

EYES FOR YOU

A Play in Four Acts

by

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Cast of Characters

<u>Katrina Cogadh:</u>	A woman in her early 30s; wife of Martin; owns a small marketing firm.
<u>Martin Cogadh:</u>	A man in his early 30s; husband of Katrina; deals with mergers & acquisitions.
<u>Ronald Collins:</u>	A man in mid 50s; life-long bachelor; godfather of Martin; entrepreneur.
<u>Dr. Lisa Johannsson:</u>	A neurologist in her early 40s.
<u>Isaac Haenow:</u>	A man in early 30s; partner of Frank; aspiring real- estate tycoon.
<u>Frank Allen:</u>	A man in early 30s; partner of Isaac; owns a nightclub.
<u>Jeremy Kurzweil:</u>	A man in early 30s; husband of Christine; Electrical Engineer.
<u>Christine Kurzweil:</u>	A woman in her late 20s; wife of Jeremy.
<u>Caroline:</u>	A woman in her early 30s; friend/ employee of Katrina

Scene

An upper middle class Suburban household in Southern California, Dr. Johannsson's Office, Katrina's Marketing Firm, and a Hospital Room.

Time

The present.

ACT I - Katrina's Ill Tidings

Scene 1	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 2	Dr. Johannsson's office	Now.

ACT II - Martin's Long Road to Recovery

Scene 1	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 2	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 3	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 4	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 5	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 6	The Cogadh household.	Now.

ACT III - A Turn for the Worse

Scene 1	Katrina's Office	Now.
Scene 2	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 3	A Hospital Room.	Now.
Scene 4	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 5	Dr. Johannsson's office.	Now.

ACT IV - The Point of No Return

Scene 1	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 2	The Cogadh household.	Now.
Scene 3	The Cogadh household.	Now.

ACT IScene 1

SETTING: We are currently at the COGADH residence. The COGADHs are an upper middle-class family in their early 30's. Although MARTIN COGADH is an extremely well-educated and successful businessman (who just recently finalized a merger in excess of a Billion dollars) the décor is modest, yet elegant. The scene follows MARTIN's wife, KATRINA COGADH, finalizing a surprise party to celebrate MARTIN's new success.

AT RISE: A group of men (JEREMY, FRANK, & ISAAC) are standing around neglecting work and shooting the bull while KATRINA prepares decorations with CHRISTINE on the other side of the room. A few extras fill the stage.

JEREMY

So, the woman says, and I'm not fucking with you here, "BYU is the Harvard of the West Coast."

(They laugh.)

FRANK

What'd you say to her, Germ? You didn't just sit there, did you?

JEREMY

Hell no, I said, "Excuse me ma'am but what about Claremont McKenna College, Reed, or dare I say... Stanford?"

ISAAC

And...?

JEREMY

She said, "I'm sure they're all very fine junior colleges."

(A mixture of laughter and sighs. ISAAC melodramatically pretends to be have been shot

through the heart by a bullet.)

ISAAC

Did you ever hear about that time Brigham Young was walking down the street and ran into a conservative woman?

FRANK

Oh, not that one again, please.

(to everyone else)

It's this awful joke. The woman is somewhat homely. She catches him completely slosh-faced on the street and chides him. A reasonable thing I would think. He responds by slandering the poor woman, asserting that in the morning he'll be sober, but she'll still be a gargoyle.

ISAAC

Unfortunately, Frank, you don't get the satisfaction of ruining the punchline this time, because you were thinking about Winston Churchill, NOT Brigham Young. Let me enlighten you all. Brigham Young is walking down the street and this Christian woman stops him...

JEREMY

(confused)

...Mormon's are Christian too?

(As ISAAC picks back up with his joke, RONALD enters through the front door. He has a little Welsh Corgi on a leash that trots alongside him. As he enters, takes off a nice overcoat and puts it on a wall hook. He then reaches down and takes the leash off of his dog and lets it run around. He spots his friends off in the corner. RONALD walks towards them.)

ISAAC (continued)

No, they're not. But you're interrupting me. This *CHRISTIAN* woman stops him and says, "You're Brigham Young, right? The leader of the Mormon religion? The one that has over 50 wives?" He replies to which that he is. So then she proclaims, "You sir, should be hung!" Brigham, the man that he is, never misses a beat, retorts, "Ma'am I already am."

(They laugh. Enter RONALD.)

RONALD

Is Ike telling that Winston Churchill joke again?
(Frank snickers.)

ISAAC

Brigham Young.

RONALD

Hmmm. Same difference.

(ISAAC gives RONALD a look which questions whether ISAAC is being serious or intentionally trying to get a rise out of him. Before he's able to talk, JEREMY looks down at his watch.)

JEREMY

You're cutting it a bit close, aren't you? We weren't sure that you were going to be able to beat the man of the hour here?

RONALD

Well... I'm here... and in one piece which can't be attributed to the root cause of my untimely and, overall temporal, displacement.

ISAAC

You finally killed one of your interns, didn't you?

RONALD

Alas no. I spent 45 minutes waiting on the 210 outside Pasadena for them to examine the nastiest of wrecks.

FRANK

Did you get a good look?

RONALD

At the body or the car?

FRANK

Either.

RONALD

(shaking head)

The body had already pulled out by the time I drove by. But I did see the ambulance zip by going the opposite direction. My timing was just awful. I didn't get to see any of the wreckage neither. Apparently, the car went up and over a small cliff. I saw the yellow bumper of the car as the cable rolled it up but that was it. You know, that's really been the story of my life. There were three fights of note while I was in high school. I managed to come by just as they were being broken up. Every time. Just my luck.

ISAAC

I wouldn't worry about it, Ronald. I've seen the way you drive. Give it enough time and you might get to witness one first-hand.

RONALD

(condescending laugh)

Ho ho ho.

(they laugh at this)

SHIFT TO:

(The wives are setting up decorations around the house and chattering away. Christine is holding the base of a banner which reads, "CONGRATULATIONS MARTIN" while Katrina is mounting it over an arch.)

CHRISTINE

(looking over shoulder)

I wonder what the sewing circle is hackling about today.

KATRINA

(preoccupied with her end)

Lift your end, please?

CHRISTINE

(shifting focus to the task)

Sorry. You know, you really do have the most gorgeous décor. I can't tell if it's sad or joyous that you won't have to ever make an Ikea run again. You'll be bringing carpenters to you directly, I imagine.

KATRINA

Only if it's Kurt Russell in *Overboard*. Otherwise what's the point, am I right?

CHRISTINE

Ha ha. I feel you. But it's crossed your mind, yes?

KATRINA

Not until just now.

CHRISTINE

Serious? You are serious. You can't be serious? You're telling me that you haven't been considering moving to a more *luxurious* place?

KATRINA

And why would I do that?

CHRISTINE

Why does anyone ever do anything? Because one can. I mean, what else are you going to do with the money?

KATRINA

I'm sure we'll think of something. Philanthropy most likely. But in reality, I don't think we will move. Martin and I finally feel right, you know? Warren Buffett still lives in the same 3-bedroom house he bought in the 60s and Bill Gates drove his Station Wagon to Microsoft for years before it broke down. I think the real trick to staying happy in life is simply to not let money take control of oneself. As long as Martin and I have each other, that should be enough.

CHRISTINE

Sounds like a little girl's dream.

Shift back to:

FRANK

Ronald, I haven't seen you since it happened, but I saw someone come into the bar the other day that looked *just like you*. For a second, I thought you had finally come out of the closet and I was going to give the whole bar a round of drinks on me to celebrate. I went over to him and slapped him on the back and he just looked aghast at me. I ended up explaining myself and showing him a photo of you.

(FRANK begins to pull out his phone)

FRANK (continued)
I took one of him too. Would you like to see it?

RONALD
No.

FRANK
What? Why not?

RONALD
Haven't you ever heard that seeing your doppelganger is an omen that you'll die soon?

FRANK
Oh Ronnie, you're just being superstitious. Something I would've never pegged you for.

RONALD
I'm not but I also don't leave things to chance.

FRANK
Fine. But in other news, you must be proud of your boy, Martin. A 1.3 billion dollar merger. That's no small feat. Not even Robert Day or Henry Kravis could boast such a number.

RONALD
It certainly is something to write home about. Martin's the only individual I've ever met that made me wish I had kids of my own. Hell, if I could adopt a 30-year-old man, I'd just take him.
(they chuckle)

ISAAC
But Godfather is close enough, no?

RONALD
Perhaps, as you know, they say that blood is thicker than water. You can forget your parents, but they'll always be your parents. A Godfather can be pushed aside, and no one would ever know.

ISAAC
Well, I've heard that that saying used to have a different connotation, so you may still be in luck.

RONALD

How so?

ISAAC

Well, from what I've heard, the proverb used to refer to "Blood Brothers" at one point in time. You know, warriors and the like. They said that people who fought together were closer than any other bond out there, including marriage.

FRANK

Where'd you hear that? Not from me, I'm sure.

ISAAC

I don't remember. Wikipedia most likely. Regardless Ronald, if there's one person that taught Martin to fight, it'd be you.

RONALD

I suppose so.

JEREMY

I don't mean to interrupt this but is anyone watching the window?

(they look inquisitively at him)

JEREMY (continued)

For when Martin gets home? Shouldn't we be getting ready to hide? The whole point of this is supposed to be a surprise but it's going to be a piss poor one if he comes in and we're the ones caught off guard.

FRANK

Oh... yeah... we've got that covered. Emily's keeping an eye on the street from upstairs.

JEREMY

Good. It is getting kinda late though...?

SHIFT TO:

CHRISTINE

I'm just saying, Katrina, that you can have your cake and eat it too. There's no reason why you shouldn't buy a summer home in the Virgin Islands. God knows when you have kids, you're going need to get out of the house every once in a while. Having a place to go last second without

CHRISTINE (continued)

worrying if there is going to be 'room at the inn' can be a real asset. No joke, when Jeremy and I went to Scotland last year, every single Bed and Breakfast we drove past had "No Vacancies" posted on their windows. Thank God we had reservations but imagine that, it wasn't even the travel season and they all were chock-full.

KATRINA

Christine, it's not as if I'm going to wake up tomorrow and find out I'm pregnant. Martin and I haven't been trying for a child and we both have agreed we're not ready for one yet. So there's time in any case.

(CAROLINE walks by)

KATRINA

(gestures to carrying platters)

Caroline can you help us with these.

CAROLINE

Absolutely.

CHRISTINE

Honey, babies rarely come when they're expected so I'm just saying that you should think of contingencies now while you're in a sane state of mind.

CAROLINE

Katrina! You're pregnant!?! I know the absolute best caterer. We need to get ...

KATRINA

No! I'm not pregnant. Christine is just trying to elbow me into buying the Virgin Islands.

CHRISTINE

I didn't say *buy* the Virgin Islands. I said buy a *home* in the Virgin Islands.

CAROLINE

Oh, I quite agree. Now would be the perfect time.

KATRINA

Ladies, Martin's going to be home any second so can we just pause this conversation here and resume some other time?

(the phone rings)

KATRINA (continued)

Speak of the devil, that's probably him. Get everyone in positions.

SHIFT TO:

FRANK

So, what's your point, Ronald? It kinda sounds like you're afraid that Martin is going to leave you out to pasture. He's not that type of guy. He understands who his friends are and takes care of them.

RONALD

I don't even know how we got on this subject?

ISAAC

You brought it up. Remember?

RONALD

And now I regret it.

(CHRISTINE WALKS OVER)

CHRISTINE

Katrina is on the phone with Martin right now. She says to get ready.

(the guys start moving to hiding places but continue their conversation)

JEREMY

But why? Has Martin ever wronged you or anyone else here? I read on the news this morning that George Clooney gave his closest 14 friends a million dollars each because he cared for them so much. As far as I'm concerned, if the market ever ate you up, you'd never need to want for another thing as long as you live.

RONALD

It's hard to articulate my feelings here entirely, and I'm sorry now I voiced them. I put my foot in my mouth but I'll see if I can pull it out without doing more damage. First off, it's not really anything tangible, but I love Martin. I don't know what the love of father is like, but I can begin to imagine it with Martin. I would take a bullet for him without a question, but I have this notion that Martin has ambition. And a man with ambition will do whatever it takes to get to the top, even if it means "killing your

RONALD (continued)

darlings." I guess, in a sense, I'm scared of Martin. I'd be scared to see him cornered and in a situation beyond his control.

(KATRINA walks out into the middle of the room. Pale-faced, she addresses the group.)

KATRINA

Thank you everyone for coming out tonight but I must inform you that Martin will not be in attendance tonight. He broke through a barrier outside Pasadena about an hour ago and he's been rushed to the hospital.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1Scene 2

SETTING: Hospital Doctor's Office

AT RISE: KATRINA is sitting in the office waiting for the doctor to enter. She rises from her seat as the doctor enters the room.

DR. JOHANNSSON
Don't get up on my accord. Please have a seat.

(KATRINA slowly lowers herself
back into her chair)

DR. JOHANNSSON (continued)
These situations are always difficult to explain and even harder to digest. I've had patients' relatives lash out at me before exclaiming that their loved one was not a statistic but a person and an individual case. The things I'll say are not to belittle your significant other but rather to say them as I see them. I do want you to understand that I want what is best for your husband and I'm here to help you through this.

KATRINA
Ok.

DR. JOHANNSSON
To begin, this is not the worst case I've seen. Not by a long shot. With the spectrum ranging from minor fender damage on the left to instant deaths on the right this certainly falls towards the first third of the spectrum. But, I want you to know that I've seen far worse patients come in and walk out of here on their own two feet.

KATRINA
That's good to hear. Thank you.

DR. JOHANNSSON
So far, what we've gathered is that he suffered a major concussion. He's in a coma presently but we expect him to come out of it in the next couple of days. When he wakes, he'll likely won't know what happened or where he is. He may not even remember the incident that brought him here.

KATRINA

That seems a bit hard to believe. I've read before that bad memories are often more easily recalled than good memories.

DR. JOHANNSSON

You are correct, but the difference is that this doesn't have to do with either 'good' or 'bad' memories. Instead, it's the question whether they exist at all. You see, sometimes concussion patients may recover the lost moments but more often than not, they'll always have a gap in the memory for the day or two surrounding the accident. I can't say whether this is good or bad. Some patients that come to remember end up suffering from PTSD and struggle with everyday situations, paranoid that it will happen again. This part can be especially difficult on everyday life. Imagine something as simple as a run to the grocery store being a source of anxiety and you'll begin to understand. Those that don't remember the incident are generally fine psychologically in the long run. It's case dependent, I guess you could say.

KATRINA

So, I guess I'm a bit confused. Are you saying that you expect him to make a full recovery or not?

DR. JOHANNSSON

I don't want to give you the "lawyer's" response and say that it depends what you define as "fully recover" but it kind of does. For example, I haven't even gotten to the external injuries. Aside from the concussion, Martin currently has three cracked ribs and a compound fracture for his right arm. Along with a pretty bad case of whiplash, he's got a small fracture along his C6 vertebrae, which, among other things, controls the use of his legs. His body in general is pretty banged up. The airbag broke his nose and, along with the broken glass acting as shrapnel, the left side of his face is swollen up beyond recognition and he dislocated his jaw. Even his teeth seem to have taken a hit, he must've smashed down hard on impact. Talking will be possible at least, but uncomfortable for a while.

KATRINA

(with a tone of humor to try and
hide the concern in her voice)

And you say this isn't the worst you've seen?

DR. JOHANNSSON

(plays off the tone and chuckles)

No, you're right. He got bounced around like a rag doll.

(She sees KATRINA cring at that comment and realizes where the humor came from. She adjusts her attitude)

DR. JOHANNSSON

But I assure I've seen men in their fifties come back from worse.

KATRINA

Well that's something to be thankful for I guess.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Yes, it is. Honestly, the biggest potential risk I see is really the fractured vertebrae. I'm sure you've heard about cases where people lose the function of their legs, hands, etc.

KATRINA

Well never personally up until now, no.

DR. JOHANNSSON

The reality is that is rare. You'd have to practically sever the spinal cord for complete paralysis. The images of Martin's neck look well for full functionality of his legs. Although this might not bar him in the short run. I'd say that he's going to have a bit of numbness in his extremities which might be a blessing in disguise for the moment. A little less pain for him to deal with.

KATRINA

(sarcastic)

A real blessing, I'm sure.

DR. JOHANNSSON

(sincere)

I'm here for you. Remember?

KATRINA

Yes. I'm sorry.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Now while I wanted to address his physical and mental

DR. JOHANSSON (continued)
injuries, I specifically brought you in here away from Martin because I want to talk to you about the long road ahead, recovery.

KATRINA
I know it will be hard.

DR. JOHANSSON
Yes, it will be. But it won't just be hard for Martin. You're going to find it to be one of the hardest things to live through. You see, injuries do something to a person. When I was in college, I tore my ACL playing basketball and couldn't walk straight for eight months. Mind you, my case was a bit extreme, but the principle is the same. Post-surgery was agony. The pain pills didn't do much for me in doing the one thing they're supposed to do... block pain receptors. Instead, they ate at my mind and body. I lost my appetite and didn't eat for three days at one point. I was a mess, to say the least. My family all pushed off taking turns watching over me because I became such a hassle to be around. I was irritable... frustrated... aggressive. My summer was flashing by and I was laying on the couch unable to put the slightest amount of weight on my leg without buckling. What I was privy to was a fraction of what your husband is about to go through and I want you to know that it will change him. He should recover from that eventually, but it will be a while.

KATRINA
(progressively gets more agitated)
If you're trying to warn me that this might end my marriage, then I guess I'd say that you don't know how close we are. What point would I have had stating "through sickness and through health" if I didn't really mean it...

DR. JOHANSSON
I didn't mean to imply anything Mrs. Cogadh, as I said initially. I'm speaking from statistics and not individually. I've seen this sort of incident break many marriages over the years, but I've also seen many come through stronger for the challenge. I mention it more as a sort of segue towards my second part: insurance.

KATRINA
Is there a problem with Martin's policy?

DR. JOHANNSSON

Oh, heaven's no! Martin's policy is one of the best I've ever seen. And for how they joke that doctors are always too busy to stay up with the news, that's simply not true. I know of your husband's recent change of fortune for the better. So, what I'm stating is that you shouldn't feel pressured to take Martin out of the hospital too soon fearing about bills or anything.

KATRINA

No offense, Doctor Johannsson, but I know my husband well. He is a kind and well-liked man, but if there is a person, or a collective group of persons, that Martin dislikes, it'd be doctors. Martin's mother had an incident in an ER when he was a child which has always kind of jaded him against them. I know that while you think this is the best place for him, I know that this will only increase his anxiety. It's my intent to take him home as soon as his he wakes up from his coma and considered stable.

DR. JOHANNSSON

And if that's your decision, I'll support it %100. I just wanted you know that you had that option available. Might I suggest an alternative?

KATRINA

What are you thinking?

DR. JOHANNSSON

If you don't feel comfortable keeping Martin here, then perhaps you could bring the hospital to Martin.

KATRINA

What are you suggesting exactly?

DR. JOHANNSSON

In blunt terms, hire a nurse to watch over Martin in your house. This way he gets the care he needs, he is away from the 'detestable hospital,' haha, and you will have a support system for when you don't know how to proceed.

KATRINA

I can see where you're coming from Doctor, but I think that is unnecessary.

DR. JOHANNSSON

You and Martin don't have any children yet, do you?

KATRINA

(trying to see the connection)

No?

DR. JOHANSSON

Ok, well when, or if, you two ever decide to have children, one thing you'll learn quickly is the ever present fear of injuries. Everything becomes a crisis. And this isn't just me speaking as a medical professional but as a parent too. The first time you see your child fall, scrape, pinch, pull, cry in any way there's this part of your brain crying out too assuming the worst. It's hard-wired in all of us, I think, to fear for our child's safety. Even with my medical training at my disposal, I still vastly overestimated my first son's injuries and illnesses and would rush him to the hospital at the slightest fever. This is often why doctors aren't permitted to operate on loved ones. Given Martin's condition, rushing anywhere would not only be difficult but impractical. Having a nurse around would help you in these situations because one, he or she wouldn't know your husband on an intimate level and therefore two, be able to apply their medical expertise easier.

KATRINA

(considering her words)

Everything you say sounds logical and correct, Doctor, but I think this is just one of those situations where you have to trust your gut and say, "I've got this." You talk about parent's being hardwired to overestimate their children's injuries so maybe this is a mistake too. Maybe we're hardwired to make poor decisions in general. I'm going to have to experience it myself. If I don't at least try and handle this myself, I'll question myself for the rest of my life whether I was too afraid to take this burden on for myself and what that would mean for my marriage. So, while I thank you for your candor, I will have to decline.

DR. JOHANSSON

I understand your thoughts completely. A final word before you leave. If nothing else, take my card. Having a first point of contact is at least a start in these situations. Calling 911 for an ambulance or anything isn't always necessary. If you're not sure, you can give me a call. I won't always be able to answer right away if I'm in surgery or with a patient but I always call back when I can.

KATRINA

Thank you, again.

(KATRINA exits)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 1

SETTING: The Cogadh Residence, the house hosts the same decorations seen previously. Despite the change, the room feels strangely vacant without the previous boisterous crowd. Also new we see scattered around the house, a few new medical additions. For example, there is a metal hospital trolley with a bed pan and gauze.

AT RISE: KATRINA enters through the front door with MARTIN in a wheel chair. Martin is covered practically head to toe in bandages. Even his face is covered completely so that only his eyes pierce through slits.

KATRINA

Okay, are you ready? Open you your eyes!

(KATRINA walks in front of Martin and walks around the house)

KATRINA (continued)

Now, I know this may seem a bit much but I wanted to let you see this to let you know how loved you are. This was exactly what was out when I got the call but I told everyone to leave it out as a testament to their love for you. Dr. Johannsson is enthusiastic about your recovery and so am I. I set up the guest bedroom downstairs since I won't be able to drag you up and down the stairs. Or rather, I should say that I don't want to risk injuring you further. I don't want to jostle you around too much and that might just slip a bone. Oh what do I know? But you can never be too careful.

(KATRINA moves Martin around the room)

KATRINA (continued)

I wouldn't be too worried though. When you start doing

KATRINA (continued)

physical therapy we'll be going up and down those stairs more than you'd ever think possible.

(KATRINA stops Martin and grabs a book)

KATRINA (continued)

I picked up few books on Physical Therapy. I know I'm not a physical therapist by any means and you're still a few months off from treatment but you can never start too soon, right? And if you'd like, I can read some out loud to you later? No? It's alright? We'll have plenty of time for that later.

(KATRINA moves him to the living room)

KATRINA (continued)

So I know how your father always says that TV "rots the brain" but I can't imagine he'll complain much in this instance. I upgraded our channels, got HBO, and Hulu. So much for our weekly "Netflix and Chill," right? And just so that your father can't say I didn't think of it, I also got you an Audible premium account. So, when you're ready, we'll download you a book on tape and throw it on the speakers.

(picking up a remote and putting it in Martin's hand)

KATRINA (continued)

Ol' Germ is a tech wiz' as you know so I asked him to help me with a few technical things around the house. For starters...

(she gestures to the remote)

... no longer shall you have to suffer through a plethora of remotes to find the right one to turn on the speakers, play a Blu-ray, or fast forward time... haha obviously that last one is a joke but you get what I'm saying, there's a lot to go through. No, so I asked Jeremy to consolidate them down to one for you so that you don't have struggle through finding the correct one. It looks a bit complicated but I guess that's because it is. You can't give up one thing without getting another, I guess. But you'll figure it out. I know you will.

(she takes away the remote)

KATRINA (continued)

Now I know that talking for you is going to be difficult for a while but I also wanted to introduce to the newest member of our household... Alexa say, "Hello"

ALEXA

(synthesized voice)

Hello.

KATRINA

Isn't that awesome!?! That was actually Jeremy's suggestion himself. She can do a lot of cool things around the house that might be difficult for you. For example, "Alexa, can you please dim the lights in the living room a bit?"

(THE LIGHTS DIM A BIT.)

ALEXA

Is this ok?

KATRINA

(laughs)

Yes. Yes. It's ok. But could you please bring them back up?

ALEXA

I'm sorry. I didn't quite get that?

KATRINA

(to MARTIN)

She's a little finicky so bear with her.

(to ALEXA)

Alexa, could you please bring the lights back up?

(THE LIGHTS RISE UP.)

ALEXA

How's this?

KATRINA

That's perfect! Thank you!

(back to Martin)

We don't have to stick with "Alexa" by the way. Or even that voice. I know how you hate "drinking the Kool Aid of commercialism" because it makes you "feel like you're living in a commercial" and all that so I wouldn't want to burden you. Germ pulled a pretty good one on me. He had me step outside to try out the new lock. He told me that I had to phrase the question exactly for it to work. He rattled

KATRINA (continued)

on about 'specific voice coding' so that the system knew it was me yada yada yada and there I am standing out front and... like an idiot... I say, "Open the front door, please Alexa." To which that germ *JER-I-MEEE* has a canned recording blast out at me, "I'm afraid I can't do that" with HAL's voice. I've got to say, I was never more glad to be home in the middle of the day where no one else was around to see such stupidity.

(KATRINA goes to the kitchen and pulls out a Soy lent from the fridge and begins to sip it)

KATRINA (continued)

Which brings up an interesting point from Jeremy that you may like. Do you know where the name HAL comes from? Well apparently he was watching an interview where they had all these big name directors, Tarantino, Ridley Scott, you know, and one of them brings up 2001. It turns out that HAL comes from IBM. 'H' is the letter in the alphabet right before 'I', 'A' comes just before 'B', and 'L' comes before 'M'. I-B-M. H-A-L. Who would've thought it, right?

(KATRINA comes forward and places a small device on a chain around Martin's neck. It's long enough that it reaches his hand where she folds it in.)

KATRINA (continued)

Speaking of living in a commercial, I know you're not going to be happy about this one but I think it's important. Slackjawed as you are haha, sorry that's probably inappropriate. Rather, indisposed as you are at the moment, calling for help is going to be a bit difficult I can tell. I'm not expecting you to get in a situation where you've "fallen and you can't get up" but I got you this little alarm to click on if the pain is getting too much for you, you need food, anything really. Don't worry about it being too trivial. It's not Life Alert, it a hard line to me and this beeper so that I can help you.

(THE BEEPER GOES OFF)

(KATRINA looks down and sees that Martin is holding down the button.)

KATRINA

(the beeper continues as she speaks)
Yes, exactly, Martin! I'll be able to hear it anywhere in the house. You... why dear what's the matter? Oh my you're crying. I'm so sorry Martin, it's time for your Novril. Let me go get some.

(KATRINA runs over to her metal shelf and grabs a pill bottle and a water bottle and runs back to Martin.)

(KATRINA removes a couple pills and slowly brings them to Martin's mouth and proffers him water. He slowly drinks and swallows.)

KATRINA

I'm so sorry, Martin. I've been rambling this whole time and you've been in pain. I won't let it happen again.

(THE BEEPER GOES OFF AGAIN. The beeper was left on the metal cart as Katrina was grabbing the pills. She looks back and then back at Martin.)

KATRINA (continued)

I'm sorry, Martin. I really am. The pills should kick in real fast so you'll just have to sit tight for a few minutes.

(THE BEEPER CONTINUES)

KATRINA

Well what's the matter?

(KATRINA notices his lips are moving slowly. She leans in.)

Who am I? (sobbing) MARTIN

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 2

SETTING: The COGADH Residence a week later.
The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: KATRINA is feeding MARTIN some
soup.

KATRINA

I get your frustration, Martin but Dr. Johannsson says not to worry. Although complete amnesia after a car accident is rare, the chances that it is permanent is even rarer. She talked to me about this a bit when you were still in the coma but it was more in relation to the days surrounding the accident.

MARTIN

But it's been a week, Katrina. If it was going to come back to me, shouldn't it have already happened?

KATRINA

I don't know how these things work, my love. The only thing I can say outright is that worrying about it isn't going to do anything.

MARTIN

I know. I know. You've said so but what's more shocking to me is not the lack of memories but the absence of *feeling*. You say you love me and I don't doubt that I loved you but when you say it to me I feel no different than if a transient were to hug me on the street.

KATRINA

Well I would hope I'd smell better. But you can't feel my love?

MARTIN

Yes... No... Yes... I mean I can feel the love that comes from your voice and the genuine tone you convey but I feel guilty because it stirs nothing in me but shame. Shame for not being able to reciprocate your kindness.

KATRINA

I don't want you to feel guilty certainly. Look, you know I love you. I've always loved you. I always will love you.

KATRINA (continued)

But I don't want to force the situation. Since we first promised each other to one another, I can't recall a single day where we did not express our feelings. I suppose I can go on for a short while without saying it. It will hurt but...

MARTIN

But I don't want that either... I don't know what to say. Maybe it's the fact that my world is a bubble, I can't even move enough to wipe my own ass, and when I get an itch I can't do anything to stop it...

KATRINA

Well that's somewhere we can start with. Where do you itch? Let me get it for you.

MARTIN

Nowhere at the moment. But it comes at me suddenly and without any warning. It feeds on my pain, I think.

KATRINA

I wonder if Dante included that in his list of purgatorial tortures.

MARTIN

Dante? Another friend I can't remember.

KATRINA

No, no, no. He's your favorite poet. He wrote the Divine Comedy. You even made a quote of his the epitaph to your college thesis.

MARTIN

(Martin brings his good hand up
to his face to mask his shame.)

Nothing. I've got nothing. I'm fucking wasting away here in this god-damned chair. My mind is a fucking bowl of soup.

(he begins to scratch at his
face a little)

...and now I've got a god-damned itch on my nose that I can't fucking reach! I'm going crazy here, Katrina!

(KATRINA observes this rant
respectfully but clearly hurt
watching her husband suffer. She

finally decides something and
stands up.)

KATRINA

Stay here for a second.

(KATRINA walks over to her metal
cart and pushes it over towards
Martin. She sits down in front
of him and picks up a pair of
scissors. She begins to reach
for his face, when he puts up a
hand hastily.)

MARTIN

Wait. What are you doing?

KATRINA

(looking down at her hands and
laughing a bit)

What does it look like I'm doing? I'm going to take off
your facial bandages.

MARTIN

But why?

KATRINA

So that you can scratch your own nose of course.

MARTIN

But isn't it too soon?

KATRINA

Technically yes. But only by a few days. I think Dr.
Johannsson would understand. It's not like I'm taking off
your casts.

MARTIN

Ok.

(KATRINA begins to reach for his
face again.)

MARTIN

(Agitated)

Wait!

(KATRINA looks a bit frazzled by this outbreak.)

KATRINA

What's the real problem here?

MARTIN

I...

KATRINA

Yes...?

MARTIN

What if you don't like what you see?

(KATRINA laughs.)

KATRINA

Oh Marty, I saw your face when you were in the coma. I know how bad it is already. Honestly though, even Dr. Johannsson said that the long-term effects to your face were going to be pretty minimal. Is that what's been worrying you? That I'll leave you now that you're ugly?

(MARTIN holds his head low but does not answer.)

(KATRINA sighs and holds the beat. She grabs Martin's good hand and squeezes it.)

KATRINA

De amore.

MARTIN

What?

KATRINA

Courtly love. I know you can't remember this but we had a conversation eerily similar to this when we first met back in college. Although you went on to get a Bachelor's in Economics, you minored in Literature. While prepping for a paper once, you got upset by a particular passage in the medieval text *De amore*. Andrew Capillary or whatever his name was wrote on the first physical processes of love: that it begins with eye sight. For love to begin, vision is

KATRINA (continued)

required. Which meant that the blind were incapable of love. Can you guess what you called that?

MARTIN

What?

KATRINA

Bullshit. You called that bullshit. You ranted about Shakespeare's "Love is Blind" quotes and said that it was no wonder that the middle ages had people slaughtering their cats out of superstition and wiping out a third of their population with the black plague. You weren't kidding either. You weren't trying to get into my pants by telling me that you respected me for my mind more than my face. No, you meant it. And that's why I love you. Even if you became Quasimodo, the Elephant Man, or even Mickey Rourke I'd still love you. Get it?

MARTIN

Yes...but... that's not just it...

KATRINA

Go on.

MARTIN

I don't remember my face.

(KATRINA ponders this.)

KATRINA

I see. What about the photos of us around the house?

MARTIN

It's as if they're taken of a stranger... Up until now I've been blessed. Even though I can't recollect any of our relationship, I can tell that it was stronger than most. Or at least, I think it is. But I can't keep feeling like this is a mistake. Like I'm another man that got mixed in and somehow you brought me home instead.

KATRINA

Haha, Martin. It's not as if you're not a newborn babe that's been switched to another bassinet.

MARTIN

(ignoring her remarks)

What if... you take off these bandages and find out I'm not the man you know... the man you love, but instead some other John Doe.

(As MARTIN trails off, he looks down to his lap.)

KATRINA

Look at me.

(MARTIN keeps his gaze down for a while but then brings his eyes to hers.)

KATRINA

Do you see these eyes?

MARTIN

(softly)

Yes.

KATRINA

They are the windows to my soul just as your eyes are the windows to yours. What do you see inside?

MARTIN

(pondering)

Love?

KATRINA

Yes. And do you know what I see?

MARTIN

What?

KATRINA

I see the kind heart of my husband. A woman knows these things. Do you think I could go this long without knowing if you were some other man? No, Martin, I only have eyes for you. I'm sorry to say it but you're stuck with me.

MARTIN

Well I could do a lot worse, now couldn't I?

KATRINA

(chuckling)

You're god damn right. You could've been married to Momma June. Just remember: it's us versus the world.

MARTIN

What?

KATRINA

It's something you used to say. So how about it? Do I take it off now and get this hump past us?

MARTIN

(resignation)

I suppose so.

(Very slowly, KATRINA begins to unwrap MARTIN's face. From the audience's perspective, we see the visage of a handsome man that just a bit a little worse for the wear.

When she finishes, MARTIN looks KATRINA in the eyes breathing hard and then closes his eyes.

KATRINA grabs a small bathroom mirror from the cart and brings it up to MARTIN's face.)

KATRINA

When you're ready...

(MARTIN slowly opens his eyes and just stares at his reflection before dropping his head again.)

MARTIN

I am unquestionably, a most hideous monster... but...

(raising his head to her gaze, he smiles)

... I am without a doubt, *your* hideous monster.

(KATRINA smiles too while
holding back tears. She lowers
herself and hugs MARTIN.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 3

SETTING: The COGADH Residence a week later.
The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: MARTIN is alone in the living room
watching TV. The banner is still
up.

TV

... as the manhunt continues, police are asking anyone with
any pertinent details to contact authorities. If being a
good citizen isn't enough for you, they've announced a
\$100,000 reward for information that leads to a
conviction...

(KATRINA walks through the front
door with groceries in tow.
MARTIN looks over his shoulder
at her and then changes the
channel to sports.)

KATRINA

Oh pay me no mind, you don't have to change the channel on
my account.

MARTIN

It's nothing anyway.

(KATRINA walks towards the
kitchen and begins placing the
items away in cupboards.)

MARTIN

Was I fan of sports before the accident?

KATRINA

Not especially. I mean, you played them from time-to-time
with your friends and watch the Super Bowl...

MARTIN

Super Bowl?

KATRINA (continued)

... every year but I'm not sure that really counts too much. Why do you ask?

MARTIN

I guess the one thing you can say about amnesia is that it requires you to re-evaluate everything you've ever known from a clean slate. I can't get my head around these things. You throw a ball... you can't throw a ball ... you can't throw a ball *forward*... you can't throw it *backwards*... you catch a ball... you putt a ball...

KATRINA

You're rambling.

MARTIN

It just seems so arbitrary.

(KATRINA places her finger to
her cheek and thinks about it.)

KATRINA

I guess you're right. Well go ahead and put the news back on.

MARTIN

Nah it's alright. This is fine. I'm sure it will grow on me.

KATRINA

You don't have to suffer through something just because society says you should. If you don't like it then just leave it at that. You'd probably learn more from the news anyway.

MARTIN

I'm not sure I'd want to anyway. It's all "killings" this and "arson" that. It's all so macabre.

KATRINA

"Macabre" well that's quite the word. Where'd that come from?

MARTIN

Couldn't say.

KATRINA

Well maybe that's a good sign, dear.

MARTIN

It's *something* certainly. It's difficult because I can't say what I know, it just sorta comes to me when I'm not thinking about it.

KATRINA

Exactly, you know that is exactly what Dr. Johannsson said, you'd just have to give it time and don't force it.

MARTIN

But it seems weird though. How is it that I can remember language but not your face?

KATRINA

I wish I could tell you. But memories are janky. I think all peoples' memories are like that to some extent though, Marty, so I wouldn't get too blue about it. I mean, I can't think of a single person I know that'd be able to just recite every word they know. It just sorta comes to you when you speak...

MARTIN

Samuel Johnson.

KATRINA

Hmmm?

MARTIN

Samuel Johnson. The name just came to me when you spoke. He wrote the first English dictionary without any assistance. How'd I know that?

KATRINA

Haha Martin, what did I tell you? Lightning has struck twice in one day. It's only a matter of time until the rest comes to you.

(KATRINA goes to kiss MARTIN
when she grabs her nose.)

KATRINA

Oh Martin, you know I'm a fan of your manly musk but you're smelling more like a musk-ox than a man these days.

MARTIN

These casts don't exactly breathe do they?

KATRINA

No, unfortunately they don't. Hold on a sec.

MARTIN

I'm not going anywhere.

KATRINA

(rolling her eyes)

Cute.

(KATRINA exits off to the kitchen and pulls out two buckets from under the sink. She turns on the tap water and fills the first with soapy water and the second with plain water. KATRINA returns with the buckets swaying slowly. A towel drapes over her shoulders.)

KATRINA

I know you'd love to take a shower right now...

MARTIN

What's a shower?

(KATRINA stops and wonders if MARTIN is joking. His laughing that follows answers the question.)

MARTIN

I actually learned all about them today. This movie called *Psycho* was on Cinemax. Pretty scary. Who saw that coming?

KATRINA

You know, maybe the amnesia thing is a blessing in disguise. I should show you all the movies with great twists which were ruined for me as a child. Like *The Sixth Sense*.

MARTIN

What's it about?

KATRINA

Well I'll not spoil it. I'll check Netflix later. First thing's first. Let's check that shirt off and throw it straight in the incinerator.

MARTIN

Don't you think that's a bit extreme?

KATRINA

Certainly not.

(KATRINA tosses the shirt off to the side and then reaches into the soapy water bucket and pulls out a large sponge. She wrings it out slowly and then begins to scrub slowly at MARTIN's skin.)

MARTIN

Oooh that makes my hair tingle. What do you call this heavenly soak?

KATRINA

It's a sponge bath. And I really should've given you one sooner actually. I remember once when I was 14, I broke my ankle playing softball and went without a shower for two weeks. I have never again felt so dirty in my life since then. I'll be sure to make this a more regular thing though.

MARTIN

Ohhhh I won't complain at all. Sponge bath, you say?

KATRINA

That's right.

MARTIN

Oh.

(MARTIN suddenly erupts with laughter.)

KATRINA

What's gotten into you?

MARTIN

Well after *Psycho* finished there was this after-movie

MARTIN (continued)

discussion session and somebody mentioned an interesting piece of trivia about the director... Albert Woodcock or something like that.

KATRINA

Alfred Hitchcock.

MARTIN

Yes. Yes. That's the one. Well apparently there was a French film which came out before *Psycho* which showcased a gruesome drowning in a bathtub. A young child that had watched it and went on to refuse to take baths, turning instead to showers. Not long after, the same kid watched *Psycho* and had a similar response. Well the mother was clearly upset with the affect these movies were having on her child and wrote a letter to Alfred ... Hitchcock. She ended the letter asking what she should do to wash her daughter. Mr. Hitchcock responded with "Give her a sponge bath."

(KATRINA laughs too. KATRINA trails off laughing and she concludes her sponge bath of Martin. She takes the towel off from around her shoulders and begins to dry off MARTIN from behind with her arms extending down onto his chest. Her fingers trail along his broken skin which has begun to scar over. She stops at a given point.

KATRINA gives a sigh of exasperation.)

KATRINA

Was it so low?

MARTIN

Hmmm?

KATRINA

Nothing.

(MARTIN reaches up one hand and gently squeezes her forearm.)

MARTIN

Whatever it is, I can handle it, alright?

KATRINA

Thanks, Marty but it's not that serious.

MARTIN

Come on. Get it off your chest.

KATRINA

This crash has taken so much from you.

MARTIN

I know.

KATRINA

I'm not sure you do. Not yet anyway. But you will at some point and then it won't matter anymore. It's taken just about everything from you.

MARTIN

Well if I don't know what I'm missing, you and the news seem to be sure to remind me of it every waking second...

KATRINA

It's not that... oh I'm just being foolish.

MARTIN

Now please excuse me here for sounding too much like a stranger. From the few movies I've seen so far, this feels like the part where the man is supposed to understand subconsciously what the woman is talking about. Now while this generally comes from years and years of intimate experience, years that we have technically accumulated, my inability to access them, I feel, justifies me bypassing this unspoken exchange and to be forthwith with you: what in the hell are you talking about?

(KATRINA snickers.)

KATRINA

That almost sounded rehearsed.

MARTIN

Thank you.

KATRINA

You have a birth mark, Martin. Here on your shoulder. I could've sworn it was a half an inch higher just beyond where your gash occurred, but it's not there so I must be mistaken.

MARTIN

A birthmark?

KATRINA

Yeah. It sort of resembled a little hand. But it's gone. It looks like it was scrapped right off in the accident. The road just sanded it off your shoulder like it was nothing with no mind for anyone else.

MARTIN

You sound as though you had a fetish with it.

KATRINA

Ha no. Don't be ridiculous. But I've spent many nights tracing it after you'd fallen asleep and I suspect I'll miss it.

MARTIN

Well you know what it means? I've been born again. I've seen the other side and I have come back reincarnated.

KATRINA

Don't be so dramatic. I'm serious here.

MARTIN

On the contrary. I am taking you seriously. Tell you what. The first thing we'll do when I'm able to walk is go to a tattoo parlor. I'll ask them to put it back. How's that sound?

KATRINA

Now I know you're kidding.

MARTIN

If it would make you feel better, then certainly I would.

KATRINA

(sighing)

I know you would. Thank you, dear, but it won't necessary.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 4

SETTING: The COGADH Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: KATRINA is standing behind MARTIN with her hands over his eyes. In front of the two of them is some exercise equipment specialized for MARTIN: some exercise balls, an arm/leg cycle bike, and a treadmill with a gait-harness overhead.

KATRINA
Alright, Martin. You ready?

MARTIN
(confused)
I guess.

(KATRINA removes her hands)

KATRINA
Ta da.

(MARTIN looks around
unimpressed)

MARTIN
I'm not sure the pomp and circumstance were necessary.

KATRINA
(shrugs)
Perhaps not. You knew this was coming eventually but now we can exercise here instead of somewhere else. The doctor says that getting you in shape is important and getting in two sessions a day is going to be crucial on getting you on the right path. Now, I know that I'm not a physical therapist myself but I've been reading up on it and I've spoken with a few physical therapists before buying all of this. I've got a regimen drawn out to get you started on the road to recovery. After you've built up a bit and feel more comfortable going out, we'll get you set up with a

KATRINA (continued)
professional. So let me walk you through what a session is going to look like...

MARTIN
Hey Katrina, Judge Judy is about to come on...

KATRINA
Yeah so?

MARTIN
I'd like to watch it.

(KATRINA snorts)

KATRINA
You're not getting out of it that easily. I'll have Alexa TiVo it for you or whatever she does if you really care.

MARTIN
(defeated)
What's first?

KATRINA
Alright, so the one thing that everything I heard and read about said was important was range of motion. You're lucky that your legs were only sprained so we can get you practicing walking pretty early. But, like anything else in life, we'll have to build up to that. You'll be on the stationary trainer here for fifteen minutes at a pace of your choosing. This is really just to get the blood flowing. I also specifically chose this model since it's got the arm options which will be nice once your arm heals. In the meantime, it'll be just like riding a bike while seated in a lazy boy.

MARTIN
I don't know how to ride a bike.

KATRINA
It doesn't matter, you don't have to worry about balancing on this. Once you're done with that I'll be stretching out your legs so your tendons don't get too stiff and your muscles seize up when you're working out. I'll also do your good arm but we'll have to be careful not to aggravate the other one.

MARTIN

Is that it?

KATRINA

Nope. We'll then move on to resistance training. We'll start out simple enough; basically, you just pushing or pulling against my arms. This way, we can make it as easy or as hard as it needs to be. Once you've got the hang of it, we'll move on to elastic bands and finally weights. We'll also be incorporating these in early next week to work on your core strength. And lastly, we'll put you on the treadmill starting out with the gait harness holding %90 of your weight and weening you off eventually.

(MARTIN doesn't respond)

KATRINA

Penny for your thoughts?

(MARTIN just groans)

KATRINA

Are you overwhelmed?

MARTIN

Yes. I have a hard enough time with my good arm as it is. I don't see how I'm supposed to do everything else you're telling me we're going to do when I can't even wipe my own ass correctly.

KATRINA

It'll be tough, yes, but it's not anything we can't push through.

MARTIN

(angry)

It's not 'we' that must do it. It's 'me.'

KATRINA

Uh, Mister man, I may not be the one firing the synapses that lift your legs, but I am most certainly a major part in this endeavor.

MARTIN

I just don't see the point in all of this.

KATRINA

To get back to your normal self. What other reason do you need?

MARTIN

And what if that's not possible?

KATRINA

It is, Dr. Johannsson...

MARTIN

Can you stop telling me what Dr. Johannsson says!?! She may have a medical license but she is not *in* my position! She doesn't know what I'm going through any better than you! Better yet, I don't even want you talking to her about me.

KATRINA

(taken aback)

Fine.

(after a short beat)

Well if getting better for yourself or me isn't enough then maybe you'll do it for our kid.

MARTIN

What?

KATRINA

I'd been postponing telling you until I was absolutely sure that it wasn't a false pregnancy, but I had three positive tests this morning.

(MARTIN doesn't respond for a good while)

MARTIN

I don't think I can take much more of this.

KATRINA

Hold on now. I didn't *do* this to you. This is just life.

MARTIN

I have no control over my own life right now. Literally zero! I can't take tie my own shoes, I can't cook my own food, I can't even take a shit on my own. Now I've got a kid coming and I can't even respond appropriately. I can't argue, "we used birth control so how did this happen?" I can't. Why? Because I don't even know if we did!

KATRINA

As a matter of fact, we were using birth control but I was out of my prescription on a certain Friday evening after a few drinks, we said, 'fuck it! Let's fuck!'

MARTIN

Can't you get back on birth control?

KATRINA

Martin! It would one thing if we used birth control and it failed but it was our own negligence that brought this life into existence. And I'm sorry if I feel that it's our duty to own up to our mistakes. Don't you?

(MARTIN doesn't respond)

KATRINA

Fine. Don't answer that. I can tell that you're not in the right state of mind to start your physical therapy so I'll leave you in here with Judge Judy while I draft up some announcement cards.

MARTIN

Don't.

KATRINA

Excuse me?

MARTIN

I can only take so much right now. If you love me at least do me one favor and give me some time to process it before telling anyone?

KATRINA

Even my mother?

MARTIN

Yes.

KATRINA

Alright, Martin. But only because I love you.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 5

SETTING: The COGADH Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: MARTIN holding an electric razor in his hand. KATRINA is holding a mirror up in front of his face. The banner is still up.

MARTIN
I don't see what the point of this is?

KATRINA
You've been babied along up until now and if we're going to make you a walking, talking, active member of society again, we're going to have to get you up to speed. Who knows, I might even turn on some montage music for the moment.

MARTIN
(searching for excuses)
But I don't even know how it works?

KATRINA
Martin, you've seen me use it at least a dozen times by now.

MARTIN
(still scrapping the bottom of the barrel)
You've used it on me, yes, but that doesn't mean I could see what you were doing?

(KATRINA SIGHS.)

KATRINA
Well they say that you can't see the elephant if you're standing too close. Ok, you see the switch there?

(MARTIN turns it over in his hand slowly but not connecting the dots (intentionally).)

(KATRINA sets down her mirror
and grabs his hand holding it
she turns his hand with the
button towards him.)

KATRINA

Ok, this is the switch right here. Your thumb pushes the
switch forward and it's as simple as that.

(MARTIN pauses for a second.)

MARTIN

I can't push the switch.

KATRINA

Oh Martin, you're not an absolute invalid. Just turn it on.

MARTIN

I'm trying OK!?!

KATRINA

You don't need to give me the attitude, mister. I've seen
you use the remote so you've got some functionality of your
arms.

(MARTIN resigns at this and
turns it on.)

KATRINA

OK.

(she brings the mirror back up)

Now bring it up to your face and run it against your skin
until it's smooth?

MARTIN

The razor?

KATRINA

No, 'it' being your skin. I can stand here all day.

(MARTIN begins to bring it up to
his skin but stops an inch away
and then brings it away.)

MARTIN

What if I cut myself?

KATRINA

You're not going to. Go on.

(MARTIN begins to shave and gets barely along when his hand slips and the razor falls to the ground. The electric razor breaks as it hits the ground.)

MARTIN

I'm sorry.

(KATRINA purses her lips and holds her breath.)

KATRINA

It's fine.

MARTIN

I didn't mean to.

KATRINA

I said it's fine. I'll just have to go get your Gillette instead.

MARTIN

Why?

KATRINA

Because I want you to look prim.

MARTIN

Yeah, but what for?

KATRINA

Does there have to be a reason other than wanting my morning and evening star to look his best?

MARTIN

Well you say that, but you let me go without bathing for a week and a half...?

KATRINA

You're not going to let that go, I guess. Fine. This was going to be a surprise, but we are expecting company.

(MARTIN takes a long beat and when he speaks again, the word comes out elongated.)

MARTIN

Who?

KATRINA

Some of your, our, closest friends. I've had them messaging me daily asking after you. I didn't want to overwhelm you initially, so I asked them not to call you directly.

MARTIN

(a bit agitated)

What I am supposed to say to these people?

KATRINA

"These people" are our friends, Marty. They're not expecting a speech or anything. They care about your wellbeing and want to see that everything is going alright in your recovery.

MARTIN

Well... it's not.

KATRINA

Well then tell them that.

MARTIN

Ok, I'm not sure you're getting this so I'll come right out with it: I don't even know what to say to you most of the time so how am I supposed to handle a GROUP of new people?

KATRINA

I see. Well Martin, there's a fine difference between the pillow-talk you have with a significant other and shooting the bull with friends. You don't have to talk about anything in particular. Hell, you don't have to say anything at all if you don't want to. They'll just talk and it'll be nice for you to see a conversation play out that wasn't scripted.

MARTIN

At least scripted conversations make sense... most of the time.

KATRINA

In any case, Martin, I think it's a crucial step towards your recovery. Even Dr. Johannsson seems to think so.

MARTIN

I thought I told you I didn't want you talking to her.

KATRINA

Marty, you're being melodramatic. That's literally what she's been trained to handle. She said that early dementia patients can actually benefit if they are taken to active retirement homes. Something about it stimulating their minds by bringing them out of isolation. And, Martin, if there is one thing that can be said about you, you are a social butterfly. Without question, I've never seen a day go by that you didn't socialize whole-heartedly with at least one person.

MARTIN

That honestly makes me feel worse. I'm a shell of the man I was, how can I live up to that image? I'm not even going to know their names.

KATRINA

Well, that's easily rectifiable.

(KATRINA walks over to the wall and starts grabbing a few photos off the wall as well as a few from the shelf nearby.)

(MARTIN looks over his shoulder as she's doing this a bit confused but saying nothing.)

(KATRINA walks over to him and begins with a photo of Martin in college with arm over the shoulder of another man.)

KATRINA

Who is this?

MARTIN

How should I know?

KATRINA

This is Isaac. Ike for short. You can remember it like Ike Eisenhower ... better yet no, think of the candy Mike and Ikes. He was your college roommate for three years. He's in real estate trying to prove that he can make it bigger than Trump someday. His significant other, Frank, runs a nightclub downtown.

(picking up a Xmas card with
ISAAC & FRANK together)

KATRINA (continued)

Yes, that means he's a homosexual and, no, you've never sleep together. That's what you say anyway although I wouldn't have put it past you to experiment in college.

(KATRINA puts down the card and
grabs another. This one has
MATRIN & KATRINA beside JEREMY &
CHRISTINE)

KATRINA (continued)

This human embodiment of a STD here is Jeremy, also known as Germ. He's a software engineer with Microsoft and knows just about everything there is to know about computers. He's the one that set up Alexa for you. He's also a complete ass and I don't know how Christine can put up with his tortuous pranks.

(KATRINA grabs one more. This
one of a younger MARTIN and
RONALD)

KATRINA (continued)

Last, but not least, Ronald, your Godfather. He was your childhood mentor and gives you business advice from time-to-time. He built up a company with Marc Lore which sold for ... I'm not quite sure but it was a lot. He's currently building another and going solo on this one. If there was one man that helped make you into the man you are today, it's him.

(KATRINA shuffles the pictures and
then shows one to MARTIN)

KATRINA (continued)

So... who is this?

MARTIN

Ike?

KATRINA

Yup. See it's not a trick question... and what's his boyfriend's name?

MARTIN

Frank.

KATRINA

Exactly... and these two?

MARTIN

Jeremy and Chris...

KATRINA

...teen.

MARTIN

Christine. Yes.

(produces the last photo)

KATRINA

And lastly...?

MARTIN

Ronald.

KATRINA

You got it. See? It's easy enough to give you a few names before they get here. If you choose to greet them by their names when they arrive, that's up to you. If not, then I know they won't hold it against you.

MARTIN

But that feels like I'm cheating them.

KATRINA

Of what?

MARTIN

I don't know. Of hope perhaps? They'll hear me say their names and then just assume that I'm back to normal and then I have to say that I was fed the answers beforehand. It'd be embarrassing.

KATRINA

How do you even know what embarrassment is? You haven't been around anyone else yet to be embarrassed by.

MARTIN

That's hardly a case against me.

KATRINA

So what? You want me to call them and tell them not to come?

MARTIN

Yes.

KATRINA

Well that's not going to happen. The date's set and it was going to happen sooner or later so we may as well have them over now.

MARTIN

Fine. I just have one thing to say then.

KATRINA

Ok.

MARTIN

Don't tell them about the baby. It's already enough pressure on me as it is.

KATRINA

You. You. You. Martin it isn't always about YOU. You may not know this but friends are the best way to get through hard times. They deserve to know.

MARTIN

If I could put my foot down, I would. Don't mention it. We'll tell them when the time is right.

KATRINA

Alright, I won't bring it up, Martin. You happy?

MARTIN

Somewhat.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 6

SETTING: The COGADH Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: KATRINA and MARTIN are well-dressed and the place is tidied up a bit.

(the doorbell rings)

KATRINA
Ready?

MARTIN
No.

KATRINA
You'll be fine.

(KATRINA opens the door to FRANK and ISAAC. She greets them each with a *faire la bise*)

KATRINA
Ah hello Ike. Frankie. Come on in. Hand me your coats.

(they each remove their coats)

FRANK
Thank you, dear.

ISAAC
Thank you.
(gesturing to the banner)
Well I'm glad to see that the party decorations was money well spent.

KATRINA
(confused then looking)
Oh yes. I forgot completely that it was there.

FRANK
Would you like me to take it down?

KATRINA

No. It's alright. You know when you see something enough that you forget about it? Then it just becomes part of the décor?

FRANK

Unfortunately all-too-well.

(FRANK leans in to whisper away
from ISAAC.)

FRANK (continued)

This man here still has a fan-made poster up from when *Avatar* came out.

ISAAC

(to FRANK)

"I see you."

(to KATRINA)

I love that poster. It's actually my face photoshopped to look like a Na'vi warrior.

FRANK

Yeah, well, it's tacky and is the result of a previous relationship.

ISAAC

You know, I might send it off to James Cameron and have him sign it. Then you might just leave well enough alone.

(the doorbell rings again)

KATRINA

Pardon me.

(KATRINA pushes past FRANK and
ISAAC and opens the door to
JEREMY and CHRISTINE. JEREMY is
holding a wrapped package)

KATRINA

Christine. Hi!

CHRISTINE

Hi! Come here!

(KATRINA and CHRISTINE hug)

They part and KATRINA looks to
JEREMY)

KATRINA

(flatly)

Jeremy.

JEREMY

(voice of HAL)

"I'm afraid I can't do that."

KATRINA

I heard something on the radio the other day that made me think of you. This business about superbugs, you know, the anti-biotic resistant infections? The only hope seems to be using viruses in the near future. But, scientists speculate that even that won't last forever to stave off the germs from evolving.

JEREMY

(shrugs)

Germs and cockroaches. Life will find a way, they say... or was that just Michael Crichton. Well if that's a thinly veiled threat, I'll be sure to have Christine open any suspicious envelopes in the near future.

ISAAC

(jumping in and gesturing to the
package)

Well for one to speak of suspicious parcels what is this unexpected package?

JEREMY

It's a gift, *clearly*, for Martin.

CHRISTINE

Yes, now why don't you go give it to him?

JEREMY

All in due time, snookums. I don't see Ronald yet anyway so let's at least wait for him.

CHRISTINE

(with accusing eyes)

Well why don't you at least go say hello?

JEREMY

Yes. Let us go and make our visit.

(the group walks over to MARTIN)

(MARTIN looks up at them and
smiles nervously)

(At last, Isaac walks forward
and kneels down to MARTIN's
height to talk eye-to-eye)

ISAAC

How are you feeling, Martin?

MARTIN

(beat)

Fine, Isaac. Thank you for asking.

ISAAC

It's true then.

MARTIN

Yes...

ISAAC

You don't remember me?

MARTIN

No.

ISAAC

And Jeremy?

MARTIN

No.

ISAAC

Well in that case, do you think it's a bad time to bring up
that you still owe me \$1000 for that prostitute in Vegas?

(FRANK jokingly throws a pillow
at ISAAC)

MARTIN

Yeah, but you'd have to reach into my pocket for me, I'm
afraid.

ISAAC

(chuckling)

It's fine, Martin. It's fine. You don't need to force the situation. It'll come back to you eventually.

MARTIN

(shyly)

That's what the doctor keeps telling me.

ISAAC

Yeah, but what do they know, right?

MARTIN

(loosening up a bit)

Exactly. Have a seat everybody. There's no need to stand on my account.

(everyone takes a seat except
for JEREMY)

(JEREMY walks forward with the
wrapped package and puts it on
the cart next to MARTIN)

JEREMY

This is for you, bud. But let's hold off until Ronald arrives, ok?

MARTIN

Ok.

(JEREMY sits down)

(a long awkward silence lingers)

CHRISTINE

So... Martin, how have you been spending your time? I know you've always wanted more time to yourself to learn the piano...

MARTIN

Did I?

CHRISTINE

Well, you've mentioned it in passing before. But, I'm sure you've got a lot of down time. Perhaps you've been writing the next great American novel?

MARTIN

No. Mostly just movies and news these days.

FRANK

Oh, well Ike and I were listening to a good story on the way over here. Apparently, they finally figured out how that guy broke out of San Quentin.

KATRINA

What guy?

FRANK

Louis Boyle, I think his name was.

MARTIN

I watch the news. It doesn't mean I want to talk about it.

FRANK

Oh I get what you're talking about. The news is just so depressing. But this was fascinating! It turns out the guy is an absolute chameleon. A man so good at lying he could fool a Sicilian.

MARTIN

I don't really care to be honest.

ISAAC

No, really it's good story.

MARTIN

Can't we talk about something else? More upbeat?

JEREMY

Ok, I promise we'll move on but now they've got my attention. Finish it and then we'll move on.

(MARTIN looks a bit agitated at
this)

FRANK

So this man walked out in the most simplest of ways. He lied. Turns out, he was transferred and they were missing some paperwork. Well apparently, prisons will send in investigators undercover to make sure the prisoners are being treated well. With the lack of paperwork, the staff assumed he was one of these investigators so they treated him extremely well. They gave him the best food, the best

FRANK (continued)

cell, and so on. He figured out what was going on and just 'slipped into the role.' He somehow got a friend to send in a doctored business card and presented it to the staff and gave them their stellar 'evaluation performance.' They ended up sending him out the door with a smile on their faces.

JEREMY

That can't be true.

FRANK

It is! I swear. That's what they said on the radio. The reason they took so long to release his escape method was because they were embarrassed and tried to hide it.

CHRISTINE

Oh god. That's incredible. What was he in for to begin with?

FRANK

I'm not sure exactly. They only glossed over that part. It sounds like he was a White Collar criminal that ended up killing a partner.

CHRISTINE

My goodness. I bet he'd be an interesting...

MARTIN

Did they describe what he looked like?

(they all look at MARTIN)

FRANK

No, actually. I guess they don't care about those things on the radio. Here I'll Google a picture of him for you if you'd like.

MARTIN

No, you don't ...

(the door knocks)

(KATRINA walks to the door)

JEREMY

And there, at last, is Ronald.

(the door opens and RONALD enters.
In one hand is a bottle of
champagne. RONALD's Welsh Corgi
"ZWEI" goes running up to the
seated individuals)

(all of them speak to him at about
the same time, or at least in the
order ZWEI runs up to them)

FRANK
Hi there, Zwei.

ISAAC
Oh hey there, turkey butt.

CHRISTINE
Hey cutie.

JEREMY
Stumpy! How's it waggin'?

(ZWEI is so excited to see
everyone and is panting with joy
until he sees MARTIN. His
hackles raise and he begins to
bark at MARTIN. This shocks the
rest of the group)

KATRINA
Hey, Zwei. It's alright. It's Martin. He's just a little
beat up.

(ZWEI continues to bark)

RONALD
Zwei!

(the dog ceases and runs behind
Ronald's legs)

RONALD
I don't know what's gotten into him.

KATRINA
It must be the bandages. He's quite an eyeful.

RONALD
Yeah, you could say that. Martin almost had me scared
himself. With all this stuff in here, it looks like you're
building the Six Million Dollar Man.

JEREMY

Well they can afford it at this point.

RONALD

Oh that's for sure. Here,

(RONALD reaches down and picks
up ZWEI. He begins walking to
MARTIN)

RONALD (continued)

Come on Zwei. Say hello to your second favorite human,
Martin.

CHRISTINE

Oh put the poor dog down.

RONALD

No dog of my will insult a friend. Go on, Martin. Give him
a solid pat on the head.

MARTIN

He doesn't look like he wants me to.

RONALD

Go on. I won't take no for an answer.

(resigned, MARTIN raises his
hand up to Zwei whom promptly
bites his fingers)

MARTIN

Ow! God damn it!

RONALD

Zwei, no!

(RONALD bats ZWEI's muzzle. He
sets him down)

RONALD (continued)

No! Not ok.

(to MARTIN)

I'm so sorry, Martin.

MARTIN
(through gritted teeth)
It's fine.

KATRINA
Is it bleeding? I'll cover it.

MARTIN
(with venom)
I said it's fine.

RONALD
Seriously, Martin. I won't abide an aggressive dog. I'll take him to the vet and have him put down after this if you want.

MARTIN
(getting annoyed)
Please. Let's just move on.

RONALD
Ok, Martin. I'm going to apologize again though. I feel so ashamed. God I miss Sadie.

ISAAC
Now *THAT* was a dog! He was such a gorgeous collie.

JEREMY
Yeah and smart. Do you remember that time at the party when he herded all of us into little groups?

(everyone seems to agree. Except
MARTIN)

MARTIN
No.

ISAAC
What's that you got there?

RONALD
(looking down)
Well I thought this was a celebration? Katrina can you get some glasses?

(thinking of reasons to forgo
drinking with her pregnancy)

KATRINA

Martin really shouldn't be drinking with his medications.

RONALD

Oh come on. It's one glass. It's no different than using
mouthwash.

CHRISTINE

I'll get some.

KATRINA

No, stay. I'll get them.

(KATRINA gets up and grabs some
champagne glasses)

RONALD

Clearly, I wasn't the only one to think to bring something.
(gesturing to the box)
Who brought that?

CHRISTINE

Jeremy got it for Martin.

RONALD

Isaac came empty-handed?

ISAAC

(grabbing Frank)

Nonsense, I brought the Frankincense. Which probably means
that Germ's got gold in his box.

FRANK

Or bitcoin.

(CHRISTINE snorts)

JEREMY

(to Christine. Betrayed)

Did you tell them?

CHRISTINE

(clearly lying)

No.

(KATRINA has now completed
passing around the glasses)

KATRINA

What's the scoop?

(CHRISTINE puts her fingers to
her lips and 'locks a key')

(RONALD pops the champagne)

RONALD

Aw come on now, Christine. We'll find out eventually.

(RONALD makes the round pouring)

JEREMY

Go on then. Tell them. If you haven't sent it *The Onion* by
now, then I'm sure it's already making the rounds on Reddit
or Facebook anyway.

CHRISTINE

(snickering throughout)

There's not much to tell, honestly. So, for those of you
that don't already know, Jeremy patented an invention of
his six months ago and he's been marketing it to investors
since then. Well last week he invited a few big wigs to a
nice dinner but he forgot his wallet at home. When the bill
came, he looked up to the waitress and asked, "Do you take
bitcoin?" God the waitress thought he was making it up. You
may as well offered her Chuck E. Cheese tokens for all she
knew.

RONALD

Bitcoin? Seriously?

JEREMY

The bill was for \$600. Bitcoin wasn't out of the realm of
possibilities.

RONALD

So did they have you cleaning dishes?

JEREMY

Thank god, no. My investors laughed it off and paid the
bill. They said it was worth it just for the story itself.

(shifting tone)

Are we going to do this toast or not?

ISAAC

Yes, let's!

RONALD

To Martin. When being alive is cause enough for celebration.

(everyone toasts)

(KATRINA mimes drinking)

(CHRISTINE notices)

CHRISTINE

Are you pregnant?

KATRINA

What? No.

CHRISTINE

You faked it?

KATRINA

Oh, I just prefer a nice Chardonnay honestly.

CHRISTINE

You scoundrel. How far along are you?

(KATRINA looks to see that
MARTIN is staring intently at
her. His eyes tell her not to
say anything)

KATRINA

(with resignation)

About a month.

CHRISTINE

Right before the accident. That's pretty good odds.

KATRINA

Look, we're here for Martin today, not me. There's eight months until the little sprite comes along so we can postpone that for another time, alright? Jeremy what did you bring for Martin?

JEREMY

(jumping up)

It's about fucking time!

(putting the box in MARTIN's lap)

I was feeling pretty clever at myself for this one. Don't think we've forgot about the baby, Katrina. We'll be coming back to that in a second. I'm only willing to let it go since everyone knows I'd rather have a baby made from electronics than through copulation.

CHRISTINE

You can say that again.

JEREMY

I said that I'd like...

CHRISTINE

Just shut up and get along with it.

JEREMY

(MONTY PYTHON VOICE)

Get on with it!

(speaking to self)

Ok shutting up now.

(addressing everyone)

So, Martin, can you please tell us the last time you left the house?

MARTIN

(confused a bit)

I haven't left?

JEREMY

Oh, that's simply tragic. You're saying that you haven't been out of the house once yet since the accident?

MARTIN

Not really, no.

JEREMY

What about memories, trips you made with Katrina at some point in your past?

MARTIN

Nothing comes to mind.

JEREMY

Well... since you can't go out into the world, how about through the realm of technology, we bring the *world* to you?

(at this, JEREMY pulls out a VR headset from the box)

MARTIN

What is it?

JEREMY

It's virtual reality: the future of travel. Basically, with these goggles on, you can go anywhere in the world you want without ever leaving your chair.

MARTIN

I'm not so sure...

FRANK

Woah, Germ, you really outdid yourself this time.

ISAAC

I agree.

JEREMY

(faux humility)

Thank you. And Martin, there's so many implications besides the fact you can travel around on your own. Katrina can show you the area. She can show you some of your favorite vacation sites and maybe that can help trigger something. I went to the liberty of researching memory loss before picking these out and they say that sometimes it just takes a certain stimulus to do the trick, and if there's one thing you can say about the modern world: there's no shortage of stimuli. Hell it's even just good for gaming.

FRANK

Can I try it out after Martin?

ISAAC

Hey we can just buy one ourselves.

FRANK

But why buy it if I don't like it?

JEREMY

That's for Martin to decide, I guess. But it won't take a

JEREMY (continued)
second to throw up the live feed of what he's seeing here
on the television.

RONALD
I have to admit, I'm impressed too.

(JEREMY begins to tighten the
straps on MARTIN's head)

MARTIN
Jeremy, thank you but I'm really not feeling at my best
right now. Perhaps later.

JEREMY
Martin, there's nothing to be afraid of. There's nothing
there that can harm you.

MARTIN
It's not that, I just really would prefer not to right now.

JEREMY
I get it but let me show you how it works real fast, like
two minutes tops, so that you can figure it out on your own
later. Ok?

MARTIN
I'd still prefer...

JEREMY
OK everyone, if you can direct your attention to the
television screen.

(they all look)

(the tv screen shows a suburban
street)

JEREMY(continued)
Martin, if you would be so kind, please turn your head to
the right.

(MARTIN obliges)

(the screen follows the
direction)

JEREMY (continued)

Now to the left.

(MARTIN does so again)

(the screen follows again)

JEREMY (continued)

What you see around you, Martin is the house from the outside.

KATRINA

That's amazing!

JEREMY

Now let's take you somewhere more exotic.

(JEREMY presses buttons)

(the screen shows a range of
snow)

JEREMY

You're right now standing atop the highest point in the world, Everest.

FRANK

Woah. That's going to give me vertigo.

JEREMY

Pretty realistic, I know. It's kinda funny how new technology gives people that reaction. I imagine it's sorta how they felt when the first filmed train came barreling down towards the audience.

(back to MARTIN)

JEREMY (continued)

Now, Martin, in addition to moving your head, you can actually move around. If you push your chair forward, you'll see as such.

(MARTIN moves his chair forward)
(The screen changes)

MARTIN

OK, I'm feeling weird. Let's call this good.

JEREMY

I'm almost done. So, I'm holding the remotes at the moment but their easy enough to use. I can press this button to move you backward 10 feet.

(the screen jumps back)

JEREMY

And this to move you forward.

(the screen jumps forward so that Martin launches over the ledge and MARTIN begins to fall)

(MARTIN grabs his wheelchair arms frantically and lurches backwards)

(JEREMY very quickly resets him to the top of the mountain)

JEREMY

Woah, sorry about that.

MARTIN

Seriously, I feel like I'm going to be sick.

JEREMY

That's completely normal, Martin. Your brain is giving you inputs that your body can't process. There have been astronauts that have gotten more nauseous from this than space travel.

MARTIN

Alright, we done?

JEREMY

One last thing. Now that you've been sitting here as Christopher Reeve for the last month, you might be happy to know that you can experience what it's like to be Superman more than he ever could. You can fly.

(the screen grows small as the earth pulls away and the earth becomes small as the VR set brings MARTIN to the stratosphere)

(MARTIN hurls vomit. Everyone looks at him alarmed as he rips off the goggles and throws them. He leans over the side of his chair and continues to puke. He can't contain himself and people rush to help. He loses his balance and falls out of his wheelchair)

(KATRINA rushes over to help)

KATRINA

Oh Martin! I'm sorry.

(MARTIN looks up with absolute hatred in his eyes)

MARTIN

YOU DID THIS TO ME! YOU DID THIS TO ME!

JEREMY

No, Martin. I'm sorry. I took it too far. It was me.

MARTIN

You. All of you. What the fuck do you know about me. You're all leeches. You come here trying to become my best friend and pretend that everything is just fine. It's not. Get the fuck out of my house! Now!

KATRINA

Martin. I'm sorry. Please don't take it out on them.

MARTIN

Shut up. I hate you. I hate this chair. I hate this house. Get out! Get out! All of you!

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIIScene 1

SETTING: Katrina's office at her marketing firm

AT RISE: KATRINA (now in the second trimester of her pregnancy) is examining the diligent work of one of her graphic designers, CAROLINE, who has a blowup of a logo on a stand. The printed image is tacky with an awful neon green background and a yellow font which makes it difficult to read. It seems to be an advert for an environmental agency of some sort.

KATRINA

It's not just gaudy. It's god awful. You didn't agree to go to market with this, did you?

CAROLINE

No, I told Green Peace that I'd have to talk to you first.

KATRINA

What was your phrasing exactly?

CAROLINE

I just said to them that the colors made it a bit hard to read for me and then I told them about a color blind friend of mine that thought that the Starbuck's logo was black for years. I mentioned that this might be even harder for people with color deficiencies and that I was sure they didn't want to alienate potential clients.

KATRINA

That's a good save but you should learn to stick to your guns more, Caroline.

CAROLINE

I'm not paid to stand up to the clients. I'm paid to design what they give me.

KATRINA

Clients might be hard to work with but most don't have an

KATRINA (continued)

artists' eye. That's one of the reasons they hire firms such as us, to guide them in their decisions. Did you see that Christmas Pringles advertisement at Target?

CAROLINE

I get my groceries at Trader Joes.

KATRINA

It showed a bunch of Christmas ornaments with the Pringles logo printed on them. Underneath it said, "Merry Pringles." Not "Pringle Bells." Not "Pringles all the Way." And certainly nothing about "Kris Pringles." No, it said, "Merry Pringles."

CAROLINE

Ugh.

KATRINA

Exactly. And how many graphic designers saw that and could've said something to have avoided that disaster?

CAROLINE

Too many.

(CHRISTINE begins to enter the room but stands fast until KATRINA is done talking)

KATRINA

Yeah. Go back and be more direct with them. I'm sure they'll respect you for your opinion. If they give you grief, I'll come to your aid.

(As CAROLINE leaves the room, CHRISTINE gives her a wide smile and is about to speak but CAROLINE just ignores her. CHRISTINE looks a bit flabbergasted and continues on to where KATRINA is seated, looking a bit exasperated)

CHRISTINE

What you say to her?

KATRINA

Just for her to do her job.

CHRISTINE

Such a messy business. I've read that women should never work for other women. Too much of a power play.

KATRINA

I heard similar sentiments when I first got into the industry but I never paid them any attention. Now that I'm here though, I can see how that idea came about. What brings you by?

CHRISTINE

Jeremy, of sorts. He asked me to come talk to you but not tell you that he asked me to come talk to you. You know what I'm saying?

KATRINA

It's about his invention, I take it?

CHRISTINE

Yeah. Ostensibly, he wants me to ask about your rates and the possibility of sprucing up his diagrams. Give them some "pizazz" or whatever. But, really, he wants to know how you think Martin would react if he were asked for a small personal loan or maybe even asked to go in as a partner?

KATRINA

Tell me again. What is Jeremy's invention exactly? I remember him saying something about coffee but his description was so convoluted I didn't really figure out what he was talking about.

CHRISTINE

He gets that way, sometimes.

(sighs)

It's a handprint encoded espresso machine.

KATRINA

Does it...?

CHRISTINE

Require you to place your hand on a scanner before your cup is brewed. Yes, it's exactly what it sounds like.

KATRINA

It sounds...

CHRISTINE

Superfluous.

KATRINA

I was going to say..."interesting."

CHRISTINE

That's what the investors called it too, actually.

KATRINA

Well it is. Does Jeremy have any idea how much each of these machines would cost to build?

CHRISTINE

He seems to think he could get it down to \$1000 a unit if they produce at least 10,000.

KATRINA

I won't deny that it sounds like a thing right out of the Jetson's but from a marketing perspective, it'd be a nightmare to promote. It's a niche community we'd be selling to.

CHRISTINE

That's also what the investors said, except for the Jetson's part.

KATRINA

What has Jeremy said in all of this?

CHRISTINE

For all of his genius, he seems to be completely illiterate when it comes to reading the writing on the wall.

KATRINA

I can't deny it's a novel concept but Keurig already seems to have the market on coffee makers these days as it is.

CHRISTINE

That doesn't seem to matter to him at all. He likes to recite the old adage that "Pioneers Take the Arrows, Settlers Take the Land."

KATRINA

I'm not sure I know what it means.

CHRISTINE

Neither do I. So what are your thoughts?

KATRINA

On Martin?

CHRISTINE

Yes.

KATRINA

Under normal circumstances, I'd say, "Go for it." Even with the high cost, I'm sure he'd say yes. After Martin gave Jeremy that ten grand to launch that website a few years back, he told me that he was sure that the site would fail. When I asked why he gave him money anyway, Martin told me that he wasn't investing in the website, but in Jeremy instead. He believes that Jeremy will make it big eventually if given the chance, and he doesn't want Jeremy to lose focus or heart because other investors don't see the long term potential of working with him.

CHRISTINE

(spoken in a matter-of-fact tone)

But these aren't normal times?

KATRINA

No. They're not. Is it any coincidence that I'm here and not at home right now?

CHRISTINE

You said before that Martin was doing better and so you felt he could take care of himself at home.

KATRINA

Well that wasn't entirely the truth. After the incident, he barely spoke to me for three days. I apologized on several occasions but, at a certain point, I just accepted that he would have to get over it on his time. Every day I'd push him to do his exercises but he'd just go through the motions without putting in any effort. Not long after that I came home from shopping and found that he had fallen out of his wheelchair. The next day, I had an in-home security agency come by to install cameras in case something like that happened again while I was away.

(she holds her breath)

CHRISTINE

Go on.

KATRINA

He went on another tirade. This one was worse than the previous and I thought I was going to have to sedate him. It was actually his idea for me to go back to work. He wanted time away from me.

CHRISTINE

Katrina, you should've said something to me by now.

KATRINA

I didn't really want to say that my husband no longer wants me around. How do you even begin to tell a friend that?

CHRISTINE

Like this. You're doing fine. Has he had any progress since the party?

KATRINA

None. He still remembers nothing and can't walk on his own at all.

CHRISTINE

Maybe he's just depressed.

KATRINA

The doctor suggested that early on but I'm skeptical of that. She also was under the impression that he'd be back to near-normal by now and back in the office.

CHRISTINE

Well I think perhaps you just answered your own question.

KATRINA

I don't follow.

CHRISTINE

Maybe he's faking it?

KATRINA

What!?!

CHRISTINE

How long has the doctor been doing what she's doing?

KATRINA

I don't know. A long time, I'd guess.

CHRISTINE

So maybe she's right after all. And maybe Martin is just scared to return to work.

KATRINA

That's ridiculous.

CHRISTINE

How does he spend his days?

KATRINA

Watching old movies and the news from time to time.

CHRISTINE

Sounds like a relaxing life to me. I can't remember the last time Martin took a vacation of any kind. So maybe he's just taking the time to recover.

KATRINA

That's unlike him in every fashion. Doing nothing but watching television is the antithesis of him. Honestly, at this point, I'm sure it's doing him more damage than good sitting around all day. And he would know that too.

CHRISTINE

Fine, ignore me then.

(CHRISTINE looks at her watch)

I've got to go, dear. I have an appointment across town in 20 minutes.

KATRINA

Alright, I'll walk you out.

CHRISTINE

I can manage. I'll let Jeremy know what you said.

KATRINA

Ok.

CHRISTINE

And don't think too much about what I said about Martin. You know him better than I do anyway. TTYL

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIIScene 2

SETTING: The Cogadh Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: MARTIN's wheelchair is empty.
KATRINA comes through the front door.

(KATRINA unlocks the front door and walks past the living room. At first, she does not notice the empty wheelchair. She gets all the way to the kitchen and pulls out a personal blender. She adds a few ingredients from the refrigerator and mixes herself a smoothie. After she's had a long draught, she finally notices the vacant chair. She puts down her glass and walks into the Livingroom. She stares at the chair. At this point, MARTIN begins walking down the stairs with some difficulty but walking nonetheless. KATRINA waits until he's at the bottom step)

KATRINA

Martin?

MARTIN

(looking up alarmed)

Katrina. I didn't hear you come in.

KATRINA

You're walking.

MARTIN

I am.

KATRINA

That's incredible.

MARTIN

Well one foot in front of the other, as they say.

KATRINA

Martin, you're *walking*!

MARTIN

Yes, I heard you the first time.

KATRINA

Honey, I'm just so happy ... you don't know how much...

(KATRINA runs over to Martin and
embraces him. She is still
holding her smoothie and some
pours on his back)

KATRINA

Oh Jesus, I'm sorry.

MARTIN

Don't worry about it, Kat.

(KATRINA grabs a towel and sets
MARTIN down in the couch. From
behind she wipes the back of the
shirt off)

KATRINA

There. It's still damp though. Would you like me to get you
a different shirt?

MARTIN

No.

(KATRINA sitting down next to
him on the couch and putting her
hand in his and leaning her head
on his shoulder)

KATRINA

Martin, this is the start of something good.

MARTIN

(downcast)

Uh huh.

KATRINA

How should we celebrate?

MARTIN

Let's just sit here for a while ok?

KATRINA

OK.

(They sit for a moment and then
KATRINA remembers something,
gets up, and goes to her purse.
She pulls out her phone and
dials a number and puts the
phone up to her face)

MARTIN

(standing up)

What are you doing?

KATRINA

I'm calling Dr. Johannsson.

MARTIN

No.

KATRINA

That's nonsense. She'll want to know about your progress.

(MARTIN walks across the room
and takes the phone from her as
the phone is ringing)

KATRINA

Hey...

MARTIN

I said, no. It's none of her business.

KATRINA

None of her business? She's your *doctor*!

MARTIN

They're paid. Anyone that is paid can't actually care about
you.

KATRINA

So, a person that spends 12 years in higher education shouldn't be compensated for their efforts?

MARTIN

I didn't say that. I'm saying that being a doctor doesn't necessarily guarantee morals or compassion.

(KATRINA's phone begins to ring)

MARTIN

Don't answer that.

(KATRINA looks at him for a second and declines the call)

KATRINA

Wait.

(figuring something out)

You were upstairs. You don't just get up out of a wheelchair and climb a flight of stairs.

(KATRINA looks at MARTIN expectantly)

KATRINA (continued)

How long have you been walking?

(MARTIN looks away ashamed)

KATRINA

Martin, I asked you a direct question. How long have you been walking?

MARTIN

(softly)

About a month.

KATRINA

A month!?! I've been working every day to help you get better. Every day, I've stood by your side and tried to rehabilitate you in every way I could. I stretch you. I massage you. I put on the harness. And guess what, you've fought me every step of the way!

MARTIN

I didn't mean...

KATRINA

Now you're telling me that you've been faking it this whole time!?!

MARTIN

It's not like that...

KATRINA

What else are you faking?

MARTIN

Nothing.

(the phone rings again)

MARTIN

Don't take it.

KATRINA

She'll call again.

(answers call and forcibly calms
herself)

Hi, Dr. Johannsson. I think I accidentally butt-dialed you or something. Ok. Thank you. I'll talk to you later. Buh-bye.

(hangs up)

Has your memory come back too?

MARTIN

No.

KATRINA

No?

MARTIN

(emotional)

No.

KATRINA

"No."

(with venom)

You're so full of shit, Martin. It probably came back to you the first day you came in here.

MARTIN

It didn't... It hasn't...

KATRINA

So what, you don't like your work anymore so you decide that you're just gonna fake it so you don't ever have to go back. Is that it?

MARTIN

Stop!!!

(they just stand there)

MARTIN (continued)

Look. I admit I should've told you by now but I didn't...

KATRINA

Why?

MARTIN

I didn't tell you because I didn't want to give you more false hope that your husband was coming back to you...

KATRINA

(rushed)

Martin...

MARTIN

(stern enough to alarm KATRINA)

Let me finish...

(calmer after seeing look on
KATRINA's face)

...please.

(beat)

Every time I do *anything* of *any kind*, you begin to talk about how 'your memory will come back any day.' Look at what you were saying to me not even five minutes ago on the couch. It's taxing. It's just so draining, Katrina, that you can't understand. To feel like I'm letting you down. Continually trying to be something that I'm not.

KATRINA

It's called being supportive. Do you even love me? Do you even remember how to love someone, anyone anymore?

MARTIN

I love you. It's us versus the world, remember?

KATRINA

Yeah, I do remember. The question is, "Do you?" God, is

KATRINA (continued)

this why you wanted me to go back to work? So that you could have the house to yourself?

MARTIN

Yes, but so I could get ready for the child. I wanted to surprise you. I wanted to wait until my memory came back and then then I'd be able to come to you as a complete man: legs and all...

KATRINA

I can't listen to this right now. If you want to be alone so be it.

(KATRINA begins to walk away but
MARTIN grabs her arm and turns
her towards himself)

MARTIN

That's not it. I don't want to be alone. I just... Katrina, I'm sorry.

KATRINA

Saying so it not enough. Shit, I don't even know how angry I can be at you. I'm sitting here wondering if I should pity you or scream at you. Do you know what you've done to me? Do you? Don't answer that. I couldn't stand to listen to another one of your lies... I... I... don't feel so well.

(KATRINA grabs her stomach and
falls to the ground)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIIScene 3

SETTING: Hospital room.

AT RISE: KATRINA is laying prone in a bed mindlessly watching TV. Her stomach is flat and she looks dejected.

(the door knocks and then opens)

KATRINA
If that's Martin, Nurse, tell him to just go on home.
That's where he'd rather be anyway.

RONALD
It's not Martin.

(KATRINA turns her head and
looks at Ronald)

KATRINA
Ronald?

(RONALD enters the room & takes
a seat next to KATRINA. Ronald
has newspaper under his arm)

RONALD
You alright, kiddo?

KATRINA
Yeah.

RONALD
You don't have to hide behind that mask for me, Kat.

(KATRINA begins to cry)

KATRINA
I'm sorry, Ronald. I don't want to make my problems, yours
too.

RONALD

I wouldn't be here if I wasn't willing to take on that role. Talk to me.

KATRINA

I don't know what feels worse right now: knowing that I killed my own child or that I have to go home to Martin.

RONALD

You didn't kill the baby, Kat.

KATRINA

The doctor said it was stress, Ronald. Stress.

RONALD

That could hardly be attributed to you...

KATRINA

It was *my* idea to take Martin's recovery exclusively under my care. The doctor said I should get an in-house nurse to watch over him and to help with the physical therapy but I didn't listen. I told her how Martin hates medical professionals and would resent strangers in his house.

RONALD

Don't you mean 'our' house?

KATRINA

'His' house? 'Our' house? I don't even know anymore. I'm not sure I can take much more of this to be honest. The man I married died in that crash, Ronnie. I'm sure of it. Martin died, and some demon came along and crawled inside his corpse.

(RONALD doesn't answer. He
fidgets at his newspaper)

KATRINA

What? Aren't you going to tell me that's nonsense?

RONALD

Well the demon part is nonsense for sure. It's not like an exorcism is going to give him back his memories.

KATRINA

Exorcism? What's on your mind, Ronnie?

RONALD

It's nothing.

KATRINA

Ronald J. Collins. Don't come walking into my hospital room spouting the importance of being frank with friends when you won't abide by those rules.

RONALD

Ok, but maybe I'll regret saying this. It's just that... I've had the nastiest thought come to me.

KATRINA

What?

RONALD

Have you been following the news about that man, Louis Boyle that talked his way out of San Quentin?

KATRINA

No... but I think I know what you're talking about. Frank and Isaac brought it up at the party before you showed up if I remember correctly.

RONALD

Interesting. How did Martin react when they talked about it?

KATRINA

(thinking for a second)

He wanted to change the subject. He said that talking about the news was depressing.

MARTIN

Most interesting. Well, I didn't know much about the guy neither. I heard about him a bit on the radio, but that was about it. Apparently, he was found dead yesterday.

(RONALD hands KATRINA the paper)

MARTIN (continued)

Take a look at this.

KATRINA

Ugh! The news is allowed to post photos that graphic?

RONALD

I guess so. The paper says that he was found like that. Ostensibly, he's been dead for months. Just laying at the bottom of the river with a chain tied around his ankles. A kid found him after the waterline started dropping.

KATRINA

Why are you showing me this?

RONALD

Flip to page A9, where they pick up with the rest of the story.

(KATRINA flips through the pages
and suddenly stops and gasps)

RONALD

So, it's not just me, then.

KATRINA

My god, he looks just like Martin.

RONALD

I thought the same thing. And honestly, I saw the photo in reverse. I was sitting out there in the lounge waiting for you when out of the corner of my eye, I saw a woman reading the paper. I didn't get the best look at it since it was upside down and across the room, but it looked unmistakably like Martin to me. I figured it was an article talking about when the Unconquerable Martin Cogadh would be returning to the bull pen. I'd been hearing some talk about that on the radio as well, so the notion didn't seem that weird to me. When she set down the paper, I walked over and picked it up myself.

KATRINA

Martin never mentioned a brother. He always told me he was an only child...

RONALD

...and that's true. I was there when he was born as you know. I think I would've noticed if something else popped out, living afterbirth or whatever.

KATRINA

A cousin perhaps?

RONALD

I seriously doubt it.

KATRINA

So, you've got some theory cooked up?

RONALD

I do. And I'm ashamed to even speak of it since it's half-cooked and unsubstantiated.

KATRINA

Come out with it.

RONALD

What if Martin isn't actually Martin?

KATRINA

What?

RONALD

To remind you, I've only had 10 minutes to think about this before coming in, but from what I read in the paper, the dates work out. First, this White-Turned-Blue Collar Criminal, Louis Boyle, talked his way out of prison two months ago and some change. Less than a week later, Martin 'miraculously' survives his near-fatal car accident. Upon return home, he claims to remember nothing. Now suddenly, Louis Boyle's body is found with authorities saying that he was killed probably less than a week after the escape. You have to admit, that's an extremely short turn around for any Mob Boss or Mafioso to get a hit out on him. I mean, they didn't know he was going to get out that way, right?

KATRINA

So you think that Martin... the invalid at my house... is a imposter *pretending* to be Martin?

RONALD

I don't know. Maybe. It's hard to tell, but what I do know is this: what better way is there to hide your tracks than to have everyone think you're dead. But oft-times in crime that's not enough. Everything can be tracked. An identity that just comes up out of nowhere will always be visible to the right person. So instead, what if you slip into an already existing role? You'd have no better cover to lay low... indefinitely. *AND...*

KATRINA

But he drove his car into a median going 78 miles per hour.

RONALD

I didn't say it wasn't somewhat far-fetched. God only knows the truth in these matters but look at yourself. You said he wanted to change the conversation when Louis Boyle came up?

KATRINA

Yes, he did.

RONALD

And now a miscarriage in all of this?

KATRINA

He couldn't have...

RONALD

I don't know but I would ask them to take close look at your blood while you're already here.

KATRINA

I don't think I can listen to much more of this.

(KATRINA looks away from RONALD)

RONALD

Fine, but let me ask you this: what would you risk to get 500 million dollars?

(RONALD gets up to leave)

(KATRINA turns back towards
RONALD)

KATRINA

Wait. Where are you going? I didn't mean for you to leave. Just change the topic of conversation.

RONALD

I can't stay. Now that I've got this on my mind, I'm not sure I can go another second without knowing the truth.

KATRINA

What are you going to do?

RONALD

I'm going to go talk to Martin.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIIScene 4

SETTING: The Cogadh Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: MARTIN is doing some physical therapy exercises alone in the living room.

(the door knocks)

(MARTIN looks to the door and then walks over to his wheelchair and takes a seat)

MARTIN
Who is it?

JEREMY
It's Jeremy.

MARTIN
(soft beat)
What do you want?

JEREMY
Nothing. I brought some food.

MARTIN
I've got food here.

JEREMY
Well you don't have a maid cooking for you, do you? Marty, I drove all the way out here. Come on, let me in.

MARTIN
Alexa, open the front door please.

(the door unlocks)

(JEREMY walks in with hands full of Chinese food)

JEREMY
Ah thank you.

MARTIN

You can leave it on the counter.

JEREMY

Leave it on the counter? I came to share it with you.

MARTIN

You're not still upset about last time?

(JEREMY begins to serve out two
bowls)

JEREMY

Well yeah it was a little sad to see you destroy a \$600 pair of VR goggles, *but* they had been gifted to you so, as far as I see it, they were yours to break.

(JEREMY hands a bowl with
chopsticks to MARTIN)

MARTIN

Thanks for being so understanding.

JEREMY

Any time.

(JEREMY takes a seat)

(JEREMY notices MARTIN
struggling with his chopsticks)

JEREMY

Oh, sorry. I should've probably gone for a pizza instead. Would you like a spoon or a fork?

MARTIN

No. I've got to make weight for the big fight I've got coming up. Sticking with these will help me keep my calories down.

(JEREMY chuckles)

JEREMY

Honestly, it should be me apologizing to you for what happened. I thought a lot about what went down after I left. Christine was talking about how maybe we threw too much at you in one go, you know? Like maybe just Ronald

JEREMY (continued)

should've come by the first time so you didn't have so many things jumping out at you at once.

MARTIN

Maybe.

JEREMY

Kat does love you, though. Christine brought up an interesting point during our conversation.

(JEREMY leaves the last statement dangling waiting for MARTIN to answer)

(MARTIN just keeps eating sloppily)

JEREMY

You must've really smashed your head in.

MARTIN

Yup.

JEREMY

You're not supposed to agree with me! You're supposed to say something like "oh why do you say that?" Which itself should've been your response to the first point.

MARTIN

(a small smirk)

You didn't ask a question.

JEREMY

No, it's called conversation and...

(catching on that he's being played by MARTIN)

You cur. You had me going there. But seriously, you know how Christine was able to tell that Kat loves you?

MARTIN

How?

JEREMY

Because she gives you tough love. In truth, that's what the entire party was for. To get you out of your shell. Do you

JEREMY (continued)

think she'd go through that much trouble if she didn't care about you?

MARTIN

I wouldn't know.

JEREMY

No! A person that doesn't give a shit about another person ignores them. Which I think is just about the worst thing imaginable. I'd argue that telling a homeless person to 'piss off' is kinder than pretending they don't exist.

MARTIN

That's a weird way of looking at things.

JEREMY

Are you listening to me? Go easy on her alright? She's definitely going to need support after what she's been through. She means well and as long as she keeps harassing you then you know that she has your best interest at heart.

MARTIN

Sage advice.

JEREMY

Hell. What do I know?

(uncomfortable beat)

JEREMY

Have you given any thought to what your future will be like?

MARTIN

Doesn't everyone?

JEREMY

No, I'd say that most people die never having lived at all. Why? Because they never stopped to ponder their own. Worse yet are those that consider their future, and nothing seems to work out for them anyway. Take me for example. I think about my future *all the time* and nothing ever seems to go right... but then who am I talking to? I should shut up.

MARTIN

Maybe I should give Katrina a call. Let her know that I'm thinking...

JEREMY

Like I can't get over these investors. I take them out. Show them a good time. Pay for their meals and part ways telling me how much they love my product only to never hear from them again.

MARTIN

Ragueneau.

JEREMY

What?

MARTIN

Sorry, my memory seems to come back to me in snippets of literary references that pose no value to me. Christ, I can't even remember conceiving the child that I'm never even got to hold. Can you imagine how bad that feels?

JEREMY

No. I don't think I can.

MARTIN

You just feel hollow inside and the expectation that something should be there manifests anxiety and bitterness.

JEREMY

That sounds like my pre-meeting jitters with the investors.

(getting agitated)

MARTIN

(sarcastic)

Investors?

JEREMY

Yeah, you know I'm glad you brought them up, Martin. I know how much of a businessman you are and how you've probably got restless leg syndrome on your brain right now. I was thinking that perhaps you might like to invest in my patent?

MARTIN

Is this why you came over?

JEREMY

Well... not entirely, no.

MARTIN

Get out.

JEREMY

Fine. I knew I shouldn't have brought it up. Christine even told me so, but I couldn't help myself. Martin, you know that if you could go back in time and buy PayPal out from under Elon Musk when they fired him, you would. I just don't want you to see me get more successful than you and you get mad at me for it.

MARTIN

Alexa, open the front door. And don't hit Germ on the way out.

JEREMY

I'm going. I'm going.

(one foot out the door)

Despite me making an ass out of myself there at the end, I did enjoy this and I hope you did too. The stuff I said about Katrina is true and you'd be a fool to mess that up.

(JEREMY closes the door and
after a second MARTIN gets up to
stretch. Suddenly the front door
opens and RONALD walks in seeing
MARTIN standing)

MARTIN

(sarcastic)

Well come right on in. What'll you be drinking?

RONALD

We need to have a tête-à-tête.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIIScene 5

SETTING: Hospital Doctor's Office

AT RISE: KATRINA is sitting in DR.
JOHANSSON's office opposite her.

KATRINA

Thank you for seeing me on such short notice, Doctor.

DR. JOHANSSON

I could hardly refuse. Your tone on the phone suggested it was important. Are you sure you're ok? A miscarriage does more damage to the psyche more often than any actual harm to the woman herself.

KATRINA

I'm fine. Thank you for asking.

DR. JOHANSSON

Ok, but if you feel like you need to talk to someone more about it, you can call me or if you'd prefer, I can refer you to a couple psychiatrist colleagues of mine.

KATRINA

I'm fine. Really.

DR. JOHANSSON

Back to the reason as to why you're here... I have to admit it's a bit unorthodox to request that results be read by specialists in other fields.

KATRINA

I'd rather hear it from someone I feel more comfortable with. That and I had a few other things I wanted to address.

(The doctor sifts through the pages)

DR. JOHANSSON

Your test results came up perfectly clean. Again. I'm not implying you are looking for grounds for a lawsuit with a pharmaceutical company but if you were, you wouldn't have a case.

KATRINA

No, it's nothing like that.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Was there reason for you to suspect something might be amiss with the results?

(KATRINA doesn't answer)

DR. JOHANNSSON

I'm afraid to say that the most likely culprit was stress, as the ER physician diagnosed. Unless you have something else you want to tell me...?

(KATRINA shifts silently in her chair)

DR. JOHANNSSON

Alright. If you don't want to talk with me, I've got other patients...

KATRINA

I think my husband isn't what he says he is.

(the doctor doesn't say anything for a while and then begins to chuckle)

DR. JOHANNSSON

What?

KATRINA

I know it's a strange thing to say but something is terribly off about Martin.

DR. JOHANNSSON

So, what? You think a nurse put him in the wrong bassinet?

KATRINA

I made the same joke at one point but now I'm thinking it's not so farfetched. Hear me out.

DR. JOHANNSSON

I think you should probably just start at the beginning.

KATRINA

Well there's really not much to this that I can say

KATRINA (continued)

honestly. I've had Martin home now for a little over a month and his memory still has not come back to him.

DR. JOHANNSSON

And you think he's faking it. Is that it?

KATRINA

Yes. No. Maybe. It feels like he's telling the truth, but his memory should've come back by now, right?

DR. JOHANNSSON

In most cases, yes. But every case is unique.

KATRINA

You know for a modern science, I feel like I should be able to get a lot more concrete answers than what you're giving me.

DR. JOHANNSSON

(slightly offended, but collected)

I'm not going to stand here and defend my life's work outlining our advancements in neuroscience, but like the weather, astrophysics, or really just about anything in the field of science, there's a finite amount of information we really know. I've had friends at MIT turn down jobs at Boeing because they felt that there are too many unknown variables in aerodynamics. In the brain, there's even more.

KATRINA

More misdirection.

DR. JOHANNSSON

It's not misdirection. It's just simply the reality of the situation. But if you are thinking that there's more to the story than what we're seeing, we can take another look at Martin. There are tests we can do to see if his memory loss is psychosomatic. It's not out of the realm of possibilities that he's honestly just stressed about the idea of returning to work after such an accident.

KATRINA

It's more than that. Martin's always been a fighter, but never to me. He's kind. But I've seen a hatred in his eyes which disturbs me. They weren't the eyes of my husband.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Katrina, this seems rather loose-stringed.

(KATRINA pulls out the newspaper
clipping from RONALD)

KATRINA

What do you make of this then?

(DR. JOHANNSSON briefly reads
the article and looks up)

DR. JOHANNSSON

I'll admit, they share a certain likeness.

KATRINA

"Share a certain likeness"? They could be twins!

DR. JOHANNSSON

You have more to go on I take it? Or is this article it?

KATRINA

Well there was the matter when I first took off his
bandages.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Do tell.

KATRINA

You had told me to wait two weeks before removing the
bandages, remember.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Of course. To minimize risk of infection.

KATRINA

So, he was feeling especially down and had started venting
about some of the things which had been bothering him, most
notably, itches he couldn't scratch easily. He mentioned he
had one on his nose. We still had a few days until we were
supposed to take off the bandages, but I didn't think it
could hurt so I went to take them off.

DR. JOHANNSSON

You really should follow the guidelines doctors give you.

KATRINA

I know. I know. Anyway, when I went to take them off, he began to complain.

DR. JOHANNSSON

About the pain?

KATRINA

No. He was nervous about me seeing his face. He was somehow scared that a mistake had been made and that he wasn't really my husband.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Given his amnesia, I don't find that all out of the ordinary? Anything else?

KATRINA

Well the wording he used here or there has been off... and the fact that he's been walking for a month now and never told me. When I found out and wanted to call and let you know the good news, he got upset with me.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Did he get violent with you?

KATRINA

No, but he was forceful.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Hmmm. When was this?

KATRINA

Right before my miscarriage.

DR. JOHANNSSON

I see. But didn't you say before that Martin has an aversion against medical professionals? It would make sense then that he wouldn't want to tell me.

KATRINA

Yeah, but he has amnesia, so I fail to see how that's still possible.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Hard to say, but it is possible. Some fears are just instinctual for people. I read a study where babies had a rubber snake and a gun placed in their crib. They always

DR. JOHANNSSON (continued)

shied away from the toy snakes even though they've never seen one in real life. Incidentally, they didn't have the same reaction to guns which would indicate that we as a race haven't evolved to recognize their risk, but that part's beside the point. Sorry.

KATRINA

Ok, but what about me? He didn't tell me? And I've been dotting every waking moment I've been at home on him.

DR. JOHANNSSON

I hate to be the devil's advocate here, but maybe he just doesn't trust you yet. It's a sad thing to hear, I know, but until Martin gets his memory back, *if* he gets it back, he's going to be different in ways that you can't fully understand.

(KATRINA doesn't respond to this)

DR. JOHANNSSON

(sighs)

Tell me, Katrina. Have you ever heard of Phineas Gage?

(KATRINA shakes her head, no)

DR. JOHANNSSON

I'd wager that you have heard about him but perhaps just don't remember the name. Did you ever hear about the man in the 19th century that had a steel bar spike through his head?

KATRINA

Yes! You're exactly right, I do remember hearing about him now that you mention it. In the eighth grade, I think. What's your point?

DR. JOHANNSSON

So, while Phineas Gage became a minor celebrity for surviving his accident by the grace of god, people are often unfamiliar with the aftermath and with his recovery. Even though he had the same body and retained his memory, people really didn't think of him the same after the incident. His personality changed drastically. He became irritable and worse, volatile. Tell me, Mrs. Cogadh, what makes a man a man? Or a woman a woman? Their memories or the body itself? Both? Neither?

(KATRINA just shrugs)

DR. JOHANNSSON (continued)

So, I guess what I'm trying to say is that rather than jumping the gun and saying that the *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* has begun, maybe there's a more logical, rational, albeit simpler, solution?

KATRINA

To sum it up, it's either in his head or mine?

DR. JOHANNSSON

That's a pretty bowdlerized version, but yes. Given what I've said, do you have anything else to add?

KATRINA

Not that I think I want to tell you.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Why the change of heart?

KATRINA

You just seem to have an answer for everything. It's not like you're listening to me at all.

(KATRINA gets a text message)

(KATRINA reaches into her purse
and pulls out her phone and
reads it as DR. JOHANNSSON
continues talking)

DR. JOHANNSSON

I am listening, Katrina, but I'm also trying to be the voice of reason in this situation. If you're looking for someone to vindicate potentially inaccurate and unfounded assertions against your husband, then consulting your doctor isn't the right person, I'm afraid.

(KATRINA still has not looked up
from her phone and this
frustrates the doctor)

DR. JOHANNSSON

Katrina, despite my profession spreading my time thin talking to multiple patients in a limited schedule, I make it a point to be 'here' for them fully when I'm in a room

DR. JOHANNSON (continued)
during an appointment. That means, I don't have nurses or
other employees knocking on the door, I leave my beeper
just outside the office, and I never look at text messages
while...

KATRINA
(looking up)
I'm sorry, but I just found out that a good friend of my
mine just died in a car accident.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IVScene 1

SETTING: The Cogadh Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: MARTIN is in the kitchen making himself a sandwich when the front door opens. KATRINA enters.

MARTIN
You should've let me know you were on your way. I'd have made something better. It's no bother though. I'll just make another.

KATRINA
I'm not hungry.

(KATRINA makes her way to the couch)

MARTIN
Did you get my flowers?

KATRINA
Yes, I did.

(MARTIN walks over with two plates)

MARTIN
I tried calling you a few times to check in, but it went straight to voicemail.

(MARTIN extends a plate to KATRINA)

KATRINA
I said I wasn't hungry.

MARTIN
I'm not that hungry either so I thought I'd just split it with you.

(KATRINA doesn't take it so
MARTIN sets it on the table in
front of her)

MARTIN

In case you change your mind.

(MARTIN moves to the adjacent
couch and takes a seat.)

MARTIN (continued)

So, yeah. As I was saying, I tried calling, but I couldn't
get through.

KATRINA

(lying)

They took my phone away. It's standard procedure for
hospitals.

MARTIN

(unsure)

Ah ok.

(an awkward air lingers)

MARTIN

I'm sorry. For everything. I should've been there for you
sooner and I should've told you when I started walking. I
didn't think it was a big deal and so...

KATRINA

You did to. Don't try to deny it.

MARTIN

(sighs)

You're right. I did know and any excuse I give will fall
short, but I'll say it again. I'm sorry. I just want you to
know that I plan to start being more open. It wasn't right
for me to put so much pressure on you.

KATRINA

Have you heard about Ronald?

(MARTIN, who has been ignoring
his sandwich up until now, takes
a bite and purposely masticates

slowly and swallows before
answering.)

MARTIN

Yes.

KATRINA

How'd you find out?

MARTIN

The news.

KATRINA

Ah.

MARTIN

How'd you know?

KATRINA

I got a message.

MARTIN

From whom?

KATRINA

Ronald's brother.

MARTIN

He sent you a message? That sounds impersonal.

(a soft beat)

Why didn't I get one?

KATRINA

I couldn't say.

(they sit there in silence some
more. MARTIN continues at his
sandwich not knowing what else
to do.)

KATRINA

Did you cry?

MARTIN

(through a full mouth)

No, it wouldn't seem right.

(realizing his poor manners, he
swallows)
If I did, they'd just be crocodile tears.

KATRINA
Crocodile tears?

MARTIN
Yeah. Seeing it on the news didn't feel much different than
watching them talk about someone else I don't know.

(KATRINA is shook up at this
response. Enough so that MARTIN
notices)

MARTIN (continued)
I'm sorry, but that's the way I feel. I don't want to lie
to you.

KATRINA
(pulling a handkerchief from her
purse and dabbing her eyes)
I appreciate it.

(MARTIN thinks of a proper response)

MARTIN
I do feel bad though. Like Fredrick Douglas mourning the
death of the mother he barely knew, my suffering right now
is in the expectation that I should cry, but can't.

(KATRINA collects herself)

KATRINA
He came...

MARTIN
(through a full mouth)
Hmmm...?

KATRINA
He came to see you, right?

MARTIN
(swallows again)
No. What makes you think so?

KATRINA

I don't know. I obviously wasn't here to cook for you and I'd have guessed that Ronald would've thought to bring you something.

MARTIN

Nope. He never did. Jeremy came by however. He brought some Chinese food. It was actually a pleasant talk despite him using it as a cheap bribe.

(KATRINA eyes the other half of the sandwich and finally picks it up)

KATRINA

Oh yeah?

(takes a bite)

MARTIN

Yeah, he wanted me to finance production on his new "gadget."

KATRINA

And you said yes?

MARTIN

No. I don't even know what is.

KATRINA

(defensive)

It's a hand-print encoded espresso machine.

MARTIN

Oh. Well I don't even drink coffee that much anyway.

KATRINA

I don't know. It sounds pretty cool. I bet Hammacher Schlemmer could sell truckloads of them.

MARTIN

You mean that magazine that you keep throwing away the instant it comes through the front door.

KATRINA

Well, yeah. But I only do it because before we haven't had the money to buy anything from them.

MARTIN

Hmmm. Should I have given him something?

KATRINA

I don't know. It's your money.

MARTIN

I thought it was ours.

(KATRINA gives a small smile &
takes another bite)

(MARTIN gets up and walks around
the back of the couch behind
KATRINA. He goes to rub her
shoulders. She shudders
underneath. MARTIN stops)

MARTIN

I'm sorry. You've been rubbing my sore muscles for so long
while I haven't reciprocated at all.

KATRINA

No, it's alright. Thank you. I'm just shook up is all.

MARTIN

By Ronald?

KATRINA

By everything.

(MARTIN nods at this and turns
away for a second)

MARTIN

Let's agree to turn over a new leaf, ok? And by 'we' I mean
'me.' I was serious about it. I promise to be more open
with you and everyone else. Let's start off by getting
Jeremy and Christine over here and invest in their future.
And while we're at it, invite Isaac and Frank and show them
that I'm back on my feet. What do you say?

KATRINA

Yes!

(BLACKOUT)
(END OF SCENE)

ACT IVScene 2

SETTING: The Cogadh Residence. The decorations are still up.

AT RISE: MARTIN is standing in the Livingroom. He is wearing slacks, nice shoes, and a white tank top. On his shoulder is a 3"x3" gauze bandage. KATRINA is walking down the stairs in a nice dress and putting in earrings. From her angle, KATRINA cannot see the bandage.

KATRINA
Martin, they're going to be here any moment. Why aren't you dressed yet?

(MARTIN turns around at the tail-end of her sentence)

KATRINA (continued)
What happened to your shoulder?

MARTIN
I had something I wanted to show you.

(KATRINA walks up to him and looks him in the eyes, then down onto the bandage)

MARTIN
Well, go ahead. Open your gift.

KATRINA
All shapes and sizes, eh?

(KATRINA slowly raises her hands to his shoulder. She slowly pulls away the bandage and there, is a purple birthmark shaped like a small hand.)

MARTIN

It's a tattoo.

(She looks up curiously)

MARTIN (continued)

I promised you that I would get one to replace what was taken from me.

KATRINA

I didn't expect...

MARTIN

I know you weren't going to hold me to that promise but I thought that I should anyway. And, honestly, I feel good for it. It feels as if I've put one more puzzle piece back into place.

(KATRINA gingerly traces it. He pulls back slightly)

MARTIN

Ow.

KATRINA

Sorry.

MARTIN

It's ok. It's still a little tender. I, obviously, didn't remember what it looked like. So, I went through some photos of us until I could find one of it. It was hard to see in the photo so I'm sure the proportions are off but...

(KATRINA hugs MARTIN abruptly)

KATRINA

It's perfect.

(the doorbell rings)

KATRINA

Are you ready?

MARTIN

(takes a deep breath)

I think so.

(MARTIN picks up his shirt,
jacket, & tie. He begins to walk
up the stairs)

MARTIN (continued)
Give me a second. I want to make an entrance.

(KATRINA watches MARTIN walk up
the stairs and waits until he
goes into the bedroom before
opening the front door.

ISAAC, FRANK, JEREMY, and
CHRISTINE walk into the house)

KATRINA
Wow, you're all together. One might think you took an Uber.

CHRISTINE
No, it was actually sort of funny. Jeremy and I saw them
driving way under the speed limit...

ISAAC
We were *going* the speed limit. We just weren't going 15
miles over like everyone else in LA.

CHRISTINE
So then Jeremy and I thought it would be fun to ride up on
their bumper until we got here.

FRANK
(rolling his eyes)
Yes. Absolutely hi-larr-ious.
(noticing the banner again)
I see that's still there.

(KATRINA notices it again)

KATRINA
(chuckling)
Oh, I had completely forgotten about it... again.

FRANK
Would you like me to take it down *this* time?

KATRINA

Well, it's vogue again. Martin and I have some good news for you all.

ISAAC

His memory came back?

KATRINA

Well not *that* good of news, unfortunately. But it's worth the drive, I promise you.

(CHRISTINE looks around and her gaze rests on the empty wheelchair. She nudges Jeremy and gestures toward it. He looks, followed shortly by Isaac and Frank)

(Their heads all turn when they hear the creak of wood up above at the top of the stairs. They hold their breath as MARTIN descends.)

MARTIN

Good evening everyone. Thank you all for coming. I first of all want to apologize...

(MARTIN's step falters on the last step and he falls into the arms of FRANK and ISAAC who both safely catch him)

MARTIN (continued)

Oh I'm sorry. I guess I got ahead of myself there.

(the friends all look at him with reverence as stands. MARTIN responds by looking them each in the eyes and shaking their hands and leaning in for a one-armed embrace. He ends with Jeremy)

MARTIN (continued)

Can you ever forgive me?

JEREMY

I did a long time ago.

MARTIN

(shifting tone to everyone)

Well then, while I may be standing on my own two feet again, I doubt I can do it for the entirety of the evening. Let's take a seat, shall we?

(MARTIN gestures to the couches
and they all take a seat except
for MARTIN who remains standing)

MARTIN

Again, I want to apologize for my actions last time. There's the saying, "If you can't handle me at my worst, you don't deserve me at my best." Well, you were all there for me when I was at my worst and, for it, I spat you all in the face. While I may not be at my best now, I want to pledge myself to you that I am a new man and will, before long, will rise up and become better than the man you knew before.

(they all clap)

(MARTIN pulls out two envelopes
from his breast pocket)

MARTIN (continued)

(handing one each to ISAAC and
ISAAC)

Beginning with this.

(JEREMY and ISAAC look at the
envelopes and at each other and
then up to MARTIN)

JEREMY

What is it?

MARTIN

An apology... and a promise.

ISAAC

You didn't have to this you know.

MARTIN

I did. Ike, why don't you go ahead and open yours first.

(ISAAC looks around and is given
a loving encouragement from
FRANK to open it)

(ISAAC tears the envelope open
and looks inside. ISAAC closes
his eyes and takes a deep
breath. FRANK puts his hand on
ISAAC's arm)

FRANK

Well?

(MARTIN is the first to speak)

MARTIN

You said last I owed you a \$1000 for a hooker.

(everyone looks confused and
disgusted by this until ISAAC
jumps up)

ISAAC

(suddenly extremely animated)

It's monopoly money!

(everyone laughs. ISAAC jumps up
and walks over and embraces
MARTIN.)

(As ISAAC is embracing MARTIN,
JEREMY opens his envelope
quietly to himself)

MARTIN

(barely containing himself)

I wanted you to know that I was good for it.

(JEREMY is the only one not
laughing. He looks shocked)

ISAAC

You dirty dog! First, you come down the stairs like Julia
Roberts in *Pretty Woman* and then you pull this on me! God,
you really had me going there, man!

JEREMY

(quietly)

Oh my god.

CHRISTINE

(still looking at MARTIN and
ISAAC but talking to JEREMY next
to her out of the side of her
mouth)

Hmmmm. What's that dear?

JEREMY

Oh my god!

(everyone stops and looks at
JEREMY)

JEREMY (continued)

Thank you, Martin! Thank you!

(JEREMY jumps up and
wholeheartedly hugs MARTIN.
Tears begin to stream down his
face in joy.)

(As they holding the hug,
CHRISTINE picks up the envelope)

CHRISTINE

My god.

(to everyone else)

It's a check for 10 million dollars.

(EVERYONE looks over to MARTIN)

MARTIN

(to JEREMY)

Let's sit down, ok?

(MARTIN and JEREMY sit down)

MARTIN

Everyone, I have an announcement to make. Germ and I are going to be business partners. Christine, you asked last time if I was writing the next great American novel. I wasn't. I wasn't doing anything remotely close to that at the time. I was wasting away doing nothing, expecting my

MARTIN (continued)

memories to come back on their own. Maybe they will come back but I need to move on with life until they do. I don't feel comfortable returning back a multi-billion firm at the moment but starting out small with a friend sounds like the best thing I can do for myself at the moment. And who knows, maybe the business will get my juices flowing and produce something more than coffee? Am I right, Jeremy?

JEREMY

Abso-*fucking*-lutely.

(standing up)

This deserves... no, no... it *demands* a toast.

(everyone else stands up too and agree)

KATRINA

I've got a bottle of Chardonnay in the basement. Christine, can you grab some glasses?

CHRISTINE

It would be my pleasure.

(the two leave together off stage)

ISAAC

So, Martin. All jokes aside, do you want the toy money back? There's nothing I hate more than a game with missing pieces. You couldn't play chess without a queen and money is sort of the central point of Monopoly.

MARTIN

If you want but might I suggest a better option?

ISAAC

Hmmm?

MARTIN

Why don't you frame them like a weird Boggs' masterpiece and put it up next to Avatar?

FRANK

Ha!

ISAAC

(looking at FRANK with keen eyes)
I might at that.

MARTIN

Honestly, I had considered driving down to Chuck E. Cheese's instead to mine you some bitcoin but I didn't want to look like a pederast asking for 1000 tokens.

(they all laugh)

JEREMY

God damn, Martin. You're on fire!

(KATRINA and CHRISTINE return
with full glasses of Chardonnay
on a tray and pass them around
to everyone)

(JEREMY raises his glass)

JEREMY

To Martin, the diamond in the rough. The man who broke the mold. The man that will shake the world. And most importantly, the man that put his trust in me and will be repaid in gratitude 1000 times over for the rest of his life. Thank you.

(everyone takes a swig and lets
the moment linger as the drink
settles in their stomachs)

ISAAC

There's only one thing missing here today.

MARTIN

(chuckling)
My memories?

ISAAC

Haha no. Ronald.

(KATRINA shifts around and
everyone else looks a bit
downcast)

ISAAC

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to put a dour mood on the evening.

MARTIN

No it's fine.

CHRISTINE

Have they made a funeral date yet?

ISAAC

I don't know. Katrina, do you know?

(KATRINA does not hear the
question as she toys with her
drink)

CHRISTINE

Katrina?

KATRINA

(startled)

Hmmm. Oh yes, it's set for this Saturday. His brother says they'll make calls tomorrow to let people know.

FRANK

I can never get past the fragility and unpredictability of life. It feels like it was just yesterday that we were at the hospital wondering if you were going to get out of your coma.

CHRISTINE

Yeah. That's one reason why I never go to bed angry with Jeremy. I read about a couple that fought because the husband was working ridiculously long hours for several months in a row. He ended up having a heart attack and dying in his sleep. Turned out he was saving for a vacation for the two of them.

JEREMY

Wait. Is that why you meditate after fight we have and then kiss me goodnight? Because you're afraid I might die in my sleep?

CHRISTINE

One of the reasons anyway. I also tell you that I love you too if you forgot.

JEREMY

Jesus.

CHRISTINE

I think it's sweet.

JEREMY

It is... kinda.

(he takes a moment to himself)

Hmm. You never know what's the last thing you're going to say to someone, right? "Hey Asshole. Watch where you're going!"

ISAAC

Those were your last words to Ronald?

JEREMY

Yeah. Terrible, right?

FRANK

Where was this?

JEREMY

In the driveway.

ISAAC

Wait, I remember you distinctly making an "Up high. Down low. Too slow," last time we were here.

FRANK

Me too.

JEREMY

Oh no, this was last week. I brought Martin some Chinese food and made a fool of myself. As I was pulling out of the driveway, Ronald almost hit me in his car. I jokingly yelled at him and left.

(KATRINA looks at MARTIN who is looking down at his drink knowing what is going to come next)

ISAAC

Oh, Ronald came to visit you, Martin?

(all eyes are on MARTIN)

MARTIN

(after a long pause)

Yes.

ISAAC

What did you...

(KATRINA throws her glass onto
the ground)

(everyone suddenly looks at her)

KATRINA

You bastard!

(KATRINA begins walking towards MARTIN)

KATRINA (continued)

You lying, manipulating, conniving bastard!

JEREMY

What's wrong, Kat?

KATRINA

Martin! That's what! He invites you all here spreading love, peace, and prosperity but he's a jackal. He lulls you all into thinking he's this genial man making jokes about Monopoly or some bullshit and he lures you in with promises of partnership but watch, he'll back out next week. I've had enough, Martin. Enough!

JEREMY

Did I say something I shouldn't have?

KATRINA

No, you're fine, Jeremy. For all of you that didn't know. Martin's been walking now for a month. A month! And didn't think to tell his own wife. While I was in in the hospital, he never once visited.

MARTIN

I tried to call...

KATRINA (continued)

And then when I got back, he told me that Ronald never came to see him.

CHRISTINE

Katrina, don't you think you're being a bit hard on him?

KATRINA

Why? Because he has "amnesia"? Is that right, Martin? You can't remember anything?

MARTIN

(emotional)

No.

KATRINA

I know why you can't remember anything, Martin. I'll tell you why. Because you never had the memories to begin with! I know what you are, Martin. You're an imposter. A phony!

(KATRINA walks over and grabs her purse)

KATRINA (continued)

I know that Ronald came over here. He came to see me in the hospital. He's not even my husband and he came to see me. And guess what he gave me? This!

(KATRINA pulls out the newspaper
and throws it in his face)

KATRINA

I won't sit here and be another victim. God, why couldn't you have just died in the accident!?! So I wouldn't have to keep chasing a ghost?

(KATRINA storms out the front
door. Everyone else just stands
there)

JEREMY

What would you like us to do, Martin?

MARTIN

Leave.

ISAAC

Are you sure...?

MARTIN

Leave! Get the fuck out!

(his sudden outbreak startles everyone who hastily make their way for the door. At the door, JEREMY pauses and walks back)

JEREMY

(pulling out the envelope)
I'm not saying that I don't want to work with you, Martin. I really do. There's no one else in this world I'd rather go in on this with but I can't take this right now. It wouldn't feel right. Let's just wait until this blows over and start again. Ok?

(MARTIN doesn't respond but simply takes the envelope)

(JEREMY walks to the front door and gives a final look at MARTIN before leaving)

(alone in the house, MARTIN looks down at the envelope. He tears it to pieces)

(MARTIN begins to tear down all of the decorations)

(At last, he sits in his wheelchair and puts his head in his hands)

(MARTIN finally gets up and goes over to a desk and pulls out a piece of paper and a pen. He sits down and writes a note. Finally, he folds it up and leaves it on the table. MARTIN picks up the banner from the carnage and grabs his wheel chair. He ties a loop in the end and ties the other end to the top of the stairwell. He places the loop around his head)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IVScene 3

SETTING: The Cogadh Residence

AT RISE: We are witnessing a wake. The decorations that have been up this whole time are replaced with black counterparts. There is a large candid photo of Martin on an easel. All characters are in black.

ISAAC

What else would've driven Martin to do such a thing? We all know that Ronald was like a second father to Martin.

FRANK

In many ways, better than his first.

JEREMY

I'm not disputing that it had an effect on him *but* that it was his injuries...

ISAAC

... he didn't die of his injuries *months* after the accident.

JEREMY

I didn't say that either. I'd suggest that it was combination of the trauma he had already gone through with the miscarriage *and* Ronald's sudden death which did it.

FRANK

This conversation is getting out of hand. Why Martin ended his life is inconsequential to the fact that he *is* no longer with us.

ISAAC

Agreed. But as sad as the miscarriage was, we all knew Ronald was going to kill himself sooner or later.

JEREMY

Did you know that he had THREE speeding tickets last year...?

SHIFT TO:

CHRISTINE

(to KATRINA)

How are you holding up?

KATRINA

I've been better.

CHRISTINE

I bet, honey. Do you know what you're going to do from here?

KATRINA

I'm not sure I've given it much thought, to be honest. I'm still in shock from the whole thing.

CHRISTINE

Not that it's even remotely comparable to what you've been through, but I'll mention it anyway. My grandmother passed away while I was in my last semester of college. She happened to die about a week before finals actually. My roommates tried to console me but I didn't cry. Not once I think they were a little alarmed by this. I didn't think too much of it though, I just focused harder on the exams and, I swear, the moment I put down the pencil for my last final, I wept right there in the auditorium. I didn't know what hit me.

KATRINA

Is there a point?

CHRISTINE

Yes. Immersing yourself in work will only delay the pain, not cure it. My first job upon graduating was in a non-profit for abused women. Honestly, I found it to be the most therapeutic thing I could've done.

KATRINA

(thinking on that for a bit)

That's not a bad idea. I could start a foundation. Or maybe a scholarship and put it in Martin's name.

CHRISTINE

I think that'd be lovely... and a good testament to Martin's memory.

(KATRINA sees DR. JOHANNSSON
come through the front door)

KATRINA

If you'll excuse me.

CHISTINE

Go ahead.

(KATRINA goes to DR. JOHANNSSON.
The doctor greets her with a
hug)

KATRINA

Doctor, thank you for making it out.

DR. JOHANNSSON

I'm sorry I couldn't make the funeral this morning. I had surgery.

KATRINA

I know.

DR. JOHANNSSON

I wasn't sure I was going to be able to make it to this either. I hit some traffic coming in. A collision of some sort. Luckily no one was hurt, or I might had to stop and wait until an ambulance arrived.

KATRINA

Can I get you anything?

DR. JOHANNSSON

No. No. You shouldn't be acting as the maître d' at your own husband's wake. Focus on *you* right now.

KATRINA

I don't think I want to.

DR. JOHANNSSON

The introspection now will do you better later on. And if you don't think you can go through it alone, please, please, *please* let me know and I'll get you set up with a colleague of mine.

KATRINA

That might not be necessary, but I do have something that

KATRINA (continued)

I've been wanting to share with someone. I would've have normally gone to Ronald, Martin's godfather with it, but as I told you when I saw you last, he passed away last week.

DR. JOHANNSSON

What is it?

KATRINA

A letter.

DR. JOHANNSSON

From whom? Martin?

KATRINA

Yes.

DR. JOHANNSSON

(whisper)

A suicide note? Have you shown it to anyone else so far?

KATRINA

I didn't see the point.

DR. JOHANNSSON

In that case, let's move somewhere a little more secluded.

(the two move towards the
kitchen where KATRINA hands the
letter over to the doctor)

DR. JOHANNSSON

(the doctor begins to read the
letter out loud)

Katrina, I am not the man you think I am. I've felt it from the beginning although I couldn't explain it. I found it simply too good of an accident for me to fall into the life of wealth and love. I tried to convince myself it wasn't true and just be happy with you but when I saw Louis Boyle on the news, I began to piece together that I must be him. I tried to think that I could overcome it through sheer willpower and transform into your husband, but a tiger cannot change his stripes, as they say. But as life plays out, Ronald approached me while you were in the hospital and broke the spell. Hearing it come from another person's mouth independent of my own was proof enough for me. If I had just stayed in prison and left you and your family

alone, Martin would still be alive, your stomach would still be swollen, and Ronald would've never gotten in his accident. So, I have decided to take control of my life for once and for all. If my memories come back to me, I'm sure I would just go on to hurt you further. I'd rather die this shell of a man than as a monster.

(back to normal self)

And then I see that he signed it, "Martin" but crossed it out. Tragic.

KATRINA

I'm shaking, Doctor. I don't know what's worse: being right in my suspicions or, that for a short while, I was still happy believing Martin was alive?

DR. JOHANNSSON

(raising the letter)

If you had this, then why the wake? And the funeral? You're saying that you knowingly buried a stranger?

KATRINA

He wasn't a stranger. Not entirely anyway. Besides, I checked online and it turns out they cremated and scattered the ashes of Martin, *my* Martin after they found him at the bottom of the river. I thought it seemed right to actually have a body in the grave. Gives the funeral more credence I guess you could say.

(DR. JOHANNSSON shifts
uncomfortably)

KATRINA

I would not have thought it possible to make a doctor blush.

DR. JOHANNSSON

I'm not disgusted. I understand your rationale perfectly well... I'm just trying to piece something together ... and I'm trying to weigh both sides on the moralities of a cliché.

KATRINA

What cliché?

DR. JOHANNSSON

Ignorance is bliss.

KATRINA

I'm not sure I follow.

DR. JOHANNSSON

It's plain and simple. Would you rather know something that will only bring you true pain? Or instead try and stay happy with the lot you have now?

KATRINA

Is this supposed to be the "does God exist or not" quandary?

DR. JOHANNSSON

Certainly not. I wouldn't proselytize someone on the street, let alone at a funeral.

KATRINA

(shrugging)

I guess I'd rather know. If I couldn't cope with a truth, despite the awfulness of it, then I don't think I could justify calling myself a human.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Ok.

(sighs)

The man you buried *is* Martin.

(KATRINA lifts the note)

KATRINA

But...

DR. JOHANNSSON (continued)

I know what he wrote, and maybe there's some truth to it. Maybe, he was an intruder after all, but if he was, he certainly wasn't Louis Boyle.

KATRINA

What makes you so sure?

DR. JOHANNSSON

Martin had blood type, O negative. Louis Boyle had AB positive. They couldn't have been more opposite under the skin from what I saw of the autopsy.

(KATRINA begins to speak)

KATRINA

When did you find this out?

DR. JOHANNSSON

A little too late, I'm afraid. After you left last week, I made a point of asking for a copy of the autopsy to look into your 'theory.' This itself wasn't an easy request. I didn't want to explain *why* I would be interested in the results of a felon and telling the police that it "was a personal" matter didn't quite justify them handing the report over to me. After my third call, they decided there was nothing overly sensitive for me to see and, finally, sent me a copy. I only got it yesterday and didn't have the chance to look it over until this morning after surgery. I didn't tell you that I was doing this because I didn't want to feed more into your delusion about the situation. I decided I would come forward if something was amiss, and I'm sorry to say, nothing was. So, if the man in the box isn't Martin, then I have no idea who he could be but I find the odds of there being a *third* doppelganger to be astronomically small.

KATRINA

(on the verge of tears)

But why... why would he think this way? I yelled at him but he says that he felt this way from the beginning. I only ever showered him with love.

DR. JOHANNSSON

The only thing I can think of is what they call in psychology the Imposter Syndrome. Some successful people can feel that they are fooling the people around them into thinking they are someone they are not. That, and the power of suggestion in an already sensitive situation proved too much for Martin. It's possible that he layered a narrative to justify his feelings.

(soft beat)

How did he spend his time?

KATRINA

Television. He watched a lot of television.

DR. JOHANNSSON

What types?

KATRINA

I sure just about anything that came on. But I do know that

KATRINA (continued)

he watched the news quite a bit as well as a lot of movies. The classic 'thriller' motif and the like.

DR. JOHANNSSON

Well as crazy as it sounds, maybe it became a *Madame Bovary* sort of situation. The news doesn't exactly give the best representation of the world. You know, often normalizing and, sometimes, even making a celebrity of violence. Compound that with the commonplace duplicity of Hollywood film characters from those types of movies and you can sort of begin to see how Martin might come to his conclusion.

(The doctor takes the letter
from KATRINA and folds it up)

DR. JOHANNSSON (continued)

Let's not dwell on this right now, alright? You've got people here that love you, ok?

(KATRINA just nods numbly)

(KATRINA walks into the living
room and looks at the picture of
MARTIN and then sits in his
wheelchair and sobs)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

THE END