

NOT YET

Written by

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INT. EMILY AND RYAN WALSH'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Walsh family has finished dinner and is talking among themselves. The Walsh family has dinner every Sunday. MARY WALSH (79) is at the head of the table. She is a retired elementary school teacher and mother to RYAN WALSH (50s). Ryan is an accountant and is the chief financial officer at a private equity company in Boston. He is the husband of EMILY WALSH (50s). Emily is a nurse practitioner and mother to EMMA WALSH (18). Emma is a high school senior and will attend Harvard. Ryan has raised Emma as her father, but is not her biological father. Only Emily is aware of this.

We focus on Mary.

MARY

Aerosmith is still my favorite band. *Permanent Vacation* was the first album they ever did sober, and it started their big comeback. What an excellent anti-drug example. Keep that in mind, Emma, as you embark on your screenplay career.

EMMA

I will. Taylor Swift is my favorite.

RYAN

I had a thought about Taylor the other day.

EMILY

Let's hear it.

RYAN

Taylor Swift is talented. She has plenty of good songs, but how many great songs does she have?

EMMA

Are you serious? She has plenty of great songs.

RYAN

As I had that thought, I started to think about other A-list female artists. I thought of Beyoncé.

MARY

Emma, cover your ears. Do you think Beyoncé is better than Taylor Swift?

RYAN

Not better, but Beyoncé's top 3 songs are better than Taylor's top 3.

EMMA

I heard that, and you're crazy.

RYAN

No, I think I'm right on this.

EMILY

So what are Beyoncé's top 3?

RYAN

"Single Ladies", "Crazy in Love", and "Check on It".

EMILY

That's a hell of a top 3.

RYAN

It is. They're all number-one singles and songs you can move to.

EMMA

Dad, please, you have no moves.

MARY

"Halo" does it for me. That song is beautiful. So Emma, let's hear Taylor's top 3, and I'll be the judge.

RYAN

Give me her top 4. Mary's dead on about "Halo".

EMMA

"Style", "Blank Space", "Shake It Off", and "The Fate of Ophelia".

EMILY

Touché, this is a close call. Mary, who is the winner?

MARY

Well, this is a tough decision.
"Shake It Off" is a banger. Emma,
is that what the kids say, banger?

EMMA

Yes, I can't believe that you know
that.

MARY

I'm 79, but I try to keep up. Are
"Style", "Blank Space", and "Shake
It Off" all off the same album,
too, Emma?

EMMA

Correct, they're all from 1989.

MARY

That's impressive.

RYAN

But.

EMMA

Dad, that's not fair.

MARY

But I dig that opening in "Crazy in
Love" with the horns. "Single
Ladies" is an anthem for the
ladies. Those 2 and "Check on It"
have pace and are perfect dance
songs. "Halo" gives me goosebumps.
The hooks on all 4 songs are
magnetic.

EMMA

So Beyoncé is the winner.

MARY

She is. I'm sorry.

RYAN

Me too, the truth hurts.

EMILY

Kanye West would approve of that
decision.

RYAN

Why Kanye?

EMMA

He grabbed the mic from Taylor while she was accepting her award for Best Female Video and said "Single Ladies" deserved the award over "You Belong with Me".

RYAN

That's classless, but he has a point. Beyoncé's dance moves are iconic in the "Single Ladies" video.

MARY

Let's not talk about Kanye. Let's pick Emma's spirit back up and say how proud we are that she's attending Harvard next fall. What an accomplishment.

EMILY

I'm so proud of you.

RYAN

I'm thrilled you're choosing not to be an accountant like me.

MARY

I'd rather be a screenplay writer for feature films than an accountant.

EMMA

Who wouldn't? I'm not sure how I'll make money, though.

MARY

You'll be fine with a Harvard degree. You plan to major in English with a focus on creative writing. Is that right?

EMMA

Right, I considered majoring in film and television at UCLA, but I chose Harvard instead.

MARY

I approve. This way, we can go to Red Sox playoff games in the fall if they get their act together and make it to the playoffs.

EMMA

That's if they make it. I've been meaning to ask you guys a baseball question.

EMILY

What's that?

EMMA

Who was better at their height, Pedro Martinez or Roger Clemens? This is before my time, so I figure you guys can help me with it.

MARY

Pedro. His height was '97 to 2000, where he won 3 Cy Young Awards. He was untouchable.

EMILY

Agreed, I remember in '99 when he came into Game 5 of the ALDS and pitched 6 no-hit innings against Cleveland.

RYAN

They were tied 8-8 when Pedro came in, and the Sox went on to win 12-8 and advance to the ALCS. He also had maybe the greatest pitching performance at Yankee Stadium in '99.

EMMA

What did he do?

MARY

He pitched a complete game, striking out 17 and giving up 1 hit, which was a solo home run to Chili Davis.

EMILY

It was in the middle of the Yankees' dynasty as well.

MARY

We should say that Clemens was incredible too and peaked a few times, most notably after he left the Red Sox and won back-to-back Cy Young Awards with the Blue Jays.

RYAN

Imagine if they kept Clemens and then added Pedro.

MARY

The Yankees aren't winning 3 in a row, that's for sure.

EMILY

Who do we think is the best Boston athlete ever?

MARY

Give me choices.

EMILY

Bird, Ortiz, or Brady.

MARY

Bird and Ortiz were so clutch and so fierce. They were inspiring, but Brady won 7. Bird and Ortiz won 3. I have to go with Brady. Alright, I have to run, but this was another special Sunday supper.

RYAN

I have an idea to run by you.

MARY

Make it quick.

RYAN

Let's order pizza for Thanksgiving.

MARY

In.

EMMA

Deal.

EMILY

Yes, please.

RYAN

I'll start researching which pizza places are open on Thanksgiving.

MARY

Let's get Santarpio's. We can get it the day before and reheat it.

RYAN

I'd rather have leftover pizza than fresh turkey. Mom, I'll let you go.

We focus on Mary, who stands up and looks at Ryan, Emily, and Emma.

MARY

Goodnight, I love you all.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. CUMMINGS' OFFICE - DAY

Mary is having a yearly physical. DOCTOR VICTORIA CUMMINGS (50s), Mary's primary care doctor, is almost complete with her exam.

Mary is sitting up on the exam table, and Dr. Cummings is standing parallel to her.

DR. CUMMINGS

We'll do the routine lab work, but at 79, you seem as healthy as ever.

MARY

My family has impeccable genes. I'm sorry again for not doing the lab work before I came in, but I can do it today.

DR. CUMMINGS

No worries, we'll also do a chest X-ray to evaluate the pain in your ribs. It might be a minor contusion.

MARY

I can't think of what caused the pain.

DR. CUMMINGS

We'll check it out and go from there.

INT. MARY'S CAR - DAY

Mary is driving back to her house from her physical with Dr. Cummings.

We hear a ringtone, and Mary sees on the center display screen that Dr. Cummings is calling. Mary presses a button on the steering wheel to answer the call.

MARY
Hey, did you look at the X-ray
already?

DR. CUMMINGS
I did. Would it be possible for you
to come back to my office?

MARY
I can come back. What's wrong?

DR. CUMMINGS
Let's talk when you get here.

MARY
Ok.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. CUMMINGS' OFFICE - DAY

Mary walks into Dr. Cummings' office. Dr. Cummings is sitting
in her office chair.

We focus on Mary.

MARY
So is it a mild contusion?

DR. CUMMINGS
No, please, have a seat.

Mary sits in a chair parallel to Dr. Cummings.

MARY
So, what is it? A moderate
contusion?

DR. CUMMINGS
Is your one complaint to me the
pain in your ribs?

MARY
That's it.

Dr. Cummings takes a deep breath.

MARY (CONT'D)
What is it?

DR. CUMMINGS
Your X-ray showed you have a tumor.

MARY
Really? Is it cancer?

DR. CUMMINGS
You have lung cancer.

MARY
Really?

DR. CUMMINGS
I get that this is difficult to hear. I've reached out to our specialists, who will meet with you and discuss treatment options.

MARY
How far along is it?

DR. CUMMINGS
I should've said that. It's advanced. We'll do further imaging to determine the stage.

MARY
So will I do the treatment and then go home?

DR. CUMMINGS
I think you may need hospice care.

MARY
Hospice?

DR. CUMMINGS
Yes, I'm extremely sorry, Mary.

INT. RYAN AND EMILY WALSH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Emily, Ryan, and Emma are all in the kitchen of their house. Emily is boiling penne pasta that will be served with pesto sauce. Ryan is making a salad, and Emma is setting the table.

We focus on the pasta boiling in the water, and then focus on Ryan.

RYAN
Emily, don't let it boil too long. Make it al dente.

EMILY
I got it, Ryan. Be generous with the croutons on the salad. I need a crouton with every bite of my salad.

RYAN
Understood.

EMMA
So I have an announcement.

EMILY
That makes me nervous.

RYAN
Let's hear it.

EMMA
I did 23andMe and got the results.

RYAN
What a waste of money. I'm 100%
Irish, and your mom is probably
close to 100% English, so why
bother?

EMMA
Irish didn't show up.

RYAN
What?

EMMA
My top 3 were 45% English, 40%
German, and 10% German.

RYAN
That must be a mistake.

Emily turns off the stove.

EMILY
The penne is done, let's eat.

RYAN
Let's eat, that's so strange.

EMILY
Emma, why would you bother with
23andMe? Those tests are so flaky.

EMMA
It's strange, though.

RYAN
Maybe I'll get a paternity test to
confirm.

The phone rings.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I got it.

Ryan walks over to pick up the phone.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Hello.

Ryan pauses as Mary talks.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Hey, Mom, how did the physical go?
Perfect health, I assume.

Ryan pauses as Mary says she has lung cancer.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Where are you?

Ryan pauses as Mary tells him which hospital she is at.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'm on my way.

Ryan pauses as Mary thanks him for offering to come.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I love you, bye.

Ryan hangs up the phone and is quiet. He stares at Emily and Emma with wide eyes, and his mouth is open.

EMILY

What happened?

RYAN

She's in the hospital. I have to see her.

EMILY

Let's all go. You can tell us in the car.

RYAN

Let's go.

They all walk out of the kitchen.

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - NIGHT

DOCTOR MICHAEL BROOKS (50s) is talking to Mary, Emily, Emma, and Ryan in a hospital examination room. Mary, Emma, and Dr. Brooks are seated while Emily and Ryan are standing.

We focus on Dr. Brooks.

DR. BROOKS

You have a large tumor growing around your lung that's starting to press against your ribs. This is what's causing the pain.

RYAN

So, is it stage 4?

DR. BROOKS

It's currently stage 3. It has not spread to other parts of the body.

EMILY

Will it?

DR. BROOKS

I'd expect this to happen in the next few months.

EMMA

This is too much for me.

Emma walks out of the room.

Emily looks at Ryan.

EMILY

I'll go. You stay.

Emily walks out of the room.

DR. BROOKS

We can stop.

MARY

Doctor, what are my options? Can I beat this cancer?

DR. BROOKS

Forgive me, but the chances of full recovery at your age are low. One option I suggest is not treating the cancer. We manage the pain and use your family and professionals at the hospice center to make you as comfortable as possible. How do you feel about that?

Mary crosses her arms and looks at Dr. Brooks.

RYAN

What's the other option?

DR. BROOKS

We treat the cancer aggressively with the intent of beating it.

Ryan looks at Mary, who still has her arms crossed.

RYAN

Mom, what do you want to do?

MARY

I want to fight! I'm a Walsh, and that's what we do. We fight until our last breath. I love life. You get one, as far as I know. Life is worth fighting for, even for an old crow like me. Do you understand?

RYAN

We do, so doctor, how are you going to treat this?

DR. BROOKS

We can't do surgery as the tumor is near vital organs. We'll do radiation and chemotherapy to kill the cancer cells and shrink the tumor. We'll also use immunotherapy to have your immune system recognize and destroy cancer cells.

MARY

Now you're talking.

DR. BROOKS

I must warn you, this is going to be tough on you. Intense fatigue, flu-like symptoms, hair loss, and nausea are all side effects you'll experience daily.

MARY

It beats the alternative: dying. I demand positivity from you. You must be in my corner at all times. I'm Rocky. You're Mickey. The cancer is Apollo Creed. This is *Rocky II*, and we are going to defeat Apollo. You got it?

DR. BROOKS

I can be Mickey. *Rocky* was better than *Rocky II*, but I'll play along.

MARY

Of course you will. Also, if you don't mind, I'd like to live in my house while we undergo the treatments. Are you fine with that?

DR. BROOKS

I strongly suggest you stay in the hospice center while we treat you. You'll be around professionals who are trained to support you through this struggle. Your chances of winning are almost zero, and your life expectancy is less than 6 months. I can't force you, but I encourage you to go to hospice while we treat you.

MARY

Fine, I'll go to hospice, and you'll cure me of cancer. When do I go to hospice?

DR. BROOKS

Tonight, I'll contact them.

EXT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - GARDEN AREA - DAY

Mary and JOYCE WARREN (50s) are sitting on a bench outside, surrounded by a flower garden. Joyce is the administrator of the hospice where Mary has been admitted. It is a sunny spring day in the Boston suburbs.

We focus on Joyce.

JOYCE

Days like this in Boston bring me joy. A beautiful day in early spring lifts my spirits after a long, cold winter.

MARY

April is the start of the baseball season, too, bringing new hope.

JOYCE

You're from Boston, correct?

MARY

I've lived here my whole life. It's home. Where are you from?

JOYCE

San Francisco. I moved here when I went to Harvard and have been here ever since.

MARY

Emma, my granddaughter, is going to Harvard in the fall. She's going to be a screenplay writer.

JOYCE

I can't assist her with that.

MARY

Me either. She'll figure it out. She's too smart not to.

JOYCE

I'm sure she will. I can't help her, but I can help you. I understand you would rather receive treatments from your home and not here. Is that correct?

MARY

Yes, I'd rather be home. I think you're a spectacular lady, and I didn't expect the hospice administrator to be so cool.

JOYCE

What did you expect, Nurse Ratched?

MARY

I did, so you're a pleasant surprise.

JOYCE

Why would you rather have your treatment at home?

MARY

People go to hospice to die. I'm not ready to die, not yet.

JOYCE

Look, we are here to support you. We have 8 patients at full capacity because our objective is to give each patient the attention they deserve. The terminal illness for all our patients is some type of cancer. We are here for you like family. How does that sound?

MARY

How many patients have left here healthy?

JOYCE

2, and I support you if your goal is to make it 3. Let us help you.

MARY

Let's do it. What's on the agenda for today?

JOYCE

We have group therapy. Free thought is what we do. Whatever you're willing to share, you do. You'll fit in.

INT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Joyce, Mary, and 4 other hospice patients are seated in a circle doing a group therapy session at the hospice. The 4 patients are CINDY WATERS (78), PAUL MURPHY (79), ALEX FOREMAN (45), and MELINDA HARRINGTON (82). Cindy has stage 4 breast cancer. Paul has stage 4 colon cancer. He also has cerebral palsy, and his left side is weaker than his right side. He is a retired partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Alex has an inoperable brain tumor. Melinda has stage 4 cervical cancer.

We focus on Cindy.

CINDY

I had a few brain droppings since our last session. Do you mind if I share?

JOYCE

Please, go ahead.

CINDY

I probably won't make it through Christmas.

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

I wonder if anyone will cross me
off their list for sending a
holiday card.

CINDY (CONT'D)

(as the first other
person)

We won't have to send her a holiday
card.

CINDY (CONT'D)

(as the second other
person)

Why is that?

CINDY (CONT'D)

(as the first other
person)

She died.

CINDY (CONT'D)

(as the second other
person)

I'll cross her off the list then.
We'll save 1 stamp and 2 minutes.

Everyone laughs.

JOYCE

Your wit is as sharp as ever,
Cindy. What else do you have?

CINDY

I never realized how massive the
universe was. According to the AI
overview, there are at least 2
trillion galaxies in the universe.

PAUL

Wow, that's a big number. I wasn't
aware of that.

ALEX

There has to be intelligent life
somewhere out there.

CINDY

There must be. I'm not religious,
but maybe there's a god who
controls the universe. I wish I
could've gone into outer space.

MELINDA

I'm more at ease with my situation when you say how gargantuan the universe is.

CINDY

Why?

MELINDA

Life isn't as serious as we make it out to be. We are on a planet that's 1 atom in a universe way bigger and more important.

JOYCE

What else, Cindy? You're on a roll.

CINDY

I have another. War is the worst. It's an organized attempt to hurt and kill other people. I understand some wars have noble causes, such as ending slavery or defeating the Nazis, but most wars don't. War never has a happy ending for everyone. There must be another way.

PAUL

You should've been a politician.

ALEX

I support the troops, but you have my vote. That was well said.

MELINDA

That was persuasive and concise. Are you sure your last name isn't Lincoln?

CINDY

Stop it, I wish. You're all too kind, and I consider you my family. Enough of me, someone else go?

PAUL

I was an accountant for 45 years.

CINDY

How regrettable.

PAUL

It was my stupid choice. My whole career was centered around making deadlines. It was so silly. The world wouldn't explode if deadlines were missed, but they made it seem like it would.

MELINDA

They should get rid of those deadlines.

PAUL

Exactly, all accountants should work no more than 40 hours a week, and the work gets done when it gets done.

ALEX

Maybe the investor will not get the information as quickly, but they can adjust.

CINDY

You can still hold people accountable if they're not performing well.

PAUL

Absolutely, and it'd be motivating if people knew there was a hard stop every day. Preparers would have time to do a self-review of their work, reinforcing what they had learned and having them also catch their mistakes. It'll never happen, but it should.

JOYCE

Never say never. I think it's a reasonable idea to improve the quality of life. Mary, as the newest member, you should speak.

MARY

What should I say?

JOYCE

Whatever is on your mind. Whatever you feel.

MARY

I appreciate Cindy and Paul sharing with us.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

I had reservations about living among strangers while facing death, but you all put my fears to rest. I get a sense of family being among you. I miss my family, so this is beneficial to me.

EXT. EMMA'S SCHOOL - EVENING

Ryan is picking up Emma from school because her car is getting new brakes.

We see Emma say bye to her friends, walk away, and get into Ryan's car.

INT. RYAN'S CAR - EVENING

We focus on Ryan, who is driving while Emma is in the driver's seat.

RYAN

Are you embarrassed to have your dad pick you up?

EMMA

No, I value spending time with you. I don't care what my friends think.

RYAN

That's sweet. Well, here is a snack.

He hands her some chips and a soda. Emma looks at her friends, who see this.

EMMA

This is embarrassing. Please drive.

Ryan starts driving. Emma puts down the chips and soda.

RYAN

When do you get your car back?

EMMA

Next Monday.

RYAN

We used to have a snack, and your Elmo was waiting for you when we picked you up from daycare.

EMMA
I'm not a baby anymore.

RYAN
You'll always be my baby.

EMMA
That's corny. Have you talked to
Grandma?

RYAN
She's getting along with the
people. They remind her of our
family.

EMMA
That's nice. When does she start
her treatments?

RYAN
Next week.

A ringtone goes off, and the center display screen shows that
Dr. Cummings is calling.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Doctor, I'm with Emma. How are you?

DR. CUMMINGS
I have your results.

RYAN
I'm Emma's father, right?

DR. CUMMINGS
No.

RYAN
No?

DR. CUMMINGS
You're not her father. I'm at my
office if you can stop by.

Ryan and Emma look at each other. Ryan sees tears coming down
Emma's face.

RYAN
We'll be there soon.

EXT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - GARDEN AREA - DAY

There is a circular trail around the hospice's garden, and Joyce and Mary are walking along it.

We focus on Joyce.

JOYCE

Few patients can walk this trail without assistance, so you should feel proud of yourself.

MARY

We'll see if I'm walking when I start chemo next week.

JOYCE

Knowing you, you'll be sprinting.

MARY

Are you a runner? I figure you are with that long, skinny frame.

JOYCE

You're correct.

MARY

Do you run marathons?

JOYCE

I used to, including the Boston Marathon.

MARY

What's your fastest time at Boston?

JOYCE

20 years ago, I did 2:55:21.

MARY

Wow, that's impressive. Was it painful after?

JOYCE

I took some Advil and got wasted. The hangover the next day was the most painful part.

MARY

Was that your greatest accomplishment? It must be.

JOYCE

It's up there. If I get you out of here healthy, that may top the list. What about you? Do you run?

MARY

I don't. I do an hour on the recumbent bike.

JOYCE

That's smart. It's low-impact. I'll probably switch to that when my knees are cashed.

MARY

It gets the job done. I've been doing it since my 20s. I can multitask too. I watch movies while I exercise.

JOYCE

What's your favorite movie?

MARY

Oh gosh, only one. I have to go with *The Big Lebowski*. What's yours?

JOYCE

As Good as It Gets.

MARY

That's a phenomenal movie. Nicholson is a solid rom-com actor. *Something's Gotta Give* was excellent, too. Movies are fun. What do we do for fun around here?

JOYCE

If enough patients are up for it, we could do a movie night. Arts and crafts, board games such as *Monopoly*, and pet visits are also popular. It depends on how patients feel. If they don't have the stamina or will to participate, that's totally alright.

MARY

What about going to a Red Sox game? They play the Yankees this weekend.

JOYCE

That would be a first.

MARY

I'll pay for everyone if money is an issue. Let me organize it.

JOYCE

So is the idea to get the jollies out of your system before you start your treatment.

MARY

Certainly, can you blame me?

JOYCE

No, how about you and I go in and plan this if you promise to relax once your treatment starts.

MARY

I can do that.

INT. EMILY AND RYAN WALSH'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily, Emma, and Ryan are eating dinner.

We focus on Emily.

EMILY

What time are we seeing your mom tomorrow?

RYAN

In the morning, she's going to the Red Sox game, which starts around 4.

EMILY

How did she maneuver that? She never ceases to amaze me. I was listening to Kacey Musgraves' "Rainbow" song today and thought of your mom. I started to cry.

RYAN

I'm sorry to hear that.

EMILY

I guess I appreciate your sympathy.

There is a pause while Emily, Emma, and Ryan do not speak.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Why are you both so quiet? I know that this is sad with Mary, but tell me what's wrong.

RYAN

I took a paternity test.

We focus on Emily, who stares at Ryan without blinking.

EMMA

Mom, don't just stare at Dad. What do you have to say?

EMILY

I knew this day would come.

EMMA

What if it never did? How could you do this? I don't understand.

EMILY

I'm speechless.

EMMA

You're speechless! You disgust me! This is so unfair to us.

Emma gets up and goes upstairs to her room.

RYAN

How about you start by apologizing to us, then go from there.

EMILY

I'm going to pack my stuff and then go to a hotel. Give me some time to think.

Emily gets up and walks out of the dining room.

RYAN

(in a loud voice)

You do that, and when you're ready, please let us know. We deserve to know the truth.

INT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - MARY'S ROOM - DAY

Ryan and Mary are sitting inside Mary's hospice room.

We focus on Mary, who looks at Ryan with raised eyebrows and her hand over her mouth. Mary takes her hand away from her mouth.

MARY

Are you serious? Please tell me you're joking.

RYAN

I took the test. I'm not joking.

MARY

Who is the father, then?

RYAN

I have no idea. Emily's not told us.

MARY

Where is she?

RYAN

She went to a hotel.

MARY

What about Emma? Is she alright?

RYAN

She's devastated and at home.

MARY

Well, I guess the odds of us all having pizza on Thanksgiving are almost zero. First hospice, now this. What the hell is next? Well, maybe death for me.

RYAN

This isn't fair to you. I shouldn't have told you. You've got enough to worry about.

MARY

You've done nothing wrong. I should be aware of this.

RYAN

Thank you.

MARY

No problem, we need to find out who the father is. I'm concerned about Emma's well-being.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

This is a lot for her to handle.
I'm willing to talk to either of
them.

RYAN

Your treatments start next week, so
it may be too much to talk to them.

MARY

Shut up, I'm your mom. Don't tell
me what to do. I'm not going to lie
around and wait for my next
treatment. I have to occupy my time
somehow, and helping my family is
how I'll do it.

RYAN

I understand.

MARY

I knew you would. Now, I'm going to
the Red Sox game. Let me rest
before the game.

RYAN

Of course, where are your seats?

MARY

Box seats, first row, looking down
the first baseline.

RYAN

Damn, have fun.

MARY

You bet.

EXT. FENWAY PARK - DAY

Cindy, Paul, Joyce, and Mary are at Fenway Park. The Red Sox
play the Yankees on a Saturday afternoon in April.

We focus on Paul, who is seated before the game. We see
Paul's view, from the front row, looking down the first
baseline.

PAUL

I never thought I'd make it back
here. These are the best seats I
have ever sat in.

CINDY

This is spectacular. Thank you,
Joyce.

JOYCE

Thank Mary. It was her crazy idea.

MARY

This is working out superbly. 70
and sunny in April is a win.

JOYCE

Everyone, please don't feel you
have to stay the whole game. At
some point, if you want to leave,
we can go.

MARY

I can confirm that I'll be staying
for the whole game.

CINDY

I'd rather stay here and risk death
than leave and miss the game.

We focus on a hot dog vendor named BARRY LENNON (29). Paul
sees the vendor.

PAUL

Well said, Cindy. Hey buddy, hot
dogs over here.

BARRY

How many?

PAUL

5.

BARRY

You got it, boss.

Paul looks at Joyce.

PAUL

I got 2 for me. Joyce, relax and
enjoy the game. Keep your eyes out
for the beer vendor. Who said
hospice can't be fun?

A couple sitting a row back watch Paul as he gives the money
to Barry. TIM WRIGHT (51) and ANNE STUART (33) are the
couple. They are both married and having an affair.

ANNE

They're so annoying already.

TIM

I can't believe they let them come to the game.

ANNE

One of them will probably die.

Mary hears them and looks back at both of them. Anne looks at Mary and shakes her head.

ANNE (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

Anne's phone lights up as a text message comes through. Mary sees a photo of Anne with another man, and they are embracing. The man is Anne's husband, JOE STUART (34).

MARY

Your phone, you two are having an affair, aren't you?

Anne and Tim look at each other. Mary stands up and faces the crowd.

MARY (CONT'D)

(in a loud voice)

Excuse me, everyone, can I have your attention? These two individuals are bothered that my friends and I are hospice patients and attending this game. Does this bother anyone?

TONY TESSITORE (52) and SAM TESSITORE (49) are brothers and hear this.

SAM

Are you Sox fans?

Paul and Cindy stand up to face the crowd.

MARY

Yes.

PAUL

I'm a huge Sox fan.

CINDY

What kind of question is that? Go Sox, Yankees suck.

TONY

Then enjoy the game. Is that it?

MARY

(Mary points at Tim and
Anne as she speaks)

These two individuals are having an
affair. Does this bother anyone?

Tony looks at Anne and Tim, who look at Tony and then look
away.

TONY

You look guilty to me.

SAM

How stupid can you be?

MARY

Insanely stupid, apparently.

Tim grits his teeth and looks at Mary.

TIM

You have some balls, lady.

MARY

Look, sit there in shame, or leave.
I don't care what you do. You're a
joke to me.

Anne gets up and walks up the stand steps to leave the game.
Tim quickly follows.

Tony and Sam clap, and a few other fans do too. Tony looks at
Mary.

TONY

Well done, what's your name?

MARY

Mary.

TONY

That's a classy name like you.
Mary, I'm Tony, and this is my
brother Sam. Anything you need,
we've got you covered.

MARY

Thank you, boys, go Sox.

TONY

Yankees suck.

Paul taps Mary on her leg.

MARY

Mary, enough of the commotion. Have a seat. I'm trying to eat my second dog. You haven't had a bite of yours. You want mustard?

MARY (CONT'D)

I'll take mustard.

PAUL

I got you. Joyce, any luck with a beer vendor? Tony will pay.

CINDY

This is fun.

Joyce smiles and shakes her head.

JOYCE

This is a hospice first, but you all are wonderful.

PAUL

Here we go, play ball!

"Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond starts playing. We see a sequence of events that occur during the game.

ROMAN ANTHONY (21) hits a grand slam home run over the Green Monster. Paul stands up and holds his hands up in a V-shape as he watches the home run. One hand is holding a beer. He takes a sip of his beer and high-fives Mary with his other hand.

We focus on the bleacher seats and see fans doing the wave. We focus on Cindy, Joyce, Mary, and Paul, who all do the wave as it goes by their section.

Paul has his back turned toward the crowd and is leading a "Yankees suck!" chant.

AARON JUDGE (34) hits a foul ball that goes in the air towards where Cindy, Joyce, Mary, and Paul are. Paul stands up and is following the foul ball with his hands out, ready to catch it.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I got it! I got it!

Paul catches the ball with 2 hands. Paul faces the crowd and holds up the ball as they cheer. He hands the Paul to Cindy. She faces the crowd and holds up the ball as they cheer.

A modern tradition at Fenway Park is to play "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond in the middle of the 8th inning. Fans sing along as the song plays over the speakers. Cindy, Joyce, Mary, and Paul are singing the song as it plays over the speakers in the middle of the 8th inning.

CINDY, JOYCE, MARY, AND PAUL
(altogether)
Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
So good! So good! So good! (They
fist pump one hand as they sing,
"So good! So good! So good!")

We focus on the scoreboard, which shows the Red Sox leading 6-1 in the top of the 9th inning with two outs.

We focus on GARRETT CROCHET (26), who throws a pitch, and Aaron Judge swings and misses. The Red Sox win 6-1.

We see Cindy, Mary, and Paul hug each other as Joyce smiles and looks on.

INT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - MARY'S ROOM - DAY

It is June, and Mary is 2 months into her treatment, including radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy. She is losing her hair and looks frail. She wears a head covering.

Mary is meeting with Ryan.

We focus on Mary. The bottom of the screen reads: 2 months since Mary's cancer diagnosis.

MARY
Forgive me for not attending Emma's graduation.

RYAN
Mom, please, we all understand.
Don't feel bad.

MARY
It's tougher than I envisioned.
Most days, I have no desire to get out of bed. I have no energy.

RYAN
You don't have to.

MARY
It's not in my nature to be inactive. I'm industrious.

RYAN

You're being treated for cancer.
You can make an exception. Did they
say if the treatment is working?

MARY

They say the tumor has stabilized,
so I guess it's not getting larger.
What about you? How's Emma?

RYAN

She's talking to Emily again. They
saw each other at graduation. They
talked and shared a big hug.

MARY

That's progress. Have you talked to
Emily?

RYAN

No, we've not spoken other than to
coordinate how to divide up time
with Emma.

MARY

Give it time. When will Emma or
Emily visit me? Why are you the
only one who visits?

RYAN

It's too much for Emma to handle. I
think Emily's probably embarrassed.
She might think you're mad at her.

MARY

Tell her I'm solely mad at cancer.
My door is always open to talk, as
I'm the matriarch of the family. I
may be physically weak, but my
brain is still humming and full of
wise advice.

RYAN

I'll pass along the message. Emma
is meeting her father. Emily set it
up.

MARY

You told me last time he's an
airplane mechanic.

RYAN

He is, but he's currently
unemployed.

MARY

He's a loser. I'll break out of here and kick his ass if he hurts Emma.

RYAN

I'll join you.

MARY

What about you? How are you?

RYAN

I'm fine. I actually have a date.

MARY

Nice, how did you do that?

RYAN

I started using dating apps. Emma set me up on them.

MARY

That might motivate Emily to talk to you.

RYAN

We'll see. Do you have advice for me?

MARY

Be yourself.

RYAN

Thank you, Mom. I love you.

MARY

I love you too.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Emma is at Emily's apartment, which she is renting.

They are in the kitchen talking about Emma's biological father, JUSTIN MYERS (50s), who Emma is about to meet.

We focus on Emily.

EMILY

Are you nervous?

EMMA

Absolutely, I'm 18, and I'm meeting my real father.

EMILY

I know this isn't easy. Are you sure you want to do this?

EMMA

I have to meet him. What's he like?

EMILY

He's a regular guy. He likes sports, drinking, and having fun.

EMMA

Do you think we'll get along?

EMILY

I wouldn't worry about that.

EMMA

Why not?

EMILY

Didn't you say it's important for you to meet your real father?

EMMA

It's important.

EMILY

So then mission accomplished. It'd be nice if you developed a relationship with him, but you'll be fine if you don't. You still have Ryan and me as your loving parents, and we aren't going anywhere.

EMMA

Dad, not Ryan. He's Dad to me always.

EMILY

Totally, he's your dad.

EMMA

Do you still love him?

EMILY

Yes.

EMMA

Do you think you'll ever get back together?

EMILY

I'm not sure. I wouldn't count on it.

EMMA

I hope you do. No offense, but that is why I started talking to you again. I want it the way it was with you, Dad, and Grandma. We were a strong family.

EMILY

We still are a strong family. However, if you want us back together, why are you sending Dad on dates?

EMMA

I want him to feel better about himself. It's casual dating. What about you? I could set you up on the apps to go on dates.

EMILY

I'm fine. I want to focus on my work and you. I'm so happy we are talking again. It was hard when we weren't talking.

EMMA

It was hard for me too. You're my mom and have always been there for me. I need that especially with Grandma being sick.

EMILY

Thank you, are you ready to meet your father? I'll drop you off.

EMMA

I am ready.

EXT. BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN - DAY

Emma is waiting for her father, Justin, on a bench in the Boston Public Garden next to an equestrian statue of George Washington.

Emma sees a man approach her. It is Justin. Emma stares at Justin, who walks up to her.

JUSTIN

Are you Emma?

EMMA

I am, you're Justin. You're my dad.

JUSTIN

I'm Justin, and your dad. I hope you found this location ok. I figured the statue of George Washington would be easy to find.

Emma stands up and hugs Justin.

EMMA

It was easy. I can't believe this is happening.

JUSTIN

Me either. Do you mind if we sit and talk for a bit?

EMMA

Not at all, my heart is racing, so I'd rather sit anyway.

Emma and Justin sit down.

JUSTIN

Mine too. I can talk first.

EMMA

Please, I'm so nervous.

JUSTIN

I understand. I'll do the talking. When I found out I was the father, it was the happiest moment of my life. I dreamed of being a dad, and here was my opportunity.

EMMA

So why weren't you my dad?

JUSTIN

Your mom wanted to raise you with Ryan.

EMMA

Were you mad at her when she told you?

JUSTIN

I was sad that I wouldn't be raising you. However, I respected and supported her decision. She was pregnant, and she called the shots.

EMMA

Was it hard for you?

JUSTIN

It was the hardest thing I've ever done. When your mom told me you were interested in meeting me, I cried. I've been waiting for 18 years to meet you.

EMMA

You're going to make me cry.

JUSTIN

I'm here for you. You have Ryan, but you have me, too. Do you want a relationship with me?

Emma looks at Justin and hugs him.

EMMA

I do.

JUSTIN

I will not let you down. I promise.

EMMA

I guess we have some catching up to do.

Justin laughs.

JUSTIN

18 years worth, we'll get there. Should we get a coffee? I could use some caffeine.

EMMA

I could too.

JUSTIN

Let's go. Follow me.

They get up and start walking out of the park and down Arlington Street towards Beacon Hill.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

So, you're going to Harvard?

EMMA

I start in the fall.

JUSTIN

You must be wicked smart to be going there. You'll probably become a millionaire. What are you studying?

EMMA

I'm majoring in English with a focus on creative writing. I'm going to write screenplays for feature films.

JUSTIN

There's no money in that. Is your mom fine with that?

EMMA

She's supportive, and so is my dad.

JUSTIN

Well, I'm your father, and I think you should be a doctor or a lawyer. Those are steady careers that will make you rich.

EMMA

I guess you have a point about writing screenplays. It's challenging to make a living that way.

JUSTIN

It's impossible. You're wasting your time.

EMMA

Maybe I made a mistake.

JUSTIN

Look, I don't mean to upset you. You should do what you want.

EMMA

That cheers me up.

JUSTIN

A Harvard degree is gold. You'll do well regardless of your major.

Emma and Justin take a right onto Beacon Street.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You'll surpass me. I dropped out of college in my first year.

EMMA

Wow, why did you do that?

JUSTIN

It wasn't for me. I hated the structure with all these classes I had to attend and tests I had to take.

EMMA

So, what did you do after you dropped out?

JUSTIN

I had a buddy who was an airplane mechanic. He said I could get my license through a training program, so I did that, and it was the best decision of my life.

EMMA

That's cool.

JUSTIN

Look, I'd rather play for the Celtics or Red Sox, but it pays the bills and keeps me out of trouble. Are you a big Boston sports fan like me?

EMMA

I'm a huge Boston sports fan, particularly the Celtics, Red Sox, and Patriots.

JUSTIN

You're my kind of girl. We should go to a game. I can get us tickets to a Celtics game. I have a connection. Would you go with me?

EMMA

Absolutely, I have merely been to a few games.

JUSTIN

Then, we'll go. The seats are in the balcony, but you can see the whole court. Being there's special. The atmosphere is electric.

EMMA

Basketball is entertaining to watch because it's fast-paced, and the players are so athletic.

JUSTIN

I think they take 3s too often, but I can live with that.

EMMA

I hate all the 3s too. Jaylen Brown is the man. I appreciate how he plays. He shoots way more 2s than 3s.

JUSTIN

Jalen is tremendous. He's old school like Bird. He goes to the basket strongly and finishes bullying people with his body.

EMMA

His mid-range jumper is unstoppable. His ball handling is shaky, but it's improving.

Justin smiles.

JUSTIN

I wish I'd done this sooner.

EMMA

I do too, but I'm grateful we are finally doing it.

JUSTIN

I respect Ryan for raising you, but I will be a super dad from now on. Talk is cheap, but I will be.

EMMA

I believe you.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Justin and Emma are inside a coffee shop ordering coffee.

Justin is giving his order to the barista, PAYTON LYNCH (20s).

JUSTIN

I'll have a large black coffee.

PAYTON
Does grande work?

EMMA
That's a large.

JUSTIN
Let's go with that then. I'm a
Dunkin' guy, so I'm not used to
these fancy terms.

PAYTON
No worries, what can I get for you?

EMMA
I'll have a grande iced americano.

PAYTON
You got it. Will that be all?

JUSTIN
That's it.

PAYTON
That will be \$8.13.

JUSTIN
Over 8 bucks for 2 coffees. That's
ridiculous.

Justin reaches inside his pockets and pulls his hands out. He looks at Emma.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
I forgot my wallet in my car. Could
you pay?

EMMA
No problem.

Emma pulls a credit card from her wallet and swipes it at the self-checkout kiosk. Justin looks at her credit card.

PAYTON
You're all set.

JUSTIN
Wow, you have your own credit card.

EMMA
My parents gave it to me.

JUSTIN

Do they have a spending limit on it?

EMMA

No, I try to be self-sufficient and use it for only necessities, like gas or occasionally food. Sometimes I splurge, but they don't ask about it.

JUSTIN

Your parents are chill.

EMMA

They're awesome, but I have you, too.

JUSTIN

Thank you, that means a lot.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - RYAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ryan is getting ready for his date and talking to Emma.

Ryan is looking at himself in the mirror.

RYAN

Do you think these jeans are too tight?

EMMA

No, Dad, you look great. I'd date you.

RYAN

Emma, please. I don't want to hear that. I plan to pay for dinner. Do you agree?

EMMA

Definitely, you're a chivalrous guy, and that's a chivalrous move.

RYAN

I'm nervous. I can't remember the last time I dated someone other than your mom.

EMMA

Be chill and see what happens. The worst case is that you have an overpriced dinner and come home.

RYAN

You're spot on. I'll relax and go with the flow. What's the optimal outcome?

EMMA

Sparks fly, and you have sex.

RYAN

I'm cool with sex on the first date. I'll go to her place if that happens.

EMMA

I can handle it, but I understand if it makes you more comfortable.

RYAN

It does. I'm ready for my date. Speaking of dates, when are you seeing your father again?

EMMA

Next weekend, we are going to dinner and a movie. I can't wait.

RYAN

I'm happy for you. It's complicated and tough with Grandma, too, but you're handling it beautifully.

Emma hugs Ryan.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Am I still your dad?

EMMA

You're Dad to me.

RYAN

That's music to my ears. Alright, I'm out of here. Wish me luck.

EMMA

Good luck, you'll do great.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ryan is waiting inside an Italian restaurant for his date. He is seated at a table. He is looking at a menu. He looks up and sees a woman approach him. It is his date, ROSE HARTLEY (40s). Ryan stands up as Rose is at his table.

ROSE
You must be Ryan.

RYAN
Yes.

ROSE
I'm Rose. You seem nervous.

RYAN
I'm nervous. It has been a while
since I've been on a date.

ROSE
Don't be nervous. I'm easy. Hug me.

Ryan hugs Rose.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Let's sit down.

Rose and Ryan sit down.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I hope you weren't waiting too
long.

RYAN
No, I just got here. I got seated
so we wouldn't have to wait for a
table. I also went with a bottle of
sparkling water over still. I hope
that works for you.

Rose takes a sip of sparkling water.

ROSE
That's sweet, and I prefer
sparkling. You're cute.

RYAN
I must say you look stunning.

ROSE
Thank you. Since it seemed like a
somewhat fancy restaurant, I put
extra effort into my look. I'm used
to meeting guys in bars for drinks.

RYAN
Is this too much?

ROSE
No, it's perfect.

A waiter named DEXTER VINCENT (30s) is at their table.

DEXTER
Hi, I'm Dexter. I'll be your server
tonight. Can I start you off with
drinks?

Rose looks at Ryan.

ROSE
Do you drink wine?

RYAN
I do.

ROSE
Should we share a bottle? Red or
white?

RYAN
Let's go with white.

Rose looks at Dexter.

ROSE
We'll share a bottle of the 2019
Pellegrini Chardonnay.

DEXTER
Outstanding choice, I'll come back
with your wine.

ROSE
Actually, are you ready to order? I
cheated and looked at the menu
before so that I can order now.

RYAN
Me too, I'm ready.

Dexter looks at Rose.

DEXTER
What would you like?

ROSE
I'll have the shrimp scampi.

DEXTER
You got it. And you?

RYAN
I'll have the Bolognese.

DEXTER
Awesome, I'll be back with the wine
and some bread.

ROSE
Perfect.

Dexter walks away.

ROSE (CONT'D)
So, you said it has been a while
since you've been on a date. Why?
You're handsome and successful.

RYAN
I recently separated from my wife
of 25 years.

ROSE
What happened?

Ryan looks at Rose and then clears his throat. He takes a sip
of sparkling water.

ROSE (CONT'D)
That was rude. It's none of my
business.

RYAN
No worries. I found out that I'm
not the father of our 18-year-old
daughter, our only child.

ROSE
Wow, that's tough. How is your
daughter doing?

RYAN
She's getting through it. She's
talking to her mom again. It was my
daughter, Emma, who set up my
profile on the app.

ROSE
She did a killer job. You come
across as normal. As a guy, a
normal profile should be your goal.

Dexter comes back with the wine and pours a taste for Rose
and Ryan. They both take a sip.

RYAN
Wow, that's delectable.

Rose motions at Dexter to pour more, and Dexter pours a full glass for Rose and Ryan.

DEXTER

I'll be back with the dinner order.
It should not be too long.

Rose smiles at Ryan.

ROSE

Incredibly, you're honest with me about your separation. The majority of guys would lie.

RYAN

I'm the victim, and I figured you would feel sorry for me. I'm playing the sympathy card with you.

Rose starts laughing.

ROSE

That's clever, and it's working.
You've won me over.

RYAN

This is easier than I imagined.

ROSE

I told you I'm easy. Let's do a toast.

RYAN

We must.

Rose and Ryan raise their glasses.

ROSE

Let's have a fun time.

RYAN

I'll drink to that.

Rose and Ryan touch glasses and sip wine.

ROSE

We'll keep it casual.

RYAN

That works. My life doesn't need more seriousness.

ROSE

You're with the right woman, then.

INT. ROSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rose and Ryan enter Rose's apartment.

ROSE

So here we are. What should we do?

Ryan looks at Rose and goes in for a kiss. They start kissing. Rose stops kissing and looks at Ryan.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Let's go to my bedroom.

They start walking to Rose's bedroom when Ryan feels his phone vibrate. He takes his phone out of his pocket, and the phone screen says Emma is calling. Ryan picks up.

RYAN

Hey, how are you?

Ryan listens as Emma briefly tells him that Justin asked her for money.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'll be home soon.

Ryan hangs up the phone and looks at Rose.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I have to go.

ROSE

I understand.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Emma and Ryan are sitting in Ryan's kitchen. Emma is explaining how Justin asked her for money.

We focus on Emma.

EMMA

He texted me and asked if I could pay for some dental work and items on Amazon with my credit card. He said he'd pay me back when he gets a job.

RYAN

What did you say?

EMMA

I didn't respond and blocked his number.

RYAN

Forget about him. You have your mother and me. We are here for you.

EMMA

I wish I'd never found out. Our family was perfect, and it's not anymore.

RYAN

Nothing is perfect. That's the way life is. You're a genuinely nice person, and if you focus on that, you'll be fine. Do you understand?

EMMA

That makes sense. How was your date?

RYAN

It went well. I got back to her place, and we were kissing as we walked to her bedroom.

EMMA

Then what happened?

RYAN

You called.

EMMA

I'm so sorry.

RYAN

Don't be. I felt guilty the whole time on the date. I kept thinking about you and Grandma. I should be focusing on you guys and not having sex.

EMMA

I think you can do both.

RYAN

I don't want to. I want to focus on being a dad to you and a son to Grandma.

EMMA

You're an incredible dad.

RYAN

Thank you, should we get ice cream?
I skipped dessert.

EMMA

I could use some ice cream.

INT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - MEETING ROOM - DAY

It is September, and 5 months since Mary was diagnosed with cancer. Joyce, Mary, Paul, RICH UPTON (82), and MEG HARPER (79) are having group therapy. Rich has stage 4 lung cancer, and Meg has stage 4 cervical cancer. Paul is the one patient still alive since Mary came to the hospice center.

We focus on Paul. The bottom of the screen reads: 5 months since Mary's cancer diagnosis.

PAUL

I've talked a ton about what I despise about the accounting profession. You're probably wondering if accounting ever pleased me.

MARY

I've wondered that a few times.

PAUL

Believe it or not, there were a few decent moments.

JOYCE

Such as?

PAUL

We had a training when I became a manager at PwC on overcoming challenges based on our personality type. The instructor was a psychologist and took a liking to me. On the last day, he told the whole class that I was unbreakable. He may have said that because I have cerebral palsy. That was the nicest compliment ever given to me.

MARY

He chose you over everyone else in the class. How sweet of him.

PAUL

I'm not sure I deserved it. I could not let him down, though. I had to live up to what he said.

RICH

Unbreakable, that's a hell of a compliment.

JOYCE

I guess accounting had its positive moments for you. I was worried there for a while that there were none based on your commentary.

PAUL

It wasn't all bad. There were some cool people I worked with. I have another story.

JOYCE

Go for it.

PAUL

I had a benign brain tumor on my brain stem removed when I was 28. When I went back to work, the head partner of our group told me I could stay as long as I wanted. He treated me like a human being and not a dog.

MARY

What a nice man. He cared, or at least acted as if he cared.

PAUL

He did. I eventually became a partner at PwC. I tried to be kind and considerate. You have to be tough and make sure the work gets done, but you also have to be a decent person. I made sure I thanked people for their contributions.

RICH

Bosses I revered rewarded me for a job well done.

JOYCE

Paul, I appreciate you sharing the humanity displayed at times during your accounting career.

MARY

I can go next.

JOYCE

Please, go.

MARY

I was a wild teenager. I drank and smoked weed and cigarettes. My parents were tough on me and tried to get me to stop. After college, I stopped smoking weed and would rarely drink. It felt satisfying when, in my 40s, my dad started to say he was proud of me.

PAUL

So you stopped smoking weed after college?

MARY

I've not smoked since I was 22.

PAUL

Wow, that takes tremendous strength and courage.

MARY

It was smooth once I saw my life get better. I could function at a high level at work and in my personal life.

MEG

What about cigarettes? You said you smoked cigarettes.

MARY

Unfortunately, I kept that vice going. I slowed down over the years and stopped at 52. It's probably why I have lung cancer. It's my own doing.

RICH

At least you stopped. I never did. Joyce, can I go?

JOYCE

Of course.

RICH

I dig the Nike commercial where they show Lance Armstrong at a press conference announcing he has testicular cancer. The cancer spread to his abdomen, lungs, and brain. He didn't give a shit. He said he'll beat the disease and return to professional cycling. That's inspiring, and it gives me chills when I watch it.

PAUL

Amen to that. He obviously had flaws and cheated to win, but he didn't cheat when he defeated cancer.

MARY

He legitimately kicked its ass fair and square.

RICH

Who cares if he was doping to win? Everyone else was too. If no one cheated, including him, he'd have won.

MEG

He was the finest of the cheaters, so let him cheat.

Everyone laughs.

JOYCE

This has been a healthy session. I'm so proud of you for sharing today. It makes my job effortless. Your fight and courage are admirable.

PAUL

Joyce, if I may say so, you're a sensational boss. You treat us like human beings. I admire you for that.

JOYCE

That's a high compliment coming from you.

MEG

I second what Paul said. You're a wonderful boss and human being. So selfless and strong.

RICH

I third that.

Joyce and Mary look at each other. They both smile.

MARY

I fourth that. You're amazing.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Emma is over for dinner at Ryan's house. They have finished dinner and are talking.

We focus on Emma.

EMMA

This was a delicious dinner. I could do this every night.

RYAN

Feel free to come here for dinner or hang out whenever.

EMMA

What if I move back in with you? You could save on tuition, and we could be together again.

RYAN

Are you serious? Do you not like living in the dorms?

EMMA

Dad, who likes living in a dorm? It's a small room in a building with a bunch of other small rooms, and the bathrooms are gross.

RYAN

When you say it that way, I'd rather live in a house than a dorm. What about the kids? You said you have a few friends.

EMMA

I do, but everyone drinks and does drugs. I figured it'd be different at Harvard, but it's not.

RYAN

I'm not crazy about you doing drugs, but you can drink. It's college, and you're almost of age.

EMMA

I tend to drink too much, and that scares me.

RYAN

Everyone who drinks struggles with that.

EMMA

I'm also not as productive when I'm hungover. I feel worthless.

RYAN

I'm familiar with that feeling. Try looking at spreadsheets when you are hungover.

EMMA

No, thank you. I don't know how you do accounting.

RYAN

It pays the bills, including your tuition, so that justifies the pain and suffering.

EMMA

That makes sense. I appreciate all you do for me. I want to make you proud.

RYAN

I am so proud of you.

EMMA

Thank you, that means a lot.

RYAN

You're welcome. You said your classes are going well. How is your screenplay going?

EMMA

My screenplay has stalled. I looked up the odds of writing a screenplay that becomes a movie, and it's below 1%.

RYAN
Says who?

EMMA
AI Overview.

RYAN
Well, that's a trustworthy source.

EMMA
Do you want to hear the odds of a
screenplay becoming a movie and
making money?

RYAN
According to the AI Overview?

EMMA
Yes.

RYAN
Let me hear it.

EMMA
1 in 1,000 to 1 in 50,000.

RYAN
At least there's a chance.

EMMA
I feel hopeless. What's the point
if you can't make money?

RYAN
I think you should talk to Grandma
about all these college problems.

EMMA
Why? I can't bother her with my
problems. She has enough to worry
about.

RYAN
It'd be a distraction from her
problems and not an additional
burden. She has plenty of life
experience and can assist you. Can
I at least ask if you can talk to
hear about this?

EMMA
You can, but if she says no, don't
push here.

RYAN
Trust me, Mom won't say no.

INT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - MARY'S ROOM - DAY

Emma walks into Mary's hospice room and sees Mary reading a book in her bed. Almost all of Mary's hair has fallen out from the chemotherapy.

MARY
You look uneasy. Come in. I won't bite.

Emma laughs and comes in. Mary gets out of bed.

EMMA
Grandma, please, you don't have to get up.

MARY
I don't, but for you, I will.

Emma and Mary hug.

EMMA
I missed you.

MARY
Me too. Let's sit down and talk.
Your father told me about your drama at school.

They both sit on a couch. Emma looks at Mary's mostly bald head.

MARY (CONT'D)
You still look bothered. Is it my lack of hair?

EMMA
No, no.

MARY
Sit tight. I'll fix this.

Mary walks over to her closet and puts on a curly blonde wig. Mary sits back down.

MARY (CONT'D)
How do I look?

Emma smiles.

EMMA

You look stunning.

MARY

So, where should we start, the drinking or the writing?

EMMA

We don't have to talk about either.

MARY

Let's start with the drinking. After we settle your issues, we can talk about whatever your heart desires.

EMMA

So, I drink.

MARY

Who doesn't? You're in college. It's normal for you to drink.

EMMA

I struggle to stop, and when I'm hungover, it affects my schoolwork, because I have no energy.

MARY

I don't miss hangovers. It made me slow and stupid.

EMMA

Is that why you stopped?

MARY

It is. I also didn't want to wake up at 40 with regrets or even worse, not make it to 40. Weed, I gave up completely, and I barely drink alcohol.

EMMA

Do you miss it?

MARY

I don't miss my parents yelling at me.

EMMA

So, you're happier not drinking or doing drugs. Is that accurate?

MARY

Yes, I found other interests.

EMMA

Like what?

MARY

I'm into sports, movies, working out, food, and family.

EMMA

So, they replaced drugs and alcohol.

MARY

In a sense, they did. This is obvious, but I'm responsible and productive when I'm sober. I take pride in that. I can accomplish more when I am sober.

EMMA

Give me an example.

Mary looks out the window.

MARY

When I had Ryan, I started getting up at 4 during the weekdays so I could still work out. There's no way I'm getting up at 4 in the morning if I drank or smoked weed the night before.

EMMA

I can't believe that you would get up at 4. How much sleep did you get?

MARY

Around 6 hours, as long as I got about 6, I could function. I got used to it.

EMMA

Were you tired at the end of the day?

MARY

The exhaustion would hit me after I cleaned up the kitchen. I'd sit in a sofa chair and start falling asleep. Over time, I came to a realization.

EMMA

What's that?

MARY

As you're aware, I'm incredibly competitive. I was beating almost everyone when I woke up at 4 in the morning and worked out.

EMMA

You were outworking the world. You're impressive. I bet you were a better mother because you were sober.

MARY

I was present in Ryan's life every day. One of my fondest memories was picking him up from daycare. He'd smile when he saw me and run over and hug me. That never got old.

EMMA

You make me want to be a mother.

Mary laughs.

MARY

You'll be an extraordinary mother someday. Let's talk about your writing. I think I can tie this all together.

EMMA

How?

MARY

Your dad said you don't think you can make money as a screenwriter.

EMMA

That's correct. Do you disagree?

MARY

No, making money off a screenplay is tremendously challenging.

EMMA

So then what should I do?

MARY

Why do you write screenplays? What do you like about it?

EMMA

Obviously not the money. I think I have a flair for it.

MARY

I've read your first screenplay. You do. Do you enjoy it?

Emma looks out the window.

EMMA

I do. Storytelling is like a puzzle, and you're trying to fit all the pieces together to make it complete. I get lost in it.

MARY

It's an escape.

EMMA

I escape from what's bothering me. The day after I found out you were sick, I worked on my screenplay. It made me feel less sad.

MARY

Were you drinking or doing drugs while you wrote?

EMMA

No, I write sober. My writing is pathetic when I'm high or drunk.

MARY

So writing is a healthy escape you can do alone. That's a dynamite reason to write.

Emma smiles.

EMMA

It is. You're right about that.

MARY

Don't worry about the money. You'll figure out the money part. Write because you find joy in it, and it's therapeutic for you.

EMMA

I can do that.

MARY

Keep going with the writing. The problem with people is that they often quit when they're good at something. Go as hard as you can for as long as you can, and you'll prevail.

EMMA

I'll do that. This definitely has benefited me. How much do I owe you?

MARY

For you, I work pro bono.

EMMA

I'm so happy I came here today.

Mary smiles.

MARY

Me too.

EXT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - OUTDOOR SITTING AREA - MORNING

Mary, Paul, and Rich are having coffee in the hospice's outdoor seating area in the morning. They are talking, and Paul says David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez are the best hitting duo.

We focus on Paul.

PAUL

I got one for both of you.

MARY

What's that?

RICH

Make it a winner. I need a boost this morning. This coffee isn't doing it.

PAUL

Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz are the best hitting duo ever. I'm talking modern day from the 90s on.

MARY

That goes without saying. They were excellent, and they could hit for power.

RICH

This is a topic I'm interested in.

PAUL

I foolishly was livid when the trade for Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez fell through. Thank God that trade never happened.

MARY

Jon Lester was part of that trade, too.

RICH

Wow, I had no idea he was.

PAUL

Me either, what a fortunate turn of events for the Sox. We keep Ramirez and Lester, who together were pivotal in us winning 3 World Series, including breaking the Curse of the Bambino.

MARY

Meanwhile, the Yankees and Alex Rodriguez won 1 World Series during that time.

RICH

Being a Boston sports fan in the 21st century is heavenly.

PAUL

Truly, I remember the game when I knew David Ortiz was the real deal.

RICH

When?

PAUL

On July 4th, 2003, he hit two home runs in Yankee Stadium. They were bombs. One was off David Wells.

MARY

I remember that game. We pounded the Yankees 10-3 and hit 7 home runs. A lot of fond memories as Boston fans this century. You're dead on, Rich. We are lucky to be Boston sports fans in the 21st century.

PAUL
Cheers to that.

They all clink their coffee mugs together and sip coffee.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily and Emma have finished dinner and are talking. Emma is talking about her visit with Mary.

We focus on Emma.

EMMA
Mom, I'm a different person since I visited Grandma.

EMILY
I'm not surprised. She's one of the wisest people I know and has advised me countless times.

EMMA
I'm not worried about making money by writing screenplays. I'm focused on writing compelling stories.

EMILY
Mary sure put a spell on you.

EMMA
I'm trying to be responsible and productive.

EMILY
Responsible and productive, that sounds like Mary.

EMMA
It does. You should talk to her.

EMILY
I should, but she has enough to worry about without me.

EMMA
How would you feel if she died and you had not spoken to her while she was in hospice?

EMILY
I do think about that, and it's a solid reason for me to see her.

EMMA

She can also get Dad and you back together.

EMILY

I'm not going to burden her with that task.

EMMA

I think it'd be a magnificent story if Grandma overcame cancer and you got back together with Dad.

EMILY

We'll see. I think you can at least write a screenplay about it.

EMMA

Maybe I will, but I'd rather have it happen in real life.

EMILY

I'm thankful that we are talking again. I think that's an exceptional story.

EMMA

I am too.

EMILY

Why did you start talking to me again?

EMMA

One mistake doesn't take away the fact that you were an extraordinary mother. I love you.

EMILY

I love you too.

EXT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - OUTDOOR SEATING AREA - MORNING

Mary, Meg, and Rich are having coffee in the outdoor seating area. Paul died the night before of a heart attack, and they are talking about him.

We focus on Mary.

MARY

He was the one patient still alive of all the patients I started with in hospice.

RICH

I didn't think Paul was going to die. He was so full of life until the end.

MEG

I had stuff I was going to tell him. Were you aware that he listened to Outkast?

MARY

The hip-hop duo?

Meg laughs.

MEG

Yes, even old farts like us can appreciate hip-hop.

MARY

Outkast is sensational.

RICH

I'm a rock guy, but I used to listen to Outkast.

MEG

Paul could not decide whether "Rosa Parks" or "Hey Ya!" was his favorite Outkast song. He said he'd get back to me on his decision. He never told me.

MARY

I bet he'd say "Rosa Parks".

MEG

It's underrated and a song you can dance to. I dig the end of the song when all the parts come together.

MARY

I agree. Well, the world needs more Pauls.

RICH

That's for sure. If I could multiply one person, it'd be Paul. He had so much strength and warmth. He was genuine.

MEG

He overcame so much. Despite having cerebral palsy and weakness on his left side, he had a successful career as an accountant for 45 years.

MARY

I'm grateful I had him and you guys as friends here. Our conversations and the bond we have make it easier to fight cancer.

RICH

We are in this together, and we are going down swinging.

MEG

Dylan Thomas said it best. Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light. We are raging until the end.

MARY

Cheers to that and our brother Paul.

RICH

That gave me goosebumps, Meg. Cheers.

They all clink their coffee mugs together and sip coffee.

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Mary is on an examination bed in a hospital examination room. Dr. Brooks and Ryan are seated. Dr. Brooks is discussing the progress of Mary's treatment for cancer.

We focus on Dr. Brooks.

DR. BROOKS

I have good news and bad news.

MARY

Start with the bad.

DR. BROOKS

You still qualify to remain in hospice.

MARY

So I still have a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Is that correct?

DR. BROOKS

That's accurate. I'll certify you to stay in hospice and then reassess you in 60 days. I recommend you stay. Do you wish to stay?

MARY

I'll stay until I hopefully can leave.

RYAN

What's the good news?

DR. BROOKS

The tumor in your lung is shrinking. The treatment is working.

RYAN

That's fantastic. So, it's a single tumor that has not spread to other parts of the body.

DR. BROOKS

Correct, it's one tumor, and it has not spread.

RYAN

Fabulous, so should we continue the treatment? What's the plan?

DR. BROOKS

If Mary's up for it, we'll continue with multiple cycles over the next few months. How do you feel about that, Mary?

Mary squints at Dr. Brooks.

MARY

Come on, you're really asking me that question.

DR. BROOKS

I have to ask. That's how this works.

MARY

Bring it on. Does that answer suffice?

DR. BROOKS

It does. You're a tough cookie.

MARY

If you cure me of this cancer, you'll be in my doctor's hall of fame.

DR. BROOKS

I'm trying.

MARY

Try harder.

RYAN

Enough, Mom. Dr. Brooks, will these multiple cycles eliminate the tumor?

DR. BROOKS

No, but it'll make it smaller. The plan is to evaluate the tumor after multiple rounds to assess its size and position. There's a chance we could do surgery to remove the tumor if it's small enough.

RYAN

Wonderful, and Mom would be cancer-free?

DR. BROOKS

There would still be cancer cells in Mary, but she'd no longer qualify for hospice. We'd monitor her going forward for a relapse. How does that sound?

MARY

That's a stellar plan. Get to work. Get it done. I've been in hospice too long.

Dr. Brooks smiles at Mary.

DR. BROOKS

I'm on it.

EXT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - GARDEN AREA - DAY

Joyce and Mary are doing laps around the walking trail of the garden area of the hospice.

We focus on Mary.

MARY

Come on, let's pick up the pace. I have to build up strength for my next rounds of treatment.

JOYCE

You're relentless. Where do you get it from?

MARY

My parents. They both worked until they died in their 80s. They were both professors. My dad taught accounting, and my mom English.

JOYCE

Were they competitive? It seems that they were.

MARY

They were ruthlessly competitive. My dad outlived my mom. He was devastated, but he took pleasure in living longer and his career continuing past hers.

JOYCE

Are you serious?

MARY

He was a year younger than my mom. When his career eventually surpassed hers, he told me.

JOYCE

They must have cherished teaching.

MARY

They adored it. They were performers, and the classroom was their stage. They had the highest student ratings and a long waitlist to get into their classes.

JOYCE

Did you ever attend one of their classes?

MARY

Never, it's a colossal regret. I saw how much they worked, though. My dad wrote every test differently.

JOYCE

Most professors use tests repeatedly. It's less work.

MARY

Not my dad, and he didn't do multiple-choice either. It was all responses to questions for which he designed the answer key.

JOYCE

He sounds intense.

MARY

They both were. They used to have all their papers or exams spread across the tables. They would sit there for hours grading each one. They never used assistants for grading.

JOYCE

That's commendable. God bless both of them. I see where you get your drive from.

MARY

What about you? How the hell do you maintain the desire to run a hospice?

JOYCE

It beats the alternative. I majored in finance. I worked for an investment team at a private equity company out of college.

MARY

You must have been making a boatload of money.

JOYCE

The money was fine, but I wasn't satisfied with making someone else rich. It was all about the internal rate of return. Make the most amount of money in the least amount of time.

MARY

What a phenomenal concept. I'm in.

JOYCE

I was out. It didn't do it for me.

MARY

So you started a hospice.

JOYCE

I did, and I support terminally ill people every day. I'd rather do that than make someone rich.

MARY

I respect that, and you're outstanding at it.

JOYCE

That's a considerable compliment coming from you.

MARY

Money isn't what you should value the most in a career. I told Emma that.

JOYCE

You said that she's going to write screenplays for feature films.

MARY

That is what she wants to do.

JOYCE

Writers are marvelous. Their job is to observe the world, see how it works, and make sense of it with a story.

MARY

That's dead-on. I'm going to tell her that.

JOYCE

Do it.

Joyce and Mary are at the hospice entrance and the start of the walking trail.

MARY

Let's do another lap and pick up the pace. You ran marathons, no excuses.

JOYCE
Whatever you say. Let's go.

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Mary is sitting on an examination bed in a hospital examination room. Dr. Brooks and Ryan are sitting in chairs. It is April, and 1 year since Mary's initial cancer diagnosis. Mary's last cycles of treatment made the tumor smaller, and Dr. Brooks successfully removed the tumor. Dr. Brooks is going over the next steps after the surgery.

The bottom of the screen reads: 1 year since Mary's cancer diagnosis.

We focus on Mary.

MARY
So the tumor is gone, correct?

DR. BROOKS
I was successfully able to remove the tumor.

RYAN
Does that mean she can leave hospice?

Dr. Brooks smiles.

DR. BROOKS
Correct, Mary Walsh no longer qualifies for hospice.

Ryan stands up.

RYAN
Hug me, you're the man.

Dr. Brooks and Ryan hug. Mary walks over, hugs Dr. Brooks, and then Ryan. They all sit back down, including Mary, in a chair next to Ryan.

RYAN (CONT'D)
What are the next steps?

DR. BROOKS
We'll discharge you and set up periodic check-ups to make sure there's no relapse.

MARY
Do you think there will be?

DR. BROOKS

No, I think our future meetings will be uneventful and boring with no relapse.

MARY

Don't be a boring person, but I'm fine with a boring medical update.

DR. BROOKS

Me too. It has been an honor treating you.

MARY

Thank you, I can't thank you enough.

RYAN

We owe you. Are you a Celtics fan? How about floor seats against the Lakers?

DR. BROOKS

I appreciate the offer, but I have to decline it. I'm thrilled we won. You defeated cancer. How does it feel?

MARY

How do I feel? I won. Who doesn't like winning?

DR. BROOKS

You never hold back with your words. I appreciate that about you.

MARY

Say what you have to say and mean it.

DR. BROOKS

Absolutely, I'll get your discharge papers so you can go home.

MARY

Dr. Brooks, thank you so much.

DR. BROOKS

Anytime.

INT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - MARY'S ROOM - DAY

Mary is packing her suitcase with her belongings to leave the hospice center. Mary hears a knock on the door.

MARY

Come in.

Joyce opens the door and enters the room. Mary turns toward Joyce.

JOYCE

Are you ready to leave?

MARY

Just about.

JOYCE

How does it feel to be leaving here?

MARY

I've never felt better.

JOYCE

You earned that feeling. You're one hell of a fighter.

MARY

You're a hell of a coach. I'll miss you and our conversations.

Mary walks over and hugs Joyce.

JOYCE

So will I. You're one of my favorites.

Mary stops hugging Joyce and stands in front of Joyce.

MARY

Am I not the favorite?

JOYCE

It's a toss-up between Paul and you.

MARY

That's fair. I want to continue our friendship even though I'm leaving.

JOYCE

Me too, and you're welcome to pop into a group session. Your presence and perspective are inspiring.

MARY

I can make a cameo here and there.

JOYCE

Perfect, so what's next for you?

MARY

I'll spend time with my family. I hope Ryan and Emily get back together.

JOYCE

Do you think they will?

MARY

I hope so. I'll settle for at least having a relationship with Emily.

JOYCE

Are you mad that she never came to visit?

MARY

No, I miss her. We were so close and had similar interests, such as cooking and sports. I want her in my life.

JOYCE

I bet she feels the same way.

MARY

We'll see. What about you? Do you have plans other than running the hospice?

JOYCE

I'm thinking about running marathons again. Since Tom and Leah are out of the house, I have some spare time.

MARY

Do it. Do you think you'll run Boston?

JOYCE

I'll have to qualify, but that would be cool.

MARY

You will. I can train you. I'll ride a bike, and we can continue our conversations.

JOYCE

I'm in on that. Let's get you out of here. You've been here long enough.

MARY

You lead the way.

EXT. THE HOSPICE CENTER - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Ryan is waiting at the hospice's front entrance with his car. Mary and Joyce walk out to the front entrance.

RYAN

Mom, let me get that.

Ryan takes Mary's belongings and puts them in the trunk.

MARY

Thank you, sweetie.

RYAN

My pleasure. Joyce, I sent you an e-mail. It has 4 tickets to the Red Sox and Yankees for this season. You can download an app to get the tickets. It's a Saturday afternoon game in a few weeks. I hope that works.

JOYCE

That works and is extremely generous of you.

MARY

Where are the seats?

RYAN

Forgive me. I should've said that.

MARY

No worries, where?

RYAN

Box seats, first row, looking down the first baseline. They're the same seats that you had when you went with Cindy, Paul, and Joyce.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

I figured Joyce could take her family.

MARY

You're a splendid son.

JOYCE

He is. You're lucky. Mary, you could have one of the tickets and come to the game with me.

MARY

No, take your family. You deserve it.

JOYCE

I will then. Well, I won't hold you here any longer.

Mary walks over and hugs Joyce.

MARY

Thank you for saving my life. I could not have done this without you.

Mary stops hugging Joyce and steps back, standing next to her.

JOYCE

I'm not sure that's accurate.

MARY

It is, and I owe you.

JOYCE

Train me for the Boston Marathon, and we'll call it even.

MARY

I'll get my bike ready to ride while you run.

JOYCE

I can't wait.

INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY - NIGHT

Mary and Ryan are finishing dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. It is the same day Mary was released from the hospice center. Mary is finishing the Factory Nachos.

We see Mary take the last bite of her nachos and then take a sip of a Diet Coke.

MARY

The Factory Nachos at the Cheesecake Factory are a satisfying meal.

RYAN

I can't believe you ate all of that.

MARY

I just overcame cancer. I'll do whatever I please.

RYAN

Do you have room for dessert?

MARY

I do. Let's split a piece of Celebration Cheesecake.

RYAN

That's an appropriate way to celebrate your cancer victory.

MARY

This is my favorite restaurant in the world.

RYAN

Really?

MARY

Unquestionably, they're the leader in volume and variety of appetizing dishes.

RYAN

I'm with you on the variety. Where else can you order fish tacos, orange chicken, shepherd's pie, and gumbo and have them all be scrumptious?

MARY

Nowhere, that's my point. The mammoth portion sizes aren't a turnoff for me.

RYAN

You've always had a hearty appetite.

MARY

Can you blame me? Superb food is as good as it gets.

RYAN

I can't argue with that. Emily is also a vacuum cleaner when it comes to food.

MARY

We have that in common. She and I came here often. She has a spreadsheet that rates all the menu items she has tried.

RYAN

I gave her that idea.

MARY

I figured that. Ideas involving a spreadsheet probably came from an accountant.

RYAN

We value our spreadsheets. I do miss her.

Mary looks at Ryan, smiles, and starts laughing.

RYAN (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

MARY

Time is funny. Give it time, and anything is possible. So, you miss her. What are you going to do about it?

RYAN

I'm considering talking to her, but I have no idea whether she'll talk to me.

MARY

You need a facilitator, which is me. I can do that for you.

RYAN

I appreciate that, but this is tough on you, because you've not spoken to her since before you were in hospice.

MARY

Ryan, I beat cancer. Talking to Emily will be a piece of cake.

RYAN

I hope so. She can be stubborn.

MARY

Stop worrying. Have you talked about you not being the father?

RYAN

We argued about it the night she moved out. Since then, any interaction has been about splitting time with Emma.

MARY

You're overdue for a conversation, then.

RYAN

We are.

MARY

Understand this. You're the father of Emma. You raised her and did a splendid job. Her birth father is a loser.

RYAN

I understand.

The Cheesecake Factory waiter approaches Mary and Ryan. The waiter's name is NEIL BROWN (30s).

NEIL

Can I get you dessert?

MARY

We'll get a piece of Celebration Cheesecake.

NEIL

You got it.

MARY

Thank you.

NEIL

No problem.

Neil takes their dinner plates and walks away.

MARY

I'll talk to Emily. Leave it to me.
I'll take care of it.

RYAN

I've no doubt you will.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE - DAY

Mary is having Emily over to talk with her. It is the first in-person conversation they have had since Mary found out Ryan was not Emma's biological father.

We focus on a tea kettle boiling, then hear a doorbell ring. Mary opens the door, and Emily is standing there. Mary hugs Emily.

MARY

It's nice to see you. Come in. I
made tea.

Emily enters the house.

Emily and Mary enter the dining room and see the table set with silverware, small plates, tea cups, a tea kettle, butter, a small jar of sugar, a small creamer filled with milk, and a tray of tea sandwiches and scones.

Emily's eyes widen, and her jaw drops.

MARY (CONT'D)

I hope this works. Have a seat.
Take a load off.

Emily and Mary sit down. Mary pours tea for both of them.

MARY (CONT'D)

Would you like a sandwich or a
scone? I have chicken salad, egg
salad, and smoked salmon and cream
cheese for the sandwiches, and
lemon-blueberry and white chocolate
raspberry for the scones.

EMILY

I'll start with chicken salad.

Mary puts a chicken salad sandwich on Emily's plate.

MARY

I'll have a lemon-blueberry scone.
The tea is Early Grey, by the way,
your favorite. You don't take sugar
or milk. As for me, I'll have both.

Mary pours tea into Emily's cup and then into her own cup.
Mary pours sugar into her cup of tea, then adds milk. She
stirs the cup with a spoon.

EMILY

I'm sorry I didn't visit and that I
didn't tell you Ryan wasn't Emma's
father.

Mary stops stirring.

MARY

It doesn't matter. You're here now.

EMILY

I also don't think I deserve this.

MARY

I don't think you do either, but we
used to have tea together, so why
can't that continue?

EMILY

Because I royally messed up.

MARY

Get over it. I'm over it. Let's
catch up. How have you been?

EMILY

Busy with work and being a mother
to Emma.

MARY

Those are two laudable endeavors.
Are you dating?

Emily takes a bite of her chicken sandwich and is chewing.

EMILY

Sorry.

MARY

Don't be, how is it?

Emily finishes chewing and takes a sip of her tea.

EMILY
It's divine, thank you.

MARY
You're welcome.

EMILY
And to answer your question, no,
I'm not dating.

MARY
Why not?

EMILY
I haven't considered it yet. Maybe
I will, but not yet.

MARY
Ryan wants to talk to you. He
misses you.

EMILY
Really? He said he missed me.

MARY
He did. Do you miss him?

EMILY
I do miss him. I miss us all being
together as a family, too.

MARY
So talk to him. I'm not saying you
should get back together with him,
though I'm not opposed to it. It'd
suit you both if you had a
relationship beyond coordinating
time spent with Emma.

EMILY
I understand and agree, but what I
did is inexcusable and
unforgivable.

MARY
I forgive you. He can too.

EMILY
I appreciate that, but I did it to
him as a husband.

MARY

What you did was inconsiderate and out of character, but not unforgivable. Gary cheated on me for years.

EMILY

I never knew.

MARY

I kept it from you. I contemplated divorce, but stayed with Gary for Ryan's sake, and I never stopped loving Gary.

EMILY

Did he stop cheating?

MARY

He did after Ryan graduated from college.

EMILY

How could you tell?

Mary gazes out the window, and a smile breaks through.

MARY

He developed a close connection with our dogs, Maverick and Aidan.

EMILY

I adored them, and he was smitten with those dogs.

MARY

He was also a fabulous father to Ryan.

EMILY

He was.

MARY

After Ryan graduated from college, he was there for Ryan. They were both CPAs, so Ryan leaned on Gary for advice about accounting and his job.

EMILY

Gary was so proud of Ryan's career success and of how caring a father he was to Emma.

MARY

He was, and so I figured staying together with Gary was the right decision. I was with him until he died.

EMILY

It was the right decision. What do I say to Ryan besides apologizing?

MARY

Be honest. He'll ask why you never told him he wasn't the father of Emma, and be honest.

EMILY

That's it.

MARY

That's all you can do. You owe it to him. Have you ever seen the movie *Flight*?

EMILY

With Denzel, of course.

MARY

One magnificent scene is when he's testifying and admits he was drunk when he landed the plane and drunk while testifying. He's being honest. I respect that. Ryan will respect that as well.

EMILY

I see your point.

MARY

I'll let you figure out what exactly to say. Tell the truth.

Mary takes a bite of her lemon-blueberry scone and sips her tea.

Emily takes a bite of her chicken salad sandwich and sips her tea.

EMILY

You outdid yourself with all this.

MARY

As long as you enjoy it, it's worth it.

EMILY
I'll have a white chocolate
raspberry scone.

MARY
Be a big girl and serve yourself.

Emily and Mary laugh.

EMILY
Ok, Mom.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

We are looking at an Excel spreadsheet. Ryan is working at his desk, working on his computer. He hears the doorbell ring. He clicks the save icon and goes to the front door.

Ryan opens the front door, and it is Emily.

RYAN
Hi.

EMILY
Hi.

RYAN
It's a gorgeous day, so let's take
a walk if you're up for it.

EMILY
I guess that means no yelling.

RYAN
No yelling, we'll talk.

EMILY
I can do that.

RYAN
Let's go.

Ryan shuts the front door. Ryan and Emily start walking to the sidewalk, then onto it.

RYAN (CONT'D)
So, you talked to Mary.

EMILY
We had tea.

RYAN
Did she make sandwiches and scones?

EMILY

Chicken salad, egg salad, smoked salmon and cheese sandwiches, lemon-blueberry, and white chocolate raspberry scones.

RYAN

I'm jealous. You and Mary are getting along again.

EMILY

We are. I love her.

RYAN

Me too. Emma seems to be flourishing since she and Mary talked.

EMILY

She's focused on her writing and schoolwork. That's all we can ask.

RYAN

Thank you for being there for her and taking care of her.

EMILY

You too. It's a team deal taking care of her.

RYAN

Absolutely.

Ryan takes a deep breath.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Let's talk about it.

EMILY

We should. I should start by apologizing. I should've told you before we had Emma. It was wrong of me.

RYAN

I appreciate that, and I understand it was painful to tell me, but you should've. Why didn't you tell me?

EMILY

I have an answer.

RYAN

Let me hear it.

EMILY

There are two reasons. First, I was scared of losing you. I thought you would leave me if I told you, and I didn't want that to happen. I loved you and needed you in my life as my partner.

RYAN

What's the second reason?

EMILY

I knew you would be a tremendous father. I wanted to raise Emma with you. I was right. You exceeded my expectations. You helped Emma grow into the star she is. With that said, I should've told you, and I deeply regret it. I do.

Ryan looks at Emily. His face is relaxed and neutral.

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

It is the day before Thanksgiving. It is a year and 7 months since Mary was diagnosed with lung cancer. Mary is having a routine check-up with Dr. Brooks to see if there is a recurrence of the lung cancer.

Mary is sitting on an examination bed, and Dr. Brooks is standing. The bottom of the screen reads: 1 year and 7 months since Mary's cancer diagnosis.

DR. BROOKS

You continue to have no recurrence of cancer. I'll see you again in 3 months.

MARY

Another boring doctor's visit. I can celebrate Thanksgiving with my family tomorrow.

DR. BROOKS

That's right, happy Thanksgiving. Unlike last year, you can have turkey with your family.

MARY

We are ordering pizza instead.

DR. BROOKS

Ordering pizza, I'm jealous.

MARY

That's our family's favorite food,
so we might as well have it.

DR. BROOKS

I'm tired of turkey, too. I have to
talk to my wife about it.

MARY

Do you think she'll go for pizza?

DR. BROOKS

No, she craves the traditional
Thanksgiving meal. She wears the
pants in the relationship, so her
decision is final.

Mary giggles.

MARY

Are you ok with her wearing the
pants?

Dr. Brooks tilts his head away from Mary and strokes his
chin.

DR. BROOKS

I suppose I am. To whom I must
obey, as my dad said. Besides,
she's hot, and I'm jubilant that I
get to fool around with her.

MARY

So, if the trade-off is that you go
along with her wishes, you're cool
with that.

DR. BROOKS

I am, and I can't believe I'm
telling you this. How inappropriate
of me.

MARY

Keep playing it cool, and she'll
satisfy you.

DR. BROOKS

Happy Thanksgiving, see you in 3
months.

MARY

See you, Happy Thanksgiving.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mary, Emma, and Ryan are about to have Thanksgiving dinner. We focus on 3 pizzas laid out across the dining room table. They are from Santarpio's Pizza in East Boston. The pizzas are 1 pepperoni, 1 sausage and garlic, and 1 extra cheese. They are 14 inches each and medium-sized. Mary, Emma, and Ryan are looking at the pizza.

RYAN

The pizzas heated up well in the oven.

MARY

I still prefer leftover pizza to just-cooked turkey.

EMMA

Totally.

RYAN

Are we ready?

EMMA

Yes.

MARY

Let's eat.

The dining room is next to the living room, and the two are open to each other. The TV is on in the living room. Mary's seat has the best view of the TV. The New England Patriots are playing the Dallas Cowboys in Dallas. The game is tied at halftime, 17-17.

RYAN

Mom, should I keep the TV on?

MARY

Don't turn it off. The Pats get the ball to start the second half in a 17-17 game. I'm watching the Pats first drive in the second half live.

RYAN

Understood, you're the head of the house.

MARY

Let's sit and eat.

Mary, Emma, and Ryan all sit down.

RYAN

Mom, what do you have a taste for?

MARY

I'll start with a slice of pepperoni and a slice of sausage and garlic.

Ryan puts the slices on Mary's plate.

RYAN

Emma, how about you?

EMMA

I'll have 2 slices of extra cheese.

RYAN

I might start with that myself.

Ryan puts the slices on Emma's plate. We hear the doorbell ring. Mary, Emma, and Ryan go to the front door. Ryan opens it.

We see Emily standing outside by the door holding 4 pizza boxes. She went to Scampo in Boston to get 6 lobster pizzas. The pizzas are 10 inches in diameter and small. Scampo is dine-in only on Thanksgiving. Mary told the Scampo manager she had overcome cancer and desired fresh pizza on Thanksgiving. Therefore, the manager made an exception and let Emily pick up the pizzas. Emily walks into the house.

EMILY

I apologize for the wait. They were busy.

MARY

You're a trooper for going.

EMILY

No problem, there are 2 more pizza boxes in the car. 2 lobster pizzas, each for Ryan, Mary, and me. Emma does not like lobster.

EMMA

No, I do not.

EMILY

I think we clearly have too much pizza between Scampo and Santarpio's.

MARY

On Thanksgiving, you can never have enough food.

RYAN

I do not doubt that Mary, you, and I will eat all the leftovers.

EMMA

Me either, and we can freeze the pizza too.

EMILY

That's true.

RYAN

I'll get the other 2 pizzas.

Ryan walks out of the house to get the 2 pizza boxes.

Emily walks over to the dining room table.

Mary and Emily look at each other with wide eyes. They walk over to the dining room table.

Emily places the 4 pizza boxes on the dining room table and sees the two slices on each plate.

EMILY

You were about to eat without me.

MARY

You were taking forever.

EMILY

You go to Scampo to pick up pizzas on Thanksgiving next time.

MARY

No, I'm too old, and besides, I'm the reason we have all the lobster pizzas. Let's not forget that Scampo is dine-in only on Thanksgiving. My cancer sob story to the Scampo manager is the reason they made an exception and let us pick up the pizzas.

EMILY

Touché.

Ryan walks in with the 2 pizza boxes and places them on the dining room table.

RYAN

Those are Mary's and Emma's plates.
I was going to wait for you.

EMMA

How ungentlemanly of you to throw
the women under the bus.

MARY

Get him, Emma.

EMILY

Whatever, I'm having 2 lobster
pizza slices.

RYAN

Me too, let me serve us.

Ryan opens up a pizza box and puts 2 slices on Emily's and
his plate. He looks at Mary.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Would you rather have lobster
slices?

MARY

I'm all set, as long as Emily
acknowledges that we wouldn't have
lobster pizza if it weren't for me.

EMILY

(in a sarcastic tone)
Yes, Mom.

MARY

I appreciate that and you picking
up the pizzas. Alright, let's eat.

EMMA

Maybe you should say some words
before we eat.

MARY

Like a prayer?

EMMA

What are you thankful for?

MARY

You're right. I'm thankful for my
family, my health, and, of course,
this pizza.

RYAN

Well said, short but effective.

Mary sees that the second half of the football game is about to start.

RYAN (CONT'D)

What should we talk about?

MARY

Everyone quiet. The second half is starting. I have to watch the Patriots' opening drive. Then, we can talk about whatever.

EMMA

Yes, Grandma.

EMILY

Yes, Mom.

RYAN

Yes, Mom.

Mary nods her head in approval, takes a bit of the pepperoni slice, and watches the game. The credits roll as "Halo" by Beyoncé plays.