

WHOSE LIFE
PILOT

Written by

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ACT 1

INT. ELLIOT'S BEDROOM, DAY

ELLIOT, 24, in a full bed that takes up three-fourths of a walk-in-closet-sized Manhattan bedroom. Computer on lap. Looks at bare walls. Googles "cool posters to own." Scrolls.

ELLIOT
(murmuring, intrigued)
Basquiat.

Gets a call from his DAD, 55. Answers from computer.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
I'm busy.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Where are you?

ELLIOT
(googling)
Have you seen those videos where
the guy gets stuck in a cave?

Clicks on video. Spelunker stuck in tiny cave, panting, camera way too close to his face. Elliot watches, horrified.

ELLIOT'S DAD
What the hell are you talking
about?

ELLIOT
Where do you think I am? Where else
would I be?

ELLIOT'S DAD
I have bad news.

ELLIOT
What?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Your friend Joe passed away.

Elliot takes a second to process. Pauses the cave video.

ELLIOT
Joe Kaylor?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Yeah.

Another beat. Bites his nails.

ELLIOT
He wasn't really my friend.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Oh great. You should tell him that.

Elliot googles "joe kaylor obituary" but only finds random people: an old man from North Carolina, a small indigenous boy from Honolulu.

ELLIOT
How did he die?

ELLIOT'S DAD
It doesn't matter.

ELLIOT
Of course it matters.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Why would it matter?

ELLIOT
Because it's a big difference if he died in, like, a river rafting accident versus if he overdosed or something.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Why would he die in a river rafting accident?

ELLIOT
I don't know. Maybe he sucked at river rafting.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Christ, there was no river rafting, he-- he committed suicide, alright?

Elliot stops scrolling. More nail biting, hurts himself. Stares at little boy from Honolulu.

ELLIOT'S DAD (CONT'D)
But listen, I don't want you to--

ELLIOT
You can't say that.

ELLIOT'S DAD
What?

ELLIOT
(Provoking him)
"Committed suicide." You have to
say he "*died by* suicide."

ELLIOT'S DAD
Are you serious?

ELLIOT
I don't make the rules.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Why is that better?

ELLIOT
Because then instead of
"committing" it he "*died by*" it.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Christ, no wonder you're all
depressed. You think about things
way too much.

ELLIOT
Thank you, that's helpful.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Really?

ELLIOT
No.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(exasperated)
The funeral's tomorrow.

ELLIOT
Are you going to come pick me up?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Pick you up where? You won't share
your location with me.

ELLIOT
I'll just take the train.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Listen, do me a favor and add me on
Find Your Friends so I can track
your location.

ELLIOT
I'm not going to do that.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Don't be a priss. Just add me--

Elliot closes computer, hanging up. Stares at blank wall.

INT. LISA'S BEDROOM, DAY

Elliot walks out of what we realize is literally a walk-in closet inside an actual bedroom, where LISA (25, butch) and a STRANGER (23, femme) are hooking up. They quickly cover themselves with a blanket.

LISA
(frantically)
Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello.

ELLIOT
Sorry, sorry.

LISA
All good, that's why we have the blanket.
(funny voice)
The blanket of shame.
(looks at unamused lover)
She hates it.

ELLIOT
What happened to Jean?

LISA
Why would you bring up Jean? In front of Dear Daisy?
(strokes Stranger's head)
But it's a great story, you're going to love it, basically--

ELLIOT
My friend from high school killed himself.

LISA
(taken aback)
Oh my god. I'm so sorry.

ELLIOT
Not your fault.

LISA
Were you guys close?

ELLIOT
Not really. We hadn't spoken in
years. I shouldn't even say friend.

LISA
How do you feel?

ELLIOT
(mulling, to himself)
How do I feel?
(beat)
Not sure I want to open that can of
worms.

LISA
Right.

ELLIOT
Because once you open that can of
worms...

LISA
All the worms come out.

ELLIOT
Exactly.

STRANGER
I think you're supposed to say
"died by suicide."

Elliot and Lisa give Stranger a long, hard look. Then return
to their conversation.

LISA
(to Elliot)
Are you going to Connecticut?

ELLIOT
(belabored)
I suppose.

