

MYSTERIOUS WAYS

"THE TIES THAT BIND"

Production #1008

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. PHYSICS LAB -- DUSK -- DAY ONE 1

The lab is deserted except for an exhausted looking MIRANDA, who is talking on the phone while she tries to work. ALTERNATIVE MUSIC is playing in the background. She is also trying to keep an eye on her experiments that bubble away nearby.

MIRANDA

I'd love to go to the concert, but I can't.

(beat)

I know it's Marilyn Manson, but I'm backed up at the lab, and I have to finish my thesis proposal.

(beat)

Carol, I can't put it off... it's due in two weeks.

(struggles a bit,
then)

I know, bummer. Talk to you later. *

Disappointed, Miranda hangs up and goes back to work on her thesis proposal... until suddenly she smells something. She looks over to see that one of her experiments has started to smoke.

She rushes to turn off the burner, then goes over to the door and opens it to let the smoke and fumes out. Fresh air flows in through the door. Miranda steps out onto the balcony.

2 EXT. BALCONY -- DUSK -- CONTINUOUS -- DAY ONE 2

Miranda stands there for a moment, letting the gentle breeze blow through her hair. Then she does something unexpected...

She climbs up onto the railing.

Miranda stands on the railing, almost trancelike, feeling the breeze against her face. Below her, the university campus, several stories down.

Miranda teeters precariously on the edge of the railing, seemingly oblivious to the danger... until:

An ARM suddenly grabs her, and she's yanked off the railing.

3 OMITTED

3

A disoriented Miranda looks up to see:

DECLAN, who helps her to her feet.

DECLAN
(worried)
Are you okay?

MIRANDA
(dazed)
Yeah.

DECLAN
(what the hell?)
What were you doing up there?

*
*

Miranda looks at Declan, just as confused as he is.

MIRANDA
I don't know.

Off her bewildered look, we:

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. PHYSICS LAB -- DUSK -- DAY ONE 4

Miranda is busying herself about the lab, checking experiments, gathering papers, etc., as Declan follows her around.

MIRANDA
I wasn't going to jump.

DECLAN
Then what were you doing?

MIRANDA
I wanted some air.

DECLAN
You wanted some air?!

Uncomfortable with this discussion, Miranda quickly changes the subject. She gestures to the vial in Declan's hand.

MIRANDA
What's in the vial?

DECLAN
Miranda, I just pulled you off a ledge.

MIRANDA
I know, thank you. What's in the vial?

Declan can see that Miranda doesn't want to talk about this, so he decides to drop it for now.

DECLAN
I don't know what it is, some kind of goopy stuff... *

Miranda pulls the cap off the vial and catches a whiff of the slime, wincing at the odor. *

MIRANDA
Ugh, it's disgusting. *

DECLAN
Yeah, it *stinks*. It was raining out of the sky over Thornhill yesterday.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

4

MIRANDA

What do you think it is?

DECLAN

Won't know 'til you test it.

Miranda looks around, starting to get that overwhelmed feeling.

MIRANDA

I'll add it to the other 528 things
I have to do.

Declan is still worried about her.

DECLAN

You sure you're --

MIRANDA

Declan...

DECLAN

Alright, I'll check in with you later.

Declan leaves, and alone again, Miranda looks over at the open balcony door. She stares at the railing, troubled, then shuts the door and tries to go back to work.

*
*
*

5

INT. TICHENOR HOUSE -- SAM'S ROOM -- DAY TWO

5

SAM TICHENOR, 16, a typical teenager, listens to ROCK MUSIC while doing math homework. Suddenly, the MUSIC STOPS. Sam turns to see...

NATE TICHENOR, his gruff, gray-haired grandfather, standing beside the stereo.

SAM

Hey!

NATE

No wonder your grades are so bad.
How can you concentrate on your
homework with that racket?

Sam just shoots him a look.

SAM

You know, we got a privacy rule in
this house. If you're gonna live
here, you'd better learn it.

NATE

(dryly)
You want me to go back out and knock?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
(coolly)
What do you want?

NATE
Your mother told me to make sure you
were doing your homework.

SAM
Well, I am, so you can go now.

Sam continues to do his homework as Nate moves to look over
his shoulder. *

NATE
Arithmetic, huh?

SAM
(with attitude)
We call it math now.

NATE
I used to be pretty good at
arithmetic.

Sam rolls his eyes, wishing the old guy would leave already.
Sam's mother, SALLY, mid-forties, walks by the doorway and
pauses to watch their interaction, hopeful.

Looking over Sam's shoulder, Nate reads something that makes
him frown in disapproval.

NATE (CONT'D)
Hmmm.

SAM
(annoyed)
What?

NATE
You made a mistake there.
(off Sam's look)
Twelve times five is 528.

Sam looks at him, confused.

SAM
528? No, it's not, it's 60.

Sam punches it into the calculator.

SAM (CONT'D)
See?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

Nate is confused... he doesn't know why he said 528. Sam gets up, exasperated with the old man.

SAM (CONT'D)
I'm getting a soda.

Sam leaves, and Sally comes in. Nate looks at her, confused.

NATE
Twelve times five is sixty... I know that. Why did I say 528?

Sally puts a comforting hand on his arm.

SALLY
It's okay, Nate.

A confused Nate walks off, and Sally looks after him, worried.

6 INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE -- DAY TWO

6

Sally is sitting across the desk from PEGGY.

SALLY
He just hasn't been himself these days.

PEGGY
How so?

SALLY
Well, he's been moody, irritable, forgetful...

PEGGY
Any confusion?

SALLY
Yes, all the time... he'll start a sentence and forget what he was going to say, and I can't let him drive anymore... he forgets his way home.

Sally takes a beat, troubled.

SALLY (CONT'D)
I'm worried that he might be going senile... or what if it's Alzheimer's?

PEGGY
How long has this been going on?

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED:

6

SALLY

Since he moved in with us a couple of weeks ago.

(beat, with difficulty)

My husband walked out on us last month, and Nate wanted to move in so he could help us out and be there for Sam.

(beat)

But Sam's kind of angry at the world right now, and the last thing he wants is Nate trying to tell him what to do.

PEGGY

It sounds like a difficult situation for all of you.

Sally's face is filled with concern.

SALLY

It is, especially for Nate.

(beat)

I just wish I could do something to help him.

PEGGY

Why don't you bring him in and we'll see what we can do.

Sally nods, hopeful that she can help Nate.

7

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT -- LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT TWO

7

PAUL DAVIS, mid-40's, balding, looking every bit like the accountant he is, is watching the end of the 11 p.m. news. (We do not see the t.v screen) He shuts off the tv and unplugs it, then continues about his nightly routine:

IN THE LIVING ROOM - Paul unplugs the stereo, lamps, etc.

AT THE FRONT DOOR - Paul unlocks and re-locks the six dead bolts.

He opens the front hall closet, which is stacked with hundreds of boxes of nine volt batteries. He takes out a box of batteries, and picks up a small step ladder nearby then he proceeds to change the battery in the smoke detector.

IN THE HALLWAY - Paul continues to replace batteries in the smoke detectors he has placed every few feet of the apartment.

TAMMY O.S.

Paul...

(CONTINUED)

1008 (Shoot #9) The Ties That Bind PINK 7-18-00 7A.

7

CONTINUED:

7

Paul turns around to see...

TAMMY, his wife, late thirties, with a tired look of concern
on her face.

*

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED: (2)

7

TAMMY

This has got to stop.

Paul finishes changing the battery and starts to get down from the ladder.

PAUL

There's nothing wrong with being cautious.

TAMMY

Cautious? Paul, we can't even go to restaurants anymore because you're afraid of food poisoning.

PAUL

Have you seen the kitchens in some of those places?

TAMMY

This is not funny.

Tammy is very worried. Paul looks at her reassuringly.

PAUL

Tammy, I'm fine. Don't worry.

Paul moves the ladder over a couple of feet, then starts to change the battery in another smoke detector as Tammy watches him, concerned.

8 INT. PHYSICS LAB -- DAY THREE

8

Miranda sets up an experiment while listening to ALTERNATIVE MUSIC on the radio. Suddenly, she stops what she's doing and looks over at the radio, getting the urge to hear something different.

She walks over and starts to turn the dial, finally stopping at a RHYTHM AND BLUES station. That feels right. Miranda starts swaying to the beat as she goes back to work.

Declan walks into the room and stares at Miranda, surprised.

DECLAN

R & B, huh? Never woulda pegged you for a rhythm and blues kinda gal.

Miranda looks at Declan, then back to the radio, confused. Getting back to business, she motions to the experiments that are bubbling away.

MIRANDA

I finished testing your goop.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

DECLAN
Oh, yeah, what is it?

MIRANDA
Human excrement.

DECLAN
(puzzled)
Excrement?

MIRANDA
Fell out of an airplane... frozen at
40,000 feet, must've thawed on the
way down. Hence, raining goop. *

DECLAN
Explains the stink.

Miranda hands him some paperwork.

MIRANDA
Here's my analysis. I broke the
substance down and calculated the
exact amount of each of its
components.

Declan looks at her, disgusted.

DECLAN
Ugh, you actually broke it down?

Declan glances at the report. He smiles, amused.

DECLAN (CONT'D)
What's with the 528?
(off her confused
look)
Every component -- 528 ounces.

MIRANDA
What? *

Miranda looks at her paperwork, puzzled.

DECLAN
Don't worry about it... I don't need
to know what's in it.

Miranda digs out her rough notes.

MIRANDA
These are my calculations right
here... I must've typed them in wrong.

She examines the paper closely, concerned.

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED: (2)

8

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
(almost to herself)
Where did 528 come from?

Declan can see how much this is bothering her.

DECLAN
Miranda, are you sure you're okay?

Miranda quickly puts the wall back up.

MIRANDA
Yeah, I'm fine... I'm just busy. My
thesis proposal is due soon, and I'm
doing a lot of work at the lab.

She goes over to check on one of her experiments.

DECLAN
(concerned)
Maybe you're pushing yourself too
hard.

MIRANDA
I can handle it.

DECLAN
Wouldn't kill you to take a day off --

She shoots him a look.

MIRANDA
Declan...

DECLAN
Okay, fine.

Declan takes the hint and leaves, and Miranda looks back at
the paper with the 528's, worried.

9

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR -- DAY THREE

9

Sally and Peggy are walking down the hallway, looking worried.

SALLY
I don't know where he went... he was
just here a minute ago.

PEGGY
Don't worry, I'm sure we'll find
him.

They suddenly stop in their tracks when:

(CONTINUED)

1008 (Shoot #9) The Ties That Bind GOLDENROD 7-25-00 11.

9 CONTINUED:

9

NATE (with hair now dyed black) -- sails past them on a pair of rollerblades.

SALLY
(concerned)
Nate?

They rush after him as Nate grabs onto a railing to stop himself. *

SALLY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

NATE
This is harder than it looks.

PEGGY
Here, sit down.

Peggy and Sally help Nate into a chair.

SALLY
Where did you get those?

NATE
I bought 'em off some kid in the ER.
They brought him in, broken leg, and
I --

PEGGY
Why?

NATE
Why what?

PEGGY
Why did you buy them?

This stumps Nate.

NATE
I don't know. *

Sally turns to Peggy, exasperated.

SALLY
See? This is the kind of behavior I
was talking about.

NATE
(no big deal)
So I tried on a pair of rollerblades.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

SALLY
It's not just that... yesterday, you
went out and dyed your hair.

NATE
(smiles proudly)
Yeah, it's dy-no-mite.

SALLY
Nate, this isn't like you.

Nate turns to Peggy.

NATE
She thinks I have Alzheimer's.

SALLY
I never said that.

NATE
I'm just a little forgetful sometimes.

PEGGY
(gently)
This may or may not be Alzheimer's...
the only way we'll know for sure is
if we do some tests.

Nate hesitates, considering this.

SALLY
Please, Nate.

He looks at her and can see how worried she is. Finally:

NATE
Alright.

Sally smiles, relieved.

10 INT. PAUL'S OFFICE -- CUBICLE -- DAY THREE

10

Paul's at his desk, doing research on the internet. He's
all concentration as he clicks his mouse and jots numbers...
until he clicks on something, accidentally bringing up a
surprising website...

ON THE SCREEN -- is a game site called "DIE ALIEN DIE".
It's a fight to the death. *

PAUL -- reacts, confused, not sure how he ended up here.
He's about to close the window when a message appears.

ON THE SCREEN -- it reads "'Die Alien Die' champ, Ralph, age
14, challenges you to fight to the death. Do you accept?" *

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

PAUL -- stares at the screen, his expression suddenly shifting. Intensifying. Almost like a split personality is taking over.

He clicks "Yes" and begins to play the game, enthusiastically shooting the monsters that are attacking him on the screen.

PAUL
Die, you alien scum...

Paul continues shooting, and finally the alien explodes.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Oh yeah! Toasted!

ON THE SCREEN -- under "New Champion", Paul types, "Paul, age 528."

MR. TUCHMAN (O.S.)
Paul?

Startled, Paul turns to see his boss, MR. TUCHMAN, standing behind him, watching disapprovingly.

PAUL
(nervously)
Mr. Tuchman...

Paul scrambles to close the game window.

MR. TUCHMAN
What are you doing?

PAUL
Nothing, I just, uh... my server must have taken a wrong turn.

MR. TUCHMAN
I must say, I'm surprised. Weren't you the one who wrote the inter-office memo about using the internet for company purposes only?

PAUL
Yes, sir. I was.

MR. TUCHMAN
Perhaps you should heed your own advice.

PAUL
Yes, sir. I will.

Mr. Tuchman gives him one final look, then walks off. Paul looks back at the computer, confused by what came over him.

11 INT. UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR -- DAY THREE

11

A depressed Miranda is sitting on a bench by herself, staring down at test papers in her hand, when Declan walks by. He's surprised to see her there.

DECLAN

Miranda? Hey, whatcha doing sitting here by yourself?

Miranda is flustered that Declan caught her moping.

MIRANDA

Oh... nothing. I just finished a class...

She starts to get to her feet, dropping her papers in the process.

DECLAN

Here.

Declan starts to pick them up for her, but she rushes to beat him to it.

MIRANDA

I'll get it.

Declan picks up her test and sees the "F" on the front page. He looks at Miranda, concerned.

DECLAN

You got an "F"?

Declan can see how bummed she is about it, so he tries to lift her spirits.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

Hey, it's no big deal, right?
Everyone fails a test once in awhile.

MIRANDA

Not me.

DECLAN

What was it on?

Declan starts to open the test.

MIRANDA

No, don't --

He sees that her whole test booklet is filled with the number 528. This is creepy.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

DECLAN

Why don't you --

MIRANDA

I'm not talking to Peggy.

DECLAN

Something's going on with you.

MIRANDA

I'm not crazy, Declan.

DECLAN

I never said you were.

MIRANDA

I don't need a shrink.

Miranda takes the test back from Declan and walks off, leaving a concerned Declan looking after her.

12 INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE -- DAY THREE

12

Nate is sitting at a table, writing on a notepad, while Peggy sits across from him, a questionnaire in front of her.

PEGGY

Okay, just two more questions to go... I want you to spell the word "couch" backwards...

Nate writes something on the pad.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Good. Now I'm going to name three objects, and I want you to write them down in the order in which I tell you... pencil, watch, chair.

Again, Nate writes furiously, then puts his pen down confidently.

NATE

Piece of cake.

PEGGY

Great. Let's take a look.

She smiles and takes the paper from him. She looks confused when she sees what he's written... 528 written for every answer. Nate notices her expression.

NATE

What?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

Peggy shows him the paper, and Nate reads it... What the hell?

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. TICHENOR HOUSE -- BEDROOM -- DAWN -- DAY FOUR 13

CLOSE ON -- A DIGITAL CLOCK, which reads 5:28 am.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -- SALLY, who stirs from her sleep when she hears a door SLAM shut. She sits up in bed, concerned, but she hears nothing. Sally gets out of bed to investigate.

14 INT. TICHENOR HOUSE -- NATE'S ROOM -- DAWN -- DAY FOUR 14

Sally opens the door and is surprised to see that Nate's bed is empty. She looks up to see:

THE OPEN WINDOW -- with the curtains billowing in the breeze. Concerned, Sally goes over to the window and looks outside, where she is alarmed to see...

NATE -- perched dangerously on the edge of the roof.

SALLY

Nate! What are you doing?

Nate turns to her, disoriented and afraid.

NATE

Miranda.

Sally looks confused, but not nearly as confused as Nate.

15 EXT. BALCONY -- DAWN -- DAY FOUR 15

CLOSE ON MIRANDA'S FACE -- eyes closed, wind in her hair.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -- that she's once again on the railing, teetering precariously on the edge.

She takes a step forward, then almost slips, but she catches herself. Off her increasing fear and confusion, we: *

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR -- DAY FOUR

16

Peggy and Sally are looking through the window into Nate's room, watching as he fusses with his hair.

PEGGY

I want to keep him overnight for observation, and I've asked for a neurological consult as well.

*
*

Sally looks very worried.

SALLY

He kept saying he didn't want to jump, but then what was he doing up there on the roof?

PEGGY

He seems to be suffering from some sort of dementia.

(beat)

We'll run some more tests and see what we come up with.

Peggy gives her a reassuring smile.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Don't worry, we'll take good care of him.

Sally smiles, grateful for Peggy's words, but she still can't help but be worried about Nate.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

I'll be back to check on him later.

Peggy starts to walk back toward her office when she hears:

DECLAN (O.S.)

Peggy!

She turns to see Declan coming toward her.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

I need your help.

PEGGY

I'm really swamped today, Declan...

(CONTINUED)

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16 CONTINUED:

16

DECLAN
(serious)
It's Miranda.

Peggy picks up on Declan's tone.

PEGGY
What's wrong?

DECLAN
Some students found her standing on
a ledge at the university last night.

PEGGY
Oh, my God, is she okay?

DECLAN
Yeah, yeah, she's fine... luckily,
someone was there to pull her off
again.

PEGGY
Again?

DECLAN
I found her on a ledge last week.

PEGGY
This is serious... why didn't you
come to me sooner?

*

DECLAN
She said she was fine.
(beat)
I tried to get her to come and see
you, but...
(under his breath)
She doesn't like you.
(beat)
I'm worried about her.

*
*
*
*

CUT TO:

17 INT. UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR -- DAY FOUR

17

Declan and Peggy are walking down the hallway toward the
physics lab.

PEGGY
Has she ever shown any signs of
depression before?

DECLAN
It's hard to tell with her, but I
don't think so.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

PEGGY

It's probably just stress from all
of her extra schoolwork. I'm sure
she's fine.

Declan nods, reassured, as they open the door to the lab.

CUT TO:

18 INT. PHYSICS LAB -- CONTINUOUS -- DAY FOUR

18

Peggy and Declan step into the room and freeze at the sight
of:

THE NUMBER 528 on every blackboard, clipboard, everywhere
they look. Trash cans are overflowing with crumpled paper.
Peggy recognizes the number from her session with Nate.

PEGGY

(creeped out)

528.

MIRANDA -- is sitting at the desk, fighting her fear and
confusion.

DECLAN

(what's going on?)

Miranda...

MIRANDA

(shaken)

I can't make it stop.

Declan and Peggy exchange a look. They can see that Miranda
is terrified... they've never seen her like this before.

19 INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT -- BEDROOM -- DAY FOUR

19

Tammy is putting away some clothes when suddenly she spots
something in Paul's sock drawer. Her eyes widen in shock as
she pulls out:

NUDIE MAGAZINES

*

She studies them in disbelief, then she hears the apartment
door SHUT.

PAUL (O.S.)

I'm home.

With the magazines in hand, Tammy heads out of the room.

*

20 INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT -- LIVING ROOM -- DAY FOUR 20

Tammy comes into the room to find Paul and stops in her tracks *
when she sees:

PAUL -- wearing a jet black toupee.

TAMMY *

Paul?

PAUL

(nervously touches it)
Do you like it?

TAMMY *

(not really)
I, uh...

Tammy suddenly notices that Paul is carrying a pair of *
rollerblades.

TAMMY (CONT'D) *

What are you doing with rollerblades?

PAUL

I bought them.

TAMMY *

Rollerblades?

PAUL

I don't want to use them... I just
couldn't stop myself from buying
them.

Feeling like he's losing control, Paul starts to clean his *
hands with an antibacterial solution. Tammy watches him,
very worried.

TAMMY *

What is going on with you? Toupees,
rollerblades, and I found these in
your sock drawer.

She holds up the magazines and Paul reacts, embarrassed.

TAMMY (CONT'D) *

I really think you need to see
someone.

PAUL

I will.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 20

TAMMY *

You've been saying that for the last
two weeks.

Tammy walks off, frustrated, as Paul looks after her. *

21 INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE -- DAY FOUR 21

Declan walks into the room and is surprised to find Peggy
sitting at her desk, alone.

DECLAN

Where's Miranda?

PEGGY

She's upstairs getting some tests
done.

DECLAN

What kind of tests?

PEGGY

EEG, CT scan, bloodwork...

DECLAN

I thought you were just gonna talk
to her.

PEGGY

I did, but I think these sudden
changes in her behavior may be caused
by something other than just stress.

DECLAN

Like what?

Peggy takes a beat, tries to figure out how to explain this.

PEGGY

I have another patient, a 65 year
old man, Nate Tichenor, who's
displaying the exact same symptoms
as Miranda... standing on ledges,
the number 528 in his head...

DECLAN

Really?

PEGGY

At first I thought he might have
Alzheimer's --

DECLAN

Alzheimer's?! Miranda's in her
twenties.

(CONTINUED)

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21 CONTINUED:

21

PEGGY

But it also could be Pick's Disease.

DECLAN

What's that?

*

PEGGY

It's a degenerative brain disorder that causes behavioral changes and memory loss... it's been known to affect people as young as 20.

Declan isn't fully buying this.

DECLAN

Would it explain why they both have the number 528 stuck in their heads?

Peggy doesn't have an answer for that one.

22 INT. NATE'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY FOUR

22

CLOSE ON -- THE SCREEN OF A HAND-HELD VIDEO GAME... "Die Alien Die".

*

*

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -- SAM, playing the game in a corner of the room while Nate sits on the bed, watching him.

NATE

How long are you going to keep playing with that thing?

SAM

'Til I can go home.

NATE

(resentful)

You don't have to babysit me.

SAM

Mom said I had to stay here and keep you company until she gets back.

Sam continues playing, but then suddenly, he loses his last life, and the game is over.

SAM (CONT'D)

Aww, man.

NATE

What's the matter?

SAM

The aliens keep killing me.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

A NURSE enters with a tray of food, then leaves as Sam starts another game. Curious, Nate walks over to him to look over his shoulder.

NATE

That's 'cause you're depleting your energy crystals.

SAM

(taken aback)

How do you know?

Nate continues to watch the screen.

NATE

You've gotta load up on ammo or you'll never make it to level five.

SAM

I have enough ammo.

NATE

You're wasting it... you're just firing all over the place.

SAM

Hey, I play this game all the time...
I know what I'm --

Suddenly, he gets killed again, and Sam reacts, frustrated. Nate shakes his head.

NATE

Can't tell you anything... you're just like your father.

SAM

(stung)

Yeah, well, he's your son.

Nate reacts, also stung. He goes back over to the bed and takes the lid off his food... his eye is immediately drawn toward:

A PIECE OF BROCCOLI with a perfectly rounded tip. Its sprouts almost look poofy.

Nate picks it up and studies it curiously for a moment, then runs his hand through his hair, trying to make it poofy. Sam eyes him curiously.

SAM (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Nate snaps out of it and looks back at Sam, confused.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

NATE

I don't know.

Sam shrugs it off, as Nate wonders what just came over him.

23 INT. MIRANDA'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY FOUR

23

Fully dressed, Miranda is lying on the bed, reading a book on Quantum Physics and jotting down notes, when Declan comes into the room.

DECLAN

What are you doing?

*

MIRANDA

I told you, my thesis proposal is due in two weeks.

He takes the book away from her.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Declan...

DECLAN

You're in the hospital... take a couple of hours off.

Peggy comes into the room, holding Miranda's chart.

PEGGY

I got your test results back.

Declan and Miranda look at her expectantly.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Everything's normal. No lesions on the brain, no abnormalities in the bloodwork... you're perfectly healthy.

DECLAN

And Nate?

PEGGY

All his test results came back normal, too.

DECLAN

(perplexed)

Then what's wrong with them?

PEGGY

I'm not sure.

(to Miranda)

I'd like to schedule you for a few sessions this week so we can talk.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

MIRANDA

(duh)

Yeah.

Declan tries to figure out how to get into this.

DECLAN

Hey, since Peggy didn't find any
medical explanation for what's
happening to you, I was wondering if
it might be something more, you know,
"out there".

MIRANDA

Out there?

DECLAN

Yeah, you know, like this whole 528
thing... I thought it might be some
kind of thing trying to communicate
with you...

(grasping)

Or maybe it's... I don't know, a
memory from a past life...

Miranda just SIGHS, frustrated, and starts to gather up her
books.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

Miranda, something is up with you.

(beat)

If you don't want to talk to Peggy
about it... talk to me.

MIRANDA

And say what?

(beat, helpless)

If I don't know what's happening to
me, how can I talk about it?

Miranda looks at the clock.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

I'm going to be late for class.

She leaves as Declan looks after her, wishing he could help
her.

25 EXT. TICHENOR BACKYARD -- DAY FIVE

25

With a camcorder in hand, Sam sits at a patio table with a
couple of GUYS, who are eating pizza. GUY 1 is holding a
string of gooey cheese from his nose.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

GUY 1

Hey, look.

He eats the cheese as the others react, disgusted.

SAM

Dude, gross.

Suddenly, something behind Sam captures Guy 1's attention.

GUY 1

Hey, check it out.

SAM -- turns around to see:

NATE -- stepping into the backyard. His jet black hair is now styled in an afro, and he's wearing platform shoes.

GUY 1 (CONT'D)

(disbelief)

That's your grandfather?

Although he's disturbed by Nate's appearance, Sam continues taping.

SAM

(to himself, concerned)

Man, he's lost it.

Guy 1 goes up to Nate, amused.

GUY 1

Hey, what's up?

NATE

(nods at them)

Boys.

He gestures to Nate's afro.

GUY 1

Nice hair.

NATE

Can you dig it?

The boys (except Sam) start to LAUGH, and Nate suddenly feels self-conscious, realizing that they're making fun of him.

NATE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

I wanted to look good for my trip.

Sam just looks at him, confused.

SAM

Trip? Where are you going?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Alaska. NATE

Why? SAM

(stumped)
I don't know. NATE

Sam and his friends react, bewildered, but not as bewildered as Nate, who has no explanation for his behavior. *

26 INT. PAUL'S OFFICE BUILDING -- BOARDROOM -- DAY FIVE

26

Paul sits at a big boardroom table with his CO-WORKERS, listening to Mr. Tuchman, who stands at the head of the table next to an overhead projector.

MR. TUCHMAN
As you can see, our revenues for the year have fallen short of the projections that were made in January.

PAUL -- starts moving his arms in a sweeping motion. He looks at his arms curiously, not knowing why he's doing it.

MR. TUCHMAN (CONT'D)
We have to strive to do better... to restore this company to the thriving business it once was.

Now Paul starts moving his arms up and down as though pulling a train whistle.

PAUL
Woo-woo!

Mr. Tuchman stops talking as everyone turns to look at Paul curiously. Self-conscious, Paul quiets and clasps his hands together to keep them from moving.

MR. TUCHMAN
As I was saying, we need to bring back the conservative image upon which this company was founded.

PUSH IN ON PAUL -- who is fighting the urge to move his arms. He squeezes his hands together until his fingers turn white.

MR. TUCHMAN (CONT'D)
From now on, there will be no more casual Fridays. This is a professional corporation... we need to start acting like it. *

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

MR. TUCHMAN (CONT'D)
This is a professional corporation...
we need to start acting like it.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Paul's hands start to shake uncontrollably. Finally, he can resist no longer...

He jumps up onto the table and starts dancing his heart out. Paul's co-workers watch with shock and amusement, but Mr. Tuchman is anything but amused. Paul continues to dance, building to a crescendo, until he tries an elaborate move and falls off the table, hitting the floor with a THUD.

Humiliated and very confused, Paul scrambles to his feet as his co-workers stare at him.

27 INT. PHYSICS LAB -- DAY FIVE

27

Miranda is sitting at a desk, doodling something that resembles a train, while her fellow STUDENTS, are working on experiments.

Miranda is muttering to herself:

MIRANDA

Leaving the life he's come to know...
going back to find...

Suddenly, Miranda gets another piece of the puzzle.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

(like a train whistle)

Woo-woo!

Her fellow students react, amused. Miranda suddenly notices the SNICKERS around her and looks away, embarrassed.

28 INT. DECLAN'S OFFICE -- DAY FIVE

28

Declan's working on his computer. Intense concentration.

ON THE SCREEN -- the "DIE ALIEN DIE" gamesite. Declan's deep in battle with a fierce alien.

DECLAN

You're goin' down, Dude.

ON THE SCREEN -- the alien finally explodes.

DECLAN -- raises his arms in triumph.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

Bye-bye, Paul!

ON THE SCREEN -- Declan types above Paul's name, "New Champion, Declan, age 34."

(CONTINUED)

1008 (Shoot #9) The Ties That Bind GOLDENROD 7-25-00 30.

28 CONTINUED:

28

DECLAN -- smiles proudly, but then he looks up to see Miranda standing in front of him, looking even paler than usual.

DECLAN (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

*

MIRANDA
I have to go to Alaska.

Off Declan's surprised look, we:

SMASH CUT TO:

29 INT. PEGGY'S OFFICE -- DAY FIVE

29

PEGGY
Alaska?

Peggy looks at Declan, concerned.

DECLAN
She doesn't want to go... she said
she has to... like she doesn't have
a choice.

PEGGY
Oh, my God. Nate told me the exact
same thing.

DECLAN
(blown away)
He wants to go to Alaska, too?

PEGGY
Yeah, but he doesn't know why.

DECLAN
Miranda said she has to be there by
the 28th... May 28th.

PEGGY
(realizing)
528.

Peggy and Declan exchange a look... this is getting weirder
by the minute. Off their baffled expressions, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

30 EXT. HOSPITAL -- DAY SIX

30*

With luggage at their feet, Peggy and Sally are standing apart from Nate and Sam, who are sitting on a bench nearby. Nate is enthusiastically playing with Sam's video game, while Sam tapes him.

SALLY

(to Peggy)

Are you sure it's okay for him to travel?

PEGGY

I don't see why not... there's nothing physically wrong with him.

Sally looks at Nate, troubled.

SALLY

Do you really think this is going to help him?

PEGGY

I hope so.

Sally doesn't look convinced.

ANOTHER ANGLE -- ON DECLAN AND MIRANDA, 'luggage in hand, walking toward the hospital. Miranda does not look happy to be here.

*
*

MIRANDA

Alaska's a big place, Declan... how are we supposed to know where to go?

DECLAN

I kinda thought we'd figure that out once we got there.

Miranda's not feeling too confident about this.

MIRANDA

Maybe this isn't such a good idea.

DECLAN

You can't back out now.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

MIRANDA

Declan, I don't have time to go to
Alaska. I still haven't finished my
thesis proposal...

DECLAN

You have to go. It might be the
only way to find out what's happening
to you.

Miranda still looks nervous as they walk toward the others.
Declan notices Nate's hair.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

DECLAN (CONT'D)
(aside to Miranda)
Whoa, check out the 'fro.

Miranda pushes past Declan and goes up to Nate, fascinated by him somehow.

MIRANDA
Why is your hair like that?

NATE
I don't know.

MIRANDA
I like it.

Declan watches their exchange, intrigued. Peggy and Sally come over.

PEGGY
Oh, good, you're here. Sally, Nate,
Sam... this is Declan and Miranda.

Sally nods at them in greeting, as Nate turns to Miranda, recognizing the name.

NATE
(awed)
Miranda.

He looks to Sally, who recognizes the name also. Declan and Peggy exchange a curious look.

31 OMITTED

31*

32 INT. PAUL'S OFFICE -- CUBICLE -- DAY SIX

32

Mr. Tuchman walks over to Paul's desk and is surprised to find that he is not there. He becomes immediately agitated.

MR. TUCHMAN
Has anyone seen Paul? He has a client
waiting in the boardroom.

Several CO-WORKERS shake their heads.

MR. TUCHMAN (CONT'D)
Can someone get on the phone and
track him down please?

Before anyone can do so, Paul enters, sporting an afro.

PAUL
(nervously)
Sorry I'm late.

Everyone just stares at him, including Mr. Tuchman.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

MR. TUCHMAN

What did you do to your hair?

PAUL

Oh, this? It's, uh, an afro, Sir.

MR. TUCHMAN

I know what it is... why do you have one?

PAUL

(hesitates)

I'm not sure.

Uncomfortable, Paul pulls out his bottle of antibacterial lotion and starts washing his hands.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Is Mr. Green in the boardroom?

MR. TUCHMAN

You're not going to a meeting looking like that.

Mr. Tuchman feels bad for what he's about to do.

MR. TUCHMAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Paul, but until you start acting like yourself again, I don't want you to have any contact with clients.

Mr. Tuchman takes the file from Paul's desk and heads toward the boardroom, leaving a crushed Paul looking after him.

33 EXT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- ALASKA -- DAY SIX

33*

Miranda is sitting on a bench reading a physics book when Declan comes out of the lodge, holding two room keys.

DECLAN

Well, we're all checked in.

(beat)

Which room you want? 102 or 105?

MIRANDA

(absently)

326.

DECLAN

What are you talking about? This place doesn't even have a third --

Declan suddenly realizes and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

1008 (Shoot #9) The Ties That Bind GOLDENROD 7-25-00 34.

33 CONTINUED:

33

DECLAN (CONT'D)
You got a new number.

Off Miranda's apprehension, we:

CUT TO:

34 INT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- NIGHT SIX

34*

CLOSE ON A TV SCREEN -- which depicts Nate and one of Sam's friends chugging sodas in the backyard. The friend finishes his soda and BELCHES loudly.

NATE
(to friend)
You call that a belch?

GUY 1
Like you could do better.

Nate BELCHES even louder than the friend.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL SAM -- watching the video and CHUCKLING. Sally comes into the room and smiles.

SALLY
What are you laughing at?

Sam just quiets as Sally looks and sees:

ON THE SCREEN -- Nate and Sam's friend continue their belching contest.

BACK TO SALLY -- whose face is filled with concern.

SALLY (CONT'D)
You think this is funny?

Sam feels bad about what he's doing.

SALLY (CONT'D)
He's going through a difficult time
right now, and all you can do is
laugh at him?

Sally shakes her head, disappointed, as she leaves the room. Sam looks back at the tv screen, *troubled.

35 INT. MIRANDA'S ROOM -- NIGHT SIX

35

Miranda is sitting on her bed, her computer beside her, while Declan is pacing.

DECLAN
You sure 326 is not an address?

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA
I don't think it is.

DECLAN
A measurement or equation?

Miranda just shakes her head.

DECLAN (CONT'D)
Hmm. Too short to be a phone
number... Lock combination?

MIRANDA
(frustrated)
We've been over this, Declan... it
could be anything.

DECLAN
We figured out 528... maybe 326 was
meant for Nate. *

MIRANDA
Then why is it stuck in my head?

DECLAN
There's gotta be some kinda connection
between you two or you wouldn't be
receiving the same messages. If
this is some kind of spirit or
something trying to communicate, it
must be someone you have in common...

MIRANDA
I doubt we have the same circle of
friends.

DECLAN
Well, maybe you're related... second
cousins, once removed kinda thing.

MIRANDA
That's not possible.

DECLAN
How do you know?

MIRANDA
He's Jewish, I'm not.

DECLAN
(surprised)
You're not? Really? Miranda
Fiegelstein?

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA

"EEN". Like Springsteen.

Miranda opens her computer and starts to work.

DECLAN

(amazed)

Wow, I've known you for two years,
and all this time I thought you were
Jewish.

Miranda tries to work, but she notices that Declan is staring
at her, dumbfounded.

MIRANDA

What?

DECLAN

I just realized, I don't know anything
about you. I don't even know where
you live...

(beat)

Do you live at home? I mean, what's
your family like?

MIRANDA

Nothing special... they're nice
people.

DECLAN

Do you have brothers and sisters?

MIRANDA

Declan, it's getting late...

DECLAN

All you ever talk about is work...
you never talk about yourself.

MIRANDA

So?

DECLAN

So, what do you do for fun? How old
are you?

(beat)

When's your birthday?

MIRANDA

What does any of that have to do
with us being in Alaska?

Declan is a little hurt, realizes she's not going to give
anything.

DECLAN

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (3)

35

He leaves, and Miranda looks after him, feeling bad about shutting him out.

36 INT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- DAY SEVEN

36

Declan is having lunch and studying a map of Alaska when Miranda comes in, feeling bad about how things ended with him last night.

MIRANDA

Hey.

DECLAN

Hey.

MIRANDA

(struggling to
apologize)

I, uh, wanted to talk to you. Last night, I was a little...

Declan smiles, appreciates the apology.

DECLAN

It's okay... don't worry about it.

She smiles, grateful, then joins him at the table and steals some of his food. She gestures to the map.

MIRANDA

Where are we going next?

DECLAN

I don't know. Got any new urges?

MIRANDA

No.

A thought occurs to Declan.

DECLAN

This is weird. It's just like "Close Encounters". You know, like how they were drawn to that mountain.

MIRANDA

(rolls her eyes)
Aliens?

DECLAN

Got any other ideas?

She doesn't. Declan bites into his sandwich, a glob of mustard dropping onto the map. He starts to wipe it off.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

PUSH IN ON DECLAN -- who suddenly sees something on the now
clean part of the map which captures his attention.

*
*

INSERT -- ON THE MAP, which reads, "MIRANDA RIVER".

*

MIRANDA

*

What?

DECLAN

I think I know where we're supposed
to go.

Declan grabs the map and heads off to get the others as
Miranda follows him.

*
*

37 EXT. STATE PARK -- DAY SEVEN

37*

A mini-van pulls into a parking lot and Declan, Peggy, Miranda, Sally, Nate, and Sam get out. (Nate is now wearing a sequined jacket with his platform shoes). Miranda and Nate look around them as Declan watches.

DECLAN
Does this feel right to you?

NATE
Yes.

MIRANDA
Definitely.

Declan gestures to a trail head.

DECLAN
Come on, it's up --

Before Declan can even finish, Miranda and Nate start heading up the trail. Declan glances at the others, then they follow them, a mix of excitement and apprehension in the air.

38 EXT. MIRANDA RIVER DAM -- DAY SEVEN

38*

Miranda and Nate, with the others following them, come out of the woods to find themselves standing at the top of a huge dam which looks down onto a breathtaking gorge. Sam looks down at it, awed.

SAM
Oh, man, check it out.

Nate suddenly notices a sign that reads, "Miranda River Dam, elevation 326 feet".

NATE
Miranda.

Declan turns to Miranda.

DECLAN
326.

Miranda's amazed. Suddenly, Sally notices A MAN standing on an observation deck below them. He is also wearing a sequined jacket and has an afro.

SALLY
Who's that?

Miranda and Nate stare down at the man curiously, then start to head down toward the observation deck.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 38

The others follow them. *

39 EXT. OBSERVATION DECK -- DAY SEVEN 39*

Miranda, Nate, Declan, Peggy, Sally, and Sam walk toward the deck, and hearing them, the man turns around to reveal that: *

It's PAUL. Feeling a connection to him, Miranda and Nate walk up to him. *

MIRANDA

Were you drawn here, too?

Paul nods. Peggy and Declan exchange a look... creepy.

THROUGH THE CLEARING -- they suddenly see a man, MARK, late 20's (also with the sequined jacket, platform shoes and afro) walking toward them, looking confused. He looks down to the bottom of the gorge. *

MARK

Miranda.

Miranda, Paul, and Nate take a step toward the edge and look down at the bottom, a dizzying 326 feet below. Terrified, Miranda steps back and turns to Declan. *

MIRANDA

What the hell are we doing here?

Declan is as baffled as she is. Off Miranda's fear, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

40 INT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- DAY SEVEN

40*

Everyone (including Declan, Peggy, Miranda, Nate, Paul, and Mark) is sharing their stories, almost like an AA meeting.

PAUL

My wife wouldn't go with me. She doesn't understand any of this. Not that I blame her... I don't understand it.

MARK

My girlfriend found me standing up on the railing of our balcony, thought I was losing my mind.

(smiles, amused)

She thought I had residual brain damage from my car accident.

Paul perks up at this.

PAUL

Car accident?

MARK

Yeah, broadsided by an SUV.

PAUL

(creeped out)

I was in an accident too. Broke both my legs, punctured my lung, even my liver got damaged. Spent two months in the hospital waiting for a transplant.

Mark gets suddenly pale.

MARK

Transplant?

Paul nods.

MARK (CONT'D)

I had a transplant too.

NATE

So did I.

Declan reacts, excited.

SMASH CUT TO:

41 EXT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- DAY SEVEN

41*

Peggy, Declan, and Miranda walk out of the lodge.

PEGGY

This is too far fetched, Declan.

*

DECLAN

They all had organ transplants on the exact same day. I'll betcha a hundred bucks those organs came from the same person.

(off Peggy's look)

Haven't you heard those stories about people getting weird cravings and stuff after a transplant?

PEGGY

Yes, I have... allergies, cravings maybe, but not the urge to go to Alaska.

*

*

Miranda pipes up.

MIRANDA

I've never had a transplant.

Declan looks at her, the wind taken out of his sails.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

I've only been in the hospital twice.

DECLAN

What for?

MIRANDA

I broke my arm when I was eight, and I had my appendix out five years ago...

Just as Declan is about to say something...

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

And no, they didn't give me another one.

DECLAN

What I was going to say was maybe you were drawn here because of the name of the river... you know, the Miranda River.

MIRANDA

(sarcastically)

Yeah, that's it.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: 41

Declan just shoots her a look.

42 EXT. STATE PARK -- TRAIL -- DAY EIGHT 42

Sally and Sam are walking along the trail, looking for Nate.
Sam has his camcorder with him.

SAM

I don't know. He got up this morning
and said he was going for a walk.

SALLY

I can't believe you let him go off
by himself like that.

(beat)

I knew it was a mistake letting him
come here.

They keep walking.

*

43 EXT. OBSERVATION DECK -- DAY EIGHT 43

Sally and Sam emerge from the trail to see Nate standing on
the deck.

*

SALLY

(relieved)

There he is.

Sam raises his camcorder to tape Nate, but then suddenly:

NATE -- climbs under the railing of the deck, perched
dangerously on the outer edge.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Nate!

Sally runs toward him, alarmed.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Get away from there.

NATE

I want to jump.

Sally is truly terrified now... she extends her hand.

SALLY

Here, take my hand.

Nate hesitates, looking back down at the river below.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Nate, please.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

Nate looks back to Sally and can see the tears in her eyes. This snaps him out of it. He reaches for her hand. Sally helps him back behind the safety of the railing and pulls him close to her. Nate is clearly shaken as well.

NATE

I'm sorry.

*

SALLY

It's okay, Nate.

*

*

NATE

I was supposed to take care of you.

*

*

With Sally's arms around him, Nate starts to cry.

NATE (CONT'D)

I don't know what's happening to me.

*

*

SAM -- watches this and slowly lowers his camera. He's never seen his grandfather so scared, and it moves him.

44

INT. DECLAN'S ROOM -- DAY EIGHT

44

Declan comes into his room to find Miranda standing there, waiting for him.

DECLAN

Hey.

Miranda doesn't say anything. Declan can tell that something is wrong.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

You alright?

She pauses... this is very difficult for her.

MIRANDA

I missed my thesis proposal deadline.

Declan knows how important this is to her.

DECLAN

I'm, sorry.

MIRANDA

I talked to the Dean of Graduate Studies, tried to get an extension, but he wouldn't give me one.

(beat, fighting emotions)

He said he might have to expel me from the graduate program.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

DECLAN

How can he do that? These are
extraordinary circumstances... did
you explain that to him?

MIRANDA

Explain what? That I might be losing
my mind?

(CONTINUED)

DECLAN

You're not losing your mind.

Miranda looks at Declan, feeling vulnerable.

MIRANDA

I'm having urges to do things that I don't want to do, and no matter how hard I try to fight them, I can't.

Declan tries to reassure her.

DECLAN

We're gonna figure this out... I promise.

MIRANDA

(fighting back tears)

I don't like what's happening to me, Declan. For the first time, I feel like I'm not in control of my own life...

(beat, looks right at Declan)

And that terrifies me.

A few tears escape Miranda's eyes... she's never opened up to Declan like this before. He puts a comforting arm around her.

45 EXT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- DAY EIGHT

45*

Paul is sitting at a picnic table with several plastic wrapped snacks set up in front of him. He's in the process of opening them when he suddenly hears:

TAMMY O.S.

Paul?

He looks up to see:

TAMMY -- standing there. Paul looks at her, cautiously hopeful.

PAUL

Tammy. You came.

Tammy looks at him, serious.

TAMMY

I'm here to take you home.

PAUL

I can't leave.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

TAMMY
(frustrated)
Why not?

PAUL
I still haven't figured out why I'm
here.

Tammy looks at him solemnly.

TAMMY
Paul, if you stay here much longer,
I don't know if there'll be anything
left for you to come home to.

PAUL
(concerned)
What do you mean?

TAMMY
(after a beat)
Mr. Tuchman called yesterday... he
said you were fired.

This quiets Paul.

TAMMY (CONT'D)
I don't understand any of this, Paul.
You walk out on your job, you walk
out on me...

*

PAUL
Tammy, I'm sorry, I know this has
been hard on you, but I'm close to
figuring this out. We all had
transplants, Miranda's the name of a
river... I just need some more time
to figure out the rest of it.
(beat)
You just gotta hang in there with me
a little while longer.

Tammy looks at Paul, her heart breaking.

TAMMY
I don't know if I can.

Paul absorbs this, realizing how much is at stake.

46 INT. DECLAN'S ROOM -- DAY EIGHT

46

Peggy's on the phone while Declan sits across from her,
shuffling through some papers while he munches on some nuts.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

PEGGY

Are you sure?... Well, that's great,
thank you for your help.

She hangs up and turns to Declan, surprised.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Looks like you were right. They
did all get organs from the same
donor.

Declan smiles, encouraged, as Peggy checks her file.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Todd Kerner... a 19 year-old from
Seattle.

*

DECLAN

(how sad)

19, wow.

*

Just then, there is a KNOCK at the door.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

Come in.

Miranda enters.

DECLAN (CONT'D)

Hey.

MIRANDA

I talked to my parents. There were
complications when I had my appendix
out... I got a blood transfusion.

Declan perks up at this.

DECLAN

A blood transfusion?

MIRANDA

Here's the name of the donor if it
helps.

Declan takes the paper she hands him and reads the name.
He turns to Peggy with an excited smile.

DECLAN

Todd Kerner.

Peggy is stunned.

47 EXT. OBSERVATION DECK -- DAY EIGHT

47

Peggy, Miranda, Paul, Nate, and Mark are all standing on the deck... panic has set in.

PAUL

He killed himself! May 28th must be the anniversary of his death and now he wants us to kill ourselves too! That's only a couple days away.

PEGGY

Please, everyone, just calm down.

NATE

That's why we all feel like we want to jump off this cliff.

MARK

This is where he died.

Miranda looks over the edge, starting to put the pieces together.

MIRANDA

Leaving the life he's come to know...

PEGGY

Wait a minute, let's not jump to any conclusions here.

*

PAUL

This has already ruined our lives anyway. We don't have much more to lose.

PEGGY

That can't be true.

PAUL

Yes, it is. I've already lost my job because of this, and Miranda might get kicked out of school.

NATE

My daughter-in-law is ready to put me in a home because she thinks I'm a danger to myself and my grandson.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

MARK

All because we have this kid's organs.

PEGGY

Organs and blood are nothing more than a cluster of cells. They can't make you do anything you don't want to do.

MIRANDA

Then why are we on this cliff? In Alaska?

*
*

Peggy quiets.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

If we couldn't stop ourselves from coming here, what makes you think we can stop ourselves from jumping?

Peggy is worried about this, knows Miranda has a point.

48 INT. DECLAN'S ROOM -- DAY EIGHT

48

Declan has a file opened in front of him while he dials a phone number.

DECLAN

Mrs. Kerner? My name is Declan Dunn. I'm sorry to bother you, but I need to talk to you about your son....

49 INT. SHUTEYE LODGE -- DAY NINE

49*

CLOSE ON -- A PICTURE OF A GOOD LOOKING 19 YEAR-OLD BOY.

MRS. KERNER O.S.

That's Todd.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL - MRS. KERNER, late-40's, holding the picture of Todd and showing it to everyone (Declan, Peggy, Miranda, Paul, Tammy, Nate, Sam, Sally, and Mark). This is very difficult for Mrs. Kerner.

MRS. KERNER

This was taken the year he died.

(CONTINUED)

49

CONTINUED:

49

The picture makes an impact on Sam as Todd wasn't much older than he when he died.

DECLAN

(gently)

How did it happen?

*

Mrs. Kerner takes a settling breath, remembering.

*

MRS. KERNER

He was away at college. One night
he was rollerblading home from class
and a car ran a stop sign, hit him.

*

*

*

*

Confused looks all around.

PAUL

(awkwardly)

So, he didn't... commit suicide?

MRS. KERNER

Oh, God, no. Todd loved life. He
was always happy, having fun with
his friends, playing sports...

(beat, sadly)

He would have been twenty-one
tomorrow.

*

MIRANDA

(realizing)

Tomorrow?

NATE

May 28th was his *birthday*?

Mrs. Kerner looks at them, puzzled.

*

MRS. KERNER

Yes... isn't that why you're all
here?

Off their confused looks, Mrs. Kerner goes on to explain...

MRS. KERNER (CONT'D)

Todd wanted to bungee jump into the
Miranda River gorge on his 21st
birthday.

*

The group exchange looks of relief all around... so they're
not going to commit suicide. Then it hits Paul:

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

PAUL
(terrified)
Bungee jumping?!

Off his look, we:

SMASH CUT TO:

50 EXT. OBSERVATION DECK -- DAY TEN

50

ON THE DECK -- A BUNGEE CREW is setting up. Paul, Tammy, Nate, Sam, and Mark are also there, getting ready. *

PAUL -- looks down to the bottom of the gorge. He's terrified.

PAUL
I can't do it!

TAMMY
You have to. *

PAUL
Honey, I'm scared.

Tammy gestures to the crew. *

TAMMY
These people are professionals...
they'll make sure you're safe. *

Paul still doesn't look convinced. Tammy takes his hands, her eyes full of understanding. *

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Paul, this is your chance to get
your life back.
(off his look)
If you can bungee jump off this
cliff...
(smiles encouragingly)
You can do *anything*. *

Paul quiets, considering this.

BESIDE THE DECK -- Declan, Peggy, Sally, and Mrs. Kerner watch the crew setting up. Peggy notices that Declan is looking around anxiously. *

PEGGY
Where's Miranda?

Declan's wondering the same thing...

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

DECLAN

I don't know.

ON THE DECK -- Paul, Mark and Nate are getting harnessed. *
They all still have afros and are wearing the sequined jackets
with platform shoes. Sam goes over to Nate, starts
videotaping him.

NATE

Pretty cool, huh?

SAM

Yeah, pretty cool. Man, wish I
could jump with you. *

NATE

I'll take you when we get home.

SAM

For real?

Nate notices Sally approaching.

NATE

(whispers)

Don't tell your mother.

Nate smiles at him, and Sam smiles back, a bond starting to
form. Sally walks up to them, and Nate looks at her.

NATE (CONT'D)

If you thought I was crazy before,
you must be sure of it now.

SALLY

(smiles warmly)

I don't think you're crazy, Nate.

She leans over and kisses him on the cheek.

BESIDE THE DECK -- Miranda comes into the clearing. Declan *
spots her and walks over to her.

DECLAN

I was worried you weren't gonna show.

MIRANDA *

I almost didn't.

DECLAN

What changed your mind?

MIRANDA

Todd. He knew how to have fun.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

(beat)

I can't tell you the last time I did
something just for fun.

Declan smiles and for the first time in a long time, Miranda smiles. She makes her way onto the deck as Declan heads over to where Peggy is standing.

ON THE DECK -- Paul, Nate, and Mark are just finishing being harnessed as the crew starts to harness Miranda. Paul looks over at Tammy, who gives him a reassuring thumbs up.

They stand on the deck together, and as they look down at the river below, Nate pulls out a pick and poofs his hair. Paul and Mark notice and start doing the same as Miranda watches. *There's something very familiar about this...*

Paul starts doing the train whistle pulling motion again.

Miranda smiles -- *Yes, very familiar.* It's all falling into place for her. She starts to SING, putting a melody to the words that were stuck in her head earlier.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

L.A proved too much for the man...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Too much for the man, he couldn't
make it.

MIRANDA

So he's leaving the life he's come
to know...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

He said he's going...

MIRANDA

He said he's going back to find...

Paul, Nate, and Mark start dancing, accompanying her vocals:

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Going back to find...

MIRANDA

Oooh, what's left of his world...
the world he left behind... not so
long ago...

*
*

MRS. KERNER -- turns to Declan, amazed.

MRS. KERNER

Oh, my God.

(CONTINUED)

DECLAN

What?

MRS. KERNER

(fighting back tears)

Todd was in a rhythm and blues band
with his girlfriend. He sang backup.
"Midnight Train To Georgia" was his
favorite song.

She pulls out a PHOTO of Todd in his band. Peggy and Declan
exchange an amazed look as:

*

(CONTINUED)

ON THE DECK -- Nate, Mark, Paul and Miranda continue, really getting into it now:

MIRANDA

He's leaving...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Leaving...

MIRANDA

On that midnight train to Georgia...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Leaving on that midnight train...

MIRANDA

Said he's going back...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Going back to find...

MIRANDA

A simpler place and time...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Whenever he takes that ride, guess who's gonna be right by his side...

MIRANDA

And I'll be with him...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

I know you will...

MIRANDA

On that midnight train to Georgia...

PAUL/NATE/MARK

Leaving on a midnight train to Georgia...

They all pull the train whistle.

ALL

Woo, woo...

MIRANDA

I'd rather live in his world... than live without him in mine.

*

PAUL/NATE/MARK

My world... is his and hers alone.

*

*

DECLAN AND PEGGY -- watch the activity on the deck.

PEGGY

Unexplained?

DECLAN

(blown away)

Just plain weird.

(CONTINUED)

1008 (Shoot #9) The Ties That Bind GOLDENROD 7-25-00 54.

50 CONTINUED: (5)

50

MRS. KERNER -- watches, her eyes filled with tears as her son's dream is about to be fulfilled.

THE MUSIC TAKES OVER and with their friends and family watching, Mark, Nate, Paul and Miranda step toward the edge of the gorge. They all exchange one final look then... *

IN SLOW MOTION -- They SWAN DIVE over the edge of the cliff together.

They FLY through the air, having fun and feeling more free than ever.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR