

ALL MY LIFE

written by
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Based on a true story

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Every little thing you do leads up to a bigger thing.

- George St. Pierre, 3x UFC Welterweight Champion

FADE IN:

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) Independent Bookstore - A BOOKSTORE CLERK (69) with purple-streaked hair stands behind the cash register. She drums impressively on a coffee cup with two pencils.

JENN (V.O.)

The average person lives 27,375 days.

B) Animal Shelter - A BEARDED GUY (40) leads a scared, older beagle down a long row of barking dogs.

JENN (V.O.)

That's it. That's all we get if we're lucky. 27,375. Do you know how I know that?

C) Messy Apartment - A TIRED WAITRESS (38) splattered with ketchup and coffee stains stares at her snoring husband on the couch. Bong water spilled all over their mail.

JENN (V.O.)

Google. I googled it.

D) Hospital - A BALDING DOCTOR (59) walks down a hospital corridor flipping through a chart.

JENN (V.O.)

At first, I thought it didn't seem like a lot. But then again, how many days do we remember anyway?

E) Old House - A HUNCHED OLD MAN (83) sits alone watching television and eating a microwaved dinner.

JENN (V.O.)

There are entire years that I've already forgotten, let alone remembering specific days.

F) Playground Park - A SHY GIRL with GLASSES (6) draws on the sidewalk with chalk. She draws only spirals.

JENN (V.O.)

For the most part, we only remember the days when something happens. Something great -- or something terrible.

G) Retail Space Under Construction - A FEW CONSTRUCTION GUYS in hard hats look over blueprints spread out on a plywood table.

JENN (V.O.)

Someone is born. Someone gets married. Someone dies. You graduate. You break up. You buy something big. You get a scar. Some sex thing happens.

H) Dorm Room - A concerned COLLEGE FRESHMAN (18) has one hand down the front of his boxers. He's feeling his testicles.

JENN (V.O.)

Great Christmases. Terrible New Years. That one Halloween. Something magical happens in the rain. Something wonderful happens in the snow.

I) Tropical Beach - A 20-SOMETHING WOMAN runs toward the surf and dives into the waves.

JENN (V.O.)

But, to me, the best days are when nothing big happens. Those perfect simple days -- when everything clicks and you feel you are exactly where you need to be.

J) Farmer's Market - A happy ELDERLY COUPLE stroll the marketplace holding hands.

JENN (V.O.)

When everything, all of this -- makes absolute sense.

END MONTAGE

EXT. WEST SIDE MARKET - AFTERNOON

SOLOMON CHAU (20) and JENN CARTER (20) are shopping in the WEST SIDE MARKET. A large Gourmet marketplace in the heart of Cleveland.

Sol holds an empty CANVAS BAG. Jenn wears SAGE COLOR CONVERSE SNEAKERS. Sol could be great looking if he just tried -- Jenn is great looking because she doesn't.

They stop at a stall filled with FRESH VEGGIES.

SOL

How do you feel about eggplant?

JENN

How do I *feel* about them? Neutral?

Sol picks up an EGGPLANT that has a smaller eggplant growing out of it. Like a nose on a face.

SOL

Look at this guy!

JENN

Looks like that Muppet who plays sax. What's his name?

SOL

Zoot.

JENN

Impressive.

SOL

You should know, most of the impressive things I know -- are things I probably shouldn't know.

Sol takes a longer look at the mutant eggplant.

JENN

So he's... dinner?

SOL

Maybe. It's my first time cooking for you. I want to make something you're going to love. Or at least not fully hate.

JENN

Last night, I sat on the couch in bra and socks eating leftover Mac and Cheese with a can of peas dumped on top.

SOL

I... kind of like that image.

JENN

That image you have and the image it was -- they're different.

SOL

Is there anything you don't eat? Let's start there.

JENN
Zucchini. Gross.

SOL
Weird. Why?

JENN
Mushy. Tasteless.

SOL
Wrong. Next?

JENN
Skittles. Too tangy.

SOL
Scratch my Zucchini/Skittle
recipe. Next?

JENN
Cilantro. Disgusting.

SOL
Whoa! Why?!

JENN
Same reason I don't grate Irish
Spring all over my food?

SOL
What are you, mental? Like, mental
in your mouth?

Jenn picks up a tomato that looks like a butt.

JENN
Vegetable Rorschach. Butt or
boobs?

Sol is distracted by the Zoot eggplant.

SOL
Even if I don't cook this guy --
I'm buying him. Butt.

Jenn holds up her iPhone.

JENN
Let me get a picture...

Sol poses with the eggplant and mimics the frowny
expression. We hear the camera click.

CUT TO:

IPHONE VIDEO:

We're watching an IPHONE VIDEO in PORTRAIT mode.

ON VIDEO: JENN and SOL (now both 25) sit beside each other on a COUCH. He wears a well-worn UFC SWEATSHIRT. Sol is obviously ILL. Thin. He wears a trendy knit-cap but we can tell his hair is patchy and thin underneath.

Jenn swiping through an IPAD. She glances up at the camera.

JENN (CONT'D)

Other way, Mom. Sideways.

The iPhone is turned. The video turns to LANDSCAPE.

JENN (CONT'D)

Get closer. Can you see this?

JENN'S MOTHER (O.C.)

Hold it still.

Jenn holds up the iPad screen. She shows an Instagram photo of Sol and his Zoot eggplant.

JENN

That was the first one.

SOL

I thought Carrot Legs Baby Penis was first.

Jenn SWIPES through more photos of Sol and vegetables.

JENN

Zoot was first. Then Carrot Legs Baby Penis. One-Arm Sumo Potato. Evil Alien Mango...

SOL

Okay. Mutant vegetable obsession. Check. What else do you want to talk about?

JENN'S MOM (O.C.)

How about your first date?

JENN

Yah!... No wait. How we first met first.

SOL

Tell it.

JENN

I want to hear how you remember.

SOL

It was five years ago.

JENN

Just tell it.

Sol looks at the camera and talks in a deep voice.

SOL

We met on my sailboat on the Mediterranean. A 90-foot schooner. I was at the helm, butt naked except my Captain's hat. With my manhood as my compass I...

Jenn's Mom laughs. The camera shakes with her giggle.

JENN

I remember it differently.

A SPEEDING FIST flies across the screen smashing into the jaw of a fighter.

INT. LEGENDS SPORTS BAR - HAPPY HOUR

The bar-goers 'Oooh!' at the MMA FIGHT on TV.

2010 CLEVELAND SPORTS TEAM memorabilia covers the walls. A DEFACED POSTER of LEBRON JAMES is proudly displayed.

20-Year Old Jenn sits in a BOOTH flanked by two friends MEGAN FLETCHER (20), buttoned-up and fidgety, and AMANDA DENHOFF (21), a scrappy, curvy shrimp.

Sol and his two of his friends, KYLE MESSINGER (20), bad jeans/bad haircut/bad sneakers, and DAVE COLELLA (21), too close to too fat, approach their booth.

MEGAN

Uh oh.

AMANDA

Hit ignore.

Dave yells over the bar noise -- louder than necessary.

DAVE

You guys look lonely over here!

AMANDA

Not lonely though. Very not.

DAVE

We are then. I'm Dave. This is Kyle and Sol...

SOL

They're actually the lonely ones. I'm just -- embarrassed.

MEGAN

I'm Megan. Amanda and Jenn.

KYLE

Hi Megan. Hi Amanda. And hi Jenny.

JENN

Just Jenn. Two N's.

Dave gets a little flirty.

DAVE

What's the extra N for?

AMANDA

Extra No thanks. Look guys...

DAVE

Wait! You want to hear a story?!

MEGAN

Is it story time now?

DAVE

Cute cat story.

KYLE

We'll buy drinks.

The girls can't resist. They make room in the booth.

DAVE

Sol, your tab still going, bro?

AMANDA

Bro.

Dave slides into the booth. Sol heads to the bar.

INT. LEGENDS SPORTS BAR - MOMENTS LATER

The bar is energized by the MMA fight. Amanda, Megan, and Jenn are packed in their booth with Dave and Kyle.

DAVE

... and the cat darts out of nowhere! Right in front of my Vespa! I swerve but...

Dave slaps his own palm.

AMANDA

Tell me this has a happy ending.

KYLE

Depends how you feel about cats.

Jenn notices Sol trying and failing to get the attention of the bartender. She slides out of the booth.

JENN

I'm ducking out on this scar.

MEGAN

Vespa, cat... finish.

DAVE

I swerve but I go right over the thing. Buh-bum buh-bump. Front and back wheels. And I hear this big *pop* noise. I thought I blew out a tire but then all the kids in the playground start screaming and I feel something wet on the back of my legs...

MEGAN

You said this was a cute cat story!

DAVE

It was a cute cat!

AMANDA

I don't like this story time. I don't like this story time.

Amanda stirs the melting ice in her drink with a cocktail straw and loudly sips whatever is left.

INT. LEGENDS SPORTS BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Sol waves a \$20 bill but is still ignored by the bartender. He turns his attention to the MMA fight -- barely acknowledging Jenn standing right next to him.

SOL

There's gotta be a better bar somewhere.

JENN

So one guy hits and kicks other guy until the ref guy says no more with the hitting and the kicking?

SOL

Basically.

Sol holds the conversation while watching the fight.

JENN

Seems like a lot of neck gripping. Why do you like this?

SOL

I like the underdogs.

We hear Megan in the booth yell, "Uch!" Sol and Jenn look over at Dave grinning. Megan and Amanda look disgusted.

JENN

Your friend is talking about how he drove over a cat.

SOL

He thinks that story is a great icebreaker. No idea why.

Sol waves for the bartender again and is ignored.

JENN

He's playing the odds. It's kind of a good idea -- all things considered.

SOL

How's that?

Jenn crunches some bar nuts.

JENN

Nine-hundred ninety-nine out of a thousand girls will hate that story, right? Hate it.

SOL

Okay. Maybe generous.

Jenn locks eyes with Sol.

JENN

But that *one*. One out of a thousand. That one girl who loves smushed cat stories? It's a dream. That's a soulmate moment for her.

Sol listens. Confused. She moves closer. Her voice lowers.

JENN (CONT'D)

She will *love* him for having the guts to tell *that* story. Her kind of story. Smushed cat. It's a longshot, yeah -- but if you believe in destiny -- in finding that one person who really gets you... it's the right idea.

Sol does the math on her logic.

SOL

I'm pretty sure it's the wrong idea.

JENN

Yeah? If he hit a duck instead of a cat -- I'd probably be in the bathroom with him right now... fully giving it up.

Jenn holds his look until Sol finally laughs.

SOL

Are you... here... ummm...

He sees JENN IN FULL at once. Her ease, her funny, her beauty, smarts, quickness, punch. It's obvious she's fully different. He stares -- astounded.

JENN

This stare is two seconds from turning creepazoid. Blink. Look left. Do something else with your eyes.

Sol looks right then left then shuts his eyes altogether.

SOL

Sorry sorry. Tequila shots! I'm usually witty and charming.

JENN

You ever see James Bond? Dude is fully hammered 24/7 and he's always witty and charming.

Jenn waits. Sol nods and accepts the challenge. He composes himself.

SOL

You look... like... the... princess of a... beautiful...

JENN

Stop. Stop now. Abort. Abort.

She flags down the bartender with one wave.

BACK TO:

IPHONE VIDEO:

We're back on the couch with LATE-STAGE CANCER Sol and Jenn. Jenn hands him a cup with a bendy straw and two RED PILLS.

JENN

If you had a couple more tequila shots we wouldn't be here now.

SOL

I probably would be. You wouldn't.

JENN

Take your Doxorubicin.

Sol looks at the size of the large pills.

SOL

What did that nurse guy in chemo call these?

JENN

Red Devils.

SOL

They ought to make these chewable.

JENN

Yeah. Fruit flavors like
Flintstones. I'll call Merck in
the morning.

Jenn hands him a glass of water. He takes the pills and
washes them down then lies back and closes his eyes.

SOL

Playing nurse to me or laying on a
tropical beach somewhere? Where
would you rather be?

JENN

Here. I have body issues.

Jenn kisses his cheek.

SOL

Me too.

JENN'S MOM (O.C.)

Are you sure you're up for this?

He takes a sudden breath as if he just came up for air.
He sits up.

SOL

Yeah. I want to. We have to do
something with the time. But let's
talk about all of our stuff. I
don't want this to seem like some
fairy tale fantasy life...

Sol laughs and starts to cough. It turns into a hard deep
chest hacking. The VIDEO PAUSES.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S KITCHEN - DAWN

Jenn sits ALONE on a bar stool at the kitchen counter.
The image of Sol coughing is paused on her LAPTOP SCREEN.

Jenn looks OLDER. The apartment is messy. Dark. Empty.
Two medical monitors stand by the door. Unplugged. Wires
coiled and tied. She wears the UFC sweatshirt.

She scrolls a long list of video files and clicks one
named FEB-14-SOL.mp4

ON LAPTOP SCREEN:

The SHAKY VIDEO is a HIDDEN CAMERA view of Jenn and Sol walking in a PARK.

Sol suddenly starts to sing the 2013 hit 'COUNTING STARS' by One Republic. He sort of has a singing voice -- but we suspect he thinks it's better than it really is...

SOL

*Lately, I've been, I've been
losing sleep. Dreaming about the
things that we could be...*

There's a pause. A street violinist strolls up next to them. He accompanies Sol's singing.

SOL (CONT'D)

*But baby, I've been, I've been
praying hard. Said no more
counting dollars. We'll be
counting stars...*

A guitarist gets off a nearby bench and joins in. It's Sol's WEDDING PROPOSAL to her. A complete sneak attack.

A FLASH MOB emerges in the park. There's a BRASS BAND. Drums. A piano on wheels. DOLPHIN-SHAPED BALLOONS. A man in a tuxedo on stilts walks out from behind a tree.

Sol steps into the group and they all dance a loose synchronized dance as they circle Jenn.

FLASH MOB

*I see this life, like a swinging
vine. Swing my heart across the
line. And in my face is flashing
signs. Seek it out and ye' shall
find...*

Lured by the noise, random people in the park crowd around. Some join in, singing and clapping. It's an insta-party.

