

Nurses Do It Better

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FADE IN:

SUPER: Based on a True Story in the United States HealthCare system.

1 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A man, JOHN, in his mid-20's is doubled over. Fills the frame. Pants, sweats, his paper gown rustles, drools over a bucket. SOUNDS of a busy hospital fill the background. He answers:

JOHN  
I can't remember..

OLDER NURSE  
Ask him if he's been to Africa.

JOHN  
I haven't. It's not Ebola!

John pukes hard.

DOCTOR  
Get his piss.

OLDER NURSE  
What street drugs are you on, Sir?

NURSE  
I'm going to need a urine sample,  
Sir.

John sweats profusely. Pants.

JOHN  
How? I'm soaked.

OLDER NURSE  
You need to calm down, Sir.

JOHN  
This has happened to me before. I  
know what's happening.

DOCTOR  
Then what is it, Sir?

JOHN  
Sometimes this happens to me. I  
can't drink alcohol.

OLDER NURSE  
Have you drank alcohol?

John vomits. He drools, heaves, convulses.

JOHN  
Shit! No, no, I can't. I said, I can't.

OLDER NURSE  
What happens when you drink, John?

JOHN  
I pass out. I haven't. I don't.

John's fading.

DOCTOR  
This sweat. What drugs?? Do you like cocaine?

JOHN  
Yes, I sure do. But I'm not on...

John heaves.

JOHN  
Just weed.

DOCTOR  
What?

JOHN  
It helps.

NURSE  
Cannabis.

John passes out. His face strikes the wall with a splash.

DOCTOR  
Prep him for an X-ray. Call surgery.

FADE TO BLACK

2 INT. HEALTHCO HOSPITAL - DAY

SUPER: HealthCo Hospital; Emergency Count: 1

SOCIAL WORKER SUE  
Is he awake?

FADE UP

NURSE ESMERALDA gently shakes John's ankle. Nurse Esmeralda is an Eastern-Euro, slender, woman whose eyes are attentive.

SUE, a social worker, is standing close-by.

NURSE ESMERALDA

Yes. He's awake...John. Hi, John.  
I'm your Nurse , Nurse Esmeralda.  
You've had surgery. Do you remember  
consenting?

John shakes his head.

JOHN

...Sounds like something I'd do.

NURSE ESMERALDA

There were no documents on your person  
that restricted the surgery, you did  
consent when you were conscious for  
a second...So they took an  
irregularity out of your bowel.  
Careful moving. If it hurts push  
that button and let me know. Okay.  
I'll be back around in a bit.

Nurse Esmeralda exits.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

Hello, I'm Sue. I'm with the State  
HealthCare Program. We think you  
might qualify, and then you'll have  
insurance. Then hopefully you can  
get a regular doctor.

JOHN

Right. I assure you I'm poor.

Social Worker Sue pauses.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

I'm going to ask some personal  
questions.

JOHN

I'll be an honest statistic.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

Your name is John?

JOHN

John Coats. I'm 24. No assets.  
Fifty-seven dollars, cash, in my  
pocket, which doesn't mean I'm stupid.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

No one is implying...

JOHN

But, in other countries, I wouldn't have that. Had a car, but couldn't afford to fix it. Live alone. Rent is six-fifty.

(pause)

I was looking for a job, but well...last thing I remember was the black bag of the garbage can.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

This is all fine. You don't need to justify anything.

JOHN

I'm sorry.

(Pause.)

I think I have anxiety.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

We just need the real situation. Millions are in similar situations. That's why these programs exist. Just sign here, allowing us to put you in the program.

John signs.

JOHN

Cool.

(Pause.)

Third ambulance ride this week.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

But this was the first time you were admitted, right?

John has intense cramping with nausea.

JOHN

Yesh....Crap. What is this?

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

Nice to meet you, John. You'll receive some mail, and they'll ask for any other info they need. Good luck.

JOHN

Get my nurse , please.

SOCIAL WORKER SUE

Feel better.

Social Worker Sue exits. John heaves-hard. Grips his stomach.

Nurse Esmeralda enters.

JOHN

Dope?

NURSE ESMERALDA

The real deal too.

Nurse Esmeralda holds a syringe.

JOHN

(groans)

Ugh...shoot me up..

NURSE ESMERALDA

One in your bum. Roll. You're going to feel a little pinch.

JOHN

Okay...Ow.

NURSE ESMERALDA

Sorry, baby. I decided to give you hydro-morphone, a lot of people don't get nauseous on it, when they do on the morphine. It's new, it's good, it comes in 32 flavors, all of which make you feel like a fuzzy wuzzy kitten.

JOHN

Whoa. Have you already given them to me? Because the bed feels a lot deeper. Like a cloud on the Care Bears.

NURSE ESMERALDA

Yes, pookie. The venom works quick.

Nurse Esmeralda turns on the TV.

NURSE ESMERALDA

You just rest. You'll probly sleep.

JOHN

If I do...will you be here when I wake up?

NURSE ESMERALDA

I'll be back tomorrow night if I'm not, cutey.

JOHN  
Thank you, for your kindness. And  
the feelings.

Nurse Esmeralda smiles, exits.

JOHN  
Whooey.

John falls asleep.

3 INT. HEALTHCO HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - NIGHT

John wakes suddenly to his own vomit. A nearby surgeon,  
SURGEON CRETE, looks surprised, stops pushing on John's  
stomach.

JOHN  
Who the hell are you?

SURGEON CRETE  
I'm your surgeon. I was just touching  
a distention. Here's a bag. I'll  
get your nurse .

Surgeon Crete exits.

Nurse Esmeralda enters.

NURSE ESMERALDA  
Doctor said you had an accident?

JOHN  
If that's what he said, he's a huge  
jerk. He was pushing on my stomach  
in my sleep.

Nurse Esmeralda quickly changes John's vomit covered bedding.  
[Rolls John on his side, then the other, then again to put  
the sheet back on.]

JOHN  
Could I please have some vomit meds?

NURSE ESMERALDA  
I'm sorry I can't give you anything.

John is sweating.

NURSE ESMERALDA  
Because your heart-rate is up?

JOHN  
Because my heart-rate is up, he's  
going to take me off of everything?

NURSE ESMERALDA

I can give you some Dilaudid every 8 hours.

JOHN

(growing delirious)

That's the one for the pain?

NURSE ESMERALDA

Yes. Try to relax. You're sweating.

John is nervous. Nurse Esmeralda takes his hand.

NURSE ESMERALDA

John, listen. Breathe. Slowly. Picture yourself by the shore of the ocean. The waves rolling up the sand and sliding away. Breathe like the wave moves. Be calm.

John becomes calm to the of the ocean.

NURSE ESMERALDA

Try to sleep, baby. Let me know if you need...Anything.

JOHN

Please give me something  
(pause)  
for this.

NURSE ESMERALDA

No. I'm sorry. I can't. Please. Try to relax.

John is left alone. Suffers.

4 INT. HEALTHCO HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAWN

John is tense. Sweats. He grinds his teeth.

JOHN

Nurse Esmeralda, please!

Nurse Esmeralda enters.

NURSE ESMERALDA

I'm sorry, John, you aren't due for the pain meds yet.

JOHN

Er..yeah...yes. I know. Can I have some ice chips?

NURSE ESMERALDA  
I'm sorry. The doctor said no liquids  
in case he has to go back in.

JOHN  
I'm so thirsty.

NURSE ESMERALDA  
I know, sweetie, but you aren't going  
to get dehydrated. You're hooked to  
the IV. Remember to breathe.

John relaxes for seconds.

NURSE ESMERALDA  
You don't need the water, you just  
want it. I'll see if I can get you  
a sponge for your lips.

Nurse Esmeralda exits. John vomits hard.

5 INT. HEALTHCO HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

John suddenly awakes. He is instantly stressed. He grips  
his heart. The VITAL MONITOR beeps quick.

JOHN  
Nurse Esmeralda!! Please...just  
knock me out! I know you can!

John pants. Tries to catch his breath.

NURSE AMBER enters. She is blonde, young, with large breasts.

John vomits. Hard. Again. Again. He stomps his foot. He  
wretches acidic, painful, bile.

NURSE AMBER  
Nurse Esmeralda told me you're in a  
bit of pain.

JOHN  
I'm in a lot of pain! Sorry. I'm  
sorry. Where's that surgeon?

NURSE AMBER  
We've been paging him. We can't do  
anything until he signs you over to  
hospital staff.

JOHN  
You have to get him to do it.

John begins to hyper-ventilate. He controls himself.  
Slightly calms himself.

JOHN  
What's your name, nurse?

NURSE AMBER  
Nurse Amber. I'm sorry you're hurting. We will do what we can. And we will try to get him to sign off.

John's eyes are closed. He breathes relaxed.

JOHN  
See if you can get him to knock me out.

NURSE AMBER  
How long has this been going on?

JOHN  
I don't know. Two days I think.

NURSE AMBER  
He's trying to figure out what's wrong with you.

JOHN  
I don't want him to treat me. He doesn't know what to do.

John sighs heavily.

JOHN  
I'll just try to stay calm.

NURSE AMBER  
That's best. As soon as we can, we'll give you what we can.

John almost vomits.

JOHN  
Thank you, Nurse amber. Your voice is the most comforting thing I could hear.

NURSE AMBER  
Aw. I'll check back on you. Maybe a little TV.

JOHN  
Maybe I can find a snow-falling channel, or a leaf floating down a river network.

NURSE AMBER

Yeah. Float down the lazy  
river...with a pretty girl.

Nurse Amber exits.

John breathes steady for a short time. He winces in pain.  
Growls at the pain. Sighs. And starts to breathe heavy  
again. He sweats. Waits. Vomits. Waits.

JOHN

I've never felt so bad that my sex  
drive felt dead...ooooh shit...Nurse!

John pushes the Nurse -call button.

NURSE AMBER

We got him to give you something for  
the acid at least.

John takes it. He holds it down for a short time. John  
vomits it.

JOHN

Maybe it helped some. Nothing for  
the nausea?

NURSE AMBER

He says...eventually you'll sleep.

JOHN

Just get the other doctor on.

NURSE AMBER

I know.

John stares off. He breathes heavy.

Nurse Amber hesitates, then exits.

6 INT. HEALTHCO HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - NIGHT

John sighs in bed. He stares at the television. The heart  
monitor still beats at a fast pace.

Surgeon Crete enters.

JOHN

Your name is Crete.

SURGEON CRETE

Yes.

JOHN

You didn't tell me, before.

JOHN

One of the nurses told me.

SURGEON CRETE

Oh, sorry. I've just been trying to figure out what's up with you.

JOHN

What?

SURGEON CRETE

Why are you reacting like this?

JOHN

What the shit? Are you blaming me for my body being in this state?

SURGEON CRETE

Whose getting you excited?

JOHN

My body is.

Surgeon Crete stares for a moment.

SURGEON CRETE

I'm just not very good with internal medicine.

JOHN

Sign me over to the hospital doctor.  
NOW!

John throws his IV'd arm toward the surgeon; it rips out. Blood spurts everywhere.

JOHN

I need to sleep you asshole! Three days. Three days! My blood pressure has been 185 over 122. For three days!

Surgeon Crete backs his way out.

JOHN

Knock me out! KNOCK ME OUT!

Blood spurts. John heaves. He reaches for a vomit bag. He vomits. John pants and sweats. Stares off.

Suddenly, Nurse Amber enters. She's holding bags of drugs.

NURSE AMBER

Okay, darlin, this is it. Oh my god, you're IV. I'll fix it.

JOHN

Yeah, I pointed at him, or reached at him, or something...I'm not normally tubed to a wall.

NURSE AMBER

You're signed over. Zim, he's going to be your doctor. Doc Zim. He's prescribed antacids, anti-anxiety, antibiotics, and anti-nausea meds.

JOHN

And pain? Dilaudid?

NURSE AMBER

Have you been hospitalized before?

JOHN

It just hurts...You'll be so beautiful when I wake up.

NURSE AMBER

It's really my last night.

JOHN

Really?

NURSE AMBER

Yes. You're one of six last patients. And this is for your pain.

Nurse Amber finishes attaching the last bag to the IV.

JOHN

Wow, it's completely my honor...

John falls asleep.

NURSE AMBER

I bet you can't believe me, but I will never forget you, John.

Nurse Amber watches him sleep. Straightens his hair.

NURSE AMBER

There's so much you could learn about me, John. But it's too much trouble.

John's heart-rate slows. John grows calm.

Nurse Amber takes out her phone; takes a picture of John.

NURSE AMBER

I'd take a picture of my tits with your cell, but...I know it's already dead. Hey, but you're not.

(pause)

I'm going to masturbate to you tonight, John.

Suddenly, John wakes. Nurse Amber is startled. John slurs:

JOHN

Will you remember me?

NURSE AMBER

Oh yes.

JOHN

Is that your phone?

NURSE AMBER

Yes.

JOHN

Take a picture of me.

Nurse Amber can't believe this is happening.