STRANGER
(eager)
Which part of Connecticut?

ELLIOT
(exasperated, absent-
minded)
I don't know. The rich part.

He walks into Lisa's en-suite bathroom, doubling as a closet.

ELLIOT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(from bathroom)
Can I borrow one of your suits?

INT. TRAIN, DAY

Elliot squirming in way too small suit on the train. Head lolling against the window to cool down. Small Connecticut towns pass outside the window. Summer foliage.

INT. CHURCH LOBBY, DAY

Elliot walks into a packed funeral. Everyone milling about. Ambushed by BRUCE, 24.

BRUCE
Elliot Prior!

ELLIOT
(not recognizing this
person)
Hey...there.

BRUCE
Or should I say, "Most Likely to
Succeed."

ELLIOT
(forced)
Haha. Don't wear it out.

BRUCE
(serious)
I won't.
(beat, awkward silence)
So I heard you're in the Big Apple.

ELLIOT
Living it up.

BRUCE
Nice apartment?

ELLIOT
Kind of. My room's tiny. Basically
a closet.

BRUCE
Better than an actual closet.

ELLIOT
Sorry, I don't know why I said
that. It is an actual closet.

BRUCE
What?

ELLIOT
Like a walk-in closet.

BRUCE
I thought you were making good
money?

ELLIOT
What made you think that?

BRUCE
We're friends on LinkedIn.

ELLIOT
My salary's on there?

BRUCE
Your role, and then you can look up
the salary.

ELLIOT
Oh.

BRUCE
Like with houses on Zillow.

ELLIOT
Right.

BRUCE
100 to 120?

ELLIOT
(surprised)
Nice.

BRUCE
So why are you living in a closet?

ELLIOT
(exasperated, absent-
minded)
I don't know. I have this thing
about money. From my dad...

Elliot looks over at his DAD, 55, piling a plate with shrimp.
Goes up to him.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Can I get you some Tupperware?

ELLIOT'S DAD
(staring at shrimp)
It's weird, right? And not even at
the reception. At the church.
Before the service.

ELLIOT
I think his uncle's a caterer.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(mouth full of shrimp)
I'm not complaining.

ELLIOT
I thought you were allergic.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Psychosomatic. I always felt like I
had to prove my pain to your
mother.

ELLIOT
Chemo's hard to beat.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Even before the chemo. She was
always very...
(loooooonnggg pause as he
searches for the word)
...withholding.

They see JOE'S DAD, 55 across the room.

ELLIOT
Have you asked him about the
insurance payout?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Come on, I'm not a miser.

ELLIOT
You can't say that.

ELLIOT'S DAD
What? Miser?

ELLIOT
(provoking him)
It's anti-Semitic.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Anti-Semitic?

ELLIOT
The *Jewish* miser.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(exasperated)
Christ, I didn't even say Jewish--
It's always something with you,
isn't it.

ELLIOT
Yale's fault.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Kind of made you gay, didn't it.

ELLIOT
Definitely can't say that.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(retorting)
Sure I can. I have a gay son.

ELLIOT
Henry? I thought he was just quiet.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(suddenly serious)
Stop it. He might actually be gay.

ELLIOT
I was joking.

ELLIOT'S DAD
It's not funny. He's your brother.
You have to have a relationship
with him.

ELLIOT
I know--

ELLIOT'S DAD
I think about how little time we
spent together before your mother
died--

ELLIOT
Jesus, *alright*.

Silence. Dad sighs.

ELLIOT'S DAD
I bet it was good, though.

ELLIOT
What?

ELLIOT'S DAD
The insurance payout. Because he was so young.

ELLIOT
Jesus Christ.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Don't be such a priss.

ELLIOT
I'm going to see if I know anyone else here.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Who else would you know here?

ELLIOT
I don't know, that's what I'm going to go find out.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Just come sit with me. It'll be fun.

ELLIOT
No, I don't think that would be--

INT. CHURCH NAVE, DAY

Elliot and Dad squished in a pew between two women randomly wearing New Orleans funeral garb. Gigantic hats, fans, etc.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(whispered, NOLA accent)
If'n only we hadn't played with dat dere voodoo doll...