Jenn clasps her hands over her mouth as tears flow. The man on stilts hands a VELVET BOX down to Sol who then gets down on ONE KNEE. He asks for her hand.

The mob waits for Jenn's answer. She tearfully chokes out...

JENN

Of course! Yes!

Sol stands and puts the ring on her shaking hand. They KISS. Hug. People cheer. The video pauses.

BACK TO:

INT. JENN AND SOL'S KITCHEN - DAWN

Jenn sits at the laptop. It's quiet except the hum of the computer fan. She stares at the frozen image of balloons and Sol full of life.

She SLAMS the laptop lid.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

A door SLAMS. Sol walks in. He's HEALTHY. Handsome.

Sol is dressed corporate casual. Laptop bag in one hand and a bag of groceries in the other.

Jenn is UNPACKING a box. ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGY BOOKS along with notebooks and paperwork. Grad school stuff.

We note her modest ENGAGEMENT RING.

By the shape of their apartment, we can guess that they JUST MOVED IN. Boxes stacked everywhere. A carpet rolled up leaning against the wall. A couch. A TV. The basics.

JENN

How'd it go?

Jenn gives him a hug. He kisses her quickly on the cheek and puts the grocery bag on the kitchen counter.

SOL

Super.

He takes a small jar of FLEUR DE SEL SEA SALT out of the grocery bag. Jenn looks at the jar.

JENN

(Fake French accent)
Oh ho. Very nice.

SOL

It was on sale.

Sol takes out a few ZUCCHINI.

JENN

Yay. Zucchini. My favorite.

SOL

I'm gonna finally change your mind about these. You'll see.

JENN

Good luck. I think my feelings about zucchini are hard wired to a repressed childhood memory.

Jenn expects a laugh. She doesn't get one.

JENN (CONT'D)

Laugh!!

SOL

Guess what percentage of people use their mobile device on the toilet? Guess.

JENN

A hundred... sixty... thousand... million.

SOL

Eighty-two. And currently there is no GPS algorithm established that can track a person's Mobile Bathroom Habits? Or "M-B-H".

JENN

Great!

SOL

Bathroom Marketing will be the next year of my life. You're looking at the new Project Manager!

Sol's grin makes it clear it's not a cause for celebration. He takes out a skillet and lets it bang down on the stove.

JENN

Don't cook. Let's head down to Pepper & Salt. Just appetizers.

SOL

Just apps always ends up *just* sixty bucks.

JENN

A drink then. You can talk to Roger. See what he's up to...

SOL

Oh. I see. Roger is hiring a line cook. Fifteen bucks an hour.

JENN

That's not too too bad.

SOL

Sure. All we'd need to do is cut back on little things. Like rent. Heat. Clothing. Things in general.

Jenn tries to MASSAGE the stress out of his shoulders.

JENN

So, lets be third world first world people, Sol! Live outside! Share a loin cloth! Eat the random mushrooms we find in the park! I'll sell lanyards...

SOL

Funny.

Sol shrugs her hands off with an annoyed bristle.

JENN

Work on the line! Get some experience! That's all I'm saying!

SOL

People go to school to be chefs.

JENN

What you're doing now is...

Sol clanks the pan.

SOL

Work! It's called work! I'm working! It's what people do after they graduate and have real life bills! School loans! And want insurance! Grow up! It's called having a plan for the future!

Sol starts chopping a zucchini.

JENN

Love the plan, Sol. Let me know how it all turns out.

Jenn grabs her coat and leaves the apartment without another word.

EXT. INDEPENDENT BOOK STORE - LATER - EARLY EVENING

Jenn walks down an aisle with Amanda. We notice the PURPLE-HAIRED BOOK STORE CLERK (69) is setting up a display of the book LEAN IN by Sheryl Sandberg.

AMANDA

Grad school is for suckers. It's amazing smart people go.

JENN

Spent like \$900 on books this semester. Ree-dick.

AMANDA

So what happened?

JENN

Came home from work all bitchy. Again. He's grumpy and tired all the time. Slept all weekend last week. We're okay but...

Jenn opens a book. Amanda shuts it and takes it from her. She looks at Jenn seriously.

AMANDA

You lost your Big O Glow. When you first dated you had Big O Glow.

JENN

I still have Big O Glow.

AMANDA

No. You have sad vibrator dinge. I know that dinge. I rock that dinge. I'm telling you -- take advantage of your pre-marriage sex life.

JENN

Don't worry. Our pre-marriage phase might be forever pre. I can't even get him to commit to getting a dog.

AMANDA

What does he want??

Jenn shrugs.

JENN

I entered him in a cooking contest at the end of May. Maybe it'll snap him out of his funk.

AMANDA

Really!?

JENN

Bistro Chef Live. One appetizer. One entree. Winner gets \$20,000.

AMANDA

Great!! What'd he say?

JENN

He feels like I'm pushing him.

AMANDA

Good! That's what a future wife is for... Start shoving.

Purple Hair passes by pushing a book cart. We leave Jenn and Amanda behind and follow Purple Hair to the MUSIC SECTION.

PURPLE HAIR

Let me know if you need help.

She takes a book off the cart called 1975 PUNK. She flips through finds the page she's looking for -- a grainy PHOTO of a band called THE SPLITS in front of CBGB.

Jenn VOICEOVERS:

JENN (V.O.)

We're going to get old one day.

The young drummer in the photo is a girl with heavy purple eyeliner and a purple mohawk.

JENN (V.O.)

Hopefully.

The young girl sneers at the camera while holding drumsticks over her head like an X.

EXT. INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE - DAY

Jenn and Amanda WALK OUT of the bookstore. Jenn holds the door open for the HUNCHED OLD MAN from the opening montage. He's walking alone with a cane. We follow the Old Man into the store.

INT. INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE - MOMENTS LATER

The Old Man heads down an aisle toward the Travel section.

JENN (V.O.)

It sucks. There's no way around it. Getting old sucks.

The Old Man runs his fingers across the spines of various travel guides. Various countries.

JENN (V.O.)

When you're young, it's hard to even imagine. It's so far off.

He takes down a COFFEE TABLE BOOK titled BEIJING. The weight is a lot for him. He flips through it.

JENN (V.O.)

But one day, old age will arrive. With all its baggage. Could-haves. Should haves. Do-overs. Missed chances.

The Old Man walks to the register with the book. Purple Hair reshelves her 1975 Punks book and follows him.

JENN (V.O.)

But the harder truth is -- statistically speaking, half of us don't get to be old.

SHY GIRL with GLASSES walks into the bookstore with her Mother. The Old Man smiles as she passes by.

JENN (V.O.)

Half of us never get that promised stretch of time to make peace with all our regrets. Half of us -- get cheated.

We hear an electronic beep as Purple Hair scans the barcode of the book.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A CHEF KNIFE comes down on an octopus tentacle. KATY PERRY plays. Sol dances a little while cooking.

All four stove burners are active. Amanda, Megan, Kyle and Dave sit around snacking on canapés. Jenn pours wine.

KYLE

I seriously think I should be a food taster. It would be worth the occasional poisoning.

DAVE

I got poisoned once when I was a kid. Ate a couple of those laundry detergent pods. Almost died.

AMANDA

Is that why you're like... this?

Sol is in his element as he cooks. He doesn't notice Jenn watching him. She focuses on the grace of his HANDS.

SOL

Octopus appetizer up first!

JENN

Remember, we're voting on the best appetizer and best entree.

KYLE

Do we get a cut after you win the twenty grand?

SOL

This is your cut.

Jenn heads into the kitchen. She HUGS Sol from behind. It doesn't interrupt his rhythm.

JENN

All going according to plan?

Sol blows on a wooden spoon and gives Jenn a taste of a sauce simmering in a pot. Her eyes go wide.

SOL

You tell me. How does that taste?

JENN

It tastes like... you're not fucking around in here. At all.

Jenn loves the confidence on Sol's face. Sol loves the pride in hers.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Sol begins plating. We watch dish-by-dish perfectly plated.

A real FOODIE MOMENT:

-- Charred OCTOPUS with Chickpeas, Hazelnut, and Basil

-- Pan Roasted SALMON with Ratatouille and Dill Oil

-- Seared DUCK Breast with Orange Gastrique, Farro, and Roasted Turnips

-- CARPACCIO with Shaved Parmesan, Mesclun, and Capers

Everyone dives into the deliciousness. Sol carefully watches their faces. They obviously love it.

AMANDA

Uch. This is ruining all future food for me. How am I supposed to eat Arby's after this?

SOL

What do you think, Ky?

KYLE

Meh. What's the spice on here? Mrs. Dash?

Kyle teasingly waves a tentacle on his fork. Sol smirks then looks at Dave.

SOL

So Dave, you wanna be my Best Man?

Dave talks through a mouthful of food.

DAVE

Not really. It's a whole hassle.

AMANDA

God. What did you do to this beef?

SOL

Walnut oil. Capers. Good?

AMANDA

Good? I want to marry it. Make babies with it. Then eat the babies.

Jenn and Sol watch their friends devour his cooking. Dave holds up his wine glass. He talks while still chewing.

DAVE

Mario Batali? Fuck yourself, bro.
Cheers to the new best chef in all
Ohio land.

They all clink glasses. We sense Dave and Amanda, now
boozy, give each other a monetarily flirty look.

INT. SOL AND JENN'S APARTMENT - LATER

The kitchen looks like it was attacked by a blind bear.
Food splatter. Cabinets open. Dishes sideways in the
sink.

Dave is ASLEEP on the couch.

Sol is rubbing his RIGHT SHOULDER. He inhales through his
teeth as he's hit with sharp PAIN.

MEGAN

I still vote salmon.

JENN

It's settled. We voted charred
octopus appetizer and the duck.

KYLE

Salmon never wins, Megs. It takes
the bronze on its best day.

MEGAN

Salmon can take gold.

KYLE

Nah. Salmon is the chicken of sea.

MEGAN

That's tuna, dope.

AMANDA

Sol which is your best dish?

SOL

The duck.

Sol flops down in a chair and continues rubbing his
shoulder. Jenn notices.

JENN

Okay guys. This was a huge help.
Now get out in the next ninety
seconds, please. Bye bye. Out now
thanks. Let's see some hustle.

Their friends take the cue and start gathering up their things. Kyle shakes a snoring Dave on the couch.

KYLE

Wake up! Yo! Wake up!

SOL

He can crash here.

KYLE

You sure?

SOL

Getting him out the door would be a whole project. You know that.

Amanda and Megan put on their coats.

MEGAN

You got this, Sol. That was legit amazing.

AMANDA

But see a doctor. Your winces are getting annoying.

SOL

Not paying a doctor five hundred bucks to tell me to buy Icy Hot.

MEGAN

Then just buy some already!

They hug and leave. Sol looks clammy and beyond exhausted.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol brush their teeth.

She MIRRORS his toothbrush brushing. Stopping when he stops. Changing sides when he does. He starts. She starts. He stops. She stops. A nightly ritual that Sol struggles to ignore nightly. She sings:

JENN

(singing)

Toothbrush twins. We brush em up.
Toothbrush twins. We brush em
down. Up and down, left and right.
Toothbrush twinnnns. One tooth two
tooth two tooth three...

Sol suddenly JOLTS like he was electrically shocked. He holds his right shoulder. Jaw hanging low in awe of the PAIN. He steadies himself on the bathroom counter.

Jenn, wide-eyed, throws her toothbrush in the sink.

JENN (CONT'D)

You are calling a doctor tomorrow!

SOL

It's a pinched nerve!

JENN

Tomorrow! You're calling! Or tomorrow, *I swear to God, Sol* -- I'm going to get... a tattoo of... One Direction on my ass!

The pain seems to be fading. Sol laughs.

SOL

Stop.

JENN

I am swearing to God on this. I mean it. You're calling the doctor or I'm calling a tattoo shop! One D! Right on it! No joke!

Sol nods. There's no fight.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Jenn, sound asleep, lays next to Sol. His eyes wide open. Drenched in sweat. We watch his BREATHING picks up speed. It speeds up hyperventilating. Jenn wakes up.

SOL

Something's wrong.

She clicks on the light.

JENN

What?!

He throws off the covers and stumbles toward the bathroom. He trips on the way holding HIS ABDOMEN.

JENN (CONT'D)

Sol!

Sol looks fully stunned by the sharpness of the pain in his gut. Jenn crouches down to help him.

JENN (CONT'D)

Sol! What's happening?!

The pain gets worse. He can't speak. Pain is ripped across his face. Spittle shoots from his mouth.

Dave yanks open the door in a half-confused stupor.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Jenn is on her iPhone. Pacing in her sage Converse shoes. Dave is scrolling through an article on his mobile phone.

JENN (TO PHONE)

Maybe appendix.... They say the pain can... travel.

Jenn rolls her eyes at Dave. Her patience stays under control. She shifts her tone to methodical.

JENN (TO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Yes. Next time I'll make the appointment for him.

Jenn composes herself.

JENN (TO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Of course, I will be here.

She clicks off the phone.

JENN

They'll be here in a few hours.

DAVE

No surprise. His Mom wanted to come to school every time Sol had a cold to cook him ginger soup.

JENN

It makes this feel serious.

Dave proudly holds up his phone and reads.

DAVE

It's not. Fibromyalgia. Check it: *The condition is often associated with tender points, which are termed "trigger points." These are places on the body where even light pressure causes pain...*

JENN

I don't need Dr. Dick Googleman
right now.

Jenn waves him away.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - 3AM

Jenn sees SOL'S MOTHER and FATHER, BEVERLY CHAU (50) and ARTHUR CHAU (55), hustling down the hallway toward the waiting area. Dave sits, legs splayed, looking at his phone.

ARTHUR

Any word?

JENN

Not yet.

They both give Jenn a hug.

BEV

Hi David.

DAVE

Hi Mrs. Chau. Good to see you.
Well, not good to... but...

ARTHUR

What kind of tests are they doing?

JENN

All of the above. I don't know.

BEV

You don't know??

Jenn takes a pause with Bev.

JENN

I'm waiting on the doctors.

BEV

Don't wait, Jenn. Ask.

DAVE

It's Fibromyalgia. Trust me.

Bev squints an annoyed/confused look at Dave as he holds up his phone at her.

DR. ALAN SCHIFFRIN (60), the doctor from the opening montage, walks briskly down the hall. He joins them in the waiting area.

DR. SCHIFFRIN
Are you his wife?

JENN
Fiancé.

BEV
I'm his mother.

Jenn desperately reads the doctor's expression for a single trace of optimism.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Jenn sits next to Sol who is prepped for EMERGENCY SURGERY. Her eyes are bloodshot from crying.

SOL
What are you crying about? I heard the food in this place is sick.

JENN
Don't. You can't joke right now.

SOL
I don't know what to say.

JENN
Say you're going to be okay.

SOL
The doctors all agree. They're catching this super early, Jenn.

JENN
They only see it in the liver. One place. One spot.

SOL
One tumor. One sad creepy loner tumor who is about to get evicted from my premises.

Jenn's eyes fill with determination and fear.

JENN
We are going to be old people together. Very old.

SOL

Yes. We will.

JENN

Apple sauce old.

SOL

Matching purple and yellow
sweatsuits using the wrong end of
the fork old.

JENN

Because I will elbow smash you in
the Adam's Apple if you change our
old people plans.

SOL

No elbow smash necessary. I'll be
fine. You'll see.

Jenn bursts with tears.

JENN

It's me and you, Solomon Chau.

SOL

You and me, Jenn. Always.

A FEW NURSES enter the room. Sol nods and looks to Jenn.
She squeezes his hand and kisses him between the eyes.
They wheel him away.

Jenn watches him go then CLOSES HER EYES. Leaving us in
the DARK.

We hear an EKG beeping. The beeping gets louder and more
urgent then morphs into an ALARM CLOCK alarm.

INT. SOL AND JENN'S BEDROOM - WINTER MORNING

The alarm clock beeps loudly. It's SNOWING lightly. Jenn
lies next to Sol. She shuts off the alarm with a smack.

JENN

Get up.

Sol rolls over.

SOL

I'm good.

JENN

Sol. It's six.

SOL
How long does snooze go for again?

JENN
Til now. Get up.

Jenn throws back the covers. Sol is in boxers. He has a LARGE SCAR on his abdomen -- pink but fully healed.

SOL
Ten minutes.

JENN
I have class at eight. I'm making coffee.

SOL
Wait! I want to cut a deal!

Sol grabs her hand as she tries to stand up.

JENN
No deals!

SOL
Hear the offer! You can say no!
Just hear me out!

JENN
Go.

SOL
Item number one. Foot massage
tonight during Game of Thrones.
Half hour.

It grabs Jenn's attention. She's game.

JENN
Both feet?

SOL
Yah. Of course both feet.

JENN
You said foot massage. I'm
clarifying. Plural. Feet.

SOL
Okay, counselor. A both feet foot
massage.

JENN
What else?

SOL

I'll chuck UFC Tapout in the trash. No more Playstation.

JENN

You told me last week you were already bored of it. No deal.

Jenn starts to walk away.

SOL

We'll go the dog shelter this week!... To look.

JENN

With honest intent?

SOL

With honest intent. No promises. No yappy yaps. No shedders.

Jenn accesses.

JENN

Feet massage. Tapout in trash. And shelter trip with honest intent no yappy yaps no shedders?

Sol seductively reels her by the arm back into bed. She nods and doesn't resist.

JENN (CONT'D)

You still need to hurry.

SOL

I can be done in five minutes.

JENN

You have three.

They kiss. She giggles while he flips her on her back.

EXT. CITY PARK PLAYGROUND - SNOWY MORNING

The snow is perfect for snowballs. Kids bundled in winter clothes are having a blast.

Our SHY GIRL from the opening montage is sticking snow to the side of an OAK TREE. She fills deep cracks in the bark with sticky snow. Her MOTHER stands close by watching her.

Another girl wearing PINK SNOW PANTS (also 6) approaches our Shy Girl and watches her smear snow into the bark.

PINK PANTS

What you doing?

Shy Girl doesn't respond.

PINK PANTS (CONT'D)

Can I do some?

From a distance, we see a MAN DRESSED IN WHITE PANTS, WOOL CAP and BLUE SKI PARKA running through the park toward them.

SHY GIRL'S MOTHER

Honey, this girl is asking if she can play too.

Shy Girl doesn't respond.

The Man in White Pants almost crashes into a woman pulling two kids on a sled -- but side steps around it.

PINK PANTS

Does she talk?

SHY GIRL'S MOTHER

When she wants to...

Pink Pants gets right in her Shy Girl's face.

PINK GIRL

Why don't you talk now?!?

The Man in White Pants -- is Sol. He flies past the tree and we follow him -- leaving the girls behind.

EXT. CLEVELAND CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Sol runs down the street. Slaloming people. Finally, reaching the alley door of a HIGH-END but casual restaurant called PEPPER & SALT.

He stands outside for a moment catching his breath -- he slows his breathing, his heart rate, his demeanor. He seems overly winded.

INT. PEPPER & SALT KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Sol enters the kitchen and takes off his parka.

Pans are clanking on stoves. A blur of eggs, bread and sizzling butter. The grumpy HEAD CHEF, NEIL SUMNER (35) is in full control of the kitchen.

NEIL

Twenty-two minutes late.

SOL

I'll make it up!

NEIL

You'd think you'd want to be here early. Your dish is on the special board.

Sol looks at the CHALKBOARD on the wall of the restaurant. One of the dishes is: *Savory French Toast with Poached Egg and Prosciutto*.

Sol smiles big -- like he just saw his name in lights.

INT. PEPPER & SALT KITCHEN - LATER

Sol is plating meals.

ROGER SACHS (41), forever-boozy owner of Pepper & Salt, snatches a piece of prosciutto off one of the plates.

ROGER

How you hanging in, Sol?

SOL

Keeping it moving.

Sol expertly wiggles a poached egg off a spatula onto a piece of French toast. He puts it on the high counter for pick up.

ROGER

Home run dish. Adding it to the next menu printing.

Neil passes by looking slightly annoyed.

NEIL

Ham and eggs on toast, Roger. The revolution is upon us.

ROGER

What's good is good, Neil! It's not brain surgery!!

Roger rolls his eyes at himself.

The courtyard is a mess. Almost a junkyard. Broken concrete with grass growing through it. Worn wooden fence. An old stove sits rusting.

HOPE

This will be ready in time?

JENN

August is six months away.

HOPE

Maybe find one backup place?

JENN

Roger is offering this to us for *free*. Know any other free places?

Hope's chair wobbles. One leg is short.

HOPE

I can call your father. Ask him to chip in.

JENN

Don't. Just don't. Leave it.

HOPE

And Sol's parents. Can they help?

JENN

They can't! This is it, Mom! This is where we're getting married!

Roger bursts out of the back door.

ROGER

Ignore everything! Don't look! All of this stuff isn't here! In fact, close your eyes! Close your eyes, bride!

Sol follows Roger through the back door. He's covered in kitchen splatter and wipes his brow as he looks around.

SOL

This is gonna be perfect.

Jenn smiles. Relieved.

INT. CLEVELAND CLINIC HOSPITAL - DAY

ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN. Jenn and Sol walk down a hallway. Valentine's Day decorations add some color to the beige corridors.

They pass by the COLLEGE FRESHMAN from the opening montage. He walks with his parents and looks angry.

Jenn sees how nervous Sol looks.

JENN

Ooh! Got an idea!

SOL

What?

JENN

Your first restaurant? *Hospital Inspired Food*. Whoa. Hear me out. Not tacky. Done right. Like high-end hospital.

SOL

Genius, Jenn.

JENN

You see it? Wait staff in candy stripes. Harsh florescents. Surgical utensils on linen. Authentic bleachy smell. You call it "Gurney"... Pronounced Gurn-ay.

They pass a PATIENT'S ROOM.

Our HUNCHED OLD MAN sits beside his wife. She appears to have dementia. The Old Man has the BEIJING book propped on the tray table in front of his wife.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Old Man shows his wife pictures in the book. Her BLANK EYES look right through it.

OLD MAN

... and this... Our view from the hotel window... Step onto the terrace!

The Old Man lets her look at the picture for a while then turns the page.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
 Orange Blossom Tea. Can you smell
 it, Jeannie? Your favorite.

A tin of ORANGE TEA is open on the tray table. He picks
 it up and waves it under her nose.

INT. DR. SCHIFFRIN'S OFFICE - LATER

Sol and Jenn sit next to each other. The wall behind the
 desk is covered with prestigious medical degrees and
 awards.

On the side table sits a framed picture of a TERRIFICALLY
 UGLY DOG. An ugly dog contest runner-up.

SOL
 If we get bad news, we'll get a
 dog immediately. No matter what.
 Promise.

JENN
 Don't say that.

Dr. Schiffrin walks in and shuts the door.

DR. SCHIFFRIN
 You two talking about Milton?

JENN
 Is that his name?

The doctor puts the photo face down.

DR. SCHIFFRIN
 Don't look at him too long. It's
 like looking into the Sun.

A large jar of RED LICORICE sits on his desk.

SOL
 So?

DR. SCHIFFRIN
 Everything looks good.

Jenn and Sol exhale.

DR. SCHIFFRIN (CONT'D)
 How are you doing at work? Energy
 up?

SOL

Getting there. Next week, I'll be moved to the dinner shift.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

I'll have to stop in. Haven't been out with the wife just the two of us in forever.

SOL

Why is that?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Thirty-five years of marriage leads to a lot of takeout.

Sol takes Jenn's hand and squeezes it. Schiffrin sees how in love Sol is with her.

JENN

Should he not be pushing so hard?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

You're looking at eighteen-months before Sol will be a hundred percent again. Live life. Twizzler?

Dr. Schiffrin offers the jar of licorice to Sol and Jenn. Jenn takes one. Sol takes one. So does the doctor. They all chew Twizzlers.

JENN

So... what's next?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

We'll check the blood work. And we have you booked for a top down screening on...

SOL

Jenn?

JENN

Wednesday, March 17th. 11:30.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

I wish my wife was as organized as you. She loses her car keys while driving in her car.

They all sit chewing their red Twizzlers.

JENN

Anything else?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

What are your plans for the day?

JENN

Thinking about getting a dog.

Sol gives Schifffrin a look like he's not convinced.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

You want this one? I'll pay you.

Schifffrin gives the framed photo a long look as if he can't believe that's his dog.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - AFTERNOON

Dogs bark and the sound echoes down the cement hallways of the animal shelter. Our BEARDED GUY from the opening montage is cleaning out one of the stalls.

Jenn and Sol stop by a cage with a quiet, large-sized Pit. Jenn crouches to pet it through the bars.

SOL

Careful.

BEARDED GUY

Barney is fine. Friendly.

SOL

No Pits, please?

BEARDED GUY

He's a gentle giant.

SOL

I just have a rule about living with things that might murder me if I look at it wrong.

JENN

You already do.

The Bearded Guy glares at Sol and distances himself.

SOL (WHISPERING)

Why is it any time I say anything bad about Pit Bulls people look at me like I'm racist?

JENN

Because shut up your whole mouth.

Jenn moves on to another stall. An OLDER BEAGLE with a grey muzzle sitting quietly. His name is on the door.

JENN (CONT'D)

Ooh. Look at this guy! Otis...

SOL

What's Otis's deal?

BEARDED GUY

His owner went into assisted living and he couldn't keep him. He's nine. Very loyal. Fully trained. A real character...

JENN

Aww, Otis.

BEARDED GUY

You want me to take him out?

Jenn smiles at Sol. Eyebrows up.

JENN

What do you think?

SOL

Nine?? I guess he can be like... a starter dog.

JENN

You're gonna be a starter husband.

BEARDED GUY

Otis has a lot of life in him. Believe me. Older dogs get overlooked. They just crave purpose. A job.

Sol looks through the bars at Otis. Otis looks back.

SOL

I just...

JENN

Do you want a dog? Yes or no?

SOL

Yes I do! You do... so I do!

JENN

You do so I do?? You said honest intent.

SOL

I am being honest! A nine year old dog??

JENN

Why not?

SOL

Vet bills for one!

JENN

There's always vet bills!

BEARDED GUY

You two need to just come back when you know you're ready.

JENN

We're ready! We are...

BEARDED GUY

Not yet. It's important to me all these dogs find the right home. You'll know when you're ready.

Bearded Guy walks away and heads into a back room. The door slams behind him.

SOL

Did we just get rejected?

Sol and Jenn are left alone among the barking dogs.

INT. LEGENDS SPORTS BAR - HAPPY HOUR

Sol and Jenn sit with Kyle, Dave, Megan and Amanda. They sip beers and eat burgers.

JENN

Dog is cancelled.

SOL

On hold.

MEGAN

What about a parrot or something?

KYLE

Parrots are cool. Can teach em to say fuck you or whatever.

AMANDA

Word of advice. Women don't want any single man who owns a bird.

DAVE

What if it was an ostrich?

Amanda takes his point. She smiles at Dave.

SOL

A dog would be a lot right now. Jenn in school. Me working nights.

DAVE

That's why you get an old dog. Old dogs just sleep and fart all day.

KYLE

Like you?

DAVE

Maybe soon! I think I'm about to be offered sev-er-ance! Boom!

AMANDA

Again? You're the only person I know who is getting rich getting fired from start-ups.

Sol sips his beer, grimaces, then smells the glass.

SOL

Why don't you take your money and open a bar? This place is hurting.

DAVE

I'll get right on that.

SOL

Oh by the way. Gotta settle this.

Sol flips a QUARTER and slaps it on his wrist.

SOL (CONT'D)

Best Man call. Heads Dave's my Best Man. Tails it's you Kyle.

The two guys peer over as it's revealed. Tails.

KYLE

Yes! All you Dave! Deal with it!
Bachelor party! Speech! All that!

DAVE

Two out of three!? C'mon, Sol!

SOL

This feels good guys. Feels good.

Amanda fills their beers from a pitcher on the table.

EXT. ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME - EVENING

Jenn and Sol sit on a bench outside the PYRAMID BUILDING of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Jenn is playing "Pocket Full of Dreams" by HEDLEY on her iPhone. They listen together.

SOL

I like it -- but why not a Sinatra song?

JENN

It's our wedding song not our fiftieth friggin anniversary song.