NURSE AMBER

Sure.

Nurse Amber takes the picture.

JOHN

Take one more.

Nurse Amber holds up her phone.

JOHN

No.

John raises his knees, opens the blanket to Nurse Amber, and pulls away his gown.

JOHN

One more.

Nurse Amber smiles so wide. Takes the picture.

JOHN

You should masterba...

John falls asleep.

NURSE AMBER

Whoa.

NURSE AMBER

Trippiest last night story ever.  
I'll never forget you. Oh my god.  
The things that happen to nurses.

Nurse Amber exits.

7 INT. HEALTHCO HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

John looks out the bright window. His breathing is normal.

ZIM, a tall, very dark, low-rolling voiced, African-native man enters the room. He wears the white coat and stethoscope of a staff doctor.

ZIM

JOHN! You look much better than the  
last time I saw you!

John doesn't know the doctor.

ZIM

I'm the hospital doctor. Zim. How  
are you feeling?

John considers.

JOHN

I'm not struggling to breathe through  
rivers of vomit...so, much improved.

Zim laughs freely.

ZIM

This is very good!

JOHN

I do feel like I have my sense of  
humor back...It was creepy when it  
was just gone.

Suddenly serious, Zim draws close to John.

ZIM

You like to be happy. Oh yes. The  
body will begin to subdue what is  
not necessary for survival. How is  
your sex drive?

JOHN

Well, I am pretty disappointed you  
aren't the nurse .

ZIM

This is wonderful!

ZIM

Then good, then good. Maybe you had an infection. Seems small, but feels like death. And then...anxiety from the prolonged strain on your body, yeah.

JOHN

Do you know the surgeon that did the operation?

ZIM

No. I'm sorry. He is not with the hospital directly. He was trying to help.

JOHN

Yes, Doc. But he couldn't. His pride lingered.

ZIM

Yes. I can send you with a reserve of everything you are on now, besides the antibiotics, when that bag is done, you're done on that. Then hopefully we can get you out the door.

JOHN

My chest hurts.

ZIM

Your heart was beating very fast for a long time. It's tired. The tachycardia may have damaged your heart, so in the future keep an eye on it.

JOHN

So, I'm out of here? Better to be away from sick people when healing, eh?

ZIM

Exacto, John. Okay, I'll get you set up. So glad you are feeling better. Very happy.

Zim exits. .

JOHN

Doctor!

Zim peeks his head in:

ZIM

Yes?

JOHN

Thank you, for your Compassion.

Zim is stunned at the seriousness of the statement. He enters the frame of the door. He stands directly and bows to John. He is too moved to speak.

Zim exits.

John rests.

RHONDA, a round-butted CNA enters.

RHONDA

He-ey. I'm you're CNA, you don't need my name, cuz you ain't gonna remember it, but it's on record, sportsfan. Ya'll got a ride when you get out of here?

JOHN

I'll have to take a cab or something.

RHONDA

You got money for a cab?

JOHN

No.

RHONDA

What you gonna do?

JOHN

I don't know...honestly I may walk.

RHONDA

You just had surgery. The most you should be walking is around this floor. Got any family members?

JOHN

Nowhere around here. And no way for them to get me cash, not without making me feel like shit, like, it has to cost me something. I can't afford what they want to trade.

RHONDA

Oh sweet baby. You just stay in here as long as you need. Don't think I'm rushing you out.

RHONDA

You're still IV'd and you can stay  
the night if you want.

JOHN

Thank you, babe. I appreciate that.

RHONDA

I'm Rhonda, if you need anything.

JOHN

Thank you.

Rhonda exits.

JOHN

Water! With ice! Puh-lease!

RHONDA (O.S.)

I'll make it wet, baby!

JOHN

God, I funk in love water.

(pause)

We arose from water...a visage...that  
dies from organic vomiting.

(psuse)

Zowsie. I'm ready to get the shit  
out of here.

8 INT. REHAB - DAY

SUPER: 8 months later; Emergency Count: 36

John sits by himself in a circle of chairs. He thinks to  
himself:

JOHN (V.O.)

Addiction is a strange thing. It's  
something a chemical does to you.  
Whenever I tried to stop taking the  
pills, it made me feel the symptoms  
again... It made my body want the  
pill.

(pause)

Addiction deserves every mercy.  
People that damn other people for  
suffering may find themselves alone  
around the corner...But there are  
more noble reasons to choose mercy.

JOHN

And that's fuckin Rehab, I guess. A  
place I've been, a penalty for my  
poverty.

John sighs.

JOHN  
 But it worked for me on this dope.  
 (pause)  
 I feel nervous about what to do know  
 though.

John exits.

9 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

John is in instant pain. He stumbles to a garbage can.

JOHN  
 Oh. What? No. I can't...

John looks upward. He draws in a long breathe.

He vomits straight upward. He dodges it.

JOHN  
 Oh god. Why...

ANNONYMOUS VOICE (O.S.)  
 Looks like shrooms. I hate that  
 University.

John has a plastic bag in his pocket. He stabilizes. Looks around.

JOHN  
 That goddamn surgeon. I didn't want  
 to be anywhere near a hospital.

John stumbles.

JOHN  
 What the hell?...My body...This can't  
 be...

John is soaked in sweat. He sops it away.

John crunches some pink pills. Quickly vomits. He vomits again. His cramps are severe. He doubles over onto the street. John crawls back into the building.

John passes out.

John awakes to ambulance sirens.

Large-breasted JILL, EMT, and JACK, EMT, have John on a gurney.

JILL

I'm Jill, buddy. I'm trying to get an IV in you. You're pretty dehydrated. I've got your ID and insurance card. Usually emergency trips are covered under insurance.

JOHN

You're taking me to a hospital?

JILL

We can take you to Valley of the Sacred Heart Hospital, or to HealthCo.

JOHN

I need a bag!

Jill hands John a bag. John vomits hard.

JACK (O.S.)

Where we going!?

JILL

I don't know.

(to John)

Where we headed, chief?

John pants.

JOHN

Not HealthCo...Shit...I'm sweating like crazy.

JILL

(to Jack)

Sacred Heart, Jack!

(to John)

Ah, shit babe, I can't get you stuck. Your veins are clamping around the needle.

JOHN

My body's trying not to bleed to death.

John breathes fast and heavy. Grimaces.

JILL

Yeah. Do you know what anxiety is?

JOHN

Yes.

Jill pauses.

JILL

It makes you breathe fast.

JOHN

Right. I do really know. It's just,  
I need to be reminded, during these...

John calms.

JILL

I wish I could get this needle in  
you. This has happened to you before?

JOHN

Yes. This anxiety, from the vomiting  
that won't stop....

John heaves but nothing comes out.

JOHN

I get dehydrated so fast...which  
drives the anxiety...my bp, my  
everything...

JILL

Erg, I'm going to have to let the  
hospital get you. I'm tearing you  
up. Your vein burst. Shit!

(pause)

Here brother, hold your arm down.  
Let's see if we can get you gravity-  
flow. One more try. I want to get  
you. Sorry...shit...okay..Yes! Got  
it. Damn, you were the hardest ever.

JOHN

Oh. Cold. I feel it. Thanks for  
not giving up.

JILL

Just these liquids are going to start  
making you feel better. Try to relax.

John relaxes. He is nauseous.

JILL

Alright, amigo, so last time this  
happened you took an ambulance?

JOHN

Yes.

JILL

You know what people will do?

JILL

They'll call an ambulance just to get a ride to the hospital to get a prescription refilled.

JOHN

I'd say that's a bit abusive on the system. But theoretically, ObamaLama's program should prevent that with regular doctor visits. I've learned too much about healthcare.

JILL

Wow. So, it's good ya think?

JOHN

Everyone's benefits increased. More people got covered. I got covered. It's private companies and doctors making money. Better money spent on healthcare than bullets, baby.

JILL

I love the conversations I have on the doorway of serious reality, and delusion.

JOHN

I think I'm doing a little better.

JILL

You look it. Sound it too.

JOHN

You got my mind of me. That helps.

JILL

Alright, gonna get you to the ER.

FADE DOWN:

FADE UP:

SUPER: 12.5 Hours later

10 INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

The doors open.

John is in distress.

JILL

Oh buddy! What the hell?

JOHN

It came back. It's worse.

John vomits everywhere.

CUT TO:

11 INT. VALLEY OF THE SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM -  
NIGHT

SUPER: Valley of the Sacred Heart Hospital; Emergency Count:  
38

John is in a hospital bed. He grimaces, grinds his teeth,  
rubs his neck...he's anxious. It's quiet, besides the  
monitors. He has an IV in his upstage hand.

The lovely NURSE TANYA enters carrying a blood pressure  
monitor.

NURSE TANYA

Hello! How ya feeling, surg'?

John anxiously rubs his face.

JOHN

I seem okay right now. Bit tense.  
But not ralphing.

NURSE TANYA

Goodie. I have an Uncle Ralph. I'm  
Nurse Tanya.

JOHN

Ooo, Nurse Tanya. Quite official,  
like Ranger Steve.

Nurse Tanya is delighted.

NURSE TANYA

That's some fancy banter. I don't  
get too much of that.

They share smiles.

JOHN

Well, you're going to be beside me  
for awhile...You're going to see  
some gross shit. And, I might not  
be able to be nice to you all the  
time...but I don't mean it.

NURSE TANYA

I think you and I will be okay.

NURSE TANYA

Let's just make sure you're feeling better and better.

Nurse Tanya preps the vitals machine.

NURSE TANYA

Oh, you're on a heart monitor?

JOHN

Yeah. Hospitals make my heart race.

NURSE TANYA

They really wrecked your arm up.

JOHN

Uh-huh. I get so dehydrated, too fast. My blood won't flow, plus the anxiety wrecking my heart. The vein clamps around the IV.

NURSE TANYA

You're okay. You really are.

JOHN

I believe you. My body doesn't.

NURSE TANYA

This isn't your first donkey show is it?

John notices a STAR TATTOO on Nurse Tanya's wrist.

JOHN

How long have you been a nurse , Nurse Tanya?

NURSE TANYA

Here for three years. Two years in the Los Angeles area before this.

JOHN

LaLa Land...it's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there long enough to burn it to the ground.

NURSE TANYA

You have some drama in you?

JOHN

I used to. Some plays. But, my upward progress to becoming a used up shill of a human being keeps

JOHN

hitting these naturally occurring  
road blocks.

NURSE TANYA

I have friends that are great actors  
that can't get work. I mean like,  
never worked.

JOHN

And friends that suck, that do get  
work.

NURSE TANYA

Yeah. But not even the ones that  
suck really good are getting work.

JOHN

Well you can't wait around for someone  
to make something for you to do.  
You have to want it enough to do all  
the work for it...or that's what  
I've been thinking lately. Stuck in  
a bed but still thinking...

NURSE TANYA

If you take all the magic out of the  
illusion they wouldn't pay ten dollars  
to see the trick.

JOHN

Every card trick has a certain number  
of moves...It's like we need to be  
more like our grandparents and less  
like our hippy parents, but without  
religion, with managed sex, and still  
pursuing happy...

Suddenly, John reaches for his vomit bag.

NURSE TANYA

Let me see if you're due for anything.

Nurse Tanya exits.

John wretches bile.

JOHN

Thank you...Erk. Brown. Fuh...

Nurse Tanya quickly enters.

NURSE TANYA

Here's some ginger ale, maybe you  
can sip it, wash the acid out of the  
throat.

Nurse Tanya looks in the vomit bag.

NURSE TANYA

(concerned)

Oooh you're throwing up bile.

John moans.

NURSE TANYA

I can't give you vomit meds yet,  
because of the heart monitor.

JOHN

Burns me.

John pants a bit. He recovers.

JOHN

I think I just needed to get it out.

Nurse Tanya finishes collecting the vitals.

John notices the STAR TATTOO again.

JOHN

What's your tattoo?

NURSE TANYA

(seductively)

Mmm, this is a good question.

JOHN

I'm so glad.

NURSE TANYA

She's my Guiding Star...I'm bound to  
her. It's symbolic, but I use it  
traditionally. It's a Nautical Star.  
It's so my sailor-girl can find her  
way back home to me.

JOHN

You date a sailor?

NURSE TANYA

She's a cook on a tugboat, outside  
northern Alaska.

John holds Nurse Tanya's wrist. He stares at her wrist.

NURSE TANYA

What? What is it, John?

JOHN

It seems too weird to say.

Nurse Tanya is agasp at the ridiculousness:

NURSE TANYA

You're not going to find any damnation from me, John. That's not where I'm here.

JOHN

When I had surgery last time, I stopped existing, as far as I can tell. I mean, I was there, but, the time is blank.

NURSE TANYA

Sure, so you don't have any trauma.

John outlines the tattoo with his finger.

JOHN

You know when you just feel a person...their energy? But deeper...like their essence?

NURSE TANYA

Yeah, right, like, something that loses its meaning the second you name it?

JOHN

Exactly. Don't you have any other patients to check on?

NURSE TANYA

Everyone is sleeping. If anyone needs anything, they call me.

John stares hard at the tattoo.

JOHN

Could you just facebook me later? I have a feeling. A deep, scary feeling. It's weird. I might be able to help you feel better at some time in the future.

Nurse Tanya pulls away.

NURSE TANYA

That's the scariest thing anyone's ever said to me.

(pause)

Holy crap. You think she's going to die?

JOHN

Nurse Tanya...

NURSE TANYA

Just Nurse Tanya now...

JOHN

No, Nurse Tanya, come closer. Ever since I've been nothing, I guess I just, I don't know, feel closer to the source.

NURSE TANYA

I know. I know it. I was afraid, right? Shit, man. I know. It's like your anxiety. Ego from nowhere.

JOHN

Terror. In a way. Making us fight when we're uncertain.

NURSE TANYA

Pretty interesting.

JOHN

That's what the douche bags say. They take a second to masturbate the feeling, and then lose the thought.

They laugh.

NURSE TANYA

You're so weird.

JOHN

It doesn't matter what I feel. I'm just going to be your friend through whatever, if that's cool.

NURSE TANYA

It is cool...I'll be back around.

JOHN

Nurse Tanya?

NURSE TANYA

Yes?

JOHN  
I'd like to wash up later.

NURSE TANYA  
I'll bring a basin, a wash cloth,  
and some fresh clothes.

JOHN  
Thank you. Don't forget to bring  
your warmed hands.

Nurse Tanya giggles.

NURSE TANYA  
I shall return.

Nurse Tanya exits.

JOHN  
(sing-song)  
Sexuality can be, anywhere an orgasm  
can be. To be a lesbian, it takes  
sexuality.

John pauses. Then counts along with the syllables of each line:

JOHN  
Spring's touch in nightfall. An  
enlightened being delights. In opened  
flowers.

12 INT. VALLEY OF THE SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

The room is bright. The hospital room table is wheeled close. Supplies for a bath are left in John's sight. John strains to see a NOTE.

He speaks as he reads:

JOHN  
Sorry Johnny, got k-razy! Keep pukin.  
I work tonight.

ROGER, enters. He's flamboyant. Roger grabs the note.

ROGER  
That hooker Nurse Tanya left you a  
note? It says, "Sorry Johnny, Got K-  
Razy, Keep Puking, I work like a  
hooker tonight."

JOHN  
Thanks.

JOHN  
(laughs)  
What's your name?

ROGER  
Don't you be learn'n my name! Think'n  
I'm gonna be leave'n little notes  
all over for ya too!

Roger "fake" storms out. He peeks his head back in.

John claps.

ROGER  
(serious and sincere)  
I'm Roger. Nurse Tanya said you  
were fun. You've got a CT and upper  
GI, probably, today. Try to relax.

John nods affirmatively.

ROGER  
Oh. How many times have you thrown  
up today?

JOHN  
Like, thirty.

Roger pauses. It's no joke.

ROGER  
Okay. I'll get you some more bags.  
Just try to relax.

John smiles.

JOHN  
I'll double relax.

ROGER  
There ya go.

JOHN  
My stomach's starting to hurt though.

Roger exits.

John sighs hard, looks out the window. He fades off to sleep.  
FADE TO BLACK.

JOHN  
Don't let the scrim strangle you on  
the way out...You bitch...bringing  
damnation to a possible death  
bed...something I'd never do to you.

JOHN

Fear cannot be the only reason people  
do anything! ...Er...My stomach.

John grips his throat.

JOHN

Er....those bitches...that one  
bitch...dammit...my heart hurts...

John tries to calm himself. He worries.

John starts to calm himself. The beeps of the heart monitor  
slow. John closes his eyes.

JOHN

The waves on the beach rise up the  
shore, falls down the shore.

(pause)

A naked woman stands on the southern  
beach...

Nurse Tanya enters.

JOHN

The strands of her long hair drape  
the curves of her heaping breasts  
that overflow from my hands. The  
golden shimmer of her untended pubic  
hair...

NURSE TANYA

Hi!

John jumps. His eyes wide open. The heart monitor races.

JOHN

I was just calming myself.

NURSE TANYA

I don't see how.

JOHN

Night shift already?

NURSE TANYA

Almost. I'll see you later, sweet  
perv'o.

Nurse Tanya exits.

John watches the TV. We hear what he sees.

## ANNOUNCER

Shirl Tillems is now renowned around the globe for perverting a familiar perversion, slightly more, like the average American mind enjoys secretly, while hiding their arrested-pubescent titillation behind the locked doors of their adjoining family homes.

## JOHN

I'm not sure I can write better than that announcer, but I can write better than Shirl freaking Tillems. More like, *50 Flavors of Vanilla*. Bleck. If I read more it'd have killed me.

John pauses. He looks around.

## JOHN

The perfectly sane can talk to themselves!..and I guess, yell justifications to no one.

John's stomach hurts. John pumps his morphine button.

## JOHN

Morphone take me home. To the place where I belong.

FADE DOWN

SUPER [Black letters on white bg]: 15 minutes later

FADE UP

John is ralphing his guts out. The vomit is dark green, like grass.

## JOHN

Holy crap.

Nurse Tanya runs in.

## JOHN

I need to know what the pain medication is.

Nurse Tanya quickly exits.

John vomits and gags hard.

Eventually, Nurse Tanya runs back in.

## NURSE TANYA

Morphine.

JOHN  
Morphine will make me throw-up more.  
Hydro-morphone is different. I  
don't...

John wretches.

JOHN  
...I don't react the same way.

Nurse Tanya removes the morphine drip.

NURSE TANYA  
Only you'd know.

JOHN  
I'm pretty sure I said so.

NURSE TANYA  
I'll be back. Here, put the oxygen  
on. Your O2 has been low.

JOHN  
This isn't any fun.

John hacks and heaves and vomits.

NURSE TANYA  
I know, baby. And it's gonna last a  
couple hours until the dope is out  
of your veins.

JOHN  
Alright. Can I have some water?

NURSE TANYA  
...Not until the vomiting stops.

JOHN  
Not until the vomiting stops.

John drops a vomit bag on the floor.

JOHN  
Come and clean me later.

John pants heavily. Sweats.

NURSE TANYA  
I'm going to. You need to know you  
are going to be okay.

JOHN  
I do know, but my body is getting  
tired.

NURSE TANYA

Look at the images in your mind.  
Watch the wind flowing through the  
trees.

Nurse Tanya exits.

John tries to relax.

JOHN

Useless to think. No juice to...Just  
keep breathing, dummy...How many  
breaths do I need?...

John lays in bed. Closes his eyes. His breathing is labored.  
He takes a deep breath. Releases. Suddenly vomits. Loses  
consciousness:

DR. KIPPS enters. He speaks with a Russian accent. He has  
lived in the U.S. for some time.

DR. KIPPS

John, I believe that your prolonged  
vomiting was caused by a virus.  
This virus likely...

John may have been sleeping.

JOHN

Were you talking to me while I was  
sleeping?

DR. KIPPS

I don't...hm.

JOHN

Please don't put me on morphine.  
I'll vomit more. Morphone.

DR. KIPPS

Yes. I heard about that. I think  
you had a virus.

JOHN

I haven't stopped vomiting yet.  
What do you mean, had a virus?

DR. KIPPS

Viruses are common. They last for a  
few days and then pass.

JOHN

First of all though, isn't there a  
shot you can give me for a virus?

DR. KIPPS

I wanted to see what would happen,  
to make sure it was a virus.

JOHN

And I don't think that's it. Any  
alcohol can make me puke. I ate  
oysters from a cart a half hour before  
I came here. Maybe it's that.

DR. KIPPS

Uh, yes. That's true. But...I think  
this is a virus.

JOHN

I think you are putting a quick label  
on something that you don't want to  
think about. The easy answer.

DR. KIPPS

No. I've seen this many times.

JOHN

I've had this many times. I've taken  
the ambulance so many times in the  
past 6 months. Look how bruised my  
arms are from the needles.

DR. KIPPS

This type of vomiting is associated  
with viruses. Oh, and no, we don't  
have that shot here.

John's stress builds.

JOHN

Uh-huh. Just make sure you give me  
the pain killer, the antacid, the  
Zofran, and the anxiety meds...

The doctor cocks his head.

DR. KIPPS

Do you have anxiety?

JOHN

Yes. I get it. From doctors. Like  
you. Please just keep treating me  
until I stop retching my guts out.  
Then, let me get out of here with  
what has worked before.

Dr. Kipps scoffs a bit.

DR. KIPPS

Well, you should not be getting anxiety from a virus. So this is something else. You should see a doctor for that.

JOHN

I know that.

DR. KIPPS

You're basically treated.

JOHN

I at least need to be on hard food before you kick me out. I'm not. Treating me for the pain can help. Sometimes it feels like I'm just trying to throw-up the pain.

DR. KIPPS

It might be your heart.

JOHN

No it isn't. The anxiety increases my heart rate, and it's up from the vomiting already.

DR. KIPPS

Okay. We'll make sure you have those meds on the way out.

JOHN

So where are you from originally?

Dr. Kipps exits. John flips him off as he leaves.

FADE OUT TO WHITE:

FADE UP

13 INT. VALLEY OF THE SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - NIGHT

John stares out his window. The hospital is quiet, besides the beeping of the vitals monitoring equipment. John's monitor beeps with a high-medium paced beat.

Nurse Tanya enters.

NURSE TANYA

Hey, fella.

JOHN

Hi, Nurse Tanya. Busy tonight, huh?

NURSE TANYA

Oh yeah, old man refusing treatment,  
actually crapped all across the floor.  
You've been lucky to have no  
roommates.

John wrings his hands.

JOHN

For sure. Hey, am I going to be  
treated for the anxiety?

NURSE TANYA

The doctor says it's not part of his  
diagnosis. So...no.

JOHN

That asshole, pecker. As if  
everything I said was a lie. This  
guy holds some secret knowledge...

Nurse Tanya draws close. Her hand slides across John's back.

NURSE TANYA

I'll ease you, Johnny.

Nurse Tanya unties the hospital gown. It swiftly falls away.

NURSE TANYA

Lift your butt.

John lifts his butt. Nurse Tanya pulls the gown off of John.

NURSE TANYA

I'll go get what's warm and wet.

JOHN

Could you also bring some water, I'd  
like to wash you off of me afterward.

Nurse Tanya exits with the wash basin.

JOHN

This isn't the kind of date that  
requires a lot of prep. I'm already  
cold and naked, seems right.

(pause)

I can't hide this erection...

(sighs, then,)

Awesome.

Nurse Tanya enters.

NURSE TANYA

You're spending a lot of time in hospitals.

JOHN

Just trying to get a treatment plan established.

NURSE TANYA

You need some TLC. Tits, lips, and clits.

Nurse Tanya starts to scrub down John's back.

JOHN

Get deep...Ugh.

NURSE TANYA

The dirtiest parts are always the deep ones...

JOHN

...behind doors that shame slapped tight quick.

NURSE TANYA

Those ones. Tell me something dirty, while I get you clean.

JOHN

It's hard enough trying to lean forward and hide this boner.

NURSE TANYA

I don't want you to hide it. Like I don't know you have it.

Nurse Tanya slowly pulls the blanket off of John.

NURSE TANYA

Boi-oi-oi-oi-oing. I haven't seen one since high school. I mean not live, and not silicone...Now you tell Nurse Tanya a story. Lay back, and win.

Nurse Tanya scrubs John's chest down. John stares at the visions in his mind:

JOHN

She was eleven when it began...

NURSE TANYA

Mmm, look at you twitch.

JOHN

Pushing through the hesitation of  
pubescence can get a girl lost in  
the heat of a sudden rush of blood  
to anywhere...

NURSE TANYA

Keep your eyes closed.

Nurse Tanya washes lower.

JOHN

Yes, Nurse Tanya...Mmmm...Her brave  
and open nature led her into many  
sensual adventures that always left  
her expanded...

NURSE TANYA

...and in need of hot flesh...

JOHN

...and the satisfying feeling of  
gaping gain...

The hospital night is so quiet. Nurse Tanya gets close to  
John's ear.

NURSE TANYA

Don't open those eyes.

JOHN

Mmm, I won't, Tanya.

NURSE TANYA

In high school, I gained a reputation  
that some broken-faced girls tried  
to call slutty...It was rumored that  
a young man would be so aroused by  
the thoughts I'd make him have that  
my hot, humid, waste of a breath  
sweeping by his involuntary  
engorgement could steal away his  
prom date's right to that hefty  
hometown promise of child-  
support...But, don't worry. I'll  
hold my breath while I'm washing  
down your legs, and getting between  
your cheeks..

JOHN

The young girl grew into a woman and  
kept aging, but never grew afraid,  
because she knew security was a short-  
myth, and an adventure was anything

JOHN

she could laugh during...Mmm...I  
feel you on my feet.

NURSE TANYA (O.S.)

Just wait 'til I get to your breeding  
sacks...I can tell you're cold,  
they're tight.

JOHN

I think my heart is beating faster.

NURSE TANYA

I can take your pulse to the throb.  
Time to cleanse your overflow valve.

JOHN

Ooooo! Sweetness. I am sensitive.  
Right now.

NURSE TANYA

I can clean you thoroughly. I am.  
You feel me. Relax, John. Eyes  
closed. When you are worried, when  
you know that you don't need to be,  
think on your Nurse Tanya and remember  
my breath releases you.

Nurse Tanya releases a heavy breath over the area of John's  
erection.

John is clearly released.

NURSE TANYA

And now...

Nurse Tanya bends over and removes her panties.

NURSE TANYA

All of this mess is your fault. So  
you need to take it with you.

Nurse Tanya puts her panties into John's pant's pocket.

NURSE TANYA

Eyes closed! I don't want you to  
see your mess.

John is tickled, twitches all over the place. John opens his  
eyes.

JOHN

I think this mess might be your fault?

NURSE TANYA

Let me get that.

Nurse Tanya cleans John off. Helps him put on a new paper gown.

NURSE TANYA

I'll take this stuff down to the laundry.

JOHN

I don't know why people hate hospitals.

Nurse Tanya smiles coyly. Nurse Tanya exits.

JOHN

Now that's a sedative.

John brings in a deep breath and releases a long, heavy sigh.

At the end of the sigh John is nauseas.

JOHN

After the cum, comes-back the pain.  
Sex kills the pain. Stop talking to yourself...and stop telling me what to do.

John laughs. The cramps return.

FADE OUT:

14 INT. VALLEY OF THE SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

Roger is hooking up a bag to the IV.

JOHN

Roger...is that morphone?

Roger looks at the bag.

ROGER

Morphine.

JOHN

I'll throw-up. I need morphone.  
The "doctor" knows.

ROGER

Okay. Be right back.

JOHN

Come on...

Roger exits.

A WOMAN WITH A NEEDLE enters.

WOMAN WITH A NEEDLE  
Doc says if you're not gonna walk,  
you get this shot in the belly.

JOHN  
No one told me to walk.

The Woman With A Needle lifts John's gown abruptly.

WOMAN WITH A NEEDLE  
Pinch your skin up. You don't have  
a lot of fat.

JOHN  
I'm here for vomiting, you know.

John pinches his skin up. Worries. The Woman With A Needle sticks John.

JOHN  
Ow. What the hell...so what was  
that?

WOMAN WITH A NEEDLE  
Blood thinner.

JOHN  
Ouch. No one's told me to walk.

WOMAN WITH A NEEDLE  
Okay. You need to walk.

The Woman With A Needle exits.

JOHN  
Uh-huh. And you just gave me the  
shot.

Roger enters. He pushes a portable toilet.

ROGER  
Here's a portable toilet if you need  
it. Hydro-morphone too.

JOHN  
Okay...

ROGER  
Have you had a bowel movement today?

JOHN

No, I haven't been able to eat. And someone has been putting me on the solid food, regular fat diet, and I haven't kept anything down yet.

ROGER

Did you have surgery?

JOHN

Not this time.

ROGER

But you have before? Recently?

JOHN

Not unless the aliens blanked my mind. More than six months ago I had a minor bowel surgery.

ROGER

Oh. Okay. I can bring you some soda and some Jello.

JOHN

(sarcastic)

Sounds so wonderful, Roger. Boiled hooves and sugar. Sounds like something that requires a reservation.

ROGER

Yes sir, fine hospital faire.

Roger exits.

JOHN

Thanks for being clever, Roger.

John is suddenly melodramatic:

JOHN

What's the point of growing cynical? I don't know what to expect or what to do after this.

John notices the television.

JOHN

Oh. A zombie movie, or show, or what the hell is this?...

Dr. Kipps enters.

DR. KIPPS

Hello.

DR. KIPPS

You're feeling well enough to leave today?

JOHN

What? I haven't eaten solid food yet.

DR. KIPPS

You can try to eat solid food at home.

JOHN

I can't get home if I am throwing up all the way there.

DR. KIPPS

I think you just had a virus.

JOHN

Which, if it is, hasn't passed.

Dr. Kipps scoffs.

DR. KIPPS

Yes. Vomiting, like you have been doing, is a sign of a virus.

JOHN

And many other things.

DR. KIPPS

Staying in a hospital could just make you sicker.

JOHN

You son of a...Puking like this could be caused by a number of things. I some alcohol, maybe I had a reaction.

DR. KIPPS

Maybe. Don't drink alcohol.

JOHN

What is going on here? You're sticking a label on me. You have to name what I have. You'll write it down. Vomiting.

DR. KIPPS

It fits, Sir.

JOHN

Don't "Sir" me when you are disrespecting everything I say.

John thinks a moment.

JOHN

Are you just trying to get cases done with?

DR. KIPPS

You can stay another night if you want.

JOHN

Well, maybe I'll be stable, all the way, by tomorrow.

DR. KIPPS

Okay. We'll try you on solid foods then.

JOHN

(to himself)

Son of a bitch.

(to Dr. Kipps)

And you aren't going to treat me for the anxiety you just gave me, right?!

Dr. Kipps scoffs.

DR. KIPPS

Are you in pain right now?

JOHN

What? I'll need pain meds, and Ativan when I leave here.

Dr. Kipps scoffs again.

JOHN

You don't even realize you're doing that at me do you? You're opening me to doubt and uncertainty. That's anxiety. And it hurts.

DR. KIPPS

But why would you have it?

JOHN

This is not my first trip. Listen, you just make sure I have those prescriptions, man. It's simple.

John's posture closes.

Dr. Kipps reaches his hand out for a handshake.

DR. KIPPS

Yes, I'll do that. I'll come back tomorrow and check on you.

JOHN

(coldly)

I have an IV in my shaking hand.

Dr. Kipps scoffs again. John's hand does not move.

Dr. Kipps exits.

JOHN

What's he imagine he's done?

Nurse Tanya enters.

JOHN

Well you're early.

NURSE TANYA

I'm covering 4 hours on the other nurse 's shift.

JOHN

Is there a day nurse ? I haven't seen one.

NURSE TANYA

Yeah there is. She hasn't been by?

JOHN

Nah, just the CNA, Roger.

NURSE TANYA

Hmmm.

JOHN

But you're here now, so everyone else just got a little dimmer. Listen eh, I think that doctors have so much confidence in their inner voice and what it gains them and protects them from that they lose the compassion that made the cure in the first place.

NURSE TANYA

They say those that hear their inner voices with such clarity go crazy...or, you become a legend. But either way, you're bonered.

JOHN

Haha, you're gay for Brad Pitt.

NURSE TANYA

What? You are, cuz you know.  
Besides, I'm gay for Aidan Quinn,  
like any normal lesbian.

JOHN

I know cuz of Jim Harrison. I've  
never remembered his name in a  
conversation before, but I know he  
wrote the book because of the movie.

NURSE TANYA

That happens. I think the mind clears  
in the hospital and old thoughts  
rise up.

JOHN

A thought bubble.

NURSE TANYA

Pop!

JOHN

Pop.

NURSE TANYA

What do you have to go back to when  
you're out of here?

JOHN

A trailer in a trailer park, out of  
town. It's cheaper up there in the  
trees.

NURSE TANYA

You're a recluse?

JOHN

Not so much deliberately, but it  
does improve my quality of life.

NURSE TANYA

Circumstantially.

JOHN

Right. I'm trying to respect myself.  
I write.

NURSE TANYA

Mmm, what the great do in poverty.  
Besides fuck.

JOHN

Yeah. Usually. I can't hold a job  
with this, not that I want to.

JOHN

Fifteen times in the ambulance in  
six months now.

(pause)

I have to manifest something out of  
nothing.

NURSE TANYA

Manifest? You sound like a character.

JOHN

Aren't we though. A reaction.

NURSE TANYA

The more I talk to you, the more  
things it seems like you are.

JOHN

Yes, but I have no proof.

NURSE TANYA

Jebus, I better take your vitals so  
it looks like I'm doing something in  
here. It's not too full right now.

Nurse Tanya takes Johns vitals.

NURSE TANYA

You're blood pressure is better.

JOHN

You're good medicine.

NURSE TANYA

You talk to all the women like this?

JOHN

I'm getting better at it.  
(seriously)

I can only enter if the gates are  
open.

Nurse Tanya is pleased.

NURSE TANYA

So you'll head out of here tomorrow?

JOHN

Probably.

NURSE TANYA

In a taxi, I bet.

JOHN

And back to obscurity.

JOHN  
But I feel lucky you're here to help.

NURSE TANYA  
Yes, you're so lucky, ducky, sucky  
sucky.

Nurse Tanya makes a blow-job gesture.

NURSE TANYA  
Glub! Glub! Glub!

John is shocked. Nurse Tanya seductively exits.

15 INT. VALLEY OF THE SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM -  
NIGHT

John lies awake. He thinks. The hallways are full of noise.

A gurney is wheeled into the bed-space beside John. A MOANING  
MAN suffers on the other side of the privacy scrim.

John listens. Says nothing.

Nurse Tanya enters.

NURSE TANYA  
Hardly seems like I was gone any  
time at all.

John points to the neighbor and makes an inquisitive face at  
Nurse Tanya.

NURSE TANYA  
Yeah... I can try to sedate you,  
(whispers)  
...and him.

Moaning Man moans. Cries. Moans.

NURSE TANYA  
(to moaning man)  
I'm going to be right back, Sir.  
I'm going to try and help you.

Nurse Tanya exits.

Moaning Man moans. Mumbles. Screams. And moans.

John watches the TV muted. Sits uncomfortably.

Moaning Man suffers.

John listens. He shows concern. Can do nothing. Feels  
isolating.

Nurse Tanya enters.

NURSE TANYA

Here you go.

Tanya sedates the Moaning Man on the other side of the scrim.  
Moaning Man moans.

NURSE TANYA

Sir, don't. Sir! Stop it!

Nurse Tanya gets away easily. She backs up from the Moaning Man.

JOHN

Tanya?

Nurse Tanya nods positively at John.

Nurse Tanya exits.

Moaning Man moans. His moans become angry, frustrated.

Eventually, the Moaning Man sleeps.

Nurse Tanya enters.

NURSE TANYA

Want some dope, John-John?

JOHN

I suppose, I'll take it while I can.

Nurse Tanya injects John with the morphine. It doesn't take long:

JOHN

Through the doorway...you do get used to it coming over you.

NURSE TANYA

Later, when you should think of me,  
after you've finished with nurses,  
and your sex is all the way free,  
and you're writing of politics and  
landscapes...strike a metaphor for  
the curves of an American Woman that  
could be anything, whenever she  
wanted.

John is groggy.

JOHN  
 She slid into me like melting ice...  
 Melting ice...and melted all over  
 me...

John's POV. His eyes fall. They open. Nurse Tanya is there. Nurse Tanya smiles warmly. John's eyes fall. The darkness holds.

POV John opens his eyes.

16 INT. VALLEY OF THE SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

Nurse Tanya is gone. John lays in the hospital bed.

JOHN  
 ...and melted away before the Sun  
 came up that day.

The Moaning Man's silent dead body is wheeled out on the nearby gurney. John watches silently.

John takes a deep breath. No nausea.

JOHN  
 Time to get the fudge out'ta here.

Dr. Kipps enters.

DR. KIPPS  
 You look so much better.

JOHN  
 He said congratulating himself.

DR. KIPPS  
 You ready to go home?

JOHN  
 I'm ready to leave here.

DR. KIPPS  
 I wrote your prescriptions.

John is instantly relieved.

JOHN  
 Oh. Well, that's good. Thank you  
 for that.

DR. KIPPS  
 Okay, take care. We'll start getting  
 you checked out.

Dr. Kipps sticks his hand out.

John looks at the IV in his right hand. John puts his left hand into Dr. Kipps hand. Dr. Kipps is offended at the feminine gesture. He makes a face.

Dr. Kipps exits.

JOHN

Wow. Good thing power corrupts anyone, or I'd be making a racist comment right now.

A relieved sigh.

JOHN

At least I'm covered.

John stares off for a few seconds.

SOMEONE NEW enters.

SOMEONE NEW

Here your 'scrips. Please let us know when you're ready to get out.

John looks at the prescription. Instant anxiety:

JOHN

(fast)

This is only for an antacid. What the hell? There needs to be an anti-vomit med, a dissolvable one, I have an antacid already, and there needs to be a pain med, the pain med is what made me stop puking this time. This guy hasn't listened to me at all. And now, I really need anxiety meds because this psycho is jerking me up and down.

Someone New takes the prescription and runs out.

Someone New returns.

SOMEONE NEW

He was just leaving the floor, but I got him.

JOHN

It's okay that they are all written on the same prescription paper?

SOMEONE NEW

Yeah. I guess.

JOHN  
Mrm. Okay. Thanks.

Someone New exits.

John looks worried.