ELLIOT
What is that? Creole?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Maybe.

ELLIOT
Not good.

Altar boy walks past.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Weren't you an altar boy?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Don't say it like that.

ELLIOT
Like what?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Like I was molested.

ELLIOT
I thought you were molested.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Why would you think that?

ELLIOT
Mom said you mutter "Help me" in
your sleep.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(exasperated)
Christ, your mother-- All of my
brothers do that.

Beat. They realize how it sounds. Then some noise at the mic.
Room quiets down. PRIEST, 65, comes to the podium.

PRIEST
Thank you all for coming. Joe's
girlfriend Skyler is going to sing
one of Joe's favorite songs to get
us started, so if everyone could
please rise.

Silence for a second as people stand. Then, church organ
starts playing unexpectedly aggressive version of "Dancing on
My Own." Throbbing vamp. SKYLER, 25, starts singing
intensely. Someone starts crying loudly in the front row.
It's a tense, chaotic scene, way too on edge for a funeral.
Joe's Dad and uncles carry the coffin down the aisle. All
gruff men, but Joe's Dad's face is streaked with tears.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(whispering to Elliot)
This was his favorite song?

No response from Elliot. Dad looks over and sees him crying,
watching the pallbearers. Grabs the back of his neck. Tender
moment.

INT. CHURCH LOBBY, DAY

Everyone comes out of the nave.

ELLIOT'S DAD
You alright?

ELLIOT
Yeah, I'm just tired.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Tired or depressed?

ELLIOT
Tired--

ELLIOT'S DAD
Because sometimes you say you're
tired when you're actually--

ELLIOT
Depressed, yes, I know,
congratulations, you cracked the
code.

ELLIOT'S DAD
(tender, gripping Elliot
by the back of the neck)
You've got your whole life ahead of
you.

ELLIOT
(muttered, to himself)
I know, that's my problem.

ATTORNEY, 60, approaches.

ATTORNEY
Elliot Prior?

ELLIOT
Yes?

ATTORNEY
Could you join us in the conference
room? Joe left you something in his
will.

Elliot looks surprised. Nods.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Nothing for me?

Attorney smiles politely and leaves.

ELLIOT
Probably something I left at his house.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Meet back here after. We'll get tacos.

ELLIOT
Why tacos?

ELLIOT'S DAD
I met this guy the other day who owns a taco franchise. One around the corner and then another one in Dubai.

ELLIOT
Are they good?

ELLIOT'S DAD
I don't know, that's what we're going to find out.

ELLIOT
(exasperated)
Okay.

ELLIOT'S DAD
I invited your friend Bruce.

ELLIOT
Bruce?

ELLIOT'S DAD
Bruce. The short one.

ELLIOT
I hardly know that guy.

ELLIOT'S DAD
You should get to know him.
Fascinating guy.
(beat)
He works for that company that makes semiconductors. What's it called...

Elliot walks away. Dad still thinking.

ELLIOT'S DAD (CONT'D)
It's on the tip of my tongue.

INT. CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM, DAY

Joe's loved ones seated around a conference table, somber, murmuring. Elliot squirms in a hard-backed chair. Leans over to whisper to COUSIN DANNY, 8.

ELLIOT

Anybody else's ass barking?

Attorney clears his throat and room quiets.

ATTORNEY

As many of you know, Joe left a note that will act as his last will and testament. So without further ado, I'm going to read what he bequeathed unto each of you.

(clears throat)

"To my father, I leave my garden. That he may realize its promise as I never could."

(beat, people look at Joe's Dad)

"To my girlfriend Skyler, I leave my archives. That she may catalogue my twenty-four years of thought and activity."

(beat, people look at Skyler)

"To my Cousin Danny, I leave my Xbox. That he may finish my Halo 5 campaign."

ELLIOT

(whispered to Cousin Danny in funny voice)

Lucky bastard.

ATTORNEY

(still reading)

"And to Elliot Prior, I bequeath my life. That he may live as I have lived."

Loooooonnggg silence. Elliot looks around. Then whispers to Cousin Danny, explaining.

ELLIOT

He means metaphorically--

ATTORNEY

"More literally, I ask that he reside in my father's basement, as I have resided.

(MORE)

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

That he perform in the community theater's production of Hamlet, as I have performed."

ELLIOT

(under breath, panicked)
What is going on.

ATTORNEY

"In short, that he live, both metaphorically and literally, as I would have lived, had I not died by suicide."

ELLIOT

(awkward, joking)
I guess it really is the preferred term.

Silence. Everyone looking at Elliot.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Is he fucking with me, or...

Silence. Blank stares.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Do I have to decide right now?

Attorney leafs through papers.

ATTORNEY

I don't think so.

ELLIOT

Okay.

Silence. Elliot looking around.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I'll do it.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. CHURCH LOBBY, DAY

Elliot follows Joe's Dad to car. Quickly talks to Priest.

ELLIOT
Tell my dad I'm going to be gone
for a while.

PRIEST
What?

ELLIOT
My dad. Just tell him not to text
me.

PRIEST
I don't know who your dad is.

ELLIOT
Just-- he's the one talking to
everybody. He'll be here after
everyone else has left.

Elliot rushes out after Joe's Dad. Elliot's Dad is talking to
Bruce on the other side of the room.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Every two years, I think, that's
it. That's the best it's going to
get. But sure enough, two years
later--

BRUCE
Right.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Double the number of transistors.

BRUCE
Exactly.

ELLIOT'S DAD
Moore's Law.

INT. JOE'S DAD'S CAR, DAY

Elliot and Joe's Dad drive home in silence. CD playing
"Centerfield" by John Fogerty. Way too chipper. "Put me in
coach! I'm ready to play." Joe's Dad kills radio. Silence.

ELLIOT

I don't think we've ever met.

(beat)

Joe and I weren't that close.

(beat)

I used to come over sometimes to
smo-- uh, to hang out in the
basement.

(beat)

We hadn't spoken in years--

JOE'S DAD

I could use your help with the
garden when we get home.

ELLIOT

Yeah, of course.

EXT. JOE'S DAD'S LAWN, DAY

Elliot and Joe's Dad stand in front of Joe's garden. Looks like shit. Then, Joe's Dad starts working silently. Elliot hesitantly follows his lead. We cut to hours later. Elliot covered in soil, drenched in sweat. Desperate to be done, but waiting for Joe's Dad's cue. Trying to make conversation...

ELLIOT

Is your wife still around?

JOE'S DAD

No.

ELLIOT

What happened to her?

JOE'S DAD

She started taking acoustic guitar
lessons and then she got married to
the teacher.

ELLIOT

Oh.

Silence as they continue to work. Then, finally...

JOE'S DAD

I think that's good for today.

Joe's Dad walks inside. Elliot looks confused about where he's supposed to go next.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM, EVENING

Elliot walks downstairs into Joe's basement bedroom. Looks around. Lots of space. Puts on a Snuggie. Takes a spin on the drum kit. Hits a bong. Starts looking around in Joe's drawers out of curiosity. Finds a note. Reads. Looks up to see Skyler standing in the doorway, on the other side of the room.

ELLIOT

Oh shit.

(shoves note in drawer,
exhales smoke)

Hey.

(beat)

I don't know if we've ever met.

SKYLER

We have.

ELLIOT

Oh. Cool.

She looks him up and down in the Snuggie.

SKYLER

You look nice.

ELLIOT

Oh. Um. Thank you. And you also--

SKYLER

What's wrong with you?

ELLIOT

Nothing.

SKYLER

Did you get a boner or something?

ELLIOT

No wh-- You'd see if I got a boner.

SKYLER

Not necessarily.

ELLIOT

I didn't realize you were coming.

SKYLER

I'm just here to pick up his
"archives."

(picks up stack of
composition notebooks)

It's just ideas he wrote down high.

(MORE)

SKYLER (CONT'D)
(flips to a random page)
"Worried I have mal de
debarquement."

ELLIOT
Mal de debarquement?

SKYLER
It's when you feel seasick but
you're not on a ship. He was so
paranoid about it.

ELLIOT
Like the opposite of wanderlust.

SKYLER
No like feeling so much wanderlust
that it makes you sick. Like a
hysterical pregnancy.

Silence as she leafs through the journals.

ELLIOT
I liked your singing at the
funeral.

SKYLER
Thanks.
(beat)
I didn't know you guys were close.

ELLIOT
We weren't. We hadn't talked in
like 3 years.

SKYLER
(confused)
So...why all this?

Elliot shrugs, unconvincingly. He has an idea of why.

SKYLER (CONT'D)
What do you mean...
(mocks him shrugging)

ELLIOT
What?

SKYLER
You can't just...
(exaggerated shrug)
People don't just do this. It's not
a normal thing to do, but there you
are like...
(MORE)

SKYLER (CONT'D)
(exaggerated shrug)
Gee whiz!

ELLIOT
What do you want me to do? Ask him?

SKYLER
Don't do that. Come on.

ELLIOT
He didn't say anything to you?

SKYLER
We hadn't spoken in months. We
broke up a while ago, we just-- we
didn't tell anyone. His family was
worried about him.

Elliot nods slowly. Skyler approaches and gestures for the
bong. He passes it. She sits on bean bag chair and hits it.

SKYLER (CONT'D)
He was difficult. I did everything
I could.
(beat)
I don't have to explain myself to
you.

ELLIOT
No, you definitely don't.

SKYLER
(looking at journals)
He probably had this complex about
you. Because he was like this
pseudo-intellectual who never went
to college. And you went to Yale.

ELLIOT
(sarcastic)
That would make sense. I have the
perfect life.

SKYLER
Is it really that bad? That you had
to come here?

ELLIOT
No, I-- I'm fine. I thought I was
doing it for you guys. For his dad.

SKYLER
I mean it's good he has someone to
talk to.

ELLIOT
He doesn't talk to me.

SKYLER
Maybe he doesn't like you.

ELLIOT
(affected)
But I'm his son.

SKYLER
You're not taking this seriously.

ELLIOT
Do you want me to?

SKYLER
I don't really care.

ELLIOT
Then who am I doing it for?

Skyler mockingly shrugs. Elliot gives her a look.

SKYLER
You could visit his friends in the
psych ward. He was the only person
who really visited them.

Elliot kind of hides in the Snuggie, pulls it up over his
chin and chews on it.

ELLIOT
I don't like psych wards.

SKYLER
No shit. Who "likes" psych wards?

ELLIOT
(affected, faux political)
I don't know. *Big pharma.*

SKYLER
Ew.

ELLIOT
The health-- *the medical industrial
complex.*

SKYLER
How about you do it for all the
poor suckers out there who've
already bought their tickets to
Hamlet.

ELLIOT
Fuck, I forgot about that.

SKYLER
(collecting her things)
You should get some sleep. You have
rehearsal tomorrow.

ELLIOT
What time?

SKYLER
9 a.m.

ELLIOT
(indignant)
9 a.m.?!

EXT. COMMUNITY THEATER, MORNING

Elliot bikes sluggishly into a mostly empty parking lot. Goes
to lock it but the lock gets jammed. Curses. Keeps trying.

DIRECTOR
Suburban paranoia. Private
property. Etcetera, etcetera.

Elliot looks up to see DIRECTOR, 45 leaning against the wall,
smoking a cigarette. Realizes no one will steal the bike,
props it up without locking and approaches.

ELLIOT
I'm your new Joe.

Director looks him up and down. Long sigh.

DIRECTOR
You smell nothing like him.

Director ashes cigarette against the wall and goes in through
back door. Elliot looks confused for a second, then follows.

INT. COMMUNITY THEATER, MORNING

Director enters with Elliot close behind. Room full of
community theater actors falls silent.

DIRECTOR
Good morrow. A lot to overcome
today so let's get right into it.
From T.B.O.N.T.B.

Elliot turns to UNDERSTUDY, 12, gay but doesn't know it yet, vicious.

ELLIOT
T.B.O.N.T.B?

UNDERSTUDY
To be or not to be.

ELLIOT
Isn't that the same number of syllables?

UNDERSTUDY
You know usually, when the lead offs himself, the silver lining is that the long-overlooked understudy gets a chance to shine.

ELLIOT
I'm guessing you're the understudy?

UNDERSTUDY
I'm guessing I'm your worst fucking nightmare.

