

'Til the Buzzer Sounds
by
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FADE IN:

INT. HOCKEY RINK - DAY, DULUTH, MINNESOTA

We see a hockey game in progress. A skater races towards the bench.

BEARDED TEAMMATE (O.S.)
Center! Center! Center!

EMMETT REEVES, (38, African-American), fit, life-long athlete, but glacially stubborn, jersey NUMBER 53, hops over the boards.

He sprints to center ice.

TEAMMATE 2 (O.S.)
Reever!

Emmett catches the puck on his stick, speedily cross-over skates around a defender.

DEFENDER
Shit!

Passes the puck to himself between the defender's skates.

In the slot, 10 feet in front to the goalie.

OPPOSING GOALIE
D! D! D!

OPPOSING DEFENSEMAN (O.S.)
Fuck!

The goalie slides forward cutting off the angle. Emmett dekes left and back hands the puck five-hole between the goalie's legs.

OPPOSING GOALIE
Son of a bitch!

SCORE! 4-3, Loons win in overtime. Emmett's bench erupts in celebration.

Emmett transitions backwards as he stops, back against the end boards.

His on-ice teammates surround him with hockey celebration.

They skate to the bench fist-bumping everyone along the way.

MOMENTS LATER - AT CENTER ICE

Both teams skate the handshake line and fist-bump center ice.

BOTH TEAMS

Good game, Good game, nice game.

INT. HOCKEY RINK - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Emmett quickly strips off his gear while his teammates excitedly debrief the game.

ECU on Emmett's hockey skates, the tongue of his skate tucked under the shin guard.

One player tosses beers from a cooler around the room.

BEARDED TEAMMATE

(accepting a beer)

Emmett, such a sick goal!

Emmett has no time to waste.

TEAMMATE 2

Yeah man, between the legs of their D-man then five hole the goalie.

BEARDED TEAMMATE

Yeah man, he was there.

He takes a pull from his beer then high fives his teammate.

OVERWEIGHT TEAMMATE

(to Emmet)

And your hot wife missed it, again!

EMMETT

Yeah, she's not a fan.

Someone offers him a beer. He declines with a wave.

PLAYER

Seriously?

EMMETT

Yep, I stopped.

PLAYER

Stopped?

EMMETT

Fuckin' heartburn.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Later, I gotta get Ava to her game.

Emmett quickly loads his gear into his hockey bag.

Player 1 and Player 2 in the corner debate heatedly.

PLAYER 1

No, no, no. Conner Bedard.

PLAYER 2

Bedard! Are you serious?

PLAYER 1

Absolutely.

PLAYER 2

No way. Everyone knows it's Patrick Kane.

PLAYER 1

Patrick Kane? That dude's old.

PLAYER 2

Emmett, who has the best moves? You can't say King T'challa this time.

All eyes turn to Emmett.

EMMETT

Gene Kelly.

He turns and leaves without listening to a response. Mumbles of "Gene Kelly?" and confused looks circulate the room.

EXT. CAR - DAY

A BLACK CHEVY SUBURBAN SUV weaves through traffic.

EXT. THE REEVES'S HOUSE - DAY

The SUV is parked in the driveway. Driver's door is open.

INT. REEVES KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Emmett quickly enters.

EMMETT

Hey.

He approaches LILY, (mid 30s, Korean), smarter than Emmett, wears hospital scrubs.

She fills the dishwasher, her back to him.

LILY

Hey.

He leans over and kisses her cheek.

EMMETT

You just get outta the O.R.?

LILY

Yep.

EMMETT

Missed you at the game.

LILY

Somebody's got to get this done.

She continues rinsing and loading the dishwasher.

EMMETT

We won.

AVA, (15, a biracial mix of Emmett and Lily), enters. Her smile would spread cheer at a leper colony.

Lily stops and turns to face them both.

AVA

That's great, Dad.

EMMETT

Yeah, I scored the winning goal.

AVA

Rock out.

LILY

(to Emmett)

You sign your Wild contract?

EMMETT

Don't be like that.

LILY

Like what?

EMMETT

Like...

AVA
Come on. I'm gonna be late.

EMMETT
(to Lily)
Can we talk later?

Lily, arms crossed. Ava approaches her Mom—, Lily kisses her forehead.

LILY
Good luck. We'll see you there.

Emmett and Ava exit.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - ~~DAY~~

Emmett drives while on the phone. Ava sits in the front passenger seat.

EMMETT (INTO PHONE)
Yeah, yeah. I'm not sure.
They don't tell me these things
before they show up. My guess is
they'll be wearing Bauer jackets
with their team logos. Yeah, sure,
see you at the rink. Huh? I got it.

He hangs up. Glances to Ava.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Sorry about that. It was Mr. Olson
from the association.

Ava stares out the window watching a glistening Lake Superior zip by in the distance.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Hey, you good?

AVA
Huh, yeah. Pre-game—

Cut off by the MELODIC ring from Emmett's phone.

EMMETT
Sorry sweetie, gotta take this.

He answers the phone.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Hey Roger.
Seriously? It's the weekend.
Yes, I know, I know.
It'll be ready for Tuesday's
meeting.
The design is classic.

He searches for a better description.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

It's hockey simple. They'll love
it.
Yeah, bye.

He hangs up.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

(to Ava)

I need to stop by the office before
we head to the rink. What were you
saying?

AVA

(sotto)

Nothing.

They drive in silence for a beat.

EXT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Emmett drives through downtown Duluth and parks in front of
an office building.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Emmett frantically unbuckles his seatbelt to exit.

AVA

Hurry up. We don't have much time!

EMMETT

On it!

Emmett rushes out of the car

Ava impatiently sits. Scrolls her phone.

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE FOYER - DAY

Emmett rushes through the Foyer. A wall mounted sign reads:
DAVIS GRAPHIC DESIGN.

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Emmett rushes to his desk and taps his keyboard, waking his computer. He sits and emails a file to himself.

He rushes to the door. He returns to his desk to put a pen in the pen holder, then rushes out.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Emmett exits and hops in the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

Emmett buckles his seat.

EMMETT

See, five minutes tops.

Ava looks at the time on her phone. Shakes her head.

Emmett pulls into traffic and steps on the gas. There's an awkward moment of silence, then:

AVA

What were you and Mom talking about?

EMMETT

When?

AVA

As we were leaving the house.

He looks at her out of the corner of his eye.

EMMETT

It's complicated.

AVA

You're old. Can't you un-complicate it?

EMMETT

Um, I'm older than you. But I ain't old.

He smiles at her.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I think mom feels I should do a better job balancing my responsibilities and my time with her.

AVA

You're right.

EMMETT

I am?

AVA

It's complicated.

Ava turns and stares out the window.

AVA (CONT'D)

Dad?

EMMETT

Yeah?

AVA

I've been thinkin'.

EMMETT

About?

AVA

Next season.

EMMETT

What about it?

SPORTS CENTER THEME rings from Emmett's phone. Driving, he looks at it. Confused frown.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

It's Mom.

(into the phone)

Hey hon.

As Emmett talks to Lily, Ava turns and looks out the window. Her eyes water.

EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - DAY

Aerial view as players enter the rink.

INT. HOCKEY RINK - LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ava's Team gets ready. Ava ties her skates. She slips the skate tongue under her shin pad just like Emmett.

The GIRL next to her does the opposite--tongue outside of the shin pad.

JESS

Why do you go through all the hassle of tucking it under your shin pad?.

AVA

I dunno. I just do. It's cleaner.

Ava walks to a puck on the floor at the center of the room. She bends down with her stick parallel to the floor, tries to lift the puck with the blade of her stick. Nothing. She tries repeatedly, only able to move the puck slightly off the floor.

Emmett walks in. Animated like an Energizer bunny.

EMMETT

Okay, ten minutes 'til puck drop.

Ava's team surrounds Emmett at the whiteboard.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Look girls, their goalie is weak on her blocker side and she's quick to over-compensate to dekes. So be patient, look high right side or five hole.

(beat)

Any questions? No? Okay, bring it in.

Emmett puts his hand in the circle.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Ava, bring it home on three.

They all put their hands in the circle.

AVA

Caps on three! One, two, three!

TEAM

CAPS!

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Emmett exits the locker room as Ava's team slips behind him entering the rink.

Emmett is Mr. Popularity, PEOPLE give him fist-bumps, high-fives.

An INTENSE MAN walks past:

INTENSE MAN

Hey, Reeve! Missed you at the board meeting.

EMMETT

Yeah, sorry, work's got me jacked up.

INTENSE MAN (O.S.)

We need to finalize the new locker room construction project by next week.

EMMETT

This project is sucking the life out of me, more than my day job.

INTENSE MAN

The program runs on volunteers. And you're on the board.

Emmett nods. A HOCKEY MOM walks up.

HOCKEY MOM

Hey Emmett, Ava ready for today?

EMMETT

She is. Total focus.

Pointing his first two fingers at his eyes then straight at the hockey mom.

HOCKEY MOM

All right, see you in there. Roll Caps!

She walks into the rink.

Emmett's phone buzzes. He looks at his phone.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN -

ROGER (work) displays.

He answers it and walks in the rink talking.

INT. HOCKEY RINK - ICE - DAY

Ava stands at the center ice face-off circle awaiting the REF to drop the puck.

The CROWD cheers with home ice advantage.

CROWD
Let's go CAPS!

Lily sits quietly with Ava's brother EVAN (4).

TWEET! TWEET! The ref verifies both GOALIES ready. Then the SCOREKEEPER. All a go.

PLUNK! The ref drops the puck. Ava pulls the puck behind her to her DEFENSEMAN.

EMMETT
Okay, set it up!

The play starts.

Ava's DEFENSEMAN skates to the side boards over center ice.

EMMETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Dump! Dump! Dump!

The defenseman shoots the puck deep in the zone, against the end-boards.

Emmett yells from the bench.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Chase! Chase! Chase!

-Ava chases the puck. She flies around the defense.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--Ava skates and passes the puck.

CROWD
Shoot!

--Emmett yells something down the bench.

--Ava scores! . Scoreboard shows home team up 1-0.

--A line change: THREE BENCH PLAYERS hop over the boards and take the ice as THREE ON-ICE PLAYERS skate to the bench.

--Lily and Even watch the game. They yell down toward the ice.

--The other TEAM scores a goal.

--Scoreboard shows 1-1 in the second period.

--Ava's Team attacks the goal, shoots, and scores!

--Ava's Team erupts in celebration from the bench.

--Lily and Evan jump out of their seats.

--The scoreboard--shows 2-1. Third period, 2:00 left.

END MONTAGE.

LATER, the clock ticks down.

The Opposing Team pulls their GOALIE, now it's 6 against 5.

EMMETT

Empty net!

The opposing team pressures the Cap's Goalie with the puck.

They pass the puck around the outside, the opposing defenseman receives the puck just inside the BLUE LINE.

She takes a slap-shot, top shelf over Ava's goalie's shoulder.

2-2. Tie game. BUZZER! Caps's bench is deflated.

Five minute overtime.

Both TEAMS huddle around their COACHES at their benches receiving instruction.

Ava and her Team skate back to center ice.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Ava!

She turns. he waves her back to the bench.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

You okay?

AVA

Yeah.

EMMETT

You sure.

She nods and turns to head back to center ice. He grabs her arm.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
It's just a game.

She takes a large breath.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
I know you've heard me say this
before. How do you eat an elephant?

She shrugs her shoulders.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
One bite at a time.

Small smiles, she gets it.

TWEET! TWEET! Ref blows the whistle.

Ava skates back to center ice to take the face-off.

PLUNK! The ref drops the puck.

Ava wins the face off, pulls the puck back to her defenseman.
She sets up the play.

The D passes the puck across ice to the RIGHT WINGER who
passes it center ice.

Ava sprints to the puck taking it into the zone.

Emmett frantically waves her forward.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Move! Move! Move!

Lily and Evan lean forward, almost off their seats.

Ava penetrates behind the OTHER TEAM'S DEFENSE, 10 feet in
front of the GOALIE.

Ava slips the puck between her legs behind her, then slides
her stick back between her legs and finds the puck. The
GOALIE lunges left. Ava flips the puck from behind her and
into the open net! SCORE!

The rink EXPLODES! Caps win!

Ava, smiles but demurely skates over to her bench as Ava's
team and coach swarm her with celebration.

INT. CAR - LATER

Emmett drives with Ava.

EMMETT

That -- was an incredible move!

Ava is quietly proud.

AVA

Thanks Dad.

EMMETT

Think about where you were last fall.

(then)

Damn, girl.

He reaches between the seats and pops some Tums.

AVA

Dad?

EMMETT

I'm serious. You were incredible.

AVA

Dad!

EMMETT

Sorry. Yeah?

AVA

I think this may be my last season.

Emmett looks like someone told him his dog died.

EMMETT

Absolutely, this league ends at eighth grade. Unless you play Junior Gold.

AVA

That's not what I mean.

EMMETT

What do you mean?

AVA

High school tryouts.

EMMETT

And?

AVA

I can't compete at that level.

EMMETT

Did we just watch the same game?

AVA

Yeah, but those girls aren't nearly as good as who shows up for high school tryouts.

Emmett pauses to think a moment.

EMMETT

I've watched literally hundreds of kids your age play this game. I'm not biased about your skills.

She listens quietly.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Look, I don't think you should quit playing because of fear -- that you won't make the team.

Listen, two things, and then I'll shut up. First, everybody who shows up for tryouts will be scared. If they're not, they're lyin'. Bravery don't mean you're not afraid. Bravery means you're afraid but you go anyway. Second, barring I get hit by a bus--

AVA

Dad!

EMMETT

I will always be there. Every step of the way. In your corner.

INT. REEVE'S KITCHEN - EVENING

They sit at the dinner table eating. Emmett is subdued. The rest are laughing. Evan makes a mess of his meal.

LILY

So Evan had his last practice today.

EMMETT

Congrats my man.

AVA
Savage, Evan!

EMMETT
Mites next year mano!

Evan, mouth full of food nods emphatically.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emmett and Lily get ready for bed.

EMMETT
Hey, about earlier.

LILY
Forget it. It was a long day in the
O.R. Things didn't go well.

EMMETT
I'm sorry.

LILY
It's part of the job.

EMMETT
It's not that. I know what you do
for us. The sacrifice, the hours. I
do.

She offers a soft smile.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Maybe I should spend less time with
my team. It'll be good for us.

She smiles. He gives her a hug and softly kisses her. They
embrace.

She heads to the bedroom.

He brushes his teeth. He clutches his chest as Lily walks in
wearing her tank top and underwear.

LILY
Heartburn again?

EMMETT
Yeah.

LILY
Maybe you should cut down all the
spicey food.

Emmett rinses and sits on the tub. Sweat beads on his brow.
Lily straddles his lap. She seductively kisses his cheek.

LILY (CONT'D)
Maybe it's all this stress.

She nibbles his neck. He smiles.

LILY (CONT'D)
Can I help?

He picks her up. They passionately kiss as he carries her to the bedroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Emmett sleeps in a recliner. "Singin' in the Rain" is paused on the TV mid-scene. Gene Kelly hangs from a streetlight with his umbrella, laughing at the clouds.

Lily walks in and turns off the TV. Kneels next to him.

LILY
Hey, what are you doing in here?

He rustles awake.

EMMETT
I couldn't sleep laying flat.

He smiles and kisses her hand.

Lily sits on a love seat opposite Emmett.

LILY
Hey, before the kids come down, we need to talk about Ava.

EMMETT
Sure. What's up?.

LILY
Did she talk to you about quitting hockey?

EMMETT
Quitting? She mentioned she wasn't sure she wanted to try out for the high school team in the fall. Did she tell you she wanted to quit?

LILY
I think she doesn't love it
anymore. She's fifteen. I think
there's a boy at school.

Emmett looks up.

LILY (CONT'D)
No, he doesn't play.

Emmett frowns.

EMMETT
I think I know what's best for her.

LILY
I think there's more to it than
that.

EMMETT
Like what?

LILY
I think she's afraid to tell you.

EMMETT
Why would she be afraid to tell me?

And why do the kids only come to me
for logistical support and go to
you for emotional support?

LILY
I don't know, Emmett. Why do you
think that is?

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Emmett sits at an immaculately clean desk. Multi-tasks on his
computer while on his phone. He nods, hangs up.

His boss ROGER, (late 50s), full on "dad bod", stands in the
doorway.

ROGER
Hey, can I see what you're going to
present to the Wild front office?

EMMETT
Here's what I got so far.

Emmett turns his laptop around, a graphic of a round patch
with green piping, red center, and the letters AC in white.

ROGER
It's goddam fabulous.

Emmett humbly smiles.

EMMETT
I was thinking more like here.

Tapping the front of his right shoulder.

ROGER
Just when I thought you couldn't
outdo yourself, you did.

Emmett's phone chimes, he looks at it. Calendar reminder
shows: DR. APPOINTMENT in thirty minutes.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Okay then, tomorrow at nine.

Emmett stares.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Emmett?

Still staring.

EMMETT
Huh? Oh, yeah. Nine tomorrow.

ROGER
Buddy, you okay?

EMMETT
Yeah, yeah, I'm fine. I have to
leave for a meeting.

EXT. MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Emmett enters.

EXT. DULUTH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A few students enter the school.

INT. SCHOOL MATH CLASS - DAY

Ava sits at her desk. The TEACHER lectures at the whiteboard.
Ava scrolls her MN Wild TWITTER/X feed.

Ava pens the NHL app. She looks at the NHL standings.

TEACHER

...Ava

Ava still scrolls.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Ms. Reeves, I hope you're using
your calculator for this
derivative?

Ava, embarrassed looks up.

AVA

Huh? Sorry. No, I mean yes.

RIIIINNNNNNGGGG! Saved by the bell.

Everyone wraps up and scurries out of the room. Ava is last
to clean up. Ava exits the room.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

It's chaos. Ava walks to her locker surrounded by her
Capitals TEAMMATES.

They're all watching a hockey video on someone's iPhone.

INSERT VIDEO:

The phone: a HOCKEY PLAYER doing "THE MICHIGAN" hockey move.

THE MICHIGAN is a hockey move where a skater controls the
puck, skates behind the net, lifts the puck on the stick
blade and drops the puck in the net over the goalie's
shoulder like a lacrosse ball.

They're all max impressed.

JESS

That is so sick!

BECKY

No doubt.

AVA

What if you did it in a game?

JESS

Impossible!

STEPH

No way!

AVA
Way. It just requires focus.
And practice.

STEPH
I'd like to see you do it.

Ava opens her locker and exchanges books.

AVA
Someday.

She closes her locker and heads down the hall.

INT. REEVE'S HOUSE - EMMETT AND LILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emmett and Lily read in bed.

EMMETT
I saw a doctor today.

Lily continues reading her book.

LILY
Oh, for what?

EMMETT
My heartburn.

LILY
What'd he say?

EMMETT
He wants me to have an endoscopy.

She closes her book and looks at him.

LILY
An endoscopy? Seriously?

EMMETT
Yeah. Why, is that bad?

LILY
You're young. I figured he'd give
you Prilosec or something like
that.

She squeezes his hand.

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Emmett stands at a screen before five EXECUTIVES including Roger, remote in hand. The Davis Graphic Design logo on screen.

Emmett presents to the group. The next slide is the memorial patch, followed by a photo of the Minnesota Wild's home and away jerseys. In animated fashion, the patch lands on the jersey.

The group around the table show excitement, nodding heads. Roger smiles. Everyone claps.

EXECUTIVE 1

Emmett, I think I speak for the front office of the Wild when I say we love it.

EMMETT

Thanks. I think we could probably get these done within the week and sent to you for jersey application.

Emmett looks to Roger, who nods.

EXECUTIVE 1

Honestly, we were hoping to have this ready for next season. You're nine months ahead of expectations.

ROGER

(to the room)

I told you I had the right man for the job.

The EXECUTIVES all stand up and shake hands with Roger then Emmett.

EXECUTIVE 1

Emmett, here's my card. If you ever want Wild tickets, just call or send me an email, whatever you need.

EMMETT

Even playoff tickets?

EXECUTIVE 1

I love your optimism during a rebuilding year. But, yeah, even playoff tickets!

They all exit the conference room. Roger fist bumps Emmett and winks at him on his way out.

INT. ENDOSCOPY SUITE - DAY

Emmett sits on a gurney. NURSES clean up the endoscopy suite in the background. The DOCTOR shows pictures of Emmett's esophagus. Emmett sits expressionless.

INT. REEVES'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Lily wears scrubs as she scurries about and cleans the kitchen. Emmett walks in.

LILY
(not looking at him)
Hey, hun. I'm about to leave for work. What are you doing home so early?

He stands at the entry, a vacant look on his face.

LILY (CONT'D)
Hey, if you don't mind, I have a recipe on the fridge and did all the shopping. Can you make dinner? You guys can eat without me. I won't be home until late.

EMMETT
I had my endoscopy today.

As she puts milk in the fridge:

LILY
Yeah, when do you get the results?

EMMETT
I have cancer.

Lily turns. She drops the carton of milk.

She's frozen in place.

LILY
How could you let me babble on about dinner like that?

EMMETT
I wanted to relish this last moment of normalcy.

LILY
(soto)
You have heartburn.

She walks to him slowly and embraces him. Head against his chest. Tears drip down her face.

EMMETT
I have to get a C.T. I'll meet with
an oncologist after that.

LILY
I'll call in sick.

She steps back, holding his face.

LILY (CONT'D)
We will get through this.

EMMETT
I . . . I know.

Emmett and Lily look at one another as she continues holding his face. Her eyes water. He stares vacantly past her gaze.

INT. CT SCANNER - DAY

Emmett lies motionless as he slides into the scanner. He squeezes his eyes closed.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE EXAM ROOM - DAY

Emmett and Lily sit waiting. DR. BANNERJEE, (50s, Indian) sits at a computer and reviews Emmett's scan. His obtuse facial expression says it's bad news. He speaks in accented English.

DR. BANNERJEE
You have Stage three esophageal
cancer. I would like to start you
on Chemotherapy, in hopes to shrink
the tumor, maybe even to the point
of making it operable.

Emmett and Lily stare in horror.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)
What questions do you have?

Emmett and Lily look at each other. Then at the doctor.

LILY
I don't know where to start. Why me? EMMETT

DR. BANNERJEE
(to Emmett)
I don't have an answer for that.
But we can treat this. If we can
shrink the tumor, we could even
surgically remove it.

But I don't want to sugarcoat it
either--

LILY
What about work?

DR. BANNERJEE
If he's up for it and if it's
possible, yes, he could work from
home. There are going to be a lot
of changes to your routine. Your
life for the next few months is not
going to look like it has up to
now.

EMMETT
I don't want to start chemo.

Lily looks at him. Dr. Bannerjee looks concerned.

DR. BANNERJEE
Emmett, if you don't start chemo,
you will die.

EMMETT
And if I do, can you guarantee I
won't?.

DR. BANNERJEE
Won't what?

EMMETT
Die.

Dr. Bannerjee hesitates, then:

DR. BANNERJEE
I can't. There are no guarantees in
what I do. Except if you have
cancer and don't take chemotherapy,
I can guarantee you will die.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Emmett drives while Lily quietly sobs.

LILY

You have to start chemo. What is
with this what if I don't take
chemo-shit?

EMMETT

I dunno.

LILY

Maybe we should look into Cancer
Miracles of America.

EMMETT

I dunno.

LILY

Should we get a second opinion?

EMMETT

I dunno.

LILY

What do we tell the kids?

EMMETT

The truth. We'll tell the kids in
the morning.

INT. REEVES'S HOUSE - EMMETT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Emmett-sits at his fastidious desk adorned with only a pile
of medium card stock, a MONTBLANC MEISTERSTÜCK 149 fountain
pen, a bottle of ink, and a stick of sealing wax neatly rest
on his desk.

On his computer monitor is a Bauer hockey stick webpage.

He stares at an envelope addressed to Ava from the USA
National Development camp. He removes the letter.

INSERT LETTER:

Dear Ms. Reeves, It is with great excitement...You have been
offered...opportunity to tryout...USA National Development
Camp.

He then grabs a sheet of card stock and his pen. He
contemplates what to write a beat then decides against it.

INT. EMMETT AND LILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Silently Emmett and Lily hold each other in bed.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The family is together, the kids sit, Emmett and Lily stand. The kids are in shock. Tearful. Evan hugs Emmett fiercely.

A beat. Ava sprints out of the room. Emmett and Lily watch her go. Then turn back to each other. THUD. A bedroom door slams shut.

LILY

I'll go talk to her.

Emmett strokes Evan's hair.

EMMETT

No, don't. I'll talk to her. She's fifteen. I remember when I heard about my father.

INT. REEVES HOUSE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Emmett stands outside Ava's bedroom. He pauses, knocks.

AVA (O.S.)

Leave me alone!

Emmett tests the door nob. Unlocked. Slowly enters.

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Typical fifteen-year-old bedroom, except the trophies are hockey and the posters are of the USA Women's Olympic hockey team and the Minnesota Wild.

His phone rings. He looks at it. He takes a step outside the bedroom and closes the door.

Ava lies on her bed, face in her pillow. She can hear Emmett's muffled conversation.

Emmett re-enters Ava's room.

EMMETT

Bug?

Nothing.

He walks to her bed and sits. Places a hand on her shoulder.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I know how you feel. Honestly I do.

Ava lifts her turns her head away from Emmett to her side.

AVA

I'm pretty sure you don't.

EMMETT

Honey, I'm going to get through this.

AVA

I don't want you to die. I need you.

EMMETT

I'm not going anywhere. I'm going to start chemotherapy this week, to kill this cancer.

I promised you I would be there for you. Nothing is going to stop me.

She sits up and hugs him like tomorrow the is end of days.

DR. BANNERJEE(PRELAP)

The chemo will be devastating on your body. There will be days you won't be able to get out of bed. On the days you can, you might be debilitated by vomiting.

(beat)

After you finish chemo, you'll be vulnerable to infection as the chemo will also attack your immune system. It's going to be tough-

CHEMOTHERAPY
MONTAGE:

--Emmett lays on an operating room table having a chemotherapy port surgically implanted.

--Before bed, Emmett looks in the mirror with his shirt off, looking at the port, touches it like a piece of fine china.

--Emmett sits in a chemotherapy infusion center waiting area amidst chronically ill people twice his age, in various stages of dying.

--A NURSE hangs his chemo.

--Emmett shaves his head in his own bathroom.

--Emmett sits at his desk at work, vomits in his garbage pail.

--Emmett sleeps in a recliner as chemo drips through his port.

--Emmett leans over the toilet, vomits. Lily gives him meds. Comforts him. He brushes his teeth, spits, the toothpaste is bloody. Looks at his gums which ooze blood.

--Emmett on the ice coaches Ava's team.

END MONTAGE.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lily sits alone in the dark. She looks at her watch, then the door, then her watch. It's 11:30 pm.

A door opens, someone enters, shuffles around in the dark.

Emmett walks in with his hockey gear, THUD. He turns on a light.

EMMETT

Jesus! You scared the shit out of me.

Lily jumps to her feet.

LILY

Where the hell have you been?!

Emmett looks at his bag and sticks on the floor then at her.

EMMETT

We had a game tonight. It's on the calendar.

LILY

I know it's on the calendar. I didn't think you were that irresponsible, that selfish that you'd still be playing.

EMMETT

Why shouldn't I play? I feel pretty good.

LILY

Emmett, you have a surgical port under your skin. It's not designed for contact sports. It's not built like an ATV.

EMMETT

I wear shoulder pads.

LILY

What happens when your platelets drop?

EMMETT

I'll put my helmet on extra tight.

LILY

This isn't funny! You could bleed. You should not be playing hockey.

EMMETT

So, wrap myself in bubble wrap and sit in the corner? Wait for death to find me?

LILY

Look, I've seen this at work. Chemo is going to kick your ass. People don't play contact sports. I don't, want you playing.

EMMETT

Honestly, honey, I'll listen to my body. It'll tell me when I shouldn't play.

Lily is visibly upset and unheard.

He moves to her and embraces her.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

(soto)

I hear you. I do. But for now, I feel good. Don't take this away from me.

She closes her eyes.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--More chemotherapy, same group of people with a few less familiar faces and a few more unfamiliar faces.

--Emmett coaches Ava's team. He draws plays on a white board, then skates during practice.

--Emmett plays more hockey with his team, jumping over the boards.

--Emmett at work in a meeting. Vomits into a trashcan.

--Emmett plays hockey with his team.

END MONTAGE.

INT. CT SCANNER - DAY

Emmett lies on the CT couch going through the scanner.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Emmett and Lily meet with Dr. Bannerjee.

DOCTOR BANNERJEE

Well, it looks pretty good. The cancer around your esophagus is smaller.

LILY

But it's still there?

DR. BANNERJEE

Yes, it's still there. There is no sign of cancer in your liver which is good news.

Lily squeezes Emmett's hand. They smile at each other.

EMMETT

I know this sounds good, but you said you could treat it.

DR. BANNERJEE

And we are doing just that. We are treating it.

He studies their faces.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)

Emmett, treat and cure are not the same. I never said cure.

EMMETT

What's the difference?

DR. BANNERJEE

Cure means five years from now you'd be able to say "I HAD cancer". But that's not in your cards. I'm sorry. For now, we continue with the same plan.

LILY

Dr. Bannerjee, should he be playing hockey?

Dr. Bannerjee uncomfortably looks at them both.

DR. BANNERJEE

Look, I personally wouldn't do it. I don't think I'd have the physical or emotional energy given what I know about this chemo.

(off Lily's smile)

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)

But, we tell our patients to let their bodies tell them where to draw the line. But, I'll add, it's a hard "no" when your platelets get below fifty thousand. The risk of bleeding is too great.

Now Emmett looks uncomfortable.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)

If you don't have any other questions, I'd like to start the second round in three weeks.

EMMETT

Three weeks?!

DR. BANNERJEE

Yes, that's standard procedure.

EXT. OUTSIDE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Emmett and Lily walk.

EMMETT

I feel deceived by this whole treat and cure BS.

LILY

Dr. Bannerjee is the one most doctors say they would see if they had cancer.

EMMETT

For someone who's not Minnesotan he sure talks like it.

LILY

That wasn't passive aggressive.

EMMETT

No, just indirect. So, he didn't say I shouldn't play.

LILY

He said he personally wouldn't. He was trying to be professional.

EMMETT

Probably because he can't.

The walk to their car.

INT. REEVES KITCHEN - EVENING

Emmett watches a professionally done CANCER MIRACLES OF AMERICA video on his laptop.

INSERT VIDEO:

A sprawling campus nestled in the mountains.

ACTOR(V.O.)

Welcome to Cancer Miracles of America where we don't only treat your cancer, we treat you wholly and completely. We have a 98% success rate in our treatment centers because we offer you chemotherapy, along with nutritional therapy, homeotherapy, Ayeurvedic remedies, and Traditional Chinese Medicine Therapies. Don't delay. Your cure is just a click away.

Lily walks in as the video ends.

EMMETT

Hon, I think we should at least take a look at this.

She looks over his shoulder at the screen.

LILY

I don't know. It all sounds too good to be true.

EMMETT

You haven't even watched the video.

LILY

Their ads are always running on TV. Does insurance even cover that? Where is it?

EMMETT

They're all over. The closest one is in western Montana.

LILY

Em, I think we should stick with Dr. Bannerjee.

She kisses his head and walks out.

Emmett clicks the "REGISTER FOR YOUR CONSULTATION" button.

INT. CHEMOTHERAPY INFUSION ROOM - DAY

Emmett, eyes closed, sits in a recliner amidst five other CHEMO PATIENTS. Emmett's orange chemo runs through an IV into his port. Everyone appears as if they all have stage IV something and not long for this world.

Emmett thumbs through his phone. Answers texts. Pulls his laptop out of his backpack. Fires it up, the wallpaper is BLACK PANTHER, opens up Google.

Types PUREHOCKEY.COM in the address bar.

INSERT WEBSITE:

Clicks on sticks. Composite, flex 70, filter by cost, hits Most expensive to least expensive.

He studies BAUER brand sticks, reads through the descriptions. Zeros in on the Bauer Hyperlite model. Price: \$399.00. Then studies the Bauer Ultrasonic line. He closes the laptop.

The woman to his left, IRIS, (late-70s), head wrapped, skin loose, eyes blood shot, looks over at Emmett.

IRIS
Pancreatic.

Emmett opens his eyes, looks at Iris.

EMMETT
Huh?

IRIS
I have pancreatic cancer. You?

EMMETT
Oh, esophagus.

He closes his eyes.

IRIS
Metastatic?

He opens his eyes again.

EMMETT
No. You?

IRIS
Probably easier to say where it
hasn't spread. Brain, skin,
toenails.

EMMETT
Toenails? Damn, I didn't think you
could get cancer there.

IRIS
Such a puppy.

They both smile.

IRIS (CONT'D)
We're on the same chemo schedule.

EMMETT
We are? Sorry. I haven't been
paying attention.

IRIS
I know. You've had your head in
your ass most of the time.

EMMETT
Yeah, sorry, still working--
coaching my daughter's hockey team,
on the hockey association board,
playing hockey.

IRIS
We are different souls.

EMMETT
Yeah?

Emmett drinks from his bottle of water.

IRIS
When I first learned I had cancer,
a psychiatrist probably would've
diagnosed me with a sex addiction.

PFFFTT! Emmett spit takes. Gives her a disgusted look.

A wry smirk from Iris.

IRIS (CONT'D)
Simmer down Bambi.

EMMETT
I'm not sure what to...

IRIS
What, a woman my age can't have
desires for men?

EMMETT
No, that's not what...

IRIS
Or women.

Emmett's mouth now agape.

IRIS (CONT'D)
Don't look so shocked.

EMMETT
We literally just met.

IRIS
Don't worry, you're too young for
me.

EMMETT
I, uh --

IRIS
Probably couldn't keep up.

Emmett chuckles.

EMMETT
Okay, I get it. And now?

IRIS
What do you mean?

EMMETT
You said when you first found out.
What are you doing now?

IRIS
I've literally burned through my
list.

EMMETT
List?

IRIS
(soto)
Of fuckables.

Emmett sits between shock and laughter.

IRIS (CONT'D)
Don't look so shocked.

EMMETT
I've never met anyone quite like
you.

IRIS
Nice try.

EMMETT
No, not that way.

IRIS
I'm teasing.

Emmett is finally less tense.

IRIS (CONT'D)
The doctor says the euphoria from
orgasism is good for cancer pain.

EMMETT
Is it?

IRIS
Why don't you tell me when you get
home.

He chortles.

IRIS (CONT'D)
Don't kiss and tell?

A nurse steps between them and disconnects Emmett's IV.

NURSE
Iris, leave the poor man alone.

Iris and the nurse both smile.

Emmett gathers his things and get up to leave.

EMMETT
It was great to meet you...

IRIS
Iris.

EMMETT
Iris. I'm Emmett.

He turns to leave.

IRIS (O.S.)
Emmett.

Looks back.

IRIS (CONT'D)
It's not about you.

EMMETT
What do you mean?

IRIS
It's about time with your family.

He thinks this over.

EMMETT
Thanks, Iris.

He exits the room.

EXT. HOCKEY RINK - NIGHT

Emmett walks with his gear into the rink.

INT. RINK LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The Team gets ready for a game. Some tape sticks, tie skates.
Emmett is shirtless. He has on his lower body gear.

A player sitting across from Emmett sees a small infusion pump on his waist band, a small tube runs chemo into his skin around his belly.

PLAYER 1
Reever, what is that?

EMMETT
This? It's an infusion pump.

PLAYER 1
What's it infusing?

EMMETT
Chemo.

PLAYER 1
Dude, you're getting chemo during a game?

EMMETT
(soft chuckle)
Yeah.

PLAYER 2
Is... that a good idea?

EMMETT
Well, it does make my hands and feet numb, but it doesn't make me puke.

PLAYER 3
My wife would never let me if I wanted to play with cancer.

PLAYER 1
Dude, you wouldn't be able to play with cancer.

He nods to Emmett.

EMMETT
Mine isn't too happy about it.

PLAYER 2
I can't believe you have the energy. When my dad was getting his chemo, he could barely walk around the house.

PLAYER 4
You're harder than a coffin nail, brother.

PLAYER 2
Woodpecker lips.

PLAYER 1
Do woodpeckers have lips?

Player 2 smiles and shakes his head.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--Emmett jumps over the boards and sprints after the puck.

PLAYER 1 (CONT'D)
Right! Right! Right!

--Emmett stands before an opposing player as they wind up for a slap-shot, he goes down on one knee, turns 90 degrees, blocks the shot.

The puck smacks Emmett in the hip.

EMMETT
Fuck!

PLAYER 3
Boards!

Emmett hobbles to the bench, hyperventilates, sits, turns and dry heaves behind him. Some of his teammates notice.

BEARDED TEAMMATE (O.S.)
You okay man?

EMMETT
Yeah. I'm good. That puck really hurt.

—3. Final buzzer sounds. Both teams line up center ice in opposite directions for the ceremonial fist bump as they skate past each other.

END MONTAGE.

INT. EMMETT AND LILY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lily sleeps in the bedroom. Emmett gingerly takes off his shirt in front of the mirror. An ominous bruise the size of a basketball paints his ribs.

He touches it, and grimaces in pain. He gobbles a couple pain killers and chases them with water.

He places his hands on the vanity. His head hangs low.

INT. REEVES'S KITCHEN - DAY

Emmett texts on his cell phone. His hands tremble.—.

~~Lily cleans dishes.—~~

LILY

I made dinner plans with Wendy and
Eric for Saturday night.

He's still texting. Doesn't respond.

LILY (CONT'D)

Did you hear me?

The phone slips from his hands and falls to the floor.

EMMETT

Dammit.

He leans down to pick up the phone. He slowly stands upright
like an old man.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Huh? No, sorry, work. What's up?

LILY

I said we have dinner plans with
Wendy and Eric for Saturday night.

EMMETT

Sure, that'll be fun. No wait, I
have a game at six. You'll have
to...?

LILY

We've rescheduled several times.

Emmett annoyed she finished his sentence.

LILY (CONT'D)

Your team will survive without you.

EMMETT

I know what you're doing.

LILY

What am I doing?

EMMETT

Don't play so innocent.

LILY

What are you talking about?

EMMETT

You've never really supported my playing, cancer or no cancer.

LILY

That's total bullshit.

EMMETT

Is it?

LILY

Yes, it is.

EMMETT

Last year's playoff game? The year before team barbeque?

LILY

What about them?

EMMETT

Every game this year!

LILY

Get over it, Emmett. You have chemo brain.

Emmett gets up, grabs his coffee cup, and storms out of the kitchen.

INT. REEVES LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ava packs her hockey bag. She notices the hockey stick blade is un-taped. Lily pays bills at the kitchen table.

AVA

Have you seen dad?

LILY

I haven't, why?

AVA

He usually tapes my sticks.

LILY

Aren't you old enough to do that?

AVA

I am, but he likes to do it. He's like my equipment manager.

LILY
(yelling)
EMMMMETTT?!

Nothing.

Ava leaves the living room. She walks through the kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY - GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ava opens the garage door. Emmett is not there.

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ava looks pokes her head in.

AVA
Dad?

Nothing.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE EMMETT'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ava approaches her parent's bedroom. She hears RETCHING.
She enters the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ava stands at the door to the bathroom.

Emmett sits on the floor, head over the toilet. Eyes bloodshot. Dry heaving. She stares in silence. Her eyes water. She covers her mouth with her hands, turns away, and leans against the wall.

She turns back to the bathroom.

AVA
Dad, why don't you stay home. Coach
G can run practice. Mom can take
me.

Emmett continues retching, then finally stops. He looks up at Ava. He manages a soft smile.

EMMETT
No, honey, I'll be good in a
minute.

Still on his knees, he pivots to the vanity, takes a pill from the bottle. He dry swallows it.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Once these kick in, I'll be good to go.

INT. REEVES'S KITCHEN - LATER

Lily sits at the table. Emmett walks in.

LILY

Hey, I want to let you know I scheduled to cover the ortho trauma service tomorrow night and the following Thursday night.

He pauses to register the nights.

EMMETT

Those are game nights.

LILY

Sorry, the last few Thursdays have been really busy with traumas in the E.R., they need additional more orthopedics help.

EMMETT

Can't Ava stay home with Evan.

LILY

She is out with friends tomorrow and next Thursday is Evan's school conferences.

He frowns, grabs his skate bag as Ava walks in. They leave together.

Off screen we hear car doors close as Emmett and Ava head to practice.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CAR - EVENING

The SUV backs out of the driveway.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Emmett and Ava drive to practice. Emmett's cell rings, he talks on his phone. He hangs up.

AVA
Dad, you don't have to be superman.

EMMETT
Don't you start too.

AVA
Start what?

EMMETT
Nothing.

AVA
Dad, don't do that. I'm not a
little girl.

EMMETT
Your mom thinks I'm doing too much.

AVA
Well, you were just retching in the
bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lily sobs on the toilet seat. She holds a pregnancy test,
staring at two red lines.

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Emmett lays his head on his desk. Roger walks by the open
door, sees Emmett sleeping. Slowly shakes his head, he raps
on the door jamb.

Emmett suddenly wakes up, disoriented. Squinting at Roger.

ROGER
Hey buddy, we have a staff meeting
in fifteen.

EMMETT
Yeah, sure.

Roger walks away. Emmett plops his head on his desk.

Roger steps back to the door.

ROGER
Emmett, maybe you should take a
day. Go home.

Without lifting his head or looking up.

EMMETT

I got this. I'll be there.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Several people sit around an oval table. Roger stands at the head of the table talking. Pointing to a spreadsheet displayed on the screen.

MINDY raises her hand.

ROGER

Yeah, Mindy.

She nods towards Emmett who is demonstrating micro sleeps, head bobbing forward.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Emmett.

Emmett jumps to, embarrassed he got caught.

EMMETT

Yep!

ROGER

Do you want to tell us about the Wild project?

EMMETT

Sure thing.

He opens his laptop, clicks a few keys, and the Minnesota Wild memorial logo he's been working on pops up.

Emmett lumbers out of his seat, stands, unsure of his footing.

Everyone watches. With his confusion, he CODE SWITCHES, allows his speech to sound more "on the street".

EMMETT (CONT'D)

All good.

Concerned looks around the table.

He shuffles towards the front of the room.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I's all good.

At the front of the room, a barely perceptible head shake to clear the cobwebs.

Roger hands him a laser pointer.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Thanks, man.

For an awkward moment, Emmett seems frozen in time. His eyes are open but "nobody's home." He blinks several times.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Okay, where was I?

ROGER

The Wild account.

EMMETT

Right.

Emmett aims the laser to the screen.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

The Wild account. Right here.

He circles the patch. He stumbles a half-step back before catching himself.

Soft collective hushes from the GROUP.

Emmett turns towards the GROUP. Eyes glossed. His hands drop to his sides, the pointer falls, he TIMBMMMBEEERRRS straight into the table smacking his chest then head on the table top before hitting the ground.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Flurry of activity. The P.A. system blares-

PA SYSTEM

Trauma team, Emergency Department,
Trauma team, Emergency Department.

INT. ER STALL - CONTINUOUS

Lily studies an MRI of a knee while a nurse attends to his I.V. Lily turns to the PATIENT lying on the gurney, his WIFE next to him.

LILY

It looks like you have a pathologic fracture.

PATIENT
What's that?

LILY
It's a fracture due to the cancer.

PATIENT
Cancer? I don't have cancer.

PATIENT'S WIFE
He just had his biopsy.

LILY
I'm sorry, there's a note in your chart that your doctor called you and gave you the news.

The Patient's wife grows uncomfortable.

PATIENT
No, nobody called me!

Lily looks to his WIFE, then back to the PATIENT. Confused.

PATIENT'S WIFE
Honey, I'm sorry. They called yesterday. They told me.

PATIENT
Wha--

PATIENT'S WIFE
I was gonna tell you but I didn't know how.

LILY
You're going to need surgery with an external fixator for eight weeks.

They don't hear Lily over their arguing.

PATIENT
We should get a second opinion.

PATIENT'S WIFE
How bout the first?

PATIENT
I want to go to Cancer Miracles of America.

LILY
Look, I'll give you two some time.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lily walks to a work station.

NURSE#1
That was awkward.

LILY
I wish I had a head's up.

NURSE
Yeaaaah, just a bad sequence of
events.

LILY
I touch so many lives in a day.

Lily scans her badge to open up the EMR.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lily taps out of the computer. Overhead we hear-

PA SYSTEM
Code Red five minutes.

Lily approaches DR. BRAD WILLIAMS, (40s), at his workstation.

LILY
Hey Brad, that sounds bad.

DR. WILLIAMS
Code Red is the Sepsis team.

LILY
If your guy in bed four is willing
to stay, he needs his leg fixed.
Page me if he changes his mind.

DR. WILLIAMS
Sure thing.

Lily walks away, just as she approaches the ambulance bay.

PRE-LAP: CRASH

E/I HOSPITAL - AMBULANCE BAY - CONTINUOUS

E.M.T.s crash through the door. Emmett lies incoherent on the
stretcher with a cervical spine collar. An EMT squeezes an IV
bag and they push Emmett through the department.

Lily watches as Emmett rolls by. She's frozen in horror.

EMT 1

We got a thirty-eight year old man,
syncope, three inch lac above his
left eye, nausea, vomiting, chemo,
cancer.

A MEMBER of the Sepsis Team approaches.

RN 1

Is he septic?

EMT 1

Not sure. BP 70/palp, heart rate
130s. Sats ninety-five percent.
Rather be safe than sorry.

RN 1

Okay, we're in Bravo Six.

The keep pushing Emmett towards Bravo Six. Lily races after Emmett following the EMTs.

INT. BRAVO SIX - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Williams stands at the back of the room. Several NURSES flank him.

The EMTs and RN 1 enter with Emmett. Lily gets squeezed out.

RN 1

Okay, thirty-eight years old, found
down, head contusion, possible c-
spine injury, small head lac above
the right eye, dehydrated, nausea,
vomiting, mouth dry, somnolent.

DR. WILLIAMS

Okay, lets get ready to transfer.

RN 1

He's on his third liter of L.R.

Everyone takes positions to transfer from the stretcher to the E.R. litter.

DR. WILLIAMS

Okay, on three. One, two, three.

They slide Emmett to the E.R. bed.

Nurses connect leads to his chest, a blood-oxygen Sat monitor to his finger.

Lily struggles to see over the Sepsis team from the doorway.

The EMTs start packing up their stuff.

DR. WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
(CONT'D)
Hey, any I.D. on this guy?

LILY
Emmett Reeves!

Everyone turns to Lily.

LILY (CONT'D)
He's my husband!

Lily moves around the team. She makes her way to the head of the bed. She strokes his face. Grabs his hand.

LILY (CONT'D)
Emmett, it's me.
(to Dr. Williams)
You need to check his hemoglobin
and continue pushing the fluids.

DR. WILLIAMS
(to the room)
Okay, let's get an E.K.G., rainbow
panel, lactate, and a chest x-ray
STAT. He'll need a C.T. of his
head. Keep the fluids running.
He'll need sutures for his lac and
I need to clear his C-spine.

LILY
It'll probably drop with the
fluids.

Emmett dry heaves.

LILY (CONT'D)
And Zofran, eight milligrams I.V.!

DR. WILLIAMS
(to Lily)
Hey, Lil, I need you to switch to
"spouse mode."

She looks to him.

DR. WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
I need you to step outside. We got
him.

She reluctantly lets Emmett's hand go and a NURSE
affectionately leads her out of the room.

INT. BRAVO SIX - LATER

Emmett lies on a bed, head sutured, collar off, I.V. fluids
run into his port. Dr. Williams stands next to Emmett.

Lily enters.

LILY
Hey, you alright?

She gingerly strokes his head.

EMMETT
Yeah, I just fell.

DR. WILLIAMS
Hey Lily, I'm sorry. I didn't know
he was yours.

LILY
Yeah, he's mine. How's he doin'?

DR. WILLIAMS
He's much better than when you
first saw him. He's not septic.

LILY
(to Emmett)
Love, you've got to stay ahead of
the fluids.

DR. WILLIAMS
I'm sure his kidneys will turn
around after the fluids.
Head C.T. was clear.

Emmett looks up, some concern.

Dr. Williams logs in to the computer. He turns the screen
around.

INSERT: Chest x-ray.

DR. WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
(points to the x-ray)
(MORE)

DR. WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Fortunately, there aren't any broken ribs which is surprising given the size of the bruise. At any rate, I'd like him to get a C.T. of the chest.

LILY

C.T.?

DR. WILLIAMS

The radiologist noted a few irregularities along the ribs.

LILY

He's due for a post-chemo follow-up of the abdomen and pelvis. Can you add a chest to that and we'll do it next week?

DR. WILLIAMS

Sure, you can follow up with Onc after that. I'll get his paperwork going and get you guys out of here.

LILY

Thanks, Brad.

INT. RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT - DAY

Emmett lays supine as he passes through the C.T. scanner.

INT. DOCTOR B'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Bannerjee sits at the computer. Emmett and Lily sit opposite. He looks at the screen for an uncomfortably long time.

DR. BANNERJEE

Well, I have some good news and some bad news. What do you want first?

EMMETT

The bad.

LILY

The good.

They look at each other. Dr. Bannerjee looks at each of them.

DR. BANNERJEE

The bad news is the cancer has spread to your ribs.

Lily drops her head in her hands. Emmett looks confused.

EMMETT

What's the good news?

DR. BANNERJEE

The primary cancer in your esophagus has not changed since your last scan.

EMMETT

That's the good news!?

Lily grabs his hand and kisses it.

Emmett squeezes Lily's hand. His throat is tight.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Now what?

DR. BANNERJEE

We'll need to change course. See if you're eligible for a clinical trial.

LILY

Please give it to us straight.

DR. BANNERJEE

The cancer is acting like two different cancers. It's mutating with the exposure to the chemo.

Emmett and Lily look at each other.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)

Give me a few minutes. I want to check our options.

He exits the exam room.

Emmett and Lily sit in silence for a beat.

EMMETT

(soto)

Our options...?

I was really hoping for better news...

(MORE)

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Now I have two cancers?

Lily silently watches him talk to himself.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Seems like my cancer has a dance partner.

Lily's sobs breaks her silence.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, sorry, I was joking.

LILY

I'm pregnant.

She sits blankly as Emmett's eyes bulge in shock. He grabs both her hands in his and kisses them. She falls into his arms. Tears run down his face.

INT. DOCTOR B'S OFFICE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Bannerjee walks the hallway, knocks and enters the exam room.

It's empty. Emmett and Lily have left.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Emmett and Lily sit on a bench overlooking Lake Superior.

EMMETT

How long have you known?

LILY

A week. I've been waiting to find the right time. But I never found it.

EMMETT

(sniffles)

You can't forget someone you never knew.

LILY

Love, I will never, let that happen.

EMMETT

I was Ava's age when my father died.

BEGIN FLASHBACK
MONTAGE:

--A YOUNG EMMETT (13) shoots baskets in the front yard, watches his father exit the cab of his tractor-trailer rig and enter the house.

--Young Emmett plays basketball in a gym, his FATHER sits flirting with another PARENT.

--Young Emmett sees an unfamiliar woman exit his father's bedroom buttoning her blouse and walk out the front door.

EMMETT (V.O.)

I wish I could forget him.

--Emmett's FATHER in a hospital room. A doctor reviews a C.T. scan of the chest with a mass on the side.

--Emmett's FATHER sits alone in a bar drinking. Pops some pain pills.

--Emmett and his Mom sit at the kitchen table eating dinner. An empty plate rests where his father should sit.

--EMMETT'S FATHER drives up to his house. Emmett shoots baskets. His FATHER reconsiders and drives away.

--Emmett's father lies on the couch. He uses an oxygen mask. Empty pill and alcohol bottles litter the floor around the room.

--Young Emmett stands with his MOTHER, THREE SIBLINGS and EXTENDED FAMILY in a cemetery around a casket listening to a MINISTER. Everyone cries but Emmett.

RESET TO:

EXT. PARK OVERLOOKING LAKE SUPERIOR - CONTINUOUS

Back to Emmett and Lily.

LILY

Your father was a sperm donor and noting else. You couldn't be more different.

He places his hand on her abdomen. Then his head in her lap.

She now holds him tightly.

INT. REEVES'S HOUSE - EMMETT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Emmett sits at his desk. He fills his fountain pen with ink then grabs a sheet of card stock.

His head rests on his hand and he stares at the blank paper.

He starts writing.

INSERT LETTER:

Lily, My love.

He stops and stares at the otherwise blank sheet. He closes his eyes and sits back in his chair.

INT. CHEMOTHERAPY INFUSION ROOM - DAY

A nurse walks Emmett to an open recliner opposite Iris.

Emmett takes the empty seat next to her.

NURSE

Mr. Reeves, I have you set up here.

He leans back in the chair, smiles at the nurse, opens his shirt to reveal his port.

EMMETT

I'll take this one.

She moves the I.V. pole across the room.

Iris is thinner. Eyes more sunken.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

How you holdin' up?

IRIS

Like a condemned crack house. How do I look?

EMMETT

Like shit.

She manages a smile.

IRIS

That's how I'm holdin' up.

She has a painful-sounding coughing jag.

IRIS (CONT'D)

You?

EMMETT

Lily's pregnant.

Iris's eyes sink to dark depths.

IRIS

I see you took my advice.

Emmett chortles.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Should've started after chemo.

EMMETT

Because?

IRIS

Chemo is a painful form of birth control.

EMMETT

This is the one time where congratulations doesn't come.

IRIS

How's Lily?

EMMETT

As expected.

IRIS

And you?

EMMETT

I've come to terms with it.

IRIS

Meaning?

EMMETT

This baby will never know me.

IRIS

The evolution of the dying.

Emmett just shakes his head.

IRIS (CONT'D)
Remember you are not the only one
living with cancer.

She lets this sink in.

IRIS (CONT'D)
You're just the one dying from it.

EMMETT
I'm still trying to decide how much
I like you.

IRIS
You better decide quick.

He looks directly at her.

IRIS (CONT'D)
All our clocks are ticking.

Now she has his attention.

IRIS (CONT'D)
It's the third period. I don't
think there'll be overtime for me,
but I'll be playing 'til the buzzer
sounds.

INT. REEVES KITCHEN - LATER

Emmett watches a video of Cancer Miracles of America on his
laptop. Lily enters. He closes the laptop.

EMMETT
I want to go to Montana.

LILY
Montana?

EMMETT
Yes, Montana.

LILY
Why?

EMMETT
I want to meet with the people of
Cancer Miracles of America.

LILY
You're serious?

EMMETT

I'm serious.

EXT. MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL INT'L AIRPORT - DAY

A busy airport. Cars drop off PASSENGERS.

A car pulls to the curb. Emmett and Lily exit and grabs their suitcases.

Lily approaches the DRIVER while Emmett takes the bags to the curb.

LILY (O.S.)

Thanks, we'll be back in two days.
The kids know to go to your house
after school.

She and Emmett enter the terminal.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

An airplane takes off.

INT. REEVES BASEMENT - DAY

Ava stands amidst a shooting station. A full size goal sits on a synthetic ice sheet. Backdrop padded with cushions. Puck scars everywhere.

Ava practices shooting at orange magnetic targets on the goal corners. She misses them all.

She practices some trick moves. She watches the MICHIGAN video on YouTube.

She practices lifting the puck off the floor with the stick blade. Every attempt is a fail. She grows frustrated. She breaks her stick against the goal upright.

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ava's eyes water. She picks up her phone and makes a call.

AVA

Hey, what's up? They're both gone.
Montana. He's getting worse.

(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

He thinks I don't notice, but I do.
How can I not. He's...

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. MONTANA AIRPORT - DAY

An airplane lands.

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE - CONTINUOUS

Emmett and Lily approach a LIMO DRIVER holding a sign with REEVES on it.

They chat. He grabs their bags and they follow him.

EXT. CANCER MIRACLES OF AMERICA - LATER

A limousine pulls up to a Five-star resort looking facility. Mountains and a golf course surround the backdrop.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN, (early 60s, Caucasian woman), greets them as Emmett and Lily exