

SESSION

Written by

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INT. OFFICE

RICHARD (O.S.)
Have you thought about a family?

JAMES sits on a love seat, staring at Richard, his lips parted.

JAMES
Honestly, I don't want kids.

Richard straightens up on his chair.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I love kids. I liked volunteering
with summer camps and field trips,
but I know myself well.
(Beat)
I'm relatively selfish, to be
honest.

James takes a deep breath.

JAMES (CONT'D)
My-my biggest fear is not being
able to guarantee that my children
will be happy when they come into
this world. That I cannot provide
the life I want to give them.

Richard starts writing on the notebook in his hand.

JAMES (CONT'D)
It's like a feeling that every
parent remains cursed with: not
knowing how they really did. Did I
do enough, could I have done more,
did I do my best? Or even as they
are still within their care: Am I
being the best parent I am able to
be? I have met many, many parents
who are unable to create a loving
origin for their next generation.
(Beat)
This is just how the parents are
affected. I haven't mentioned the
inevitable child trauma.

James chuckles and adjust himself on the couch.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Anyway, I think birth is unfair.
Birth is the epitome of no choice.
(Beat)
(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

And, even...marriage, I don't want to rush into because last thing I want to do is ruin a person.

Richard stares, expressionless, to James and surveys James's body language.

RICHARD

Maybe, you're thinking is a bit on the pessimist side.

JAMES

Why you say that?

RICHARD

You're fear of being a good enough father is--

JAMES

I just don't want children. I just haven't had the desire to have kids, and I think that's a good enough reason. I'm starting to get tired of explaining in such detail my reasoning behind that idea. Sometimes it is that simple: I just have no desire. I see no point.

RICHARD

How ae your friends?

JAMES

(confused)

They're doing alright.

RICHARD

How do they feel about...what You're doing, and the choices you've made?

JAMES

Do you think I've made bad decisions in my life?

RICHARD

It does not matter what I think. I want to help--

JAMES

Then why ask what my friends think? I made these choices because it was works best for me.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)
 Making sure people don't get close
 is what ensures I don't end up
 breaking them!

Silence.

RICHARD
 So you choose to run.

James massages his face.

JAMES
 Dick.
 (sighing)
 I can call you Dick right?

RICHARD
 No-

JAMES
 Do you have a family?

RICHARD
 I have children, yes.

JAMES
 No, do you have a family? Married,
 wife and kids.

RICHARD
 I have a husband.

JAMES
 (waving hand at Richard)
 Yeah, same torture, different hole.
 Listen: Are you happy?

RICHARD
 I'm not the one at counseling.

JAMES
 Yeah, but this is to help me right?
 Plus, the company's paying you a
 salary, so whether I'm your only
 person for the day, or someone else
 does a walk-in, doesn't matter.
 You're getting paid. And since this
 is coming out their pockets instead
 of mine, I can be here as long as
 is necessary to get me sufficient
 help.

RICHARD

I can just recommend help, and
provide the resources.

JAMES

Yeah, but we know what happens if I
go there.

James lifts his feet onto the couch.

JAMES (CONT'D)

They mark that on my record, and
depending on what I go in for or
who reviews it--sorry, whom. I know
how sensitive ya'll are with
vocabulary. I end up losing out on
certain projects and jobs. Shit,
they may end up walking me out the
door.

RICHARD

Things have changed. Not everyone
is going to put you in a box
because you care about your mental
well-being.

JAMES

Doesn't feel like it. It's like a
trend for millenials and gen-z
liberals. "Mental health."

RICHARD

Do you think this helps.

JAMES

Uhh...I don't know. I want to say
it does, you know, dumping all my
shit on some stranger and not
having to worry about how they feel
after taking in all the pain from a
bunch of broken souls like me.

RICHARD

Myself.

JAMES

See, you're broken too.

RICHARD

No, the appropriate word is *myself*.

JAMES

I don't get it.

James starts pondering.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Yo, you seen Joker? This is like a scene from that. If I was Joker, I'd kill you, and we'd cut to outside the office. You know, I wondered what he used, or how he killed the psychiatrists, or psychologist. What's the difference? Doesn't matter. I probably shouldn't have brought up harming you huh? You gotta report that stuff right?

RICHARD

James.

JAMES

Dick.