DIRECTOR
(to room, impatient)
Would anyone else like the role of a lifetime? Anyone?

ELLIOT
(to Understudy)
Just give me your script.

UNDERSTUDY
No, get your own.

Elliot wrestles the script from the boy's hands.

ELLIOT
Suck it.

UNDERSTUDY
Watch those kneecaps, Kerrigan.

Elliot takes center stage. Director gestures to begin.

ELLIOT
To be or not to be--

DIRECTOR
Stop.
(long, pregnant pause)
(MORE)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

There was something very convincing about Joe's performance of this.

ELLIOT

Because he was suicidal.

DIRECTOR.

I don't like to think of it that way.

ELLIOT

No?

DIRECTOR

No. Everyone here is suicidal. This theater is practically a hotline. Do you know how many lives I've saved on this stage? Do you know how many I've lost?

ELLIOT

Multiple people you've worked with have committed suicide?

DIRECTOR

Suicide, heart attack, Crohn's disease--

ELLIOT

People don't die from Crohn's disease!

STAGE MANAGER, 80, starts wailing.

DIRECTOR

Tell that to her husband. Oh wait. You can't. He's deceased. *From Crohn's disease.*

Stage Manager wails even harder.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Christ, Margaret, get a grip. It's been a *month*.

ELLIOT

Ok. I don't think I want to be here anymore.

DIRECTOR

(nonchalant)

None of us want to be here. You think I want to be here?

ELLIOT

Then why are you here?

DIRECTOR

The same reason you're here.

ELLIOT

I'm here because a dead guy asked me to be.

DIRECTOR

Wrong. You're here because you can't be anywhere else.

ELLIOT

What are you talking about? You don't even know me.

DIRECTOR

Know you? I was you. Hot young thing out of Yale. Quarter-million dollar education, and yet, I felt like I had no future. Because to dream was to be vulnerable and to be vulnerable was to relinquish my control. My precious control.

ELLIOT

Stop.

DIRECTOR

Control control control. Because mommy and daddy fought. Every day they fought and if I didn't intervene, if I didn't stop them, what was I but a creature born from hate. A creature born from hate who would never know love.

ELLIOT

Stop it, Jesus.

DIRECTOR

So what did I do? Changed my name. Lost 150 pounds. Gained back 60. Started wearing colored contacts. Became unrecognizable to myself. Became an orphan. Traveled town to town. A regular Harold Hill. Not in search of parents but of children all my own. All of you. My children. And yet. The second one of you sees me as Papa. The second I see it in your eyes.

(MORE)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

New contacts, new weight, new town.
I'm gone.

UNDERSTUDY

No!

DIRECTOR

Because for any of you to see me as
Father would be to once again see
my father in myself. To once again
be trapped in that eternal basement
of his psyche, desperate to sleep
but awoken by every footstep, every
creak of the floorboards, every
disquiet in his world echoing into
my own in that insomniac's undying
twilight of grief.

ELLIOT

(shellshocked, to himself)
Where the fuck am I?

DIRECTOR

So why are we here? We are here
because we are all *running from*
something.

(to Margaret)

From loss.

(to Understudy)

From the truth.

(to Elliot, with finality)

From something as yet unknown.

(long beat)

Time, Margaret?

STAGE MANAGER

9:07 a.m.

DIRECTOR

Good. Let's pick this back up
tomorrow. Great work everyone.

EXT. COMMUNITY THEATER, MORNING

Elliot emerges exhausted to find a random guy (who we will
later learn is HEROIN DAD, 45) stealing his bike. They make
eye contact before the guy races away.

ELLIOT

I'm going to fucking kill my--

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

EXT. NORWALK HOSPITAL, DAY

Elliot, sweaty, in front of "Norwalk Hospital - Psychiatric Wing." He walked here, but now he's reluctant to visit Joe's friends. Stands there for a while, debating, until he shakes his head and turns to leave, at which point he sees his Dad approaching on crutches.

ELLIOT'S DAD

Where the hell have you been? I've been looking for you everywhere.

ELLIOT

I told the priest to tell you.

ELLIOT'S DAD

Which priest?

ELLIOT

What do you mean which priest? How many priests do you interact with regularly?

ELLIOT'S DAD

Oh come on, don't say it like that.

ELLIOT

Like what?

ELLIOT'S DAD

Like I was *molested*.

ELLIOT

Jesus Christ.

ELLIOT'S DAD

I had to get tacos alone with Bruce. Fascinating guy.

ELLIOT

Bruce?

ELLIOT'S DAD

The short one. We've been hanging out.

ELLIOT

What-- why?

ELLIOT'S DAD

I don't know, maybe because my own son abandoned me.

ELLIOT

What's up with the crutches?

ELLIOT'S DAD

Those fucking shrimp. I swear to God I woke up the next day and I couldn't walk.

ELLIOT

I thought it was psychosomatic.

ELLIOT'S DAD

(exasperated)

Christ, this is what your mother never understood. It doesn't matter if it's psychosomatic. Either way, it's crippling.

Elliot ponders this. Dad looks up to see "Psychiatric Wing" sign.

ELLIOT'S DAD (CONT'D)

Jesus, not again.

ELLIOT

No, I'm just-- Joe bequeathed me his life.

ELLIOT'S DAD

What does that mean?

ELLIOT

He asked me to live his life for him.

ELLIOT'S DAD

Why?

ELLIOT

(exasperated)

I don't know.

ELLIOT'S DAD

Maybe he was in love with you.

ELLIOT

No-- what?

ELLIOT'S DAD

You'd be surprised. I had the same roommate all four years of college. Thought he was just my friend. Totally in love with me.

ELLIOT

What makes you think he was in love with you?

ELLIOT'S DAD

He told me.

ELLIOT

Really?

ELLIOT'S DAD

At graduation.

ELLIOT

That's really sad.

ELLIOT'S DAD

Why is it sad? Not everything has to be sad.

ELLIOT

(shaking his head)

It doesn't matter why he asked me. I can't do it.

DAD

Of course you can't do it. It doesn't make any sense. You have a job.

ELLIOT

No, that-- It's remote.

DAD

So what? You're doing it from here?

ELLIOT

No, it's remote. I don't have to do it. That's the whole point.

DAD

Christ, no wonder your generation is so lost. You don't know what it means to be a part of something bigger than yourself.

ELLIOT

Like a corporation?

DAD
Exactly, like a corporation.

ELLIOT
(non-sequitur)
I just wanted to be helpful but no one seems to want me here and-- I don't know. I think I might just be running from something in New York.

DAD
Running from what?

ELLIOT
I don't know. My life?

DAD
Listen, if you need a break, you can always come stay with me. I'd actually really like that.

ELLIOT
(defeated)
No I-- I can't let you trap me in your eternal basement.

Elliot starts to walk away.

DAD
(confused)
Eternal-- I don't even have a basement. Or a finished basement at least. Maybe one day, but it ain't cheap. I'd have to rewire all the electrical.

EXT. JOE'S DAD'S PORCH, DAY

Elliot knocks on door, defeated, but no answer. Knocks again, no answer. Eventually goes out back.

EXT. JOE'S DAD'S LAWN, DAY

Finds Joe's Dad working on the garden. Joe's Dad doesn't notice him. Elliot stands a couple yards away and talks to him.

ELLIOT
Hey. I really appreciate you taking me in and everything, but I think I'm going to head back to New York.
(beat)
(MORE)

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I know Joe wanted me to do this and everything, but I'm not sure I'm cut out for it.

(beat)

I'm really sorry, I hope we can, uh, stay in touch.

Long silence. Elliot clears his throat loudly. Joe's Dad turns around, notices Elliot there. Takes out earbuds.

JOE'S DAD

Sorry, did you say something?

Elliot stands there, trying to work up the courage to say it again. Just as he's about to...

JOE'S DAD (CONT'D)

I could use your help if you have a second.

ELLIOT

Oh. Sure.

Joe's Dad tosses him a pair of gloves. Elliot joins him on his knees and they weed, tossing the brush into a pile. Elliot's reluctant at first, but then finds it meditative.

EXT. JOE'S DAD'S FIREPIT, NIGHT

They've carried the brush to the firepit to burn. Raging bonfire. Joe's Dad tosses another handful in. Elliot looks into the flames and has a flashback to the last time he was here.

EXT. JOE'S DAD'S FIREPIT, FLASHBACK

Three years earlier. Elliot and Joe. Mid-December. Freezing. Silent for a bit as they pass a joint back and forth.

JOE

Thanks again for coming.

ELLIOT

Oh yeah, thanks for having me.

JOE

Us suicidals have to stick together.

ELLIOT

(forced laugh)

Yeah.

JOE
How much longer are you here for?

ELLIOT
Depends on if they let me come back
for my last semester.

JOE
Why wouldn't they?

ELLIOT
Usually if you're hospitalized they
kick you out and make you re-apply.

JOE
Really?

ELLIOT
Yeah but it happened during finals,
after classes ended. So I think
I'll be fine.
(beat)
I just-- I can't stay here long.

JOE
It's not that bad.

ELLIOT
Sorry, I didn't mean--

JOE
No, I get it. There's just--
there's a lot to be grateful for
here.

ELLIOT
I just feel like I need to move on
with my life.

JOE
I thought that too, the first time.
But then things get bad again and
you go back, and...I don't know. It
slows you down.

ELLIOT
(shaking head)
I can't imagine going back. It just
made me feel worse. I'd
rather...you know.

JOE
I thought the exact same thing.
(beat)
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

But I think eventually, you
realize, you don't want to die.
Deep down, you don't want to die.

(beat)

It took me a while, but now when I
go to the hospital, I almost
feel...lucky. Because it means I've
survived. And it's been close
sometimes. It's been really close.

ELLIOT

But don't you want to get better?
Like if it's just about
surviving...what's the point?

JOE

I mean, yeah, I want to have a life
like everyone else. But to have a
life you have to, you know, stay
alive.

ELLIOT

(skeptical)

Right.

JOE

And, you know, we're doing it for
other people too. Our parents and
friends and stuff.

(beat)

Although at this point, most of my
friends are in the hospital, so not
sure what I'm doing out here.

(beat)

But it can be good to feel that
obligation to people.

Elliot nods. This depresses him. Joe finishes the joint and
tosses the roach in the fire.

JOE (CONT'D)

Maybe we should watch a movie or
something.

ELLIOT

I should probably get going.

JOE

Oh. Really?

ELLIOT

Yeah, I still have some work to
finish up from the semester.

JOE
Are you sure? My dad's got this
great setup. With Dolby and
everything.

ELLIOT
(beat, awkward silence)
But thanks again for having me.

JOE
Yeah. Of course. I'm free tomorrow,
if you want to do it again. Or
really any day.

ELLIOT
For sure, I'll text you.
(beat, awkward silence)
Alright.

JOE
Yeah, I'll see you soon.

Elliot leaves. Some time passes. Then he comes back.

ELLIOT
Hey, on second thought--

JOE
Yeah?

ELLIOT
Do you think I could buy some of
that weed off you?

Silence. Joe a bit stunned. Then recomposes himself.

JOE
Oh. Yeah. Of course.

Joe hands him a baggie.

ELLIOT
Thanks so much, dude. I'll Venmo
you.

JOE
Don't worry about it.

ELLIOT
Oh, no really--

JOE
Seriously. I'll just smoke it all
myself. And I need to cool off.

ELLIOT
I'll get you back.

JOE
Really, don't worry about it.

ELLIOT
Let's hang soon though.

Joe nods and smiles at him. Elliot leaves. Joe sits, staring at the fire, tortured.

EXT. JOE'S DAD'S LAWN, PRESENT

Elliot snaps back to present. He's staring at the fire, shaken. Joe's dad is looking at him.

ELLIOT
Sorry, did you say something?

JOE'S DAD
I asked if you wanted to watch a movie.

ELLIOT
Oh.

JOE'S DAD
I've got Dolby and everything.

ELLIOT
Sure.

JOE'S DAD
Avatar?

ELLIOT
Yeah.

INT. JOE'S DAD'S LIVING ROOM, NIGHT

Elliot and Joe's Dad watching Avatar. One of the weirdly sexual hair scenes. Elliot looks over to find Joe's Dad sleeping peacefully on the couch. Tender moment. He knows why he's there.

END OF PILOT