JOHN  
This is too realistic. It makes me  
uncomfortable.

FADE OUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

17 INT. MEADOWVIEW VALLEY HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

SUPER: Meadowview Valley Hospital  
9 more months later... Emergency Count: 71

John enters. He is pushed by a male ER ATTENDANT. John's  
soaked in sweat. He has a Walmart bag with vomit in it.

John pants. He heaves. John is very weak and pale.

JOHN  
I need an IV.

ER ATTENDANT  
Yes, Sir, we are going to get you  
one. We just wanted to get you up  
to a room while it's available.

John vomits.

JOHN  
I need to check in.

John's delirious.

ER ATTENDANT  
Here's a real vomit bag, let me take  
that shopping bag. We're getting  
you checked in, Sir. How many times  
have you vomited today?

JOHN  
Vomited? Fifty. I don't stop.

ER ATTENDANT  
Then this has happened before?

JOHN  
I get nauseas sometimes. I don't  
eat sometimes.

JOHN

The puking has happened before. It goes for weeks sometimes.

John falls asleep. The ER Attendant rouses John.

ER ATTENDANT

The doctor says we need a urine sample.

JOHN

Okay. I'm pretty dizzy...I was in the ER for twelve hours and they kept asking and asking, but I can't make it. I'm dried out...Why won't they give me anything?

The ER Attendant helps John into bed; groggy; falls asleep.

The ER Attendant wakes him.

ER ATTENDANT

You're pretty tired?

JOHN

I guess so..just get me the saline. I'll feel better.

John heaves violently. He pounds his foot on the bed. Moans.

ER ATTENDANT

At least you're admitted now. I'm going to put you on this oxygen. Take deep breaths, through your nose.

John drifts off. The ER Attendant shakes him.

ER ATTENDANT

You need to stay awake, Sir. Talk to me.

NURSE SHERI enters. She is a short American-Asian woman in her late-20's.

NURSE SHERI

I have your fluids.

John perks slightly.

JOHN

(weak)  
Thank you.

ER ATTENDANT

Maybe she'll help keep you awake.

NURSE SHERI  
He perked up a bit, huh?

JOHN  
Sure it's not the promise of the IV?

ER ATTENDANT  
Nurse Sheri has a reputation of perking up patients, but she just smiles when I ask her, her secret. I can get your personal info downstairs.

JOHN  
They have it?

ER ATTENDANT  
It says you gave permission to gather information from your wallet.

JOHN  
I can't remember, but I probably did. Okay. Thank you.

The ER Attendant exits.

NURSE SHERI  
You're going to feel a little pinch.

JOHN  
I know. But...ow...thanks for the warning.

NURSE SHERI  
You should start feeling better soon.

JOHN  
Yes. I should. My body will be less stressed about the dehydration.

John is holding back vomit.

JOHN  
Erg...I'm about to get more stressed, b-t-w. Because you aren't going to get a flash off me. You can try gravity and puncture my hand...

NURSE SHERI  
Look at all the tracks in your arm. I try to avoid the hand.

JOHN  
I had a nurse in the ER once. The top of the hand isn't so bad.

JOHN

The wrist has a juicy vein in it, he was the third back up, and he stuck it in my wrist, without damaging the nerve.

John holds back vomit.

NURSE SHERI

You know a lot about your condition. Okay, I'll try to stick ya again.

John winces.

NURSE SHERI

Sorry.

JOHN

You're just being nice.

Nurse Sheri smiles.

NURSE SHERI

Got it. You're stuck. You are dry. I got one. In your wrist.

John is suddenly nauseous. He vomits hard.

JOHN

Bile already. Ooooo, man. I'll need antacid.

NURSE SHERI

I can't give you anything into your stomach until the doctors know what tests they are going to do.

JOHN

Just remember...

John swallows hard.

JOHN

Acid is digesting my esophagus. That's not over-dramatic. It is what's happening.

NURSE SHERI

I understand. Just because I can't see it, doesn't mean it's not happening.

JOHN

Yes, right, thank you, Nurse Sheri.

NURSE SHERI  
Just Sheri, sweetie. Try to...

JOHN  
...Be calm. Yes, I will be trying.

NURSE SHERI  
Here.

Nurse Sheri takes her hand and runs it along his arm.

NURSE SHERI  
Feel how slowly my soft hand slides  
along your arm. Remember that  
softness and it will calm you.

John smiles at her. In pain, John falls asleep again. He  
throws up.

FADE OUT:

FADE UP:

John's vomit is mostly cleaned up. John is woken by the  
clamor around his hospital bed.

John's IV is being undone by the SURGICAL ASSISTANT. His  
clothes are being stripped by an ASSISTANT.

An ORDERLY straps John's ankles to the bed. The assistant  
starts a loud razor to shave John's chest.

JOHN  
What's going on?

SURGICAL ASSISTANT  
We're prepping you for heart surgery,  
John.

JOHN  
Whoa. No. Stop! I did not consent  
to heart surgery! There's nothing  
wrong with my heart.

SURGICAL ASSISTANT  
Sir, yes there is. You have a heart  
valve that is fluttering. We want  
to scope it.

JOHN  
No.

The bed shakes.

JOHN

No! Stop! This is me not consenting.  
Stop!

The STAFF is annoyed.

SURGICAL ASSISTANT

Sir, there's minimal danger.

JOHN

You'll be completely disassociated  
from the complications I could have  
years later, from letting you cut  
into me. Listen, I am on anti-nausea  
meds, right??

SURGICAL ASSISTANT

Yes, I believe so.

JOHN

Firstly, anxiety speeds up my heart.  
When I was left in cardiac distress,  
the first time this happened to me.  
It damaged my heart.

SURGICAL ASSISTANT

The surgeon believes he can have a  
chance at healing you.

JOHN

Listen. It only gets stressed out  
in these types of situations. I  
have white-coats from the incident.

ORDERLY

So, are we doing this?

JOHN

Any anti-nausea meds you have me on  
are going to speed up my heart. And  
if you put me on anything in addition  
to Zofran...You'll imagine what you're  
going in there to fix.

SURGICAL ASSISTANT

Do you have some medical training,  
Sir?

ASSISTANT

He's been given Reglan twice.

JOHN

What is that? It's heavy duty isn't  
it?

JOHN  
 (to Surgical Asst.)  
 I learn as I experience. And you  
 won't believe what I am experiencing,  
 dicks.

ASSISTANT  
 Tom, we can't proceed here.

JOHN  
 Listen, Tom! I'm real guys, I'm  
 real.

John is getting hysterical.

JOHN  
 I experience my experiences. My  
 heart in my chest gives me authority  
 over your credentials that put a  
 blade in your arrogant hand.

SURGICAL ASSISTANT  
 Fine. Die then.

The Surgical Assistant exits.

JOHN  
 Cold disruption. Rejected action.  
 See what I'm seeing.

ASSISTANT  
 He just means he's done with the  
 case.

JOHN  
 He means, he blames me. He wouldn't  
 try to hurt me, but he wouldn't try  
 to save me.

ASSISTANT  
 It can be complicated.

JOHN  
 Maybe it's because I'm young, you  
 settled-in psychos come in here  
 pushing with your parenting...

ASSISTANT  
 Sir, we'll talk with the surgeon.

John continues to talk, even though no one is there. The  
 Assistant exits.

JOHN

You're part of that crew, stop trying to calm me down. You've got no authority or trust in my room. You need to get out.

The Assistant enters.

JOHN

Send in the nurse!

The Assistant exits.

John pants heavily. He grips his chest. He writhes in bed.

JOHN

Oh shit, shit, shit...

Nurse Sheri enters.

NURSE SHERI

You know what I'm going to say, John.

JOHN

Something for anxiety, or a sedative...crap, an allergy pill.

Nurse Sheri draws close.

NURSE SHERI

We'll have to do it ourselves, John.

Nurse Sheri puts her arm around John.

John's voice cracks:

JOHN

I don't know...

NURSE SHERI

You can.

JOHN

I know. Phew! I do know I'm fine. I have to know it.

John grips the vomit bag. He pulls it to his mouth. He heaves.

JOHN

If I can't stop this, I don't know if I can stop my heart.

NURSE SHERI

That's good, because we are really trying to avoid it stopping.

John laughs a bit.

NURSE SHERI

Use your eyes. What's in front of you?

John heaves. Liquid comes out.

JOHN

Errr...I'm more interested in whose beside me.

NURSE SHERI

That's right. You know you are safe. Right now you are. The Nurses are going to take care of you.

(pause)

I'm going to take care of you, and get you feeling goood.

JOHN

At least I have something to vomit.

NURSE SHERI

I bet you say that to all the girls.

JOHN

No. Only the special ones.

John breaths more normally.

JOHN

The ones that try hard.

NURSE SHERI

I'm going to get you ice chips. You have to be very sparing with them. Just use them to wet your mouth.

JOHN

Okay.

NURSE SHERI

And if you start to worry...if you notice you're shoulders are raised a bit, or you're brow is furrowed to tight, and your breathing gets faster and faster...remember this:

Nurse Sheri slowly slides her LIPS to John's cheek.

NURSE SHERI

Remember these lips. Warm, lush,  
and pressing into you.

JOHN

Whoa, I felt that. The IV must be  
working.

NURSE SHERI

We have evidence of your hydration.

JOHN

My IV is dripping, heavily.

NURSE SHERI

Mmm. I bet other nurses have liked  
taking care of you.

JOHN

Nurses are good medicine. I'd take  
two and call you in the morning.

NURSE SHERI

Oh good. A joke too. I will be  
back. You can think of me.

Nurse Sheri exits.

A GROUP OF INTERNS enter. Lead by an INSTRUCTOR.

INSTRUCTOR

This is patient John.  
John...uh...where's the last name on  
this thing? Well, whatever...

John vomits.

INSTRUCTOR

Anyone want to venture a guess on  
what he has? ... .. No? No guess.  
Cyclonic Vomiting.

GROUP OF INTERNS

Cyclonic Vomiting.

John vomits, one right after another.

INSTRUCTOR

Cyclonic Vomiting.

GROUP OF INTERNS

Cyclonic Vomiting.

John vomits. The Instructor and Group of Interns exit.

John is exhausted, drool falls from his mouth, vomit bubbles from his nose:

JOHN

That's not even a thing...oh god...oh god...

Nurse Sheri enters.

NURSE SHERI

Do you have any family members we need to notify?

JOHN

I just...prefer to be alone in the hospital.

NURSE SHERI

Don't worry about them seeing you like this. Everyone they ever love, they're going to see "ugly."

JOHN

Oh. It's not that. I don't think it's ugly.

NURSE SHERI

I'm glad, handsome.

JOHN

It's just, they can't do anything.

NURSE SHERI

And then, just a couple options.

JOHN

This has just happened a lot of times now. I know what's available and what isn't.

NURSE SHERI

Okay, baby. I'll get you a pen and paper too. When you can do nothing, you can still do something.

(pause)

You're cramping is better.

Nurse Sheri exits.

JOHN

We're all wise when we float down to that source. When there's nothing to prove we are, and we're just giving people the strength to be themselves.

Nurse Sheri enters with pen and paper for John.

NURSE SHERI

In case you want to make your hand  
do something...you know, with your  
mind.

John fights back nausea.

JOHN

I hardly have enough energy to keep  
all the pieces going. But, I'll  
try. Maybe a poem. Those are made  
in the deep, where you don't need a  
lot of thoughts, just...

NURSE SHERI

...Beautiful ones.

JOHN

Beautiful thoughts. I'll just wait  
for them.

Nurse Sheri nods, exits.

John takes the pen in hand and aligns himself to the paper.

Struggles with the IV. John dreams off.

Suddenly he's sick. Wretches. Struggles with the pain of  
nausea.

JOHN

There's no story in this. Who cares  
enough...who's life is fucked  
enough...

John breathes heavily, but steadily. John's breathing slows.

JOHN

It's just better when it's out.

(pause)

There is story where there is life.

John stares off. He listens to the steady beating of the  
heart monitor.

JOHN

My heart holds the rampant beat.

(pause)

Ask for what helps and I'm an addict.

(pause)

Doctors afraid to pay.

JOHN

(pause)

Just children, more afraid to lie today.

(pause)

What's more organic than vomit?  
What's more common than mud?

(pause)

Isn't my test to take what is disgusting and make it beautiful?

Nurse Sheri enters. She has a cup full of ice chips.

NURSE SHERI

Some cool for your mouth.

Nurse Sheri holds out the cup.

JOHN

Would you place one in my mouth?

(coily)

My arms are tired from thinking about writing.

NURSE SHERI

Okay...but as I place this ice chip in your mouth...remember...that I am a bi-sexual, whose been in prison.

John swirls the ice chip in his mouth.

JOHN

I can taste the bi-sexuality.

John and Nurse Sheri hold their seriousness for a moment. They break to laughter.

Johns stomach hurts from laughing.

NURSE SHERI

I think I can give you morphine.

JOHN

Has to be hydro-morphone, Dilaudid, or I'll throw-up more. Pain meds can stop the vomiting, sometimes.

NURSE SHERI

And historically, are proven to help the writing too.

JOHN

Haha. Yeah. Right. You're a good woman, Nurse Sheri.

NURSE SHERI  
I'm younger than you.

JOHN  
Fine woman.

NURSE SHERI  
Call me a girl.

Nurse Sheri goes HRMMMMMM, and likes it.

NURSE SHERI  
I'll be back.

JOHN  
You're beautiful, but it's straight  
to Arnold Swartzenager every time.

NURSE SHERI  
Hasta la vista de yo, then.

JOHN  
La vision.

Nurse Sheri exits.

JOHN  
A Filipino girl that speaks Spanish.  
There's gotta be a story in there,  
right?  
(pause)  
Don't answer yourself, pal.

John turns on the TV.

There are SOUNDS of gunfire.

John turns the TV off.

JOHN  
A story needs a gun I guess. A thing  
that makes things happen.  
(pause)  
This is stupid. It doesn't even  
make sense for me to think of that.  
(pause)  
Be where I am. And transcend it.  
That's how I win.

SURGEON WONG PI LI, a slender Chinese woman enters. The  
SOUNDS of John's heart-rate increase.

WONG PI LI  
Hello, I am your surgeon, Doctor  
Wong Pi Li.

WONG PI LI

I understand that you are a difficult patient.

John scans the surgeon.

JOHN

Anything you heard about me was catered to your fancy, darling.

Wong Pi Li pauses.

WONG PI LI

The ER said...

Nurse Sheri enters and attaches the bag of morphine.

JOHN

They wouldn't treat me.

WONG PI LI

Sir, you have a heart condition.

Nurse Sheri slowly backs out of the room.

JOHN

No, I don't. The stress...

WONG PI LI

Surgery is the answer.

JOHN

Where's the guy that thinks he can cure me with pills? Where's the Internal Medicine doctor?

Wong Pi Li is taken back.

Nurse Sheri exits.

JOHN

A surgeon is not an Internal Medicine doctor.

Wong Pi Li is instantly and deeply offended. She huffs. She stomps his foot.

WONG PI LI

Fine! Then I won't treat you at all.

JOHN

I'm in a hospital. There has to be another doctor assigned to this case. Get out! Get out of this room.

JOHN

You are off of this case. Send in  
someone else. Get out!

Wong Pi Li has already exited.

Nurse Sheri enters. A TOUGH-LADY CNA enters, stares at John.

NURSE SHERI

What happened?

JOHN

That surgeon is off this case. I  
have anxiety and he's trying to cure  
me with cold steel...not something I  
need.

NURSE SHERI

It's complicated. You were admitted  
to the hospital directly, under the  
assumption that you were to have  
surgery. So, the surgeon is the  
doctor...until he signs off on you,  
assigns you to someone else.

John wrings his face in his hands.

Nurse Sheri gestures to the Tough-Lady CNA that she may go.

Tough-Lady CNA exits. Stares at John the entire time.

JOHN

That bitch has refused to treat me.

NURSE SHERI

Well, I don't think that she's a  
bitch.

JOHN

Ninty-thousand dollars a year is not  
a lot money.

NURSE SHERI

I know.

JOHN

Well, she's not your superior. You're  
her check and balance.

NURSE SHERI

I know, she does cut the pain away.  
I know.

JOHN

Nurses have kept me alive.

JOHN

Doctors could be replaced with diagnostic software. Do you ever think about that?

NURSE SHERI

All the time.

JOHN

If you weren't working with her you wouldn't have tried to like her. It just makes working with...I'm sorry I'm yelling at you.

NURSE SHERI

It's okay.

JOHN

Why won't she believe me?

NURSE SHERI

Not every doctor will treat you the same.

JOHN

A surgeon is an expert on one thing. And is ignorant to 99.9% of all the rest of the world. The malice comes from the reward.

NURSE SHERI

It's an imbalance, huh?

JOHN

It doesn't matter. Right now, it's just something we can notice.

John cramps. Nurse Sheri comforts.

NURSE SHERI

I try to make myself what I want other people to be.

JOHN

We just became friends for life, Nurse Sheri.

Nurse Sheri is instantly affectionate with John. She hugs him.

NURSE SHERI

I know you're sick, but I am glad you're here.

Nurse Sheri kisses John's cheek.

JOHN

I can tell by how you cuddle against my side that you have a regular body-friend.

NURSE SHERI

Body-friend, Freud? Yeah, I do.

Nurse Sheri grinds her breasts against John.

JOHN

Always fuck Freud. I'm too Junge for the old man.

NURSE SHERI

Neither work here. And, Freud knows me, and he knows these titties can make people happy.

Nurse Sheri puts an ice chip in her mouth, kisses John's cheek again. Releases him.

JOHN

Shame never lasts. Look at the hippies.

NURSE SHERI

It's relaxing. I like smart guys. Cougars, baby?

JOHN

Damnation is a place in a book. No, Cougars yet.

NURSE SHERI

Okay. I'll be back, John-John...you smell different than he does.

JOHN

Yeah, I need a bath. And have my smells thoroughly wiped...away.

NURSE SHERI

Mm. Well. Stolen scents. Here's to gaining knowledge through experience.

JOHN

Fearlessly.

NURSE SHERI

As the wind.

JOHN

Blows. Go to work.

Nurse Sheri smiles. Quickly exits.

Undistracted, John is tense and anxious. His posture adjusts. The bed is uncomfortable, John squirms.

John sighs. Breathes steadily. Takes the pen and paper in hand. He's nauseas. He stabilizes.

JOHN

(to himself)

One line. Write one line, you sick jerk. No. I want to feel good. You Hero, you protagonist. I can only get better if I do it. Let it rise.

A wave of nausea passes. John closes his eyes.

JOHN

Write the worst line you'll ever write...

John speaks what he writes:

JOHN

In Nurse amber mists shone Emerald eyes, flying drunk through Sherry glazed skies.

John leans back. Pleased enough. He rewrites:

JOHN

In Nurse amber's tits reflected Nurse Esmeralda's eyes, gliding drunk through Nurse Sheri's softly opened, gently weeping, thighs.

John's satisfaction breaks. He's serious. Tense. He's ill. Puts pen and paper down.

JOHN

Fantasy help me. "My steps onto the soil "throw-up" dust long beaten down..."

John takes up the pen and paper.

JOHN

What can I figure out?

Nurse Sheri enters. She pulls an EKG machine.

NURSE SHERI

Giving yourself an education in here?

Nurse Sheri attaches several wires to John's chest.

JOHN

So much influences the heart, you know.

NURSE SHERI

I know. They're just going to monitor your heart.

JOHN

And, meanwhile, not treat me for what's causing it. I've been here before, you know.

John puts his head in his hand. Wrings his forehead.

NURSE SHERI

I think they are going to order some tests for your GI track. Have you ever drank Barium?

JOHN

Drank it, and crapped it out. I had it as a kid. It's better than it used to be.

NURSE SHERI

Refining is a great part of invention.

JOHN

You fancy invention?

Nurse Sheri pulls off the EKG wires all at once.

NURSE SHERI

I'll get periodic readings. My grandfather did...

JOHN

Hrm...

NURSE SHERI

I do though. Did you write anything?

JOHN

Not much. I'm not feeling too good. I mused you, used you as one.

NURSE SHERI

You did? Can you read it to me?

JOHN

Not yet. But, I appreciate you existing. You're inspirational.

JOHN

You help me go someplace else.

NURSE SHERI

Sweet. I can get you started on the Barium.

JOHN

And I'll be throwing it up. Can we make sure I'm up on up-chuck medies?

NURSE SHERI

Okay. I'll see if they'll treat the nausea first.

JOHN

And that will make my heart go faster...and oh Lord...they will keep going after my heart. Okay! Well, I need to not vomit it...so yeah, please.

Nurse Sheri nods an affirmative. Nurse Sheri exits.

John rubs the back of his neck. His breathing is uneasy.

Nurse Sheri enters.

NURSE SHERI

They are going to keep you on Reglan.

JOHN

It's a strong drug.

(pause)

That's what they've been giving me.

NURSE SHERI

At least you'll feel better.

JOHN

Yes. I will. Hopefully. But, it will mask my condition, and allow them to run tests.

John breathes heavier.

NURSE SHERI

I'm injecting the Reglan into your IV...Tests are good.

Nurse Sheri injects a syringe into John's IV.

JOHN

Radiation, not so much.

JOHN

(pause, then  
frantically)

I know you're trying to stay bright,  
sweety. You're beautiful when you  
do, a nurse is, but the Reglan will  
keep my heart rate up, my b-p up.  
Testing my GI track won't show  
anything...I've been here.

NURSE SHERI

Anything can cause vomiting. It can  
be microscopic, it can be long gone,  
or not always visible..

JOHN

They cannot find evidence of what I  
have. They can't. And, the anxiety  
will increase...

(pleads)

Because my heart is pounding...Nurse  
Sheri, Nurse Sheri baby, it will  
keep them coming after my heart.

NURSE SHERI

They are doing the tests to show you  
that they are doing something.

JOHN

It's called Hubris, Shers, but they  
aren't the ones that get harmed in  
the end.

NURSE SHERI

I can keep you as comfortable as  
possible. Is there anything else  
you can think of that I can do?

John thinks for a second.

JOHN

(seriously)

Nurse Sheri, I refuse any heart  
surgery... But, anything can be  
done to resuscitate me...including  
heart surgery. Write it in my file,  
please, and on the file. I am  
refusing it as treatment...And please  
bring me a permanent marker.

NURSE SHERI

This can all be done. Do you need  
ice chips?

JOHN

Yes, please. It's so hard to think about ice chips right now.

NURSE SHERI

That's my job, hoochey mama.

JOHN

Your job is a lot. I have nurse friends that say it's like war against the doctors.

NURSE SHERI

And we're the lucky ones.

JOHN

The bold defenders against the liable - mind.

NURSE SHERI

Hey.

JOHN

I keep being treated like this.

NURSE SHERI

Hey.

JOHN

What?

NURSE SHERI

Breathe. Notice your body.

John is tense. He loosens up.

JOHN

I feel slightly better.

NURSE SHERI

Try not to think about it much right now. We've identified the problem, now you can relax about it.

JOHN

I better start writing my complaint to the medical board.

NURSE SHERI

Everyone's a good person here. I think it's weird you don't watch TV.

JOHN

I do. I just haven't been.

NURSE SHERI

Watch somebody else's story, while  
living in yours.

John nods and turns the TV on.

NURSE SHERI

Feeling the vomit meds?

JOHN

My stomach feels less spasm-y. I  
think so.

NURSE SHERI

Hopefully that helps you calm down.  
Be back.

Nurse Sheri exits.

JOHN

I can feel it. Exhausted.

Fades to sleep.

FADE DOWN:

18 INT. MEADOWVIEW VALLEY HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - NIGHT

John awakes with a start. His bed shakes. ORDERLY 1 and  
ORDERLY 2 prepare to move John and his gurney. The IV bag  
is set on John's chest.

John is stunned. He tears open his gown... A large Sharpie'd  
CROSSED-OUT CIRCLE that READS: "NO CUT!"

ORDERLY 1

Geez, what's this guy been through?

ORDERLY 2

You're just going down for the lower  
GI scan.

JOHN

What about the barium?

ORDERLY 2

They were already empty.

JOHN

When did I drink those?

ORDERLY 2

You're just a little groggy, Sir.

ORDERLY 1

But this enema is gonna perk ya'  
right up.

JOHN

Oh I'm sure. More than you imply.

ORDERLY 2

This isn't the kind that cleans you  
out.

JOHN

Hold it in, right?

ORDERLY 1

That's the hard part, probably, for  
a guy like you.

JOHN

Too bad you don't get to find  
out...I'd give you a little squirt.

Orderly 2 laughs. Orderly 1 is pretty disgusted.

John is wheeled out on the gurney by the Orderlies.

The hospital room is silent, and then:

SEAN, an early-20's, hipster of his day, and his slightly  
younger cousin, ASTON, enter. Aston carries a present.

ASTON

I thought he was supposed to be here.

SEAN

We're not supposed to be here.

ASTON

Why Sean, because he doesn't tell  
anybody?

SEAN

Because he needs to be away from  
what family members feel about family  
members.

ASTON

He said that?

SEAN

Yes, he did.

ASTON

Well, maybe he has a point.

Sean and Aston sit.

SEAN

What do you mean, Aston?

ASTON

Haven't you listened to our general disdain? It's a predisposition before we walked in the door.

SEAN

People don't criticize other people because they don't know where they came from.

ASTON

Nu-uh. Family members psychologically tear each other down. To keep the pack together. They use the arbitrary knowledge of where someone came from as a weapon to keep an arrested image of them, in check.

SEAN

You're trippin.

ASTON

I'm expanding. And you took a hippy word and made it prejudice against me. That's a wall, Sean.

SEAN

I just hope he doesn't call me, Seen.

ASTON

But that's the cruel way your mother spells your name, Seen. And I'm sure that's what you're thinking about behind your wall.

SEAN

I'll put my plaques on that wall.

ASTON

I know. And no one will read them. Because educationalism is dying, like parentalism.

SEAN

Hrm..

ASTON

Yes. My opinion doesn't affect you. "Hrm"...indeed.

ASTON

(pause)

What should we do with this?

Aston holds up the present.

SEAN

Let's leave it on the roll-y table.

ASTON

Let's leave a note.

Sean surprises Aston and grabs up the pen and paper.

SEAN

There's something already written on this paper.

ASTON

What's it say?

Sean reads.

SEAN

Some more of his psycho shit.

ASTON

Then just rip off a piece.

Sean rips a piece of paper off.

Sean speaks as he writes:

SEAN

"Your Cousins Luv U! Cuzes4Life  
Aston and Sean"

Aston grabs the pen.

Aston speaks as he writes:

ASTON

"I don't condone this mushy stuff.  
Get better, or else."

SEAN

Sounds good.

ASTON

See and now we've damaged property.  
Like it didn't even matter. Something  
we'd never assume and do to a  
stranger...I don't know why you can't  
see what's going on here.

SEAN

Shut up. I guess he could be hours.

ASTON

That's what I was thinking, "Shut up. I guess he could be hours."

Sean and Aston both kinda laugh. They wait for a short time.

SEAN

Familiarity breeds contempt.

ASTON

If you take the first feeling in the first pot hole, if pride is all you're using...then yes. But...a person's heart can be lighter than potholes.

SEAN

So, wait, your saying, I'm using pride to justify the very first emotion I feel?

ASTON

Right.

SEAN

And there's just other emotions to wait and feel, and I just shouldn't have pride in any of them.

ASTON

Sounds like The Way to me.

SEAN

See. I can understand what you're saying. And I can choose not to do it.

Aston pauses.

ASTON

I'm moving. To West Philadelphia. I know a blonde-girl out there...a red head too...but supposedly a lot of driving jobs out there. I've got twenty-five hundred bucks.

SEAN

When? You're going to go out there permanently? Are you coming back for Christmas?

ASTON

I can answer one of those questions.

ASTON  
And it's, half way through next month.

SEAN  
And the rest is the great unknown?

ASTON  
I don't mind.

SEAN  
You've got bigger rocks than me.

ASTON  
You'll forget you noticed.

SEAN  
No I won't, you prick. I'm proud of  
my cousin. I brag about you.

ASTON  
You must need a lot to talk about.  
Just keep it positive.

SEAN  
Professionalism demands it in America,  
which is kinda great, honestly.

ASTON  
You, ready? Poor guy's probly got a  
tube up his butt or something.

SEAN  
The odds of him having a tube up his  
butt..

ASTON  
Are pretty got'dang good!

Sean and Aston exit.

The room is quiet.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE UP:

John sits in the hospital room. He's looks down; strokes  
his head; rubs his neck.

NURSE SHERI  
Well, honey, they haven't found  
anything.

JOHN  
I know.

NURSE SHERI

I have pain meds.

JOHN

Oh good. What are you doing here though?

NURSE SHERI

Pulled a double. Girl's sick.

JOHN

That's good for me though.

Nurse Sheri smiles.

NURSE SHERI

It is?

JOHN

I don't have to flick a new spark. I just have to rekindle what we made during the day.

Nurse Sheri is pleased.

NURSE SHERI

They'll give you more Reglan too.

JOHN

Bury me under the strong stuff. It is working...but, look at my heart rate.

NURSE SHERI

110. Blood pressure is 187 over 112.

JOHN

Not good. The Reglan. I'm getting hydrated.

NURSE SHERI

Here. Rocket ship.

Nurse Sheri pulls out two needles. Injects them into the IV.

JOHN

Stay close for a bit.

NURSE SHERI

I will. Are you feeling okay?

JOHN  
Okay, but something about you being  
close does feel better.

NURSE SHERI  
Then I'll get closer.

JOHN  
I can smell your breath.

Nurse Sheri turns away.

NURSE SHERI  
I'm sorry.

JOHN  
Oh my gosh, no, it's so good.

NURSE SHERI  
Oh...good.

Nurse Sheri turns her head back to John. She runs her hand  
down the side of James' neck.

JOHN  
Will you put your hand on my chest?

Nurse Sheri places her hand on John's chest.

JOHN  
Under the gown.

NURSE SHERI  
Okay.

JOHN  
Sheri, just remember, as always,  
it's up to you to tell me when we've  
reached a point in this when this  
gets too adult for you.

Nurse Sheri smiles and nods coyly.

NURSE SHERI  
Sex feels more adolescent than adult.

JOHN  
Brainwashed at Adult School.

NURSE SHERI  
Nurses are nice to you aren't they?

JOHN  
Nurses are nice to everyone.

NURSE SHERI

But, they're nicer to you.

John smiles.

JOHN

They can tell, I'm the place they  
can get away with it...No matter who  
they've been.

NURSE SHERI

Next, you want me to slide my hand  
beneath the blanket?

JOHN

That's right. That's what I want  
you to do.

Nurse Sheri giggles.

NURSE SHERI

You're so naked.

John giggles.

NURSE SHERI

You're so soft.

JOHN

It's not soft if you keep going...

Nurse Sheri hears FOOTSTEPS outside. She jumps. She almost  
pulls her hand out.

JOHN

(whispers)

Leave it. Please. Squeeze.

John muffles his sound of pleasure. The FOOTSTEPS pass-by.

NURSE SHERI

Huh, you're so wet. You haven't had  
surgery, right?

JOHN

No. Not while I've been here.

NURSE SHERI

And the meds are controlling  
everything?

JOHN

I feel kinda healthy.

NURSE SHERI

It's the drugs.

JOHN

Yeah. Happy too. Bend over for me?  
Behind this scrim, over this bed.

NURSE SHERI

I will, John.

JOHN

You'll have to be quiet.

NURSE SHERI

I usually am. But, you are gonna  
have to put your hand over my mouth.  
I'm short, you can reach.

JOHN

Then be loud.

PAN TO present from the cousins. The note has been read.

FADE DOWN:

A muffled MMMMMMMMPHUUUUHH is heard.

JOHN

I'll try to keep going.

FADE UP:

Nurse Sheri is tucking John back into bed.

NURSE SHERI

The sedative from the gods. And no  
worries, I'm on the pill, like any  
sensible girl.

JOHN

I trusted you were. Nurses are smart.  
Life management.

NURSE SHERI

I try to keep the abortions to a  
minimal.

JOHN

Hey me too. Now that's proper grief  
management...grief avoidance.

NURSE SHERI

Witty after. So witty it's  
philosophical. Pleasant.

NURSE SHERI

You know...you didn't have to keep going...

JOHN

You needed more.

NURSE SHERI

I'd have told you to stop, but I couldn't. You just let me bite...You rest, sickboy. While I make these rounds, know I'm carrying you with me.

JOHN

Thank you, Sheri. You're like a dream that was real.

NURSE SHERI

Reality is where dreams come from.

(pause)

Your eyes better not see me when I come back and see you. Try to nap for me.

John yawns.

JOHN

Seems likely, or not likely, or something, likely. Goodnight, Sheri.

NURSE SHERI

Sweet dreams.

JOHN

Only need the one, thanks.

Nurse Sheri pauses. Takes a long look at John.

NURSE SHERI

Bye-bye, patient John.

Nurse Sheri exits.

JOHN

Bye-bye, Nurse Sheri.

John smiles, as he fades to sleep.

FADE DOWN:

FADE UP:

19 INT. MEADOWVIEW VALLEY HOSPITAL - JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

SUPER: The next day...

A NEW NURSE is writing her name on the agenda board.

Surgeon Wong Pi Li enters. She has a HEAVYWEIGHT ORDERLY with her.

The New Nurse smiles at John, exits.

Wong Pi Li shakes John's ankle. John wakes.

WONG PI LI

Hello, John. I'm Dr. Wong Pi Li.  
What do you want us to do here?  
You're not vomiting anymore.

John speaks through a heavy yawn:

JOHN

But only because you're masking it  
with the Reglan.

Suddenly, Nurse Sheri enters. She's in street clothes. She is followed by a large ANGRY ASIAN MAN. He props in the doorway and stares at John.

WONG PI LI

Yes Nurse, can we help you? Did  
you run here?

Nurse Sheri heavily breaths.

NURSE SHERI

Yes Doctor, I, uh, have an interest  
in this patient's case. Uh, this is  
my...

Nurse Sheri throws a look at John. Then gestures to the Angry Asian Man.

NURSE SHERI

...boyfriend. My car wouldn't start  
this morning.

WONG PI LI

Are you on duty, Nurse ?

JOHN

Stop. I need that man to leave the  
doorway.

WONG PI LI

Sir.

WONG PI LI

Please, this is a private hospital room. And Nurse ...?

JOHN

I want her to stay.

WONG PI LI

(at Angry Asian Man)

Sir. Please.

The Angry Asian Man reluctantly exits.

John holds out his hand to Nurse Sheri. She joins him by his side.

WONG PI LI

Fine. You're not vomiting because of the Reglan.

NURSE SHERI

Reglan can cause facial seizures.

WONG PI LI

But it is what is working. Even if we don't know what's causing it. It is making you feel better. It's regulating the bowel.

JOHN

So, you keep me on the Reglan. It masks whatever is causing this...

WONG PI LI

(more aggressive)

If we can subdue what is causing this, maybe the area can relax and heal itself. The human body is an amazing thing.

JOHN

I'm sure you want to feel done, but, what about trying something weaker?

WONG PI LI

I heard that when you were brought in it looked like you were going to die. I don't want this to happen to you again.

JOHN

How would I know when I was healed? How could I know when to stop taking the pills?

WONG PI LI

I will give you a year's worth of refills to cover you.

JOHN

Well, I don't know if my primary care doc will keep me on it.

WONG PI LI

Well, I'll give you the year's worth so you are covered. So we don't have to see you again.

John is worried. He looks to Nurse Sheri.

JOHN

And the anxiety?

WONG PI LI

Sir, I won't pussy-foot around with you: You give anxiety to yourself.

John is stunned.

WONG PI LI

And you do have a heart condition. And its's going to end...

Wong Pi Li pulls a long hypodermic-needle out of her pocket. She holds it up.

WONG PI LI

...with a needle like this shoved into your sternum and raw adrenaline being injected into your dead heart.

John and Nurse Sheri are stunned.

WONG PI LI

Why don't you ask your Nurse . She seems to think you need anxiety medication too.

JOHN

Get out of my room! Now! You are not on this case anymore.

WONG PI LI

We're not supposed to f-u-c-k the patients, young lady.

NURSE SHERI

Yeah, just the staff you hire, right?

Nurse Sheri closes in. Face to face with Wong Pi Li:

NURSE SHERI

Only when you're the one calling the  
shots, pussy.

Wong Pi Li huffs, stamps her foot like a child. Storms out  
of the room.

NURSE SHERI

Send in the day Nurse , Doctor!  
(to John)

Right, you cause your anxiety, not  
what just happened. Fuck.

JOHN

I'd be terrified to think I was that  
right all the time.

The New Nurse enters.

NEW NURSE

Hey, Sheri. What's up?

JOHN

That bitch is not aloud to treat me.

John is sick. Heaves. Heaves. Heaves.

NEW NURSE

Well, I don't know if she's a bitch...

JOHN

Are there any hospital doctors that  
I can be assigned to?

NEW NURSE

No. She's taken them off the case.  
You're supposed to have a hospital  
doctor.

NURSE SHERI

When you were admitted you were  
assigned to the surgeon. That's  
why.

NEW NURSE

Right. Only the surgeon can sign  
you over.

JOHN

So, I'm stuck with the treatment.  
And...he's going to discharge me  
because I'm not vomiting? If he  
can't cut out my heart..

NEW NURSE

Yes. You've been treated for what you came in for.

JOHN

I'm not a drug addict.

NEW NURSE

No one is saying you are.

JOHN

Psychological meds, pains meds, they have enough stigma, that persecutes me, and takes away my right to eased suffering.

NEW NURSE

I'm not sure about stigma...

JOHN

If I bring up that I smoke marijuana because it will become the fixation, you'll think I'm causing it too, and treatment will be biased against me, and spite and resentment, **somehow**, will get me not treated.

NEW NURSE

Do you smoke marijuana? Because that can cause cyclical vomiting.

JOHN

See. You just did it. I've had 'sodes when I wasn't smoking, and hadn't been. So, it's not. And it helps, so what you say I already know isn't true. But why do you think it? Truth is, you, and that butcher, just don't...need to believe me.

(pause)

Easing my suffering should be alpha, and you know that.

NEW NURSE

It's complicated.

JOHN

No it's not. It's pride seeking position, suffering for it, so it feels earned and deserved, and it's gross, and I can feel that way!

NEW NURSE

Yes you can.

JOHN

Assholes.

NURSE SHERI

(to New Nurse)

It's okay. I'm going to give him my phone number as a consult.

Hesitant:

NEW NURSE

I hope you feel better.

JOHN

I believe you. Thank you.

The New Nurse exits.

NURSE SHERI

I'm going to go quit. Nurses can get hired anywhere.

JOHN

Reason for leaving: "bad management."

NURSE SHERI

And you're saying it to your future "bad management"...I'm also going to go break-up with my boyfriend.

John is instantly concerned.

JOHN

Aw. If Love is the reason, then there is always a solution.

NURSE SHERI

Yeah...My mother always said he never acted like he loved me...Good place to do it too.

JOHN

My heart hurts.

NURSE SHERI

Will I ever see you again?

JOHN

Write your number down. But, you know, life.

(pause)

I want to.

Nurse Sheri uses the pen and paper.

NURSE SHERI

Cute message someone left you.

JOHN

Cousins. Yep.

NURSE SHERI

Okay.

Nurse Sheri kisses John's cheek. She whispers hot and heavy:

NURSE SHERI

I haven't washed you out yet. He started getting mad, because I wouldn't let him in last night. Got suspicious.

JOHN

You've been fighting all night?

NURSE SHERI

I denied everything, naturally. And then, I asked the bastard to drive me here for work.

JOHN

Take care, darling. Can you get a ride home?

NURSE SHERI

I'm fine. I'll sleep at my mom's. How are you going to get out of here?

JOHN

I'll use the Reglan to get me to somewhere safe. I'll get by.

NURSE SHERI

I'll worry about you for the rest of your life if you don't let me know how you are.

JOHN

Okay. I will.

NURSE SHERI

Thank you. Okay. Goodbye.

Nurse Sheri takes a breath. Nurse Sheri smiles and exits.

John watches her leave. He unconsciously reaches for her.

John lays in bed. Rubs the back of his neck.

FADE DOWN:

SUPER: 12 MONTHS LATER

FADE IN:

20 INT. HOSPITAL - HR OFFICE - DAY

John sits across the desk from a STONE-COLD BITCH. John's well composed, yet he has a developing facial-tick on one side of his face.

JOHN

I have an interest in helping people.  
My experience is in being a patient.

STONE-COLD BITCH

So you have no direct training as a  
Caretaker? You've never actually  
cared for the elderly?

JOHN

Well, no.

STONE-COLD BITCH

No?

JOHN

No. I...I...How much could there be  
to it?

(quick pause)

Everybody poops, right?

STONE-COLD BITCH

Sir. You have no experience.

JOHN

So everybody needs that poop cleaned  
up, if they can't do it.

(pause)

Where do I get training?

STONE-COLD BITCH

There are programs.

JOHN

Sure. But you don't know.

STONE-COLD BITCH

Sir, I don't need to know. You have  
to know. We will keep your resume  
on file.

JOHN

You might as well...

STONE-COLD BITCH  
Our database does a keyword search  
and your resume...

Just then, the door bursts open. A Latino FRANTIC MAN enters.  
He pulls a shine-y KNIFE.

FRANTIC MAN  
You stone-cold bitch!

STONE-COLD BITCH  
No, please, don't. My mother depends  
on me.

FRANTIC MAN  
Mine too!

The frantic man lunges a knife at the stone-cold old bitch.

JOHN  
No. I can't let you.

John puts himself between the...

KNIFE...

and the...

STONE-COLD BITCH.

The knife plunges into John's guts.

FRANTIC MAN  
No, not you.

JOHN  
Not anyone.

John falls to his knees.

STONE-COLD BITCH  
Security!!! Stabbing! 9-1-1!

The frantic man turns and runs from the room.

John begins to heave up blood. Then more.

STONE-COLD BITCH  
You aren't okay.

John vomits blood.

STONE-COLD BITCH  
9-1-1!!!

CALM YOUNG WOMAN enters.

CALM YOUNG WOMAN  
Someone's coming, Maggie.

John heaves blood.

CALM YOUNG WOMAN  
Oh my god.

John heaves. And heaves. The pain is excruciating.

JOHN  
This isn't going to stop. I vomit.  
I don't stop.

CALM YOUNG WOMAN  
He's going to bleed to death.

John continues to vomit. He falls unconscious. Continues to vomit.

STONE-COLD BITCH  
He saved me. Please. Help me keep  
his face out of the blood.

John gurgles. Moans. The calm young woman just stares. Shakes her head. Backs out of the room.

21 INT. ST. STEPHEN'S CANCER RESEARCH HOSPITAL - DAY

SUPER: St. Stephen's Cancer Research Hospital; Emergency Count: Unknown

John is in a coma. His heart monitor blips. John's head is shaved.

FURRY BOOTS, sits with her legs up on John's bed. She's in her young 20's. She wears revealing clothes, very short-shorts and a tight top. She has long golden-blond hair, and she wears furry boots.

As John sleeps his tongue sticks out. His eyebrows raise and lower. His lip twitches. This continues, always slightly, then with flare-ups.

NURSE SARAH enters. She's in her early 50's, in-shape, she is professionally friendly.

NURSE SARAH  
Good afternoon! How goes it?

FURRY BOOTS  
Well, I missed a duel I had at noon.  
But, I guess I'm okay.

NURSE SARAH  
I'm sorry you missed your duel.

FURRY BOOTS  
Ah, I could have died.

Nurse Sarah laughs.

NURSE SARAH  
Has he shown any signs of  
consciousness today?

FURRY BOOTS  
No. Nothing. But, Nurse Sarah,  
look. He does have a boner.

NURSE SARAH  
And a healthy heart beat, I see.  
Signs of life in there.

Nurse Sarah exits.

NURSE SARAH  
Be back in a few! Oh! The doctor's  
coming!

DR. ADAMS enters. He's exceptionally calm and speaks with  
consideration.

DR. ADAMS  
Hello, are you his wife?

FURRY BOOTS  
More like his keeper.

DR. ADAMS  
Oh. The facial tremors appear reduced.  
The longterm use of the Reglan, well  
these dopamine antagonists can block  
the communication with certain  
dopamine receptors which can cause  
this, tardive dyskinesia. Not a lot  
is known about it.

FURRY BOOTS  
He'd be glad for the advancement.

DR. ADAMS  
I'm forced to say, your positive  
attitude is refreshing to experience.

FURRY BOOTS  
Probly just my youth keeps me  
positive.

FURRY BOOTS

John has aa theory that a person can  
keep their heart open their entire  
life.

Furry Boots pets John's head.

DR. ADAMS

Then love would be everywhere you  
turned?

FURRY BOOTS

Right? It's not just a story to us.

Dr. Adams nods.

DR. ADAMS

You see here on the other side of  
his head. We cut the tumor out from  
here.

John smiles. Then opens his eyes. The facial tremors  
continue.

JOHN

No brain no pain, huh doc?

John's tongue involuntarily sticks out. His hospital bed  
raises.

DR. ADAMS

Well there's no pain in the brain,  
but I get'chya. If the cancer  
returns, you won't be able to feel  
it.

JOHN

Not like the knife?

DR. ADAMS

The knife that saved the life. It  
got you back into the emergency room  
and to the doctors with the right  
suspicions.

JOHN

Yes, a short trip from the HR  
department. I'll start vomiting  
again, I guess.

DR. ADAMS

Come back here if it does return.  
You need to eat solid foods soon?

JOHN  
Mmmm, I could eat.

FURRY BOOTS  
I'm off for food then!

Furry Boots kisses John's bald head, exits.

JOHN  
I call her Furry Boots. She won't  
tell me her real name.

DR. ADAMS  
Haha! Stay positive. It'll help  
everything.

Nurse Sarah enters.

NURSE SARAH  
Almost time for you to leave us.  
Will your girlfriend take care of  
you?

JOHN  
Oh yes, she's exceptionally attentive.

NURSE SARAH  
Mmm. I'm glad. You'll be leaving  
my hands, but you'll be taken care  
of.

JOHN  
I've enjoyed my stay with you, besides  
all the crap that brought me here.

NURSE SARAH  
Lovely. I'd ask you to come and see  
me some time, but nobody ever does  
want to come back.

JOHN  
I can't imagine so. But, hospitals  
have been a sort of sanctuary to me.  
Even sick, and fighting for  
treatments, there's still utilities,  
cable, and food...the basics we're  
always struggling for.  
(pause)  
And if shit came to crap any hospital  
should be able to revive my vitals,  
so long as I can keep my weight up  
and give them a fighting chance.

NURSE SARAH  
Return if you need to.

NURSE SARAH

Come right here since you have a history here.

JOHN

If I do I hope you're here.

NURSE SARAH

Good odds, honey. I'll go get the paperwork together.

JOHN

Sure. Thanks.

Nurse Sarah is about to exit:

NURSE SARAH

I like how you say "thank you" a lot. Sometimes you say it when I haven't heard it all day.

JOHN

Well, I only say it when I mean it.

NURSE SARAH

I'll be back.

JOHN

I know you will.

Nurse Sarah exits.

John pulls over his laptop. He begins to type, despite the facial twitches and some hand spasms.

Furry Boots enters.

FURRY BOOTS

How ya doin, sexy Lover? Time to get you back?

JOHN

Pretty close, my lil' Furry Boots.

FURRY BOOTS

I'm still wear'n 'em, cuz you bought 'em fo' me. Sweet, great, man.

JOHN

Not anyone can pull those off.

FURRY BOOTS

You can pull 'em off me anytime.

JOHN

I like to make love to you with your furry boots on.

FURRY BOOTS

I can't wait for you come home and get out what you need to.

JOHN

I do need to. I need what you have.

FURRY BOOTS

Mm, it's all yours, or anyone else's you want, but I'm fine with only you, cuz you're the best.

(pause)

My sexy...Daddy.

John's face convulses.

JOHN

I can go home when I want to, baby.

FURRY BOOTS

Damn good. Doc's got you set. You know to just ask for anything when you need it.

JOHN

Thank you, babygirl, you take good care of me.

FURRY BOOTS

How do you feel about coming home..?

JOHN

I think I'm, maybe, one more night of healing. Let the withdrawals finish a bit more, where if something does happen, well, I'm here, and we won't have to let EMT's stick me 6-7 times...brave lil' buggers.

FURRY BOOTS

I think that's a good idea.

The COUPLE holds hands, smile at each other. Then suddenly:

FURRY BOOTS

I was try'n to get you a sandwich...

Furry Boots stuffs a bag of "something" under John's leg.

FURRY BOOTS

...and I was try'n to get it so it'd be light on you're tummy, but this bitch couldn't even make a damn sandwich!

JOHN

I hope Laura tells me that story later and does her impression of you.

FURRY BOOTS

Well...she'll be yelling a little.

Furry Boots giggles.

JOHN

Louder is funnier. Like when I'm pressed naked against you, and you fart in your sleep on me. Loudly.

FURRY BOOTS

You love that.

JOHN

I condone it...but...only because I love it.

FURRY BOOTS

Glad your humor is back again. I want you back. I want you.

JOHN

So soon, Lover. How's the action been moving?

FURRY BOOTS

Like they should be taxing us for it.

JOHN

Psycho-sissy moralists. So, we'll pay rent this month?

FURRY BOOTS

Oh yeah. Fo' sho'.

Suddenly, John thinks off.

JOHN

I suspect there'll be a less risky way to do it in the future.

FURRY BOOTS

Of course, sweetie.

FURRY BOOTS

Do you think it's best to let you rest?

JOHN

I was pretty fatigued after the doc left.

FURRY BOOTS

I want to take you away now. Get you so close to me. So close we're in each other, we're one.

JOHN

Then, you will come back for me tomorrow?

FURRY BOOTS

Ha! Of course. I'll see you then, hot stud.

Furry Boots exits. She pops her head back in.

FURRY BOOTS

Here comes that pretty one.

Furry Boots exits.

Nurse Sarah enters. Nurse Sarah is carrying a wash basin and some hygiene basics.

NURSE SARAH

So this is your last night?

JOHN

Aw, Nurse Sarah, I was just going to call for a sponge bath.

(pause)

It is my last night.

NURSE SARAH

Well, I have everything here that you need to freshen yourself up exit.

Nurse Sarah turns to set down the bathing supplies.

JOHN

I was wondering...if you'd like...to give me the bath?

Nurse Sarah pauses. She sets down the supplies. Without turning to face John:

NURSE SARAH

And, I'll be your one and only?

NURSE SARAH  
Your special One?

John smiles.

JOHN  
Always special...My Nurse.

Nurse Sarah is charmed. Turns around. Then with sudden shock, and bloody force, the back of John's head EXPLODES.

CUT TO BLACK

SUPER: It's Over too soon.; Suddenly. Positively.; The leaf finds the ground.;

ROLL CREDITS

As the credits roll; John lays in a hospital bed. Groups of two nurses, all the nurses, come in to give him "bed sore inspections" which includes spread ass-cheeks, and a role toward each nurse.