SOL

Let's see if we can dance to it.
We have to practice anyway.

JENN

I know how to dance.

SOL

Slow dance? Not really.

JENN

We've slow danced before! We just danced on New Years!

SOL

We didn't dance. We stood there swaying.

JENN

That's slow dancing!

SOL

That's swaying.

The song continues to play. Sol stands up, takes her hand and pulls her up off the bench.

SOL

Don't resist. That's the first rule.

Sol pulls her close. Jenn nervously looks around at passersbys.

JENN

We're not doing this out here.

SOL

If nobody cares -- you shouldn't.

Sol starts dancing with her. It's awkward. Public. He spins her away with a flourish and then spools her back.

JENN

Relax, Tippytoes. We're going to be in a restaurant courtyard not a ballroom.

SOL

Why are you making this so hard?

JENN

I like our simple sway!

Jenn lowers her tone. She relaxes. She holds Sol close. They sway so slowly it looks like a hug.

JENN (CONT'D)

This. This is all I want on my wedding day, Sol. This moment. This is the dream for your bride.

SOL

Except we'll be in a restaurant courtyard.

JENN

We could be getting married at Chuck E. Cheese and I'd be smiling.

Jenn closes her eyes. They melt into each other's arms.

SOL

Probably could get a deal on their sixty-four ounce beers. That banjo band comes with the place.

Jenn talks as if in a dream. Whispery. Seductively.

JENN

Mmm... By the end of the night, I could be that bride with a black eye and broken heel. Throw up down my cleavage.

Sol speaks softly back.

SOL

And me. Your new husband. Wearing my tie as a ninja headband. Playing skeeball. Overhand. Pockets bursting with those game tickets... for a prize. For you.

Sol looks into her eyes.

SOL (CONT'D)

For us.

JENN

Me and you always, Solomon Chau.

He tries to spin her gently. She resists.

SOL

You need to follow my lead!

JENN

You need to not be all fancy!

Above them, the night sky sparkles.

INT. INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE - LATER

The girls sit around the table with a stack of bridal books and magazines.

We see images of PHENOMENAL WEDDINGS. Beautiful beach weddings. European castle weddings.

The girls look like they're suppressing depression.

AMANDA

Stellar idea, Megs. Let's flip through books with million dollar weddings to cheer up the girl getting married in a junkyard!

JENN

Courtyard.

MEGAN

We're just gathering ideas! I like that ivy on the fence thing. The bows on the chairs...

Jenn stares at one particular page.

JENN

Look at this. Look at her.

Jenn holds up a magazine with a BEAUTIFUL BRIDE standing in front of an OLD CASTLE. The bride is shimmering. The MARCHESA WEDDING DRESS is stunning.

MEGAN

Wow.

Jenn turns the magazine back to herself. She looks longingly at the image.

AMANDA

See! See Meg!? You've gone and fucked up her bride brain!

Amanda grabs the magazine and throws it on the floor.

MEGAN

We will make it work back there.

Jenn smiles at her friends. Purple Hair passes by.

PURPLE HAIR

Which one of you is getting married?

AMANDA

Guess.

Purple Hair looks at all three. Megan looks shy and weird. Amanda looks hung-over rough. Only Jenn looks together.

PURPLE HAIR

You look like you just got divorced. And you look like you probably caused it... so...

Jenn smiles. Her phone buzzes. There's a TEXT from Sol.

TEXT: Come home

Jenn stares at the text. She texts back.

TEXT: At bookstore with the ladies. What's up?

The TYPING BUBBLE appears then disappears. That happens twice more. Then a text is finally sent.

TEXT: Come home please

Jenn grabs her bag. She rushes out of the bookstore.

EXT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - STOOP - DAY

Jenn pulls up and sees Sol sitting on the stoop with OTIS (9), the old beagle.

JENN

You! Did! Not! Sol! Why didn't you take me with you?

Jenn hops out of the car -- then sees Sol's face.

JENN (CONT'D)

What?

Sol looks as if he can't part his lips.

SOL

He's a good dog. Just old. He's ours now.

JENN

Why do we have dog?

Jenn's eyes look like they're slowly turning to glass. Sol can't maintain eye contact. He almost looks ashamed.

EXT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON - EARLIER

Sol walks out of the hospital looking stunned. He wears his UFC sweatshirt. Under his arm are PAMPHLETS and booklets about TREATING CANCER.

He sits on a BENCH and watches the world pass by. Our Hunched Old Man with his heavy bag sits down next to Sol.

OLD MAN

What is U-F-C?

SOL

Ultimate Fighting Championship. It's like boxing.

OLD MAN

Never seen it.

Sol notices the BEIJING BOOK sticking out of the old man's bag.

SOL
Not exactly light reading there.

OLD MAN
Have you been to China?

SOL
I haven't traveled much. At all.

Those words give Sol pause.

OLD MAN
If you wait too long, too long
will turn into too late.

SOL
I'm sure that's true.

OLD MAN
I'm the proof.

Sol looks up at a clock atop a high building. The Old Man notices the reading material Sol carries.

INT. PETCO - LATER

Otis rides in a Petco shopping cart. Jenn's eyes are red from crying. She walks in a daze.

SOL
We should keep him on the same
food. It's called Nutro Senior.

JENN
I can't do this right now.

SOL
What do you want to do?

JENN
Call other doctors?

SOL
I saw the scans.

JENN
He said three months?

SOL

Only if treatment doesn't work.
And it will.

Sol looks through a stack of dog beds.

JENN

This can't be real. And we still
have that shitty insurance.

Jenn sobs more.

SOL

We'll go step by step. But right
now we have an important decision
to make. You have to be honest.
Look at me! This is serious.

Sol holds Jenn's face and looks directly into her eyes.

SOL (CONT'D)

Is Otis is going to sleep on
leopard print or camouflage?

She looks at Otis. Otis looks up at her.

SOL (CONT'D)

This could define him.

She composes herself. She looks at the dog bed selection.

JENN

He likes the one with the paw
prints.

Sol grabs it off the shelf and drapes it over the cart.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

They stand in the doorway to their apartment with plastic
bags from Petco and Otis on a leash.

JENN

What are we supposed to do? Just
go inside and act normal? Make
dinner? Watch Game of Thrones?

SOL

We'll prioritize. Make a list.

JENN

You have to call your parents.

SOL

Not calling anyone tonight.
Tonight is Otis's night.

Otis sniffs around the apartment.

JENN

I think he likes it here.

Sol flips through the mail. He opens up a STUDENT LOAN BILL and drops the bill in the trash with smirk. He opens the fridge.

SOL

Let's think about dinner.

Jenn slams the fridge door closed.

JENN

I can't just act normal right now!
I can't!

SOL

No. You can't.

He hugs her and talks in a soft, reassuring voice.

SOL (CONT'D)

Because... you're not normal,
Jenn. You've never been normal.

Sol hugs her tight. He strokes her hair.

SOL (CONT'D)

In fact, any time you've tried to
act normal -- it just comes off as
really weird. Really. Not normal.

Jenn laughs over his shoulder until she notices the SAVE THE DATE CARD pinned on the fridge along with coupons and photos.

She focuses on the date -- **AUGUST 17TH**.

The calendar next to the fridge shows us -- it's MARCH.
The math hits her. August is five months away.

INT. LEGENDS SPORTS BAR PUB - DAY

Dave and Kyle share Nachos. They look greasy and goopy.

DAVE

Look at this glop. They're not even trying anymore.

Dave is disgusted but eats the nachos anyway. Sol walks in and they wave him over.

KYLE

Late.

SOL

I got caught up.

DAVE

You want some gross nachos?

Kyle picks up the pitcher and pours a glass for Sol. Half-way through pouring -- he stops when he sees Sol's expression.

INT. INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE - DAY

Amanda and Megan wander around the aisles of the bookstore.

Purple Hair is drumming on her coffee cup with two pencils. Jenn walks in.

Jenn walks down the aisle toward her friends. Her face and slow stride can't hide anything. She's looks like she's going to collapse.

They drop their smiles and rush toward her.

EXT. WEST SIDE MARKET - DAY

Sol sits drinking coffee with his Mother and Father, Bev and Arthur. The coffee has gone cold.

BEV

They're wrong. That's all.

ARTHUR

Tell me exactly what he said.

SOL

He said I start chemo tomorrow.

BEV

A month ago he said you were fine!

Bev's voice draws some attention from the shoppers.

SOL

And I'm not.

BEV

It can change so much so fast?

ARTHUR

Beverly! We are where we are!

BEV

Can't they do surgery again?

SOL

It's in... too many places.

Sol sips the tea. Arthur holds back tears.

ARTHUR

You've always been at your best when life picks a fight. You beat this once. You'll go two and oh.

BEV

I want Schifftrin's exact words...

Arthur sees the truth in Sol's eyes.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DR. SCHIFFRIN'S OFFICE - DAY

The jar of Twizzlers is gone. Scans loom on a flat-screen on the wall.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

... Anaplasia... which... it's extraordinarily aggressive. This kind of growth is very rare.

Sol looks at the SCANS. There are six different cloudy forms on various x-rays.

SOL

Which ones? That there?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Here. Here. And this one here. This cluster by your lymph nodes is troubling.

Sol looks at his scans. Organs. Lungs. His partial liver.

SOL

Cluster?

Schiffrin nods.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

When we got your bloodwork back I knew it had spread but this level of... of...

SOL

Aggression.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Extreme.

SOL

Worst case scenario?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Worst? Three or four months.

SOL

Months? I feel fine!

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Treatments are advanced. There are some new drugs on the way. I've seen miracles happen.

SOL

(incredulous)

Is that what I need now? A miracle?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Medically speaking? You need two.

Dr. Schiffrin stares at him. He's not sugar coating.

INT. LEGENDS SPORTS BAR - DAY

Sol sits with a full beer in front of him.

KYLE

What kind of shitty doctor is he?!

DAVE

How's Jenn?

SOL

She's dealing. We're putting the wedding on hold... for now. Just can't... think about it.

KYLE

My Dad lived with cancer for years!

Dave looks like he could cry.

DAVE

I'm so sorry, man.

KYLE

No! That doctor is going to be sorry! He screwed up! My cousin is an ambulance chaser. You're suing. After they fix you -- you're rich.

Kyle swigs his beer. Full of anger. They sit in silence.

DAVE

We still going to the fight on Sunday?

Sol looks fully appreciative for the moment of normalcy.

SOL

Yeah. Hold on to the tickets. Oh, by the way, we got a dog. Beagle. Otis.

DAVE

Ugh. Can you change his name?

SOL

It would be a little rude. He's nine.

Kyle continues staring down at his beer.

EXT. LAKE ERIE BEACH - DAY

Jenn and Sol sit on a BLANKET on a chilly LAKE ERIE beach. A LIGHTHOUSE looms in the distance. Weathered lifeguard stands and driftwood pepper the windy beach.

JENN

This is the spot?

Sol is in good spirits.

SOL

Every summer. Swimming. Bonfires.
Hot dogs. Must have climbed those
lighthouse steps a hundred times.

Jenn looks up at the lighthouse.

JENN

How many drunk Cap'n Crunches were
crashing their boats on the beach
before they needed to build a
whole lighthouse?

Sol reminisces as he looks around.

SOL

I had my first kiss right over
there. By that shed.

JENN

What was his name?

SOL

Mitch.

Jenn laughs. The wind picks up and chills her.

JENN

We could have come here in the
summer when it's actually fun.

SOL

I wanted to see it with you -- no
matter what.

She takes a pause.

JENN

We will be able to come in the
summer. Together.

SOL

I know.

JENN

What. Was this a now or never
thing? Bucket listing? That's why
we're here?

Sol picks up a rock and skips it across the water.

SOL

No. Maybe. This was a big place in
my life before I met you.

A lot of good memories. That's all. We can go.

He looks like he's sinking into his new reality.

JENN

No, it's cool. I'm glad we're here. I just didn't realize we were doing now or nevers already. Checking off boxes.

SOL

We're not.

JENN

No! This is good timing! I... never swam in Lake Erie before and that's been on my now or never list forever!

SOL

Jenn...

JENN

Ay! Just because you're sick doesn't mean you're the only one who gets to do now or nevers! We're in this together!

Jenn takes off her shoes and coat then quickly strips down to her UNDERWEAR.

SOL

Stop. Jenn, I get it...

JENN

Just a quick dip...

Jenn squeals as she kicks off her underwear and runs down the beach toward the water butt naked. A sexy run until her ankle goes wobbly and she starts hopping on one foot.

JENN (CONT'D)

Sharp rocks! Sharp rocks!

SOL

We don't have a towel!

Sol's mood flips to a smile as Jenn bravely rushes into the lake. We expect a polar bear plunge -- but instead she half stumbles into the surf and falls sideways.

She flops around as she loses her footing and splashes awkwardly -- hair in her face. She struggles to her feet.

JENN

Holy shit! Fuck!

Jenn stumbles out of the surf. Sol laughs. He grabs the blanket and rushes to meet her.

SOL

I told you!!

JENN

(teeth chattering)

Add that to your lake memories.

SOL

You're shaking...

JENN

No now or nevers, Sol. I want
nows, please. For now. Only nows.

SOL

Only nows.

JENN

Warm me up. Right now.

He wraps her up and rubs her shoulders warm. They start walking to the car. Jenn keeps shivering.

SOL

Marry me?

JENN

I will.

SOL

I mean... soon?

JENN

Right now, the last thing we're
spending money on is a wedding.

SOL

City Hall. Whatever. Be my wife.

Jenn breaks the hug. She sees he's serious.

JENN

No. Not if it's a now or never?

SOL

It's an always.

Sol hugs her close and keeps warming her up.

INT. PICKWICK DINER - LATE MORNING

Jenn and Sol sit in a booth looking over a brochure for DJC FERTILITY and IVF. Sperm donation. Cryonics.

JENN

How long should it take?

SOL

Based on experience, a minute if I'm stressed out. If I'm bored and have the afternoon. Half hour?

JENN

Half hour?! That's what you do when I'm at the library studying!?

Sol shrugs and flips through the brochure.

SOL

Only on weekday-ends.

Jenn laughs and shakes the salt shaker at Sol. The TIRED WAITRESS from the opening montage approaches the table.

TIRED WAITRESS

What can I get you?

SOL

I'd like a Western Omelette.

JENN

Same.

TIRED WAITRESS

Two Westerns.

SOL

Why do you have to copy me? Why can't you get your own omelette?

JENN

I can't help it. I just have to have what you have. I'm obsessed.

TIRED WAITRESS

Anything to drink?

Sol stares at Jenn.

SOL

Strawberry Milkshake.

JENN

Two.

SOL

With whipped cream.

JENN

Same.

SOL

And relish mixed in mine.

TIRED WAITRESS

Seriously?

SOL

Yep. One scoop.

Jenn pauses then calls his bluff.

JENN

Same. One scoop.

The waitress, annoyed, shrugs and walks away.

INT. PICKWICK DINER - MOMENTS LATER

Tired Waitress is putting a SPOONFUL OF RELISH into strawberry milkshakes. WAITRESS #2 sees what she's doing.

WAITRESS #2

What are you doing?

TIRED WAITRESS

Couple over there is screwing around. They're on their second date or something.

Other Waitress looks over at Jenn and Sol's booth.

WAITRESS #2

Jenn and Sol? They've been coming in here for years.

The Tired Waitress watches Jenn and Sol laughing. Sol takes her hands from across the table. He gives her a kiss on her knuckles. She punches his face a little.

Our Tired Waitress watches them playing playfully until she can't watch anymore.

INT. SPERM BANK WAITING ROOM - LATER

Jenn flips through a magazine. Sol fills out some information on a clipboard then hands it to the nurse behind the desk. She looks it over quickly.

NURSE

When are you starting treatment?

SOL

Two thirty.

NURSE

Oh wow! Today.

JENN

What?

NURSE

You won't have a do-over if you need one. That's all.

SOL

I won't miss.

NURSE

If the count is low. Or there is a performance issue.

JENN

We'll be fine.

Jenn leads Sol into the donation room.

INT. SPERM BANK DONATION ROOM - LATER

A worn PLEATHER CHAIR sits in the center of the room. Sol thumbs through the porn library and holds up a hardcore S&M VIDEO.

JENN

Seriously?? You don't even like wearing a belt.

SOL

It's just weird that it's here. Maybe I don't need a video.

Sol looks nervous.

JENN

How do you usually do it?

SOL
Lying down -- but I'm not lying
down on this floor unless I can
scan it with a black light.

Sol grimaces at the sparkling clean floor.

JENN
It's a clinic! Not a booth in
Amsterdam!

Sol notices the CLOSED DOOR doesn't go all the way to the
floor. There's a 3-inch gap. When people pass by we see
their foot shadows.

SOL
They ever hear measure twice cut
once.

JENN
Who cares?! Relax!

SOL
They can definitely hear
everything out there.

JENN
You get loud?

SOL
I'm just saying it's weird! Maybe
you should wait outside.

Jenn is fed up. She hands him the SPERM DONATION CUP and
takes out her phone.

JENN
Sit down.

SOL
What?

JENN
Sit. Now.

Sol obediently sits in the chair. Jenn puts on the song
RIGHT THURR by Chingy and puts her phone down. She shuts
off the overhead light and starts to dance like a
stripper. Sol lights up.

JENN (CONT'D)
Consider this a now or never.

She unbuttons her top.

INT. SPERM BANK WAITING ROOM - LATER

The receptionist and a couple of people in the waiting area are pretending not to notice the rap music coming out loud and clear from under the donation room door.

BACK TO:

INT. JENN AND SOL'S KITCHEN - DAWN

Jenn sits at the kitchen counter in front of her laptop. She scrolls through video files and clicks a file titled: News-7-Dave.mp4

ON VIDEO:

TV ANCHOR

A local couple, Jenn Carter and Solomon Chau, were planning to get married this summer when they got devastating news. Solomon, who was previously diagnosed with liver cancer... found out his cancer had returned. Brandy Walker has the story.

We cut to a reporter inside Pepper & Salt.

BRANDY

Solomon Chau has been working as a chef at Pepper & Salt. He was to get married right here on August 17th. And then they got the tragic news. His cancer had spread.

B-ROLL: CLEVELAND CLINIC and people receiving CANCER TREATMENT.

BRANDY (CONT'D)

Because Sol's prognosis is not good -- they decided to postpone their outdoor wedding and get married at City Hall. With their medical bills and student loans they had no money for a new wedding.

CUT TO: Dave sitting in front of a computer looking sweaty and nervous.

BRANDY (V.O.)

That's when, Sol's Best Man, Dave Colella, an unemployed techie, decided he wanted to help them out. He set up a crowd source fund-raising page for them.

Dave points at the GoFundme web page. We see the flash mob proposal video is posted on it.

DAVE

It's really not that hard to do. You just... log on.. And uhh... y'know... Add... hashtags and tweet, promote on social media.

CUT TO: We see the GOFUNDME page with Jenn and Sol's photo.

DAVE (V.O.)

You hope that like it goes... goes viral. And in this case it just started to took. It taked. Taken off...

BACK TO: Brandy outside Pepper & Salt.

BRANDY

And taken off it did! To the tune of \$75,000 and counting. And now the bride is planning the wedding of her dreams for next month...

The news video cuts out.

INT. CHEMOTHERAPY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sol sits in a comfortable chemotherapy chair. A few other people are receiving treatment. A nurse hooks up Sol's IV LINE. Jenn holds his hand.

Otis lays at his feet wearing a new YELLOW THERAPY DOG VEST. The nurse begins the IV. We watch the chemicals travel down the tube and disappear into Sol's arm. He closes his eyes.

We pan around the room at the other CANCER PATIENTS receiving chemo. One patient reads US MAGAZINE. Another reads VANITY FAIR.

JENN (V.O.)

If you knew your time was being cut short... What would you do?

We float down the hospital hallway...

START MONTAGE

A) Hospital Room - The Hunched Old Man sits next to his wife who is lying on her death bed. He holds up a coffee table book titled MUMBAI.

JENN (V.O.)

Travel or stay close to home?

B) Animal Shelter - The Bearded Guy walks with SOL. He looks like he's listening to Sol intently. Bearded Guy looks fully empathetic. They stop at Otis's cage.

JENN (V.O.)

Continue being the person you are...

C) Messy Apartment - The waitress sits on the couch with her boyfriend. He hands her the bong. She pauses then takes it. Joyless.

JENN (V.O.)

Or be someone else?

D) Independent Bookstore - Purple Hair locks the front door and shuts off the light in the store.

JENN (V.O.)

Forgive the past... or carry it with you?

E) Retail Space Under Construction - Construction is well underway. Workers carry in long planks of wood.

JENN (V.O.)

Hold on to hope with everything you have in you...

F) Cemetery - The SHY GIRL and her mother stand looking at a HEADSTONE. The headstone reads: Jonathan Springer Beloved Father and Husband. September 14, 1979 - December 31, 2013

JENN (V.O.)

... or release it?

E) Lonely Beach - The 20-SOMETHING WOMAN swims in the ocean toward sunset.

END MONTAGE

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - AFTERNOON

The high-end shoe store is busy. Snooty. Jenn tries on SPARKLY WEDDING SHOES. Megan and Amanda bring other options for her to try.

JENN

Can't I just wear my Converse?

MEGAN

Yes. You can... Not.

Our SHY GIRL walks in with her Mother. She sits down next to Sol and opens a book while her mother shops.

JENN

Nobody is even going to see them!

MEGAN

Shoes aren't about how they look -- they're about how you feel. How do you feel in those?

Jenn walks in the silver shoes. Wobbly.

JENN

Like a giraffe hooker with weak ankles.

Amanda turns to the shoe salesperson.

AMANDA

Take her down an inch or two.

Sol talks to Shy Girl who can't make eye contact.

SOL

I like those shoes. What do you think?

Shy Girl's Mom, also trying on shoes, notices Sol talking to her daughter.

SHY GIRL'S MOM

She's very shy.

Sol nods and watches Amanda and Megan argue with Jenn over her shoes. Sol quietly talks to the girl.

SOL

I used to be shy too. Really shy. Super shy.

Shy Girl stares at her book but we know she's listening.

SOL (CONT'D)

They called me Shy Solly. True story. *I used to bite my tongue. And hold my breath.*

Sol starts quietly singing Katy Perry's Roar.

SOL (CONT'D)

Scared to rock the boat and make a mess.

Sol sighs quietly. She's listening. Shy Girl's Mom shows her daughter a pair of shoes.

SHY GIRL'S MOM

Do you like these shoes?

Shy Girl doesn't answer. Sol continues softly singing.

SOL

So I sit quietly, agree politely. I guess that I forgot I had a choice. I let you push me past the breaking point. I stood for nothing, so I fell for ever-y-thing.

Sol can see the girl knows the Katy Perry song. Jenn claps around in another pair of wobbly heels.

SOL (CONT'D)

One day being shy just went away. Like a cold. Poof.

Sol WHISPERS quietly to her. Shy Girl looks up at him.

SOL (CONT'D)

Wanna see how not shy I am now?

Sol pops up and SINGS loudly to the entire store. He dances a little.

SOL (CONT'D)

I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire! 'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar! Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh! Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh! Oh oh oh oh oh oh! You're gonna hear me roar!

SHOE SALESPERSON

Sir! Please!

Sol nods and sits down like nothing happened. He thumbs through a magazine. Everyone stares at the skinny weird man who just had a Katy outburst.

Shy Girl's Mother nervously hustles her away from Sol. The girl smiles at Sol as they head to the door. It's her first smile since we've seen her.

Sol smiles back -- but we can tell the spontaneous performance took a lot out of him. He sits down.

INT. STONE CASTLE - EVENT SPACE - DAY

We hear the echo of footsteps on a stone floor.

Jenn and Sol enter a room with tall, old windows and impressive chandeliers.

They're accompanied by JEROME WEST (30) who is wearing a colorful pocket square and shiny saddle shoes.

JEROME

We had a last minute cancellation.
You're very lucky.

SOL

We feel very lucky.

JEROME

Kids were throwing a 50th anniversary party for their parents. Fighting about money the whole time. Fast forward Thursday check bounces to the ceiling.

JENN

That's terrible.

JEROME

Not for you though! Look at this space! This room is usually booked a year in advance. This a baby rush?

JENN

A what?

JEROME

Preggers? Cooking up?

Jerome points to Jenn's belly.

JENN

Do I look pregnant?

JEROME

No. Maybe. Couple months in? Pregnant brides' either want that big fat belly or no belly. That five month poochy pouch is what no bride wants.

JENN

I'm not pregnant!

SOL

We were supposed to get married in August. I just started chemo. It stepped up our plans.

Jerome looks Sol up and down and shrugs.

JEROME

My Aunt had chemo like twenty years back. Cancer. Both boobs. Old Gal got busted swiping lipstick from Sephora just last week. You'll be okay. Let's talk menu.

SOL

We'd like to handle it ourselves. If that's possible...

JEROME

We do have a full kitchen with...

JENN

Sol is a chef. We'd like to design the menu and bring in our own people. Can we use the kitchen?

JEROME

Have at it. Honestly, this place is beautiful -- but the chefs here got no game. They think Old Bay is an exotic spice.

Jerome continues the tour. You can tell he can talk all day. Jenn and Sol hold hands as they walk across the dance floor following Jerome. They marvel at the space.

INT. MEN'S BOUTIQUE SUIT SHOP - DAY

Sol, now with a clean shaved head, and Dave look at various BLACK SUITS. Dave takes one off the rack and hands it to Sol. Sol looks at the price tag.

SOL

This suit is fifteen hundred dollars.

DAVE

People donated *to your wedding*. It's not like you're stealing from charity.

SOL

Most of that money is going to medical bills.

Sol puts it back and checks out price tags on the suits.

DAVE

It's your wedding. You don't want to look like a schlub.

SOL

This one is six hundred.

Sol slips it on. It hangs TOO BIG on his skinny frame. Sol sees he's lost weight.

DAVE

Is that a 42?

Dave's CELLPHONE dings.

SOL

Let's look at 40's.

Dave glances at his phone then starts angrily texting.

DAVE

What a dick.

SOL

Kyle cancel again?

DAVE

Oh? Pussy Kyle? Yeah. Hung up at work.

SOL

I was gonna guess he'd no-show again.

DAVE

What the hell with him??

SOL

His Dad had bone cancer.

DAVE

So? His Dad was an asshole!

SOL

The guy is dead.

DAVE

Still an asshole. Just because he's dead I have to be nice?

SOL

Six hundred still seems like a lot for a suit I'll wear once.

DAVE

C'mon man. You'll wear it more than once.

Sol takes another look at the suit.

SOL

I guess that's true. Probably twice.

Sol waves the tailor over as Dave realizes what Sol means by twice.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol sit on the couch eating pizza. Behind them there's a small army of prescription bottles on the kitchen table. Jenn is working on the seating chart.

JENN

So my mom and your parents at the same table with my brother and grandparents all together.

Jenn watches Sol take a bite of pizza and chew.

JENN (CONT'D)

Anything?

Sol chews like an annoyed cow. He talks through the chew.

SOL

Texture and metal.

He tosses the pizza back in the box.

JENN

They said the Cytotoxan might dull
your taste buds.

SOL

Dull? Try murder.

JENN

I'm sorry.

Sol simmers.

SOL

I got every single side effect!
Every one! The sores in my throat!
Stomach pains. Migraines. And
shaky shit with my hand...

JENN

They said they can control that.

SOL

With another med?! With more side
effects??

JENN

If it helps... quality of life..

Sol kicks the table.

SOL

Quality of life?? What life?! I'm
just dying. And on the way down
everything... *everything* I love
snatched away from me?

JENN

The clinical trial is happening
this summer.

SOL

There's no guarantee I get that
drug! Clinical trials include
placebos! That's how they work!

Jenn's eyes fill with tears. She's breaking.

JENN

I know... Just... Hold on.

SOL

And as an extra bonus, I get to see your face like that. Looking at me the way you're looking at me now. Your face.

JENN

This face... it's love. No matter how it looks. It's love.

Jenn leans in to hug him. He reaches to take another slice of pizza and changes his mind. Disgusted.

SOL

I can't even enjoy a fucking pizza!?! What is the point already?!

JENN

There's a point... We just...

SOL

I can't taste anything, Jenn! I have five senses! Take the other four! I'm a chef! Take sight! Take my hearing!

Sol sobs. Jenn gets on top of him. Takes control.

JENN

Whoa! Sol! Taste is gone! Fine. But if it took your hearing, you wouldn't hear my voice right now. Right?

Sol ignores her. Jenn shoves the pizza box away.

JENN (CONT'D)

Look at me! Right?!

Sol looks at her and nods.

JENN (CONT'D)

And if it took your sight - you wouldn't be able to see this smile.

Jenn locks on a GAME-SHOW SMILE. Sol won't look at her.

JENN (CONT'D)

Look at these chompers, Sol.

She bobs and weaves in his face until he looks at her. When he sees her goofy smile -- he begrudgingly laughs.

JENN (CONT'D)

And if it took touch -- you
couldn't feel this. Feel me. Feel
these.

She puts his hands on her. He feels her hips. Her
breasts.

JENN (CONT'D)

And if it took smell... You
couldn't... smell... umm...

Jenn is smiling with tears in her eyes.

JENN (CONT'D)

Smell my new... coconut shampoo! I
don't know!! I guess smell can go
first!

Sol laughs. He's back. He smells her hair.

SOL

I like coconut.

Jenn pulls him up off of the couch.

JENN

And stand up. We need to practice.
Teach me... C'mon.

Without music, they SLOW DANCE. At first they sway then
Sol starts to lead. He spins her. Hope restored.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Jenn and Sol walk down the hallway. Sol walks slowly. He
wears his knit cap and UFC sweatshirt which is now far
too big.

They pass the HUNCHED OLD MAN walking the other way. A
NURSE walking beside the old man holds a box of stuff
from his wife's room. Books. Tea. Sol recognizes him.

SOL

Ay! See you in China one day?

The Old Man stops walking. He recognizes Sol but it stops
him in his tracks. Sol is HALF THE MAN he met before.

JENN

Who was that?

The Old Man is left standing in the hall. He watches Sol walk slowly with his wife.

INT. DR. SCHIFFRIN'S OFFICE - LATER

Jenn and Sol look voided of emotion as Schiffrin gives them the update.

DR. SCHIFFRIN
... progress isn't what we hoped.
No substantial changes.

SOL
So what's next?

DR. SCHIFFRIN
If you want to continue with
treatment...

SOL
I do.

DR. SCHIFFRIN
Good. I'm going to up the dosage
of the Doxorubicin at home then we
can begin radiation next week.

Sol nods. He's locked in all the way to the end.

JENN
And the clinical trial?

DR. SCHIFFRIN
Still on schedule for PEN-866.
First on the list this summer.

SOL
When can we start radiation?

DR. SCHIFFRIN
You have a wedding this weekend.
But we can start Monday...

JENN
Sol insisted we get away for a
quick honeymoon -- let's say
Wednesday.

DR. SCHIFFRIN
Great! Where you headed?

SOL

It's a surprise. Only a two hour drive.

JENN

I'm excited.

Sol takes Jenn's hand and squeezes it.

SOL

Where's the licorice?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

I put it out on good news days.

SOL

When I see it again I'm taking six.

JENN

Is there anything else we can be doing?

Schiffirin starts writing out prescriptions.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

There are some questions that are very hard to ask, Jenn. Ask them. Be open.

JENN

I can't think of anything else to ask you right now.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Not questions for me. For Sol.

Dr. Schiffirin rips the SCRIPT off his pad.

DR. SCHIFFRIN (CONT'D)

But I suggest only one a day. There are side effects.

Jenn takes the prescription.

INT. CHEMOTHERAPY ROOM - DAY

Sol sits in the comfy chemo chair with Jenn next to him. Otis, proudly sporting his yellow vest, at his feet. Sol is reading the side of the IV bag.

SOL
Mechlorethamine, Cyclophosphamide,
Ethylenimines, Busulfan.

A nurse checks the line.

NURSE
Saturday's the big day?

SOL
It is. Good thing I'm here. Can't
get married this weekend without
my Bus-ul-fan. Stuff is like
liquid viagra.

Another CHEMO PATIENT, the COLLEGE FRESHMAN, sees Otis at
his feet. He shoes the dog away with his foot.

FRESHMAN
You're lucky. Mine has been dead
to the world since surgery.

Jenn flips through a WEDDING TO-DO LIST.

SOL
What are you in for?

FRESHMAN
Testicular. They said limp noodle
is not uncommon after they take
one. Extra bonus for me.

SOL
Ouch. That sucks.

FRESHMAN
One ball for the rest of my life.
I have to live with that shit.
Believe that? Bout you?

SOL
Full house.

Sol draws a circular motion around his torso.

FRESHMAN
Oh man. I'm sorry.

SOL
What are you gonna do?

Sol holds the FRESHMAN'S STARE for a few beats.

SOL (CONT'D)

What are you going to do?

Jenn taps Sol on his leg then points to her NOTEPAD.

JENN

Focus Sol. I'm picking up your suit later today. Neil is getting a kitchen tour this afternoon. Duck and octopus have been ordered. Oh! We gotta talk about the videographers...

Sol watches at the YELLOW CHEMICALS flowing into his arm.

SOL

Can we... not talk about the wedding? I'm burnt. Talk about something else. How about... our first wedding anniversary?

Jenn snuggles up to him. She plays along. Sol closes his eyes.

JENN

Okay. Where do you want to be in a year?

SOL

A beach. Oahu. Wearing only a red Speedo and tanning oil.

JENN

Oh God. No Speedo, please.

SOL

Too late. It has been said. So it is so.

JENN

No tanning oil either -- you'll be wearing SPF 9000 thank you.

Sol closes his eyes weathering the storm of chemicals. The Freshman looks at the couple deeply in love.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S HONDA ACCORD - LATER

Jenn drives. The rhythm of the windshield wipers is hypnotic. The streets spattered with reflected colors. Sol puts his head back against the headrest.

SOL
Wake me when we get there.

JENN
You okay?

SOL
Yeah. Tired.

Jenn takes a long look at him. She watches his breathing as he falls asleep.

JENN
Can't believe I'm marrying some
random dude I met in a sports bar.

SOL
Dreams can come true.

Sol takes shallow breaths. He draws a HEART on the fogged PASSENGER SIDE WINDOW.

JENN
It's me and you, Solomon Chau.
Always.

She stops at a RED LIGHT. The streets glisten red.

SOL
Always.

Jenn laughs as she watches him quickly fall asleep. The light turns GREEN. The streets sparkle emerald.

EXT. OLD STONE CASTLE - MORNING

An CHALKBOARD EASEL with calligraphy writing welcomes us to JENN & SOL'S WEDDING -- APRIL 11TH.

The place is buzzing. Valets work the parking. VIDEOGRAPHER #1 records the incoming guests.

We see Sol's Parents. Roger and a trashy date. Kids. Cousins. Kyle, on his own, looking uncomfortable. Familiar faces from the restaurant and sports bar.

There's a couple LOCAL NEWS VANS parked outside. Reporters report from a respectable distance.

INT. OLD STONE CASTLE - KITCHEN

VIDEOGRAPHER #2 records Neil in the kitchen with a bunch of helpers. He chops the head off a PLUCKED DUCK. We see fresh octopus in a wooden crate.

NEIL

... everything we're cooking here are Sol's recipes. Appetizers and entrees. Just following orders.

Neil reaches into a box and holds up a small octopus.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Along with beef carpaccio. We have his Charred Octopus appetizer.

He puts it back in the box and walks over to supervise the line cooks preparing the duck.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Guests have a choice of entree. Salmon with Dill Oil or Seared Duck Breast with Orange Gastrique, Farro, Roasted Turnips...

Neil gets a little smug.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Both of those plates are now part of the menu at the restaurant. I've never *allowed* menu changes before so...

Neil notices one of the line cooks going off script.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Don't chop the hazelnuts into dust. Just chop. Once. Twice and go...

Neil steps in. The videographer focuses in on him chopping.

INT. GROOMSMAN SUITE - DAY

VIDEOGRAPHER #1 is now in the suite with Dave, Sol's father, and Sol.

Sol is half-dressed. He wears a shirt with French cuffs, socks and boxers.

Dave is dressed in a sharp suit but he still looks like a bit of a slob. He talks to the camera.

DAVE

Here's the groom. Looking good.
Look at that butt. Get a shot of
it. Zoom in close.

Dave points at Sol's butt.

ARTHUR

Can you not, Dave?

Jerome walks in with Sol's shoes. They're polished.

JEROME

Where can I set these down?

SOL

Anywhere.

He sets them down on a chair. The videographer films the shoes. Zooming in.

JEROME

Can I steal the Best Man? I just
want to walk you through this once
more, David.

DAVE

You good, Sol?

SOL

Yah go. I can handle my pants.

DAVE

Careful with the zip. Don't snag
your frank. It'll ruin the
honeymoon.

Dave and the videographer leave with Jerome. Sol is alone with his Dad.

ARTHUR

How you feeling?

SOL

Good now. I just don't want to get
tired too early.

Arthur helps put his jacket on his son. Sol goes to tie his TIE and misses the knot.

ARTHUR

You'll find the energy.

Sol's hands have a nervous tremor. Arthur takes over and loops the tie over his neck and begins tying it.

SOL

Do you ever wish you did more?

ARTHUR

More what?

SOL

Everything. Like do you wish you did something else? Something... that did more...

ARTHUR

More than Arthur Chau Home and Office Carpeting offering the best service, latest styles, guaranteed next day service -- now fresh out of bankruptcy?

Arthur struggles with the tie. He starts it over.

SOL

I'm not taking over the business, y'know.

ARTHUR

You were never going to. Once you turned five all you wanted to do is be in the kitchen with your Mom.

SOL

I mean, don't you wish you were leaving something behind. Something... people remember.

ARTHUR

My son is getting married. That's all I need to think about today.

SOL

I always thought I would have some legacy. Write a cookbook or... open a restaurant. Build something.

ARTHUR

Today is what is in front of you.
You're here. Marrying an amazing
woman. Be in this moment.

SOL

I know.

ARTHUR

Some people end up changing the
world. Good for them. But to get a
gift in life like that bride out
there? No legacy, no building, no
book is ever going to beat that.

Arthur ties the knot in the tie. He looks at his son in
the mirror reflection. It's a peaceful break. A hush.

INT. BRIDAL SUITE - SIMULATANEOUS

The bridal suite is in FULL CHAOS. Music plays loudly.
Jenn is sitting in a chair in her bridal lingerie.

AMANDA

Use seltzer!!

Amanda and Megan are screaming at each other. Hope has
her daughter's wedding dress in the bathroom sink.

MEGAN

It's just rosé! It doesn't stain!

AMANDA

What are you talking about!? Rosé
is half red wine!

MEGAN

It's diluted!!

Hope yells from the bathroom.

HOPE

It's coming out! Everyone relax!!
Get the hair dryer!

JENN

As long as the stain isn't on my
butt! I don't care!

HOPE

You do care! You don't want a
stain!

AMANDA

Get salt!

MEGAN

It's not going to stain!!

Megan pours herself another glass of wine. Amanda takes it from her hand.

AMANDA

Nuh uh. No more wine. Don't you need to rehearse? You don't want to screw up and embarrass yourself.

JENN

Stop making her nervous!!

AMANDA

She's already nervous! I'm trying to bring it full circle!

MEGAN

I'm not nervous!!!

Jenn smiles at the scene. Her wedding dress in the sink and Megan and Amanda arguing.

INT. OLD STONE CASTLE - MAIN ROOM - LATER

The room looks beautiful. The flowers and centerpieces on point. Glasses sparkling. A page out of one of Jenn's wedding books come to life.

Sol stands proudly at the ALTAR and looks out at the attendees. Dave stands by his side.

We notice Kyle in the crowd toward the back.

Amanda stands proudly to the other side of the altar. Megan will be performing the ceremony.

The two videographers pan across the room. Jerome stands to the side speaking softly into a headset.

A solo guitarist plays the JASON MRAZ song "I'm Yours" and we turn our attention to the back of the room.

JENN IS THERE. Full smile. Confident. Eyes only on Sol. She is in the same GLITTERY GOWN she admired in the wedding magazine but she wears her SAGE CONVERSE.

Walking down the aisle at her side is OTIS -- in a little bow tie. Everyone stands. Mobile phones rise. Jenn drifts toward Sol.

INT. WEDDING ALTAR - MOMENTS LATER

Jenn holds Sol's hands in both of hers. Dave holds Otis's leash. Amanda smiles proudly. Megan begins:

MEGAN

Thank you all so much for joining Jenn and Sol on this special day. I've been friends with Jenn since tenth grade. Those of you that know me would not be surprised to learn that I spilled wine on her wedding dress a half hour ago.

JENN

You can barely see the stain.

The crowd laughs. A hush comes over the room -- they wait for Megan to continue.

MEGAN

In all of my days, I have never known a couple whose love is as fearless as Jenn and Sol's...

Her voice cracks, then she gathers herself.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Where other couples would have fallen apart, Jenn and Sol built a foundation.

Megan sob...

JENN

It's okay.

She gathers her composure.

MEGAN

We know, when we see these two up here... we see two fighters. Who everyday... fight to...

Megan loses it. She breaks down sobbing.

AMANDA

Oh my God... Seriously?!?

Amanda steps up and snatches the cards from her. Megan happily gives up the honor and steps aside.

MEGAN

Thank you. So sorry...

Amanda flips to the next card. Then the next. Then the next. Then she puts the cards aside and improvises.

AMANDA

Not reading this! Sorry Megs.
Look, today we're all here to
celebrate you two. Celebrate your
lives.

Amanda speaks from the heart.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Every girl dreams of marrying a
guy as solid as Sol.

Amanda takes a prolonged break. Trying to contain tears.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

And as brave as Sol. As
passionate. And as much in love...
as he is with you.

Amanda breaks. Her tears flow. She gathers her emotions.

SOL

Oh God. Who else wants to give
this a try?

Everyone laughs.

AMANDA

You two can say how you feel
better than I can. Read your vows.
Let me off the hook.

Jenn and Sol smile at each other as Amanda steps back.

SOL

Should I go first?

Jenn nods. Sol takes out a piece of PAPER.

SOL (CONT'D)

Jenn Carter. I know I'm not the
easiest guy in the world to live
with. I might have a few...
annoying little quirks that get in
our way.

Sol shrugs. People laugh. Sol looks deeply at her.

SOL (CONT'D)

But I love you so much, so big and so completely. I vow that will never stop as long as I have breath. I vow to try and make you smile when it's the last thing you want to do.

He takes a deep breath. The crowd hushes.

SOL (CONT'D)

I vow to practice dancing until we're actually good at it (to the crowd) -- we're really not there yet. Well, I am. She's not.

Jenn shoves him. Sol goes back to reading.

SOL (CONT'D)

You are a gift. You are hope to me. You are and this is -- everything I need -- for my life.

Sol squats down to Otis.

SOL (CONT'D)

And you, little man, I vow to cook chicken for you as often as I can - - because even though I'm talking to a dog on my wedding day -- you've made life easier for us.

Jenn gives Otis a kiss too.

SOL (CONT'D)

I love you Jenn Carter. Always. With all I that I have. All of me. All I am.

Jenn bursts out a sob filled with happiness. Fully wrecked. Hope rushes up and hands her a handkerchief and then hustles back to her seat.

Jenn takes a deep breath -- and reads her vows.

JENN

Solomon Chau. When I first met you -- I'd love to say it was love at first sight. But it wasn't. It was sort of like at first sight.

That probably had something to do with the fact that you were happy hour drinking tequila, watching a MMA fight and barely paying attention to me.

SOL

It was a big fight!

JENN

But once we started talking... you may have well have told me you hit a duck with a moped. There was nobody else for me.

Sol is the only person in the room who gets the joke.

JENN (CONT'D)

I knew there would be an Us. And by the first time we walked the farmer's market I realized that our Us was the Us -- I always hoped to find.

She takes a moment -- then turns the page.

JENN (CONT'D)

An Us where I can not only be myself -- but with you... through you... be my best self. And I'm always learning from you. To be passionate. Passionate about life. Passionate about food. Passionate about time. Passionate about you.

Sol smiles through proud tears.

INT. COCKTAIL HOUR - LATER

A JAZZ QUARTET PLAYS music from the 1930's.

JENN (V.O.)

And there's never any place I'd rather be than standing by you. Our now. It's me and you, Solomon Chau. Always.

Laughter and clinking glasses. Delicious appetizers spin out of the kitchen. Wine and liquor flows.

Bev and Arthur talk with Hope. Dave talks with Kyle. Kyle looks ashamed. Dave is really laying into him.

Jerome stands off to the side wearing his headset. Orchestrating the occasion. Amanda and Megan talk with THREE WELL-DRESSED MEN.

Jenn and Sol enter holding hands. The place erupts with applause as they walk through the room all smiles.

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - LATER

Jenn and Sol sit at their table together. Untouched plates of duck sit in front of them. Everything looks delicious.

Wedding guests stop by with hugs, best wishes and small talk. Sol talks to an ELDERLY COUPLE.

SOL

How's the food? Food okay?

ELDERLY MAN

Delicious. She wouldn't try the octopus.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I find them to be too...

The woman wiggles her fingers at Sol. Jenn talks with a BIG HAIRED WOMAN.

BIG HAIRED WOMAN

This dress is to die for, Jenn. Who's the designer?

JENN

Marchesa. Marchesa. Something like that.

The Big-Haired Woman puts on her reading glasses.

BIG HAIRED WOMAN

(whispers) Well, your breasts look spectacular who knew you had such boobs?

JENN

Major bra tricks at play here. Trust me.

The line of guests moves along.

SOL

Be right back.

Jenn notices Sol looks tired.

JENN

You okay??

SOL

Just have to call my girlfriend.

JENN

Tell her I say hi.

Jenn smacks his butt as he gets up. He moves through the crowd nodding and smiling as he passes by his guests.

Jenn watches him concerned. She sees he's walking slowly.

EXT. OLD STONE CASTLE - MEN'S ROOM - LATER

Sol looks in the mirror. In the harsh bathroom light we see he looks gaunt and pale. He splashes water on his face.

We notice there's only a HAND DRYER on the wall. No paper towels. He stands there with a dripping face when Kyle walks in.

KYLE

Oh. Hey man.

SOL

You see any towels in here?

KYLE

No. I can go ask if you...

Sol walks over to the hand dryer and squats down with the grace of an old man. He pushes the loud hand dryer button and points it face upward -- eyes closed. Drying his face.

He yells over the blower.

SOL

Having a good time??

KYLE

Great. This came together awesome. The food is pretty standard fare though.

SOL

Next time more Mrs. Dash.

KYLE

Jenn looks amazing.

SOL

She'll do. Y'know. Starter wife.

The hand dryer goes off. Sol reaches up and hits it one more time. It drowns out Kyle's voice.

KYLE

Sol, I just want...

SOL

You're going to tell me you freaked out because you watched your Dad die and to watch someone else -- *fight* cancer was too much and you're so sorry for not being stronger when you were needed most.

KYLE

Yes. I ... Yes.

SOL

And now, I'm left with two choices. Remember every other time you stepped up as a friend and forgive you. Give you a pass.

The hand dryer goes off and Sol holds out his hand for an assist in standing up. Kyle helps him stand up. Sol grunts as he gets to his feet.

SOL (CONT'D)

Or I tell you to go fuck yourself because you don't get second chances sometimes. Trust me.

KYLE

I am asking for forgiveness.

SOL

Let's leave it to fate.

Sol takes out a QUARTER.

KYLE

What?

SOL

Heads. You're totally forgiven as if it never happened. Tails.

I'll tell you to fuck yourself --
and let those be my last words to
you.

He flips it and slaps it on his wrist. Sol is dead
serious. He peels away his hand revealing the coin.

Kyle peers under his palm...

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol's WEDDING SONG comes on.

They meet in the middle of the dance floor. Friends and
family form a circle around them. We see Kyle front and
center. Cheering. Forgiven.

Jenn and Sol take a moment to be in each other's arms.

SOL

Let me lead?

JENN

No shoving.

They dance. Clumsy but beautiful. They slow dance Sol's
way. Then Jenn throws her arms around him. They sway.

JENN (CONT'D)

This is the moment. This is all I
wanted. This.

Jenn brings his ear close to her mouth and whispers.

JENN (WHISPERING)

Your Aunt told me my boobs looked
spectacular.

SOL

Yah! Look at them!

Jenn holds him tight.

JENN

This is our now. I love this now.

The circle tightens around them as they dance.

EXT. CLEVELAND PARK - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol sit on a bench by the SMITH GLASSHOUSE at the CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDENS. Jenn in her ruffled wedding dress with Sol's TUX JACKET over her shoulders.

SOL

What was your favorite part?

JENN

All of it. Every bit.

They look at the plants growing inside the foggy glass house. Sol is definitely exhausted.

SOL

If I could stop time, I'd stop it right now. I'd let this night go on for years. Rewind and re-play.

An old couple walks by and sees Jenn in her wedding dress.

OLD WOMAN

Congratulations you two!

JENN

Thanks so much!

They watch the couple slowly stroll past the greenhouse.

SOL

We should go.

Sol tries to push himself up off the bench and flops back down again. Jenn helps him up on the second try.

JENN

I got you.

They walk slowly together. Like the elderly couple.

SOL

You know, I legally own you now.

JENN

Oh yeah?

SOL

Yeah. It's all in the paperwork. Technically your family is supposed to give me something like four goats but I'm cutting them slack.

JENN

Aww man... I love goats.

They turn the corner. We turn to the night sky. Night turns to morning...

EXT. OHIO AMISH COUNTRY - MORNING

A few GOATS stand around near some hay.

We're transported to a farm in OHIO'S AMISH COUNTRY. Blasting with natural colors. Flowers. Rolling hills.

A cow chews some thick grass. Chickens chase each other. A horse's eye winks away a fly. We suspect this is a dream. Butterflies flutter. Bees zip.

Then a BUGGY trots by with Jenn and Sol in the back. Sol wears an Amish straw hat.

EXT. AMISH FARM - DAY

Jenn and Sol stand together by a wooden corral watching a family of goats. The goats watch them back.

Sol looks worse -- as if he was keeping up appearances through the wedding -- but now the disease has fully set in. His body is letting go.

SOL

I think I could go Amish. Simple lifestyle. Simple fashion style.

JENN

You'd totally burn out on it after a couple weeks.

SOL

I don't know. Hard day's work. Pride in the land. Every night... fresh cabbage stew or whatever.

JENN

No internet. No Playstation. No way, Sol. And their clothes look itchy. You put on a wool sweater and act like you have poison ivy.

A goat walks over to Jenn. A DEEP SILENCE sets in.

SOL

You have a question?

JENN

Bad time?

SOL

Hit me.

Jenn pets the goat. She won't look at Sol.

JENN

How do you want to be...
forever... after...

SOL

Cremated. I don't want some place
that becomes some source for
guilt. Some rock. You'll find a
place to let me go.

They watch the goat trot away.

INT. AMISH FARM - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol sit at a dinner table with an AMISH FAMILY.
A full spread. Chickens, potatoes, salad, bread.

An AMISH DAD (50), AMISH MOM (40) and three AMISH
DAUGHTERS (ages 7, 9, 11)

JENN

We certainly didn't expect... all
this. Wow.

AMISH MOTHER

Our pleasure. We didn't expect
anybody this weekend.

SOL

It all looks delicious.

Sol cuts into a piece of chicken.

AMISH FATHER

We prefer to say grace first.

SOL

Of course! I'm sorry.

The Amish family bows their heads. Jenn and Sol join
them.

AMISH FATHER

Dear Lord, thank you for this
food.

Bless the hands that prepared it.
 Bless it to our use and us to your
 service. And make us ever mindful
 of the needs of others. Through
 Christ our Lord we pray.

SOL

Amen!

Sol picks up his fork and knife and starts cutting into a piece of chicken.

AMISH FATHER

Not done, Sir.

SOL

Oh sorry. My God. Jesus. Sorry.

AMISH MOTHER

Blessed be His name.

Sol clanks his fork and knife down. He glances at Jenn then puts his head down.

AMISH FATHER

The eyes of all wait upon you, O
 God, And you give them their food
 in due season. You open wide your
 hand and fill all things living
 with plenteousness.

Sol glances at Jenn and sees she's hysterically LAUGHING in silence. Bouncing in her seat trying to contain it.

AMISH FATHER (CONT'D)

Bless, O Lord, these gifts to our
 use and us in your service;
 relieve the needs of those in want
 and give us thankful hearts to...

Jenn snorts loud. The Amish Father takes a pause. She pretends it was a sneeze. Sol get infected and spits a laugh.

INT. AMISH BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol lay in bed. Scared. Blanket pulled up to their chins. A bizarre painting of an OLD FARMER hangs on the wall.

Distant animal noises drift in from outside. We can hear the odd muffled voices of the family echoing in the house. Heavy boot footsteps walk by their door and stop. Then continue walking.

SOL (WHISPERS)

Happy honeymoon, wife.

They snuggle close. Nervously giggling. A loud thump jolts them. Jenn gets up and puts a chair in front of the door then scrambles back into bed. Running for cover.

JENN (WHISPERS)

Happy honeymoon, husband.

He gives her a kiss. We hear a loud noise from the barn outside. A squealing pig in the distance. They hold each other in fear.

INT. RADIATION ROOM - DAY

Sol lays on a TABLE as a massive RADIATION MACHINE spins around him. Red laser lights pulsate on a MESH MASK that he wears over his face.

Arthur, Bev, and Jenn wait on the other side of the glass. The RADIOTHERAPIST sits at the CONTROL BOARD. He pushes down a MIC button.

RADIOTHERAPIST

Okay in there, Sol?

Sol gives a thumbs up. The machine focuses in and Sol receives treatment. Dr. Schiffrin walks in.

DR. SCHIFFRIN

How's everyone?

BEV

When will we get the results?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Which session is this? Seventh?

BEV

Eight. Last time you mentioned two of the tumors were smaller?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

At this point, this is about time extension -- maintenance. So we can get to that clinical trial this summer.

BEV

But if the tumors continue to shrink via radiation...

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Most aren't shrinking. It's very unlikely that they will.

BEV

Is it impossible?

DR. SCHIFFRIN

Nothing is impossible.

BEV

Good. That's all I need to hear.

They all stare out at Sol in the machine. Bev is the only one with an expression that still holds hope.

EXT. HOSPITAL - ENTRANCE - LATER - RAINY DAY

Jenn and Sol stand under the hospital overhang with Bev. Sol is dressed in layers but still shivers. Thin. He looks his worst.

Arthur pulls up in his car and opens the back door.

JENN

We'll get you home quick.

SOL

I don't want to go home. We're always home.

JENN

Where do you want to go?

SOL

Any place else. The clocks are too loud when we're home.

Sol ducks into the backseat. Jenn runs around to the other side and gets in.

INT. INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE - AFTERNOON - LATER

Jenn and Sol enter the bookstore. Sol is walking very slowly. He needs Jenn's arm to keep going.

Purple Hair is behind the counter drumming. She doesn't look up at them.

PURPLE HAIR

Let me know if I can help you with anything?

SOL

Got any books on mountain climbing?

PURPLE HAIR

(points)
In Travel.

JENN

Mountain climbing? Really?

Purple Hair looks up and recognizes Jenn. She watches them as they pass by her counter. Sol rail-thin.

SOL

Not the big mountains. Small ones. You know. The ones like yea high?

Sol puts his hand three-feet off the ground.

JENN

Mini-mountains. Got it.

SOL

Start with a mini. Conquer it. Plant your flag. One of those little toothpick flags. Work your way up to an Everest.

Purple Hair watches Jenn and Sol head down the aisle. She looks down at the two pencils in her hands -- and grips them tight. Something clicks.

EXT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - RAINY AFTERNOON

Bev and Arthur help Sol out of the car and up the path back to the apartment.

JENN

I'll catch up with you in a minute.

Jenn watches them go inside. The door closes behind them.

Jenn sits in the car. Windshield wipers going. A NEW BOOK sits in the passenger seat next to her titled Essays on Palliative Care.

She shuts off her wipers and lets the world slowly melt on the other side of the windshield glass. We see Sol's fading heart on the passenger window.

Suddenly, she lets out a PRIMAL SCREAM.

CUT TO:

IPHONE VIDEO:

WE RETURN to the FIRST VIDEO with Sol and Jenn.

Sol takes a sudden breath as if he just came up for air. He sits up.

SOL

Yeah. I want to. We have to do something with the time, right? But let's talk about all of our stuff. I don't want this to seem like some fairy tale fantasy life...

Sol laughs and starts to cough. It turns into a hard deep chest hacking.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Hope shuts off the iPhone video and puts the phone away. Sol keeps coughing. He's clammy. Jenn pulls a blanket up around him.

HOPE

Miriam?

MIRIAM BANKS (43) a PALLIATIVE CARE NURSE, comes out of the kitchen with pills in a small cup. She hands them to Sol but his hand shakes too much to hold them.

MIRIAM

This muscle relaxant will ease the tightness in your chest. And these should help with the pain.

Jenn takes the pills and puts them in Sol's mouth. Then she helps him with the water.

JENN

They still don't make these in chewables.

Sol smiles and settles back into the couch. His eyes close.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Dave walks in big and loud. Kyle follows behind him holding a bag of groceries. They sit in chairs across from Sol.

Otis jumps up on Sol's lap.

SOL
How is it outside?

The guys take a pause at Sol's appearance.

KYLE
Coldest July in forever.

DAVE
The fight is at nine if you're down to watch. G-S-P versus Williams.

SOL
I'll be asleep. Or whatever it is I do now when my eyes are closed.

He looks distant. Far offshore.

JENN
Fair warning. He just took a couple whopper pills.

Miriam, Jenn and Hope head into the bedroom leaving the guys alone. Sol finally drifts back to our world.

SOL
You want a beer?

KYLE
I'm okay.

DAVE
Already a little buzzed. Can't come in here all sober.

SOL
Telling you. Stop with the start-ups. Open a bar. You can be drunk all day and it's just business.

Sol starts to cough. Kyle looks at him with worry.

SOL (CONT'D)
Stop that look.

KYLE

What look?

SOL

Your worry face.

Kyle laughs nervously.

KYLE

I'm allowed to worry right now.

SOL

Not about me. I don't qualify for worry. You worry when you don't know the future -- that's when you worry. We know my future.

Sol spits out the words quietly.

SOL (CONT'D)

*I'm the one who gets to worry now.
Not you.*

KYLE

What?

Dave and Kyle look confused.

SOL

About her. I get to worry about her... future. Her life. I don't know what happens to her after this.

KYLE

She's strong.

SOL

So strong she could turn to stone. What is all this doing to her?

DAVE

We're here for you. Both of you. And we will be here after. We'll watch over her. She won't turn.

Sol's eyes roll a bit. The burst of energy exhausts him. Miriam comes over as Sol slowly drifts away into sleep.

SOL

I'm the only one who gets to worry.

She checks his pulse against her watch.

INT. SOL AND JENN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jenn and Sol brush their teeth. Jenn imitates him for a bit then drops it when he doesn't play.

JENN

Can I?

SOL

Hit me.

Jenn looks at Sol in the reflection in the mirror.

JENN

Who else do you want to speak at the funeral?

Sol keeps brushing his teeth and thinks on it. He talks through the brushing.

SOL

Dave... My Dad... Roger.

JENN

Roger? Seriously?

SOL

I may have spent my... *entire* life doing Mobile Bathroom Marketing if it wasn't for that guy.

JENN

Got it.

SOL

And I don't know where I'd be.

JENN

You'd be here. With me.

Sol stares at himself in the mirror.

SOL

I wish I was leaving something... real behind. Proof I was here.

JENN

You inspire people, Sol. Every where you go. Everyone you see. You have impact. Even before you got sick... You did.

SOL

That's not changing the world.

JENN

Maybe. Maybe not. Look on the bright side. Not everyone changes the world for the *better* - if you got the chance to change the world... you might have gone fucked things up for the rest of us.

Sol laughs and spits in the sink.

EXT. WEST SIDE MARKET - MORNING

Sol and Jenn walk through the bustling market. Miriam and Hope walk a few paces behind them.

Sol looks gravely ill. Bundled in layers although the day is warm. He stops to smell flowers but we can tell his sense of smell is gone.

JENN

What do you want to cook for me tonight?

He picks up a zucchini that is curled into a circle.

SOL

Ay! Look at Zucchini Halo here!

JENN

Hold it up.

Jenn takes out her iPhone and Sol holds the zucchini over his head. He smiles. She clicks.

SOL

These look great.

JENN

Let's cook 'em up tonight!

SOL

I know you hate zucchini.

JENN

Change my mind. Don't give up on me.

Sol nods. Jenn pays for the zucchini and they put it in the same CANVAS BAG from their first trip. They continue strolling through the market.

From the back -- Jenn and Sol look like an elderly couple. They pass a POLE covered in promo flyers.

We stay on a ROCK CLUB FLYER.

It's the 40 Year Reunion of the band THE SPLITS. We see a NEW BAND PHOTO with PURPLE HAIR FROM THE BOOKSTORE holding up her drum sticks like an X.

ON IPHONE VIDEO:

A shaky video shows us ZUCCHINI being sautéed in a pan. It's sizzling and splattery. We pull back and see Jenn is cooking.

Behind her on the fridge still hangs their original SAVE THE DATE CARD. **AUGUST 17TH.**

SOL (O.C.)

You've always been a messy cook.

JENN

Anything worth cooking is worth the splattering. That's what I always say.

SOL (O.C.)

Your heat's too high. Turn it down.

JENN

What do you call this?

SOL (O.C.)

Solomon Chau's *Dill Zinger Crunch Zucchini*. Actually my Mom's recipe.

Sol pans the camera to the ingredients for the recipe on an index card.

JENN

Garlic, shallots and chopped ginger.

SOL (O.C.)

And dill.

Jenn holds up a hedge-sized bunch of fresh of dill.

JENN

Who needs this much friggin dill?

Jenn shakes it in the camera.

SOL (O.C.)

Add the dried pomegranate seeds.
It's the crunch and zing.

She sprinkles them on the zucchini.

SOL (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Okay try it. Watch.

Jenn takes a forkful and holds it toward the camera. She blows on it to cool it down and takes a bite. Jenn talks through the chew.

JENN

No sale.

SOL (O.C.)

Seriously?! It's got crunch and zing!

JENN

Still tastes like smushy mush vegetable with crunch and zing.

SOL (O.C.)

You're mental. Mental in your mouth.

Jenn laughs and shows the chewed food in her mouth.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S APARTMENT - DAY

An MMA fight is on TV. Sol lies on the couch. END STAGE. Miriam and Hope talk quietly in the kitchen.

Medications are cluttered on the counter. Jenn is organizing them.

HOPE

We're going to head to the store.
Need anything?

JENN

Honey Bush tea, please.

HOPE

You got it. Sol? Want anything?

SOL

Bottle of Captain Morgan and a carton of Reds.

Jenn sits next to him on the couch.

JENN
You should really switch to
lights.

SOL
They're all the same.

They watch the fighters go at it.

JENN
Ready for one?

SOL
Hit me.

Sol mutes the TV.

JENN
Do you want to hear your eulogy?

Sol adjusts how he's sitting. We see his discomfort.

SOL
No. Not yet.

They watch the fighters fight while the TV is muted.

SOL (CONT'D)
You think you'll have our baby?

JENN
One day. I'd like to. Would you?

SOL
I like thinking about it.

JENN
Then maybe I'll have six.

Jenn snuggles up to him.

INT. JENN AND SOL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sol lies in bed. Deathly. He's in pain. On the edge. Miriam gives him a shot and he doesn't flinch.

Jenn snuggles up next to him.

JENN
We were supposed to get married
this weekend. In that courtyard.

SOL
Did Roger finally finish it?

JENN
He did. It's open.

Sol looks happy about that. He drifts off to sleep. Jenn stares at his chest rising and falling.

She takes out a YELLOW NOTEPAD and starts writing. Sol wakes up.

SOL
Is that it?

JENN
What?

SOL
My Eulogy.

JENN
Yes. I can read it to you tomorrow.

SOL
Read it now.

Jenn stares at Sol. Tears flow.

SOL (CONT'D)
I'm busy tomorrow.

She smiles and starts reading off the notepad. She clears her throat.

JENN
My husband, Soloman Chau lived twenty-six years...

Jenn takes a deep breath and begins to read. Sol slowly closes his eyes.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - MORNING

The cover of Sol's MEMORIAL PROGRAM BOOKLET looks similar to the Save the Date card. Same date. AUGUST 17TH.

Jenn stands at the podium with her YELLOW NOTEPAD. She looks out at the mourners. We see Sol's parents. Jenn's Mom. Guests from the wedding. Otis.

The words hang in the room.

JENN (CONT'D)

Nine thousand four hundred
seventeen days... and a half.

She looks down at SOL'S URN and smiles.

JENN (CONT'D)

And I got to have him in my
life... for one thousand seven
hundred and four days... and a
half. I did the math.

She turns the page.

JENN (CONT'D)

But if you had him in your life
for just one day. One hour.
There's a good chance -- he had
impact on you. On your life.

She inhales.

JENN (CONT'D)

He was inspiring.

Slowly exhales.

JENN (CONT'D)

Once he realized his days were
limited. Sol wanted more out of
life. Not less. He went out. Not
in. He was inspired by time. And
kept me... living.

Jenn nods at the casket.

JENN (CONT'D)

And I believe, we believed, a
single, inspired life is
contagious.

START MONTAGE:

We watch the OLD MAN standing on a moving sidewalk in an
airport. He's heading toward the terminal for AIR CHINA.

JENN (V.O.)

Sol would tell you to travel more.

BEARDED GUY has TWO PROUD THERAPY DOGS in a cancer ward
for children. The dogs are SENIOR DOGS.

JENN (V.O.)
 Appreciate old age.

The FRESHMAN looks healthy and strong. He jogs -- looking very appreciative to be out in the world.

JENN (V.O.)
 Don't let setbacks hold you back.

Our TIRED WAITRESS is packing her things in boxes and suitcases. MOVING OUT. As her stoner boyfriend watches her sadly from the couch.

JENN (V.O.)
 Believe in yourself.

SHY GIRL with glasses stands in front of the room reading a report. LOUD and proud. The report is about her father.

JENN (V.O.)
 Speak up.

DAVE is in the retail construction site which we now see is a SPORTS BAR. He puts his arm around Amanda affectionately. They kiss. Megan smiles.

JENN (V.O.)
 Do what you love with someone you love.

DR. SCHIFFRIN and his wife and escorted to a table in Pepper & Salt by Roger. Neil cooks away in the kitchen.

JENN (V.O.)
 But if you can't do what you love.
 Do what you do for the right reasons.

ARTHUR CHAU stands in his carpet store talking to newlyweds couple about carpet.

JENN (V.O.)
 Regret is the enemy.

PURPLE HAIR sits behind her DRUMS in a small rock club. The crowd buzzes. She counts off the beat over her head. Drumsticks like an X.

JENN (V.O.)
 Because old age... isn't a guarantee.

She hits her drums HARD.

END MONTAGE**BLACK SCREEN**

JENN (V.O.)

The average person lives only
27,375 days...

We hear ocean waves.

EXT. HAWAIIAN BEACH - DUSK

Jenn stands in the surf with Sol's Urn. She closes her eyes and lets his ASHES scatter into the ocean.

JENN

Happy Anniversary, Solomon.

She turns and heads to shore.

INT. OAHU FAIRMONT HOTEL - NIGHT

Jenn is wearing Sol's UFC sweatshirt. She sits at a table with her LAPTOP open.

A PLASTIC BOX tied with a bow sits next to the computer. Her fingers twist around the bow. Written on the box reads: OPEN IN OAHU!

Then she opens her laptop and takes a moment before clicking a video file. ALWAYS-US.mp4

ON VIDEO:

It's Sol. Toward his end.

SOL

Hi. Happy Anniversary. Wherever I
am. I know I miss you.

Jenn puts her hands to her mouth as she watches.

SOL (CONT'D)

Even if I had lived to be an old
man, without you, if we never
became... us, my life would have
just been... long. I have no
regrets, Jenn.

Jenn chokes back tears.

SOL (CONT'D)

I probably would have ended up
some sad old marketing guy.
Clocking time in bathroom stalls.
Not a chef. And I would never have
found this kind of love with
anyone but you.

She laughs. Sol looks directly at her.

SOL (CONT'D)

So thank you. For believing in me.

Sol STANDS UP and steps back -- he's in a RED SPEEDO. We
see how thin he is as well.

SOL (CONT'D)

When you think of me... don't
think of me in this Speedo. I just
want to keep promises. It was a
now or never.

Jenn bursts out laughing. Sol looks at the camera. Looks
at Jenn. They share a moment. He sits down.

SOL (CONT'D)

If you ever decide to have our
baby. There's a folder on Dropbox
named For Him or Her. I recorded
some for... our baby. Or our five
babies. That's up to you.

Sol smiles. He looks at her.

SOL (CONT'D)

Live your life, Jenn. Big. Go. Do.
See. Swim. Always now. And keep an
open mind to everything. Now open
the box.

Jenn unties the bow and pops open the box. Inside are a
few dozen RECIPE CARDS. Jenn laughs.

SOL (CONT'D)

One day, you'll be convinced. Or
not. Never keep trying please.

Each card is a different handwritten ZUCCHINI RECIPE.

SOL (CONT'D)

It was me and you, Jenn. Always.

Sol reaches over and shuts off the video. Black screen.
There's a knock at the door.

JENN

Always. Will be.

Jenn gets up and opens the door. Amanda, Megan, and Hope burst into the room.

AMANDA

Are you not dressed yet!? We have a reservation at 7:30 and the guy was a full dick about it on the phone.

MEGAN

Take it easy. This is vacation.

Hope notices the open laptop and plastic box.

HOPE

What have you been doing in here?

JENN

Getting ready to go.

Jenn shuts her laptop lid and looks at herself in the mirror before hustling out the door.

THE END

Jenn & Sol's wedding video:
<https://vimeo.com/124768075>