a permanent
hospital library. And "Seven -
television sets that work."

Sayer sets the paper down on the table --

SAYER

"Respectfully, Leonard Lowe."
-- and listens to the silence. It's a long one.

144. INT. BASEMENT - BAINBRIDGE - DAY

Rumbling furnaces. The boiler room. Exposed conduit and pipes
and ducts on the ceiling like tangled roots of an enormous
metal tree.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY     Pg
144.CONT.
A subterranean corridor. Deserted except for Sayer and
Leonard.

145. INT. BASEMENT OPERATING THEATRE - DAY

A dusty anatomical skeleton shrouded in darkness is
suddenly illuminated as Sayer yanks down a sheet covering a high
window.

Yanking down another, a second shaft of light falls on old
discarded surgical tables and equipment. Brain surgeries were once routinely performed here back in a
time when they held out hope for docile patients and dociled the rest. Used only for storage now, its floor and tiers of
observation benches! are covered with boxes and files and
broken furniture.

Leonard stares in at the eerie room and listens to the
distant, muted drone of the furnaces. He feels as though he's been
here before. Maybe he has, long ago. Quietly ~

LEONARD
What is this place?

SAYER
It's your library.

Sayer pulls down another sheet and more light spills in.

SAYER
It'll take some fixing up obviously. A thorough cleaning
to begin with. Some desks. Books
of course.

Leonard's glance slowly moves across the dim room, settling
finally on Sayer, who's smiling.

SAYER
They agreed to find the money for it. And to my suggestion that you
oversee it and select the books.

LEONARD
Me?

146. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY

14

Fingers on the keys of a piano, Sayer's baby grand, moved
here from his house. Rolando, oblivious to the world, at it
playing a simple yet emotional melody.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY Pg.7
"(continuity only)

146.CONT.
RAY
He's still hasn't talked?
MISS COSTELLO
We think he got sick before he learned how to talk.

CONTINUED:

(REV.11/14/89)Salmon Pg.79

146.CONT.
Listening to the music a moment more, she corrects herself:

* MISS COSTELLO
To talk with words.
Close on two nurses, across the room.
NURSE 1
She's the daughter of the nephew of a Dutch archduke. She's royalty.
She's referring to Magda, who glances over as if sensing they're talking about her. They drop their voices:

BETH
He's dead, this duke?
NURSE 1
He's been dead a hundred years.
BETH
Then forget it, I'm not curtsying.
Lucy, wearing "stylish" new glasses, smiles as Sayer listens to her heartbeat through a stethoscope. Satisfied with it, he makes a notation in her chart.

SAYER
Can I have your hand?
LUCY
Yes, you can have my hand.
(she holds it out to him)
Take me away from this place.
He smiles uneasily.

SAYER
I'm your doctor, Lucy.
LUCY
You're my Prince Charming.
Close on hands rapidly dealing 3-Card Monte. The cards eventually settle, and the hand of someone else hesitates over them before gingerly tapping one. As it's turned over:

ORDERLY
There it is.
The orderly snaps his finger in triumph. The 3-Card Monte dealer, a dextrous encephalitic, shrugs.

(REV.11/14/89)Salmon Pg.80
Luis

Another tough break for me.

The orderly reaches to rake another dollar into his pile.

There's a nice watch on the wrist. Luis smiles to himself.

Margaret O.S.

I don't know how to say this,

Miriam, so I'm just going to say

it.

Miriam waits, but Margaret doesn't immediately say it.

Margaret

Your husband?

(Miriam nods)

He was granted a divorce from

you in 1953.

Margaret almost grimaces, anticipating hysteria. Instead, a

slow smile crosses Miriam's face.

Miriam

Thank God.

Pliers, tin snips and a pile of found objects on a table.

Josef is there, fashioning strange and beautiful toys from the

junk.

Nurse 2

Francis?

Francis turns to find the nurse standing with a 20 year old
girl who's holding a toddler by the hand.

*  
   NURSE 2
   *
   Your daughter.
   *
Francis smiles at the toddler, mistaking her for the daughter.

*  
   DAUGHTER
   *
   Hi, mom.
   *
Francis' glance comes up to meet the 20 year old's, shifts down
*  
to the toddler again, comes back up.

*  
   FRANCIS
   *
   Of course . . .
   *
From across the room, Frank watches Francis hug her "actual
*  
daughter," glances to Rose who has been reunited with a few old
*  
girlfriends, to Desmond with his son and daughter-in-law and
*  
their teenage kids, and to Sidney and Lolly in a corner.

  
(REV.11/14/89) Salmon

Pg.80A
146.CONT.
146.

   
   ANTHONY
   How's it going, Frank?
Frank glances blankly at Anthony and another orderly, who are
*  
hanging out nearby with Bert, passing around a Road & Track
*  
magazine.

   
   FRANK
   How's it "going?"
   
   ANTHONY
   How do you feel?
   
   FRANK
   How do I feel?
   
   (pause)
   My parents are dead. My wife is    I
   in an institution. My son has
*  
disappeared ... "Out West"
somewhere.
I feel old and I feel swindled,
that's how I feel.
Anthony glances at the others with a why-did-I-ask kind of look. Frank wanders away.

BERT
He is old.
So is Bert, though he doesn't feel it. As far as he's concerned, he's still twenty years old. He glances back at the magazine.

ANTHONY
Pontiac Firebird, 350 engine, now there's a car, Bert.
BERT
Firebird . . .
He likes the sound of it. Tight on the picture in the magazine.
Rough sketches and balsa wood models of the operating theatre-

* proposed library on a table. Leonard working on them.

PAULA
Hi, Leonard.
Leonard glances up from his work. His mother glances up from her magazine. One of them is delighted to see the girl.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY

Pg.81

146A. INT. OPERATING THEATRE / LIBRARY - LATER - DAY

The anatomical skeleton being dragged across the floor like the lifeless thing that it is.

MOVER 1
Excuse me, ma'am.

Paula steps aside as the guy goes past her and Leonard with the rattling bones.

LEONARD
... bookcases there ... there ...
take some of these benches out ...
maybe have a ramp over here ...
He's not exactly sure where everything is going to go, but he's proud of it. Gesturing to the operating lamp hovering from above like a giant spider

LEONARD
I'm going to get rid of this thing.
The thing is so unbelievably macabre they have to grimace.
Another mover comes past dollying out old: operating equipment.

MOVER 2
Excuse me, ma'am*
Mrs. Lowe, slowly pacing.

* 

He never talked about girls before. He certainly never had anything to do with them.

She casts around trying to come to terms with it.

It's a bit ridiculous all this girl business, don't you think? A grown man like him?

She looks to Sayer for confirmation. Sayer manages a nod.

You know what he said? I should take a vacation. I should go away for a few days and "relax."

Sayer "agrees" with a sympathetic nod, but suspects it is she who would die if she left. She resumes pacing, and mutters to herself the bitter-tasting word:

Girls . . .

Sayer in bed, asleep with a book on his chest and his indestructible reading glasses on his face. The phone rings. He groans and gropes for it, puts the receiver to his ear.

Hello?

I think we should organize a speaking tour.

Sayer, more asleep than awake, can't be sure that what he's hearing, who he's hearing, is real.
Leonard?

150. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - SAME TIME - NIGHT
Leonard, wide awake, alone in the room. He's seated at Sayer's desk with Sayer's office phone to his ear.

LEONARD
I think it's important. I think it's important some things were said.

SAYER'S VOICE
What kind of things?

CONTINUED:

LEONARD
Things that matter. Things that have happened to me. Things I've come to understand. Things.

151. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - CONTINUED - NIGHT

151
Sayer is gradually coming to. He glances at his clock. It's like three o'clock in the morning.

SAYER
Where are you calling from?

LEONARD'S VOICE
Your office.

SAYER
It's very late, Leonard.

LEONARD'S VOICE
Is it?
Sayer nods to himself that it is. That fact and that Leonard has apparently felt compelled to call him to discuss "things" concerns him.

SAYER
Stay there. I'm coming over.

LEONARD'S VOICE
Good.

Dial tone. Sayer listens to it a moment before slowly setting the receiver back on its cradle.

152. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

152
Dressed haphazardly, hair messed up, eyes still a little unfocussed, Sayer resembles more a patient than doctor. Clean and alert, Leonard appears rather more "doctor-like."

LEONARD
Read a newspaper, people have forgotten what life is all about.
They've forgotten what it is to be alive. They need to be reminded. They need to be reminded what they have, what they can lose, what I feel, this, the, the, the . . .

<( ") His mind seems to be racing ahead of his mouth's ability to

LEONARD

. . . the joy, the freedom, the spaciousness of life, the gift of life. This is what they've forgotten. This is what they need to remember. This is what we'll tell them.

Leonard waits for a reaction to his idea, his "Gospel According to L-Dopa" lecture tour. Sayer can manage only an uncertain nod.

153. INT. THE PHARMACY - DAY >

Amidst the thousands of bottles and jars of medicines, Sayer wonders out loud to Ray --

SAYER
I don't know if it's liberation or mania or love.

RAY
With me? I never know.

SAYER
What he says is absolutely true. We don't really live.

. (pause)

Does that mean there's something wrong with him or us?

The balance of the pharmaceutical scale wavers like the sword of Damocles.

SAYER & RAY

Us.

154. OMITTED

155. OMITTED

156. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - NIGHT

A night janitor with a cleaning cart peers into the darkened room at Leonard standing at a window looking out.

JANITOR

Mr. Lowe?

(Leonard glances over)

Are you all right?

LEONARD

Yeah.
The janitor wheels his cart back down the corridor. Leonard stares back out the window, at what lies beyond the grounds of the hospital . . . the glittering lights of the Manhattan skyline.

Drifting slowly across the faces of the board members again, and across Sayer -

LEONARD O.S.
I'm thankful to everyone in this room . . . I was dead, and you brought me back . . .

- and reaching Leonard, standing at the head of the table.

LEONARD
I'm thankful, but what I need now isn't here.

Silence. And, eventually, since no one else asks it:

KAUFMAN
Where is it?

LEONARD
There.

Kaufman and Sayer and the others follow Leonard's gesture to the windows.

KAUFMAN

Mr. Lowe, I'm sorry, I'm afraid I don't understand. What is it you want now?

LEONARD
The simplest thing.

KAUFMAN
(somehow doubting it will be simple)
And what is that?
LEONARD
I want to know that I'm free
to go for a walk, if I feel like
it. Like any normal person.

The board members glance among themselves. They seem
relieved.

{V That is a simple request.

LEONARD

KAUFMAN

KAUFMAN
What difference does that make?

LEONARD
(pause)
I think you know.

KAUFMAN
I don't know. Tell me.

LEONARD
(right back)
It makes all the difference.

He brushes at his brow again. Sayer studies him, or rather the
tic itself as it repeats.

KAUFMAN

*
You didn't wake a thing, you woke

*
a person. I 'm a person. »

* 

PSYCHIATRIST
Mr. Lowe? I wonder . . . are you
at all aware of the unconscious
hostility you're exhibiting
towards us right now?

*Kaufman glances over to the psychiatrist, weary. The look on *
Leonard's face is complete innocence; and his tone completely *
without innuendo -

LEONARD
How could I be aware of something
that's unconscious? *

Sayer smiles to himself. So does Kaufman. The psychiatrist *
doesn't.

**

KAUFMAN
I 'm curious . . . I can tell this is
important to you but I 'm not sure
why. What would you do if you
went out?
159.CONT.

LEONARD

I don't know, what would you do if you were me?

KAUFMAN

(his patience straining)

I 'm hot you. Enlighten me.

LEONARD

I 'd walk around. I 'd talk to people, I 'd look at things. I 'd decide whether I wanted to go this way, or that way, or keep going straight. I 'd do the things you do everyday and take for granted.

Long silence. Then:

KAUFMAN

I'll tell you what, we'll take it under consideration. We'll let you know.

160.

160. INT. PATIENTS' CAFETERIA - DAY


LEONARD

Yeah, I was aware of it. (the tic)

I was nervous. It's nothing. What'd they say?

SAYER

They said it's a dangerous place out there. They said they can't be held responsible for what might happen to you out there. They said no.

Leonard nods, sips his coffee, seems to take the decision in stride.

LEONARD

And what did you say?

SAYER

They don't have to listen to me.

LEONARD

Did you agree with them?

SAYER

(pause)

Yes.
Leonard nods again, philosophically it seems.

SAYER

I'm not sure we're out of the woods yet, Leonard. I'm not sure this is nothing.

(the tic)

I have to be sure you're well.

There'll be time enough -

Leonard gets up out of his chair --

LEONARD

Bye.

-- and turns to leave.

SAYER

Leonard ...

Leonard ignores him and walks out -- : 

161. INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Leonard striding down a corridor. Sayer hurrying* after him.

SAYER

Where are you going?

LEONARD

For a walk.

SAYER

Leonard...

Leonard ignores him.

SAYER

Leonard...

Leonard disappears around a corner. Sayer veers off to a hospital phone and picks it up. Into it -

SAYER

This is Dr. Sayer... 

(REV. 11/22/89) CHERRY

Pg.8.8

162. INT. CORRIDORS / LOBBY - DAY

162.

Faces of patients in wheelchairs blur as Leonard runs past them. In another corridor faces blur as orderlies rush past them. In another corridor faces blur as Sayer runs.

Leonard reaches the lobby just ahead of the orderlies. They try to be gentle with him but when he fights to free himself it gets out of control. Sayer appears.

SAYER

Let go of him.

The orderlies don't know what to do. They're just trying to restrain Leonard but he's making it almost impossible.

SAYER

Leonard, stop fighting.

He keeps fighting. He can see the outside through the glass
doors, so close, so far.

SAYER
Let ao of him.

They pull him back, away from the doors, into the corridor behind them.

163. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

* Tight on Sayer, staring at the floor, despondent.

MRS. LOWE O.S.
I don't understand it, he was never any trouble before.

Kaufman, too, is there, and Miss Costello. Kaufman watches *

Sayer.

MRS. LOWE
He was quiet: and polite and respectful. He never demanded anything. He was never disobedient.

SAYER
He was catatonic, Mrs. Lowe.

He seems to say it more for Kaufman's benefit; regardless, she doesn't care for his tone.

MRS. LOWE
I'm speaking of when he was a boy.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY

163.CONT.

OF COURSE.

SAYER

MRS. LOWE
(to Kaufman)
He was always nice-minded when he was a boy.

Kaufman nods, studies Sayer.

MRS. LOWE
I don't know who that is up there. I don't think he knows.

(to Sayer)
You've turned Leonard into something he is not.

164. INT. WARD 5 STAIRWELL & CORRIDOR - DAY

Coming up a flight of stairs, 1930's music can be heard.
Reaching a caged landing the orderly escorting Sayer unlocks* door, leads him along a short corridor to another door and unlocks that one.

* 165. INT. WARD 5 DAYROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY

An old black and white musical blaring from a television bolted to the ceiling. Young male patients, subdued with Thorazine, vacantly staring at it. > Sayer comes in, finds Leonard in one of the chairs, and kneels to gain some confidentiality. Leonard cranes slightly to see around him, to see the television.

SAYER
This is a mistake. It's wrong and it's cruel and it should never have happened like this - but you have to understand - nothing quite like this has happened before, no one knows what to do . . . Leonard, please don't ignore me.

Leonard condescends a look to him. A moment and Sayer smiles at a thought:

SAYER
I wish you could just walk out like that. I wish it were that simple.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY

165.CONT. LEONARD /
165. is.


166. EXT. BAINBRIDGE HOSPITAL - NIGHT *
Light glows in only a few of the windows. In one, on the third floor, the examination room, a figure in .* silhouette (Sayer), stares out. In another, on the fifth floor, a second figure in silhouette (Leonard), behind bars, slowly paces.

166A. INT. WARD 5 DAYROOH - DAY
The blaring TV again. Suddenly the picture goes dark. Leonard, who turned it off, climbs down off a chair and faces the "somnambulant" men who were "watching."
Moving along their chairs he considers each much as Sayer
considered the post-encephalitic "garden of stone." Reaching one stretched out across three chairs, asleep, Leonard gently nudges him.

LEONARD

Wake up.

167-163. OMITTED

167-

169

169A-. INT. ELEVATOR & CORRIDOR

The elevator door slides open revealing an orderly with several trays of untouched food on a cart. Kaufman steps in and the door slides shut. Descending:

ORDERLY

I guess they're not hungry.

Kaufman nods distractedly, not really listening. The orderly begins whistling a tune to himself. Kaufman glances over long-sufferingly, quieting him. The door slides open, and the young man wheels the cart past Kaufman. Finally:

KAUFMAN

Who?

ORDERLY

Ward 5.

The door slides shut.

(REV.11/22/89) CHERRY

, Pg 170. OMITTED

170

171. INT. WARD 5 DAYROOM - DAY

171

Leonard paces before the entire Ward 5 population, gathered like the blind and the sick under a revivalist's tent.

LEONARD

It isn't us that's defective, it's them. We're not in crisis, they are. We've been through the worst that can happen to a person and survived it. They haven't. They fear it. And they hide from their fear by hiding us, because they know, they know . . .

The men wait for the rest, but Leonard loses his train of thought. Frustrated, his tics re surface and elaborate. He seems unaware of them. To one of the men:

LEONARD

How long have you been here?

(the man shrugs)

You don't know? A month, a year?
(he doesn't know)

Why are you here?

He doesn't know that, either. To another patient:

LEONARD

How do you feel being locked up?

WARD 5 PATIENT

I don't like it.

LEONARD

You don't like it? Aren't you an animal?

WARD 5 PATIENT

I'm no animal.

LEONARD

Then why are you in a cage?

The man's getting agitated . . . they all are. Leonard stops pacing, faces them, and almost whispers:

LEONARD

Anger . . .

REV.12/13/89 (YELLOW)

Pg.9

171.CONT.

171. Silence ... and suddenly, loudly, exploding:

LEONARD

That's what you feel ... anger!

The men erupt in a burst of noisy approval; they come alive. Tight on Kaufman on the other side of the "cage," watching. And, over the din -

SAYER V.O.

He's lived for thirty years in abjection and defeat . . .

172.

172. INT. KAUFMAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sayer and Kaufman alone in the room, arguing -

SAYER

- He's lived for thirty years without the ability to release his anger -

KAUFMAN

- So have the others -

SAYER

I happen to think his behavior's more natural than theirs -

KAUFMAN
t

Really - and his tics and paranoia? They're more natural - ;

SAYER

He's in that place.

KAUFMAN
Oh, is that it -

SAYER
We wake him up, then lock him up, that's not "paranoia," that's a fact.

KAUFMAN
I've got 20 psychotics up there, "doctor," refusing to eat. They have no idea why they're refusing to eat. How long should I let that go (on) -

SAYER
He knows why, he wants out.

KAUFMAN
Mr. Lowe is not the Messiah of Ward 5, he's a man in trouble. He wasn't "resurrected," he was administered a drug - by you - that's fallen somewhat short of its "miraculous" reputation -

SAYER
The others are fine, they show no signs of -

KAUFMAN
He's been OQ it longer!

Sayer has no rejoinder. A silence before:

KAUFMAN
I sympathize with him. I've tried to accommodate him. But

I will not let him endanger the health of other patients. He's resolute; it feels like a threat, or ultimatum. Trying to remain calm, Sayer changes tacks -

SAYER
I'll talk to him, I'll explain the problem. He'll listen to (me) -

(Kaufman has to laugh)

Without the drug, he's dead.
The statement doesn't have quite the power Saye may have hoped. At least not on Kaufman. His eyes seem to go dead... and then the slightest, slightest shrug.

173/174.  INT. WARD 5 DAYROOM - DAY

Sayer enters the dayroom and is immediately intercepted by three young male patients.

SAYER

Excuse me.

WARD 5 PATIENT

We can't allow it.

Leonard, across the room, pacing slowly, glances over.

LEONARD

He's all right.

Leonard's "bodyguards" step aside. Sayer crosses to Leonard and is greeted in a tone precisely that of master to servant, very courteous yet unmistakably condescending:

LEONARD

How are you today?

SAYER

I'm all right, how are you?

LEONARD

Never better.

A strange gesture, a tic, appears and repeats.

SAYER

And these gentlemen?

"CONTINUED:

(REV.'11/22/89) CHERRY

Pg. 9

173/174.CONT.  LEONARD

173/17

These gentlemen protect me. I wish I didn't need them.

SAYER

Someone wants to hurt you?

(no answer)

Who?

Leonard glances at Sayer with a slight knowing smile. 
LEONARD
That's the thing, isn't it, you
never know who. Someone I least
expect, I expect. Look at history.

SAYER
Every patient in this ward thinks
there's a plot against him,
Leonard.

LEONARD
Yeah, well they're mistaken,
they're crazy.

* The smile that appears this time on Leonard's face is as insane
as anything Sayer's ever seen. He hesitates. Then:

SAYER
Something's wrong.

LEONARD
Hey, buddy.

SAYER
The drug's not working. These are
side-effects and they're consuming
you, and if we don't do -

LEONARD
Hey, I appreciate you coming to
see me, I have some things to do.
Leonard abruptly extends his hand; it's a little twisted.

Sayer doesn't so much shake the hand as hold onto it.

SAYER
Look at yourself, Leonard.

Leonard tries to pull his hand away, but Sayer's grasp is

SAYER
Look at yourself -

(REV. 11/22/89) CHERRY

173/174 CONT. LEONARD
173/174. (erupting)
Look at you.
Leonard yanks his hand free of Sayer's, and, in a torrent:

LEONARD
Disease took me out of the world, I fought to come back, I failed for 30 years but at least I fought, look at you.

But Sayer is looking at him, moving back and forth against the bars on a window, panther-like. He retaliates:

SAYER
The medicine can be taken away.

That can be done. You. can wake up in the morning and it won't be there.

The remarks seem to have no effect on Leonard. He seems not to have heard them. But as Sayer takes a step closer, Leonard, without warning, lunges.

Sayer stumbles back and his glasses fall to the floor. He scrambles to his feet, leaving them, and backs away from Leonard's bodyguards who are slowly coming toward him. Orderlies get the cage unlocked and hustle Sayer out. As it slams shut again, he glances back in at Leonard, and hardly recognizes him.

174A. EXT. SAYER'S HOUSE - NIGHT (ALREADY SHOT)
Beyond the porch windows, Sayer can be seen slowly pacing the narrow width of his living room. Opera music blares and CONTINUES OVER:

175. INT. WARD 5 - LATER - NIGHT
Moving slowly past the sleeping forms of Ward 5 inhabitants. And reaching and settling on a bed that's empty. The opera music CONTINUES OVER:

176. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - LATER - NIGHT
The record spinning. And Sayer at his desk, just sitting, his "close work" glasses resting on a page of Ernst Heckle.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY
176.CONT.

The opera music CONTINUES OVER:

177. INT. WARD 5 - LATER - NIGHT

Test pattern on the television. Leonard, in a chair, blankly staring. His eyes are drawn to something glimmering on the floor across the room. Sayer's shattered glasses.

The opera music CONTINUES OVER:

177.*

178. INT. SAYER'S HOUSE - LATER - NIGHT (ALREADY SHOT)

Alone in his room, perched on his bed, Sayer pathetically cleans his remaining pairs of glasses.

The opera music CONTINUES OVER:

178A. INT. WARD 5 - LATER - NIGHT

The shards of the lenses layed out on a table. Leonard picks one up, and, turning it over to consider it, sees that it has already cut his finger. He doesn't set it down.

178B. INT. STAIRWELL - DAWN

A metallic dang interrupts the music and echoes into silence.

Footsteps. Sayer appears, and slowly climbs up through the caged stairwell. He reaches a landing' and unlocks a door.

179. INT. WARD 5 - MOMENTS LATER - DAWN

Sayer steps into room and quietly crosses it. He peers in at sleeping figures, and at the one empty bed.

LEONARD O.S.

How are the others?

Sayer turns to the voice, to Leonard, a ticcing figure in shadow hunched in a corner of the dayroom.

SAYER

Scared.

(REV.11/22/89)CHERRY Pg.
(continuity only)

179-.CONT.

LEONARD (pause)

They should be.
SAYER
(pause)
They want you back. I want you back.

CONTINUED:

179. CONT.
179.
Leonard remains in the shadows. Eventually -

LEONARD
I want to be back.

180. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - DAY
180.

Sayer has called together the ward staff, the other patients, Kaufman and Ray.

SAYER
He's aware of his appearance.
He's less concerned with it than he is with the effect it may have on the rest of us.
He waits for the patients to acknowledge they understand. They nod.

SAYER
We'll be working with his dosage.
He's aware of this, too, and says he's prepared for it. He wants us to be prepared for it.

ANTHONY

Hey, Len.
The patients glance away to the threshold of the room. Miss Costello and Mrs. Lowe are escorting Leonard slowly in. Anthony comes over, shakes his hand.

ANTHONY
Welcome back.

LEONARD
Thanks.
The others come over, shake his hand and pat him on the back,
but all a little too gently, too concerned, like he might break. Leonard manages a smile.

LEONARD

I'm all right.
The others nod quickly in agreement. And the room falls into silence.

LEONARD

Only it's too quiet in here.

REV. 12/5/89 (BLUE)

Pg. 9

180A. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - NIGHT

180A.
CO Anthony at the piano, playing, singing; the others echoing the refrains -

ANTHONY

"You build me up, Buttercup,"

Only to let me down ... " v

It's like a cocktail party - everybody dressed up, some singing, some milling around talking. Leonard tries to enjoy it, too, struggling to contain, to hide from the others, the tics that are trying to "come out."

LEONARD V.O.

... I keep acquiring new ones like a junk collector . . .

181-182. OMITTED

181-182.

183. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

183.

Through the lens of the 8mm camera -
The blackboard. Chalked on it: LEONARD LOWE - 750 MGS.
In front of it, Leonard seated in a chair, his hands performing repertoires of tics. He seems wholly unbothered by them.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

... some are new ... some are elaborations ... some are counter-tics. They don't bother me. What bothers me is that I know they shouldn't be there . . .

One of his hands makes a movement to his ear, to his pants, to his ear again, like some bizarre genuflection.

LEONARD

This is new . . .
185. INT. BATHROOM – DAY

Alone in the bathroom, Leonard struggles to get toothpaste onto a toothbrush with two tremoring "disobedient" hands. It's a monumental struggle.

185A. INT. PHARMACY – DAY

The counterweight of a pharmaceutical scale being slid by hand from 750 to 500 mgs.

189. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM – DAY

The other patients at tables, painting. Leonard at another table, with the sketches of his library. On one showing the placement of tables and desks, he writes the letters, "F L O W" before getting "stuck."

LEONARD V.O.

(flatt)

There's no sense of time. It's like being caught between mirrors . . . or echoes . . .

Tight on his face, his eyes, transfixed.

LEONARD V.O.

Something has to happen . . .
A cockroach runs across the paper and Leonard's eyes "wake up" and his hand finishes the word, "F L O W E R S"

190. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM – DAY

Sayer and Leonard watching film of him eating from a bowl of soup. The hand with the spoon freezes midway to his mouth.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

It's not that it feels bad, it's, nothing, I feel nothing. Like I'm nothing. Like I ' m dead.

191. INT. PHARMACY – DAY

The counterweight sliding up from 500 to 625 mgs.
192. *
192. INT. OPERATING THEATRE - NIGHT
Though the junk has been cleared and some of the railings *
ripped out, the place is still grim, unpainted. Wood scraps *
and workmen's tools lay around. There's a wheelchair ramp, *
half-built, not yet in place.
*
LEONARD
I feel good when I'm working. I
feel good in here.

* *
In this room. They're alone in it, he and Sayer, by a table- *
saw that's cluttered with the original hospital blueprints and *
Leonard's plans and notes.

(REV; 12/5/89)

(BLUE). Pg.1

LEONARD

CD 192.CONT.
U 92 .
The book list is coming along.

SAYER
I'd love to see it.

LEONARD
It's here somewhere... As he hunts for it amidst all the notes, his hands and
head begin shaking. The hands seize on some other papers
and, hard as he tries, he can't make himself let go of them. The
pages crumple.

SAYER
It's all right, I'll see it some other -

He's interrupted as Leonard suddenly goes into an
severe oculogyric crisis, his head thrusting back -

LEONARD
Get the camera get the camera get the camera -.

f ' « >!' ' INT. OPERATING THEATRE - NIGHT

193.
\S~P ig2,
8mm film of Leonard, in a chair in the middle of the room, where, thirty years earlier, patients had been filmed. His head still back, his eyes darting, his mouth spitting out words -

LEONARD (FILM)
I-I-I-I--

SAFER O.S. (FILM)
- I can't do this - I'm turning the camera off -

LEONARD
No - no - no - no - watch - watch -
watch - watch -

SAFER O.S. (FILM)
- I have to help you -

LEONARD
- learn - learn - learn - learn -
learn - learn - learn -

REV.12/5/89 (BLUE) .

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193A. INT. PHARMACY - DAY

193A.
L-Dopa powder, falling like snow onto the scale; and the counter-weight balancing precariously at 575 mgs.

194. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY (WAS SC. 186)

194.
The chalkboard: Name and dosage (575 MGS). And Leonard signing on it, clearly, without trouble, "Leonard Lowe."

SAFER
Good.
Leonard sits. He seems fine. Suddenly his hand jerks up and catches the tennis ball Sayer has thrown.

SAFER
Good.
The ball, without warning, comes back. Sayer lunges at it, but misses. It hits his wrist and rolls across the floor.

SAFER
Well, I wasn't ready, was I.
Leonard smiles. Sayer smiles. They're both so relieved, they can hardly believe it. It seems they're out of the woods, that they've found the "middle ground."
Tight on Leonard's pharmaceutical chart on the desk. Sayer's hand comes in and boldly underlines the, dosage - 575 MGS.

195. INT. LEONARD'S WARD - DAY

195.
Leonard buttons his shirt, then picks up the bow tie he always
wears when he's seeing Paula. He looks well, he feels good, the only sign of illness some fine motor skill trouble.

MRS. LOWE

Here, let me.

LEONARD

No, I can do it.

She watches him try to get the tie on by himself, and casts around, feeling, perhaps, without a purpose. Eventually, more to herself than to him:

MRS. LOWE

What you see in that girl . . .

(she trails off)

I don't get it.

---

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195. CONT.

LEONARD

(to himself)

She's normal.

MRS. LOWE

What?

(no answer)

You're not talking to yourself* again.

LEONARD

Yeah.

MRS. LOWE

You shouldn't do that, you know.

LEONARD

I know.

She watches him struggle with the tie a moment more. Finally, she can't bear it any longer, and reaches to do it for him.

MRS. LOWE

You're taking forever, it's hard
to watch. . . .

LEONARD

I can get it.

MRS. LOWE

No, you can't.

LEONARD

I can, get away from me.
He pushes her hand away and turns his back to her. She can't
believe it. Silence. Then, to herself, in a murmur -

MRS. LOWE
... thirty years ... for what ...

thirty years ... gone ...

The tie comes off in Leonard's hand, which begins shaking
uncontrollably. JUMP CUT TO:

196. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - LATER - DAY
196.
The trembling has escalated into a full-blown crisis. The
staff and other patients can't ignore this one. Sayer wedges
past them and into the room, and crosses quickly to Leonard and
his mother, both hysterical. All trying to speak at once:

SAYER
What happened?

196.CONT. LEONARD
196.
... I'm ungrateful ... I'm ungrateful ...
MRS. LOWE
I said a terrible thing ...
LEONARD
... she, she, she, she ... Hi s a rm l ash es out , s end ing the mo del of the li bra ry
cra shin g to th e floor.

SAYER
(to Mrs. Lowe)
What happened?
LEONARD
... she devoted her life to me ... she'd have a life if it weren't

for me ...
MRS. LOWE
... I said the most terrible thing ...
LEONARD
... I ' m ungrateful ... I'm ungrateful ...
Hi s mothe r trie s t oc omfo rt him , t o h old him , t ear s c oming to her eyes, too.

LEONARD
I'm sorry . . . I'm so sorry . . .

MRS. LOWE
I'm sorry . . . I'm sorry . . .

Frank, kneeling to the floor, gathers the pieces of the broken library model.

196A. (NOW SC. 196C)

196B. INT. LEONARD'S DAYROOM - LATER - DAY

Moving slowly across Josef's work table where he and Frank are rebuilding the library model.

LUCY'S VOICE

There's a song at twilight,

When the lights are low

REV.12/5/89 (BLUE)

196B.CONT.

Her voice CONTINUES the verse OVER: Rose, her sad strange china doll face.

ROSE
You'd never know it now, but I used to be so pretty, Dr. Sayer,
even you would've thought so.

SAYER
I do think so.

She shakes her head 'no.' She knows what she looks like.

MAGDA O.S.

What if he's just had enough of it?

Sayer glances to Magda, nearby with a group of other patients, some of them looking off toward the sunroom where Leonard, alone, at a window, stares out.

FRANCIS
What if it's just a matter of

time for all of us?

SAYER

There's no reason to think any of this will happen to you. You're individuals. And you're all well.

(pause)

Aren't you?
Most nod, but it's without great conviction.

BERT
He's the strongest of us.

Close on Lucy/ across the room with Miss Costello, finishing the song:

LUCY
Comes love's old song
Comes love's old sweet song . . .

Her voice trails into silence.

MISS COSTELLO
That was lovely.

LUCY
I learned that song a long, long time ago.

(\_y

SH e gla nc es ac ro ss to t he su nro om , to Le ona rd , sti ll at t he w in do w, u na wa re , or s o i t se em s, o f he r an d th e o th er s.

LUCY
I know what year it is . . .
I just can' t i ma gin e be i ng o lde r th an tw e nt y- t wo , I h a veno e xper ience at i t.

(pause)
I know it's not 1926 . . . I just need it to be.

196C . I NT. PH ARM ACY - N IGH T

Drifting across Leonard's dosage schedules, minute milligram changes leading to vanishing point of health, across the scale,-with nothing on it, and reaching, finally, Sayer, alone in the room, surrounded by racks of medicine and no solution.

They
He glances up. Mrs. Lowe has appeared in the doorway, consider each other for a long moment before:

MRS. LOWE
When my son was born healthy,
I never asked why. Why was I sp lucky, what did I do to deserve
this perfect child, this perfect life? -

Silence. Her face toughens.

MRS. LOWE

But when he got sick, you can bet I asked why. I demanded to know why. Why was this happening?

Silence. Then with an almost philosophical shrug:

MRS. LOWE

There was nothing I could do about it. There was no one I could go to and say, "Stop this, please stop this, can't you see my son is in pain?"

SAYER

He's fighting, Mrs -

MRS. LOWE

He's losing.

Sayer almost recoils, as if from a slap. Silence. Then:

MRS. LOWE

The truth is . . . I wouldn't mind if he lost . . .

(long pause)

I know you can't understand how I could say such a thing . . .

MRS. LOWE

But we were happy before.

Leonard, alone at a table with a book. He glances up as Sayer sits opposite him, then down again at the book.

LEONARD

I can't read anymore. The words are written too slow. I keep going back to the beginning, to the beginning, and trying . . .

He turns back to the beginning, tries again, his eyes moving too quickly across the lines, "ahead" of the words. His hands and head begin shaking out of control and it's all he can do to close the book.

LEONARD

I've let the others down.

SAYER

You have not.

( LEONARD
I've let you down.

SAYER
You have not.

LEONARD
I'm grotesque . . . grotesque . . .
grotesque . . .

SAYER
Leonard, I won't sit here and listen to you talk about yourself like this --

LEONARD
Look at me.

REV.1,2/5/89 (BLUE)

He is a man consumed by illness. With a voice that is flat and limbs that are bent and hands that are twisted and a grimace that can only hint at the great depth of the despair he is suffering.

LEONARD
Look at me and tell me I am not.

SAYER
You are not.

It's over and Leonard knows it. And though he won't admit it, so does Sayer. Leonard barely gets the words out --

LEONARD
This . . . isn't . . . me.

198. INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Standing before a mirror above a sink, Leonard struggles to part his hair straight. He's wearing his best clothes, those he wears when he's seeing Paula, but they seem to drape awkwardly.

199. INT. PATIENTS' CAFETERIA - DAY

He may not have looked like a patient when Paula first met him, but he does now. It's all she can do to not break down in front of him.

CONTINUED:
PAULA

.. I worked . . . I had friends
over . . . I went dancing . . . that's
about it . . .

Leonard, ticcing, nods, smiles through his grimace, imagining
those things.

PAULA

I know, I should do something with
my life.

LEONARD

Like what? Those are great
things. I've never done any of
those things.

PAULA

You will.

Leonard shakes his head 'no.'

LEONARD

They'll never let me out of this
place. They shouldn't.

They consider each other for several moments -- the one, young
and healthy; the other, old and ill.

LEONARD

I'm not well. I feel well inside
when I see you. I wish you could
see what's inside. Instead of
this.

PAULA

I can see it.

Silence. As much as Leonard wants to say "I love you," he
knows he cannot, that it would be ludicrous. Instead:

LEONARD

Goodbye.

He holds out one of his shaking hands to her. She reaches
to it, places her hand on it, holds it, and the shaking slowly,
slowly begins to subside.

She lifts him gently out of his wheelchair and leads him away
from the table. She arranges his arms in such a way that he is
sort of holding her and begins to slowly dance with him.

(REV. 10/16/89) Pink p. 10
199. CONT.

Some patients glance up from their food. Servers glance up
from their work. All watch with a sort of reverie the couple dancing without music. They watch asLeonard's tics gradually disappear. They watch as he finds a sense of grace and ease, as he borrows her grace and ease. They watch him become, simply, a man dancing with a woman.

From somewhere, perhaps imagined, there is music, a quiet melody played on a piano.

200. INT.* DAYROOM - SAME DAY

Rolando's hands on the keys of the piano, playing the melody. (NOTE: Hay want to shoot front end of this scene again without Rolando to leave open the option of using the same score Randy writes for Lucy's walk to the window - SC. 51.)

Leonard, returning from the cafeteria, walks slowly into the room. He's bent, his arms at strange angles like the limbs of a diseased tree, his legs managing each step only with great concentration.

He nears the center of the room, the area of inconsistent tiles which Sayer and Miss Costello long ago conformed with shoe polish. Some of the black has worn off, and as Leonard reaches it, he finds himself thrown by the irregularity.

He tries to step over to "the other side," but his feet or legs or mind will not do it.

Everyone in the room except Rolando becomes acutely aware of the problem, of the struggle, of Leonard fighting with all his will, and nothing but it, to "cross over." He crosses the "barrier." And, with surer but still difficult steps, passes the drinking fountain.

Tight on the window. Leonard rests his gnarled hand on the frame as he peers down at Paula walking away from the hospital.

She glances back briefly before disappearing around a corner.

Rolando's music CONTINUES OVER:

201. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - NIGHT

The original 8mm film of Leonard, his eyes alert, his hands exploring the microphone.
Whenever you're ready.

My name is Leonard Lowe. It has been explained to me that I have been away for quite some time.

Tight on Sayer, alone in the darkened room, watching the footage, watching Leonard wrestling with the thought.

I'm back.

Light moves across the screen. Someone has entered. Miss Costello. She exchanges a long glance with Sayer before they both look back to the screen.

I thought it was a dream at first. Silence except for the sound of the projector. Then -

When did you realize it wasn't?

Leonard thinks back, trying to recall the exact moment he realized he was "alive." Finally --

When I spoke and you understood me.

One tear snakes down Sayer's cheek. The film cuts to silent footage of Leonard, soon after his awakening, combing his hair and delighting in the fact that he can comb it.

Quietly, without looking at Miss Costello --

You told him I was a kind man ... (long pause)

It's kind to give life only to take it away?

There is self-loathing in his voice. On the screen, Leonard's trying to operate an electric shaver that seems alive.

It's given and taken away from
all of us.

On screen, Leonard buttons buttons on his shirt and glances up smiling, proud. Tight on sayer in the dark room, the projector light flickering behind him. More to himself --

SAYER

Why doesn't that comfort me?

3

MISS COSTELLO

(quietly)

Because you are kind.

(pause)

And because he's your friend.

On screen, Leonard is beckoning to someone unseen. No one appears but he keeps beckoning. Finally Sayer, embarrassed and camera shy, appears. Though there is no sound, it is clear he asks, "What?" Leonard turns the doctor so that he is facing the camera, and points. Sayer again asks, "What?" "There," Leonard says. "Where?" Sayer demands. Finally, Sayer looks directly, curiously, into the camera.

Rolando's music CONTINUES OVER:

202. INT. DAYROOM - NIGHT

20

Through a window, autumn leaves on trees.

And the school yard beyond the field, quiet, deserted.

Pulling back, panes of glass. Across the walls of the dayroom.

Drawings and water colors, of people and: places.

To the arm of the metronome slapping back and forth.

And a twisted hand, a pen grasped awkwardly in it, writing excruciatingly slowly, and just barely legibly:

& « « * c # * * * O » * * r i ' « « * A . * . x

Though, and the music, unfinished, stop.

The hand, and the music, still.

The arm is still, the head is still, Leonard's eyes are "still.

Only the metronome moves, gently slapping.

Drifting slowly away from Leonard, his face, his body, his being, "asleep... across the empty room... and slowly toward the window... . . .

... where it is now.snowing... . . . long silence before...
LEONARD O.S.

* /T/ It's winter.

His voice is flat, inflectionless. His eyes, with little life behind them, staring at the falling snow. He's in a wheelchair.

SAYER O.S.

Yes.

LEONARD

Am I speaking?

SAYER O.S.

Yes.

Leonard's eyes drift to a chair, his mother's chair, the one she has used for thirty years. It's empty.

SAYER O.S.

Your mother is well. She's home.

She visits you on Sundays.

Leonard slowly nods. Somehow he knows that.

LEONARD

She's living her own life.

SAYER O.S.

She's trying to.

Leonard's eyes drift again, across to silent ghost-like figures in wheelchairs, the post-encephalitics, all of them, "asleep" again.

SAYER O.S.

They fought, as you did, with great courage. They were strong.

Leonard looks down at his hands and feels one with the other. He looks back at the "sleeping" patients, not comprehending why they cannot do the same.

LEONARD

I'm stronger?

Sayer is finally revealed seated beside him. He doesn't answer. Leonard's hands slowly reach to his face and feel its features.

LEONARD

I'm here, aren't I?

&

His glance finds the tray beside Sayer, the paper medicine cup and empty juice cup on it. He must be back on the medication again. He looks back to Sayer, who's looking toward the window, to the falling snow. Eventually -

SAYER

Do you think you can walk?
203. INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

A doctor in a lab coat, one Sayer long ago imparted his "will of the ball" theory to, emerges from a ward.

FERNANDO O.S.

Dr. Tyler?
The doctor turns. Fernando is walking toward him.

FERNANDO

You got a minute?

DR. TYLER

(not really)

What is it?

Fernando arrives, leans against the corridor wall, and sort of mumbles --

FERNANDO

You know that woman in Ward 7 . . .

Grace, uh ... what's her last name ... Grace ...

DR. TYLER

(annoyed)

Does it matter, Fernando?

Sayer and Leonard walk slowly past, behind Tyler. Fernando's eyes briefly meet Sayer's.

FERNANDO

... no . . . I guess not . . .

204. INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR, - DAY

Another doctor emerges from another ward.

* 

MARGARET O.S.

Dr. Sullivan?

DR. SULLIVAN

(turning)

Yeah?

204 CONT.

Sayer and Leonard approach. Margaret has positioned herself, like Anthony, against the wall, and, pointing out something on a clipboard to Dr. Sullivan, glances up briefly as Sayer and

T~^\{ i--J

Leonard pass.
205. INT. CORRIDOR / LOBBY - DAY

Sayer and Leonard approaching the lobby. As they enter, the switchboard operator glances up, notices them, and glances back down without a word. They approach the front doors. They are almost there.

From behind them, loudly--

MISS COSTELLO O.S. Dr. Kaufman?

KAUFMAN O.S. Dr. Sayer?

Sayer and Leonard stop just short of the doors. They glance back and see- Kaufman and several* steps behind him, looking distraught, Miss Costello. She has failed.

SAYER Yes?

The two doctors stare at one another for several moments. Clearly Kaufman knows what is happening. Clearly Sayer knows he knows. Eventually--

KAUFMAN

Put a coat on him for Christ's sake.

He turns around, walks past Miss Costello and down the corridor from which he came. Miss Costello relaxes, turns around and walks away down the corridor. Sayer and Leonard turn and walk outside.

206. INT. DAYROOM - SAME TIME - DAY

Though Rolando is not playing, cannot play, the piano, he can hear it, distant, like an echo, as a nurse wheels him toward the windows. Other nurses and orderlies are wheeling Rose, Frank, Bert, and Lucy and the others there. Sidney is wheeling Lolly. They all "peer" out. They all "see" down below, standing across the street, Sayer and Leonard.

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Sayer drapes his coat around Leonard. Neither speaks. Neither quite knows what to say. Eventually, Sayer holds out a hand for Leonard to shake. Leonard stares at it for a long moment, then awkwardly embraces Sayer.

208. INT. DAYROOM - SAME TIME - DAY

The others "watch" Sayer cross back to the hospital. They "watch" Leonard staring after him. He glances down the street, Leonard, glances down the street the other way. He seems uncertain which way to go . . . He walks away.

209. INT. SUBWAY - EVENING

Rhythmic pounding. Metal wheels over metal tracks. Leonard feels things inside his coat pockets. He pulls from one several capsules of L-Dopa in a clear plastic bag; and from the other, a wad of money wrapped in paper on which is typed his name and "Bainbridge Hospital, Bronx." He stuffs it all back into his pocket and glances up.

The train is crowded. Everyone seems to be hiding behind a newspaper or the veil of a glazed look; everyone but Leonard and the eleven year old boy seated next to him with his mother. They're taking everything in, Leonard and the boy - the rumble of the train, the overhead lights flashing off and on again, the mounting excitement they both feel.

The boy glances up at Leonard, and, like a secret -

BOY ON TRAIN

(a whisper)

We're going to the city.

LEONARD .

(a whisper back)

Me, too.

210. INT. SUBWAY STATION - N.Y. - NIGHT

Underground tunnels. People climbing stairs. Leonard climbing with them. Under exposed pipes and ducts. Along passageways. Through an exit turnstile. Up more stairs. And finally -

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(continuity only)

211. EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

1

Leonard, emerging from down below, reaches the street. People jostle past him but he doesn't move. He stares in wonder at what lies before him . . . lights, skyscrapers, Christmas decorations, taxis, noise, people . . . life.
211A. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - SAME TIME - NIGHT

An oppressive silence. The oppressive institutional room. Sayer, alone in it, at his desk in the corner.

MISS COSTELLO O.S.
Good night.

Sayer glances up, sees Miss Costello in the doorway to the corridor.

SAYER
Good night.

She leaves. He stays. Puts a folder in a drawer. Straightens things on the desk. Looks for something more to do. Clearly there's nothing more to do. He gets up. Wanders slowly around the room. Past the medical instruments in the glass cases, the tripod and projector, along the wall covered with taped and tacked data, notes, Polaroids.

Buried in it he sees Leonard's original perception test, and alongside it, the first Polaroid of him . . .

Sayer abruptly moves to the window, yanks at it, but it's jammed shut again. Below he can see Miss Costello crossing toward her car. He fights with the window, finally frees it, slides it open and yells out loudly -

SAYER
Eleanor.

She turns to the voice. He turns from the window. Tight on the glasses left on his desk.

211B. EXT. PARKING LOT, BAINBRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

He hurries out of the building and across the lot. Winded, he reaches her.

MISS COSTELLO
What's wrong?

He holds his hand up while he tries to catch his breath. She takes it, concerned perhaps something has happened to Leonard.

SAYER
Nothing ...
(he casts around)
No, I was wondering... What are you doing? You probably have plans... or...

MISS COSTELLO
No, I'm just--

SAYER
Because I was wondering... maybe... you have no plans...?

MISS COSTELLO
I have no--

SAYER
Because--I--was--wondering... maybe...

you'd... we... could... (grasping for an idea)
I don't know, go get a cup of coffee somewhere... together... or...

Or what--several at a time? He trails off, perhaps he hadn't come out at all.

SAYER
... Maybe we could just... go for a walk...?
He shrugs. That's the best he can do. A slow, slow smile crosses her face.

MISS COSTELLO
I'd be delighted.

212. EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT
A mechanical dog crosses Leonard's path wagging its tail.
Unlike everyone else, he stops to admire it. He's enchanted by it. He smiles at the peddler and the "litter of pups" moving around his feet.

LEONARD
They're so life-like.

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212.CONT.
PEDDLER
And only five bucks, can you believe it?
In the back of a taxi, Leonard stares out the window, mesmerized by all he sees. The driver glances back in the rear view mirror.

HECTOR

How 'bout those Jets?

Leonard glances at the rear view mirror and finds in it the driver's eyes.

LEONARD

I like them.

Leonard glances out the window, a little puzzled, to the sky, to see if there's one flying overhead.

HECTOR

Broadway Joe.

The driver glances back to see what Leonard thinks of that.

* Leonard nods uncertainly.

LEONARD

Yeah.

As they rattle along, Leonard peers back but the window at things going by, and absently pets the mechanical dog in his lap. Eventually -

HECTOR

You're not from here.

LEONARD

I am. I was born here. But I've been away a long time.

HECTOR

Where?

LEONARD

The Bronx.

Hector has to laugh, but it's cut short by the blare of his * horn as he slams it in response to another cab sliding into his * lane.

The meter clicks over and into double digits. The taxi is parked across the street from a diner.

HECTOR

I don't mind sitting here if you don't, but to what end are we sitting here?

Leonard watches a waitress in the diner, Paula, chatting with some young customers. His hand moves to and onto the car door handle, but then hesitates opening it. Paula is getting her coat and leaving with her friends. They have ice skates.
219.
219. EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NIGHT
Prometheus stealing fire from heaven, dwarfed by the Christmas tree that towers over him. Figures glide past the statue. Skaters on the ice rink.
It's magical. - At *least« as-seen, through Leonard's eyes. From the promenade he watches the skaters gliding gracefully over the ice. Hector appears at his side.

HECTOR
I'm sorry to bother you, Len, I just thought you should know this is adding up, you know?

Without taking his eyes from the skaters below, Leonard digs into his coat pocket and hands Hector a clump of money, hundreds of dollars. Embarrassed -

HECTOR
I didn't mean that, just -

LEONARD
I don't need it, you keep it.

Hector puts the money back in Leonard's coat. Leonard finds Paula among the skaters, isolates her from them, and watches her glide around the rink. A fine mist of snow is falling, veiling her.

HECTOR
Beautiful, isn't it.

LEONARD
Unforgettable.

220. INT. TAXI - NIGHT
The cab rattling down another street.

LEONARD
You have children, Hector?

Hector takes a photograph from his chauffeur's permit plate and hands it back. A boy, five, healthy and happy.

LEONARD
He's lovely.

HECTOR
I thank God for him every day.
Every single day.
Leonard begins to weep softly. Once Hector notices, he slows the car, pulls to the curb, and studies Leonard in the rear view mirror. Has this man lost a child? The taxi engine idles.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

The cab, empty, parked in front of an apartment building in a working class neighborhood.

INT. HECTOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The mechanical dog on a bathroom sink. Leonard staring at his reflection in a mirror. And at his hands. It's happening. He's falling apart.

HALLWAY. Leonard at a bedroom door. Peering in at Hector's sleeping son. He steps quietly into the room and places the mechanical dog on the pillow beside the boy's head.

THE LIVING ROOM. A small Christmas tree. Hector and his wife sitting on cheap furniture with cups of egg nog. Leonard emerges from the hallway.

* * *

LEONARD
I have to be leaving.
(having trouble with the words)
I want to th-ank you. You've been very kind to me.

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Hector and his wife are both thinking the same thing: this man's not well and they shouldn't let him go.

HECTOR
Leave? You're our guest, we got dinner coming. We're having something to eat.

His wife agrees with a couple of words in Spanish as she gets up and crosses toward the kitchen.

* *

HECTOR
Stay with us.
LEONARD

I can't.
And he can't explain why. He takes the crumpled wad of money *
(and paper) from his coat pocket and tries to give it to Hector again.

HECTOR

Hey -

LEONARD

It has no value to me, believe me.

HECTOR

I don't want it.

LEONARD

It's for your son. It's for him.
Hector doesn't take it but doesn't say anything more about it when Leonard sets it down on the coffee table.

HECTOR

At least let me give you a lift wherever you're going.

LEONARD

No, I think I'd like to walk. (to Hector's wife)

Thank you.
She nods, Your welcome, from the doorway of the kitchen.
Leonard offers his hand to Hector to shake.

HECTOR

What's wrong with you, Len?

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222.CONT.          LEONARD
222

(pause)
This is good, what you've got here.

HECTOR

I know that.
Leonard smiles; the man does know it, and appreciates it.

LEONARD

Bye.

223.   EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT
223.
Descending from a fire escape strung with a single strand of Christmas lights ... down to the street below, to Leonard, moving along the sidewalk, noticing:
A young couple, bundled up, hurrying down the stairs of a basement apartment, fumbling with keys;
A Christmas tree too large for the doorway of an another apartment across the street, being tugged at by someone inside, unseen. >
Leonard smiles. His gait and tics, and especially the smile, make him look insane. He passes a shop window with very simple ornamentation as the proprietor inside switches out the lights, and continues on, and into the darkness of the street ahead.

224. EXT. EAST RIVER - NIGHT
224. Black water. The river. The drone of engines and syncopated rhythms of wheels of unseen cars. Leonard, at the river's edge, stares into the water. His hand comes out of his pocket holding the bag of L-Dopa capsules, and he lets it fall in. It floats for a moment before a force from below, like a hand, pulls it under.

224A. EXT. EAST RIVER - DAWN
224A. Leonard on a bench. Behind him, across an empty field, bums huddled over a barrel fire warming their hands.

SAYER O.S.
Leonard?

Sayer's face appears against a pastel dawn sky. Leonard glances up at him. Behind them, in the distance, Hector stands outside his parked cab. Sayer sits. Long silence . . .

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(continuity only)

224A.CONT. SAYER

I'm sorry.

LEONARD

What for?

He smiles crookedly, then looks out across the water again.

LEONARD

Isn't that something . . .

Sayer looks out. The morning colors are mirroring off the water like paint on glass. They both watch. The colors are deepening right before their eyes. Long, long silence before . . .

LEONARD

Can you take me home?

Sayer helps him up. And as they move slowly toward the waiting taxi. Hector opens the rear door. The only sound is the hiss of tires, the rhythm of wheels, until -

LEONARD V.O.

When I was a boy I felt myself being carried away by illness like a swimmer sucked out by the tide. Drifting slowly out across the water and the Brooklyn Bridge stretching out across it.

LEONARD V.O.
I feel it again, only this time
I've been somewhere. I went to a

place and felt things I never
dreamed of. I went to a place and
felt hope and fear and hatred and
love, I glimpsed life . . .

225. INT. LEONARD'S LIBRARY - BAINBRIDGE - DAY

225.
Drifting slowly across the faces of patients reading in
Leonard's library, and settling finally tight on him,
"asleep."

LEONARD V.O.
It's good, life.
Spines of books on shelves lining the walls. And Paula's face,
considering the titles.

[--\ ( 
; ( 

I t doesn't matter wh ich one.
They'r e all his favorites.

225.CONT.
(continuity only)

225.
She pulls one of the books down at random and crosses the
library with Sayer, passing patients - including the woman
with multiple sclerosis - reading at tables with flowers on
them.

SAYER O.S.
Leonard?
He's in a wheelchair, behind an oak desk on which rests,
among other things, the Ouija board. His eyes open but do not
appear to comprehend the doctor's presence or his surroundings.
His expression is absolutely "expressionless."

SAYER
I ' m sorry to wake you, but there's someone here to see you.
Leonard remains still. "Asleep." And there's a long silence
broken only by the sound of pages being turned. And then,
from Dickens' "The Old Curiosity Shop" --

PAULA
(reading)
"Night is generally my time for walking. In the summer, I often leave home early in the morning and roam about fields and lanes. All day. Or even escape for days or weeks together... Leonard is unable to acknowledge in any way that he recognizes the words or her voice... but he does. And as she reads, the words become alive and the walls recede..."

PAULA

"But saving in the country, I seldom go out until after dark, though Heaven be thanked, I love its light and feel the cheerfulness it sheds upon the earth as much as any creature living..."

And he is moving into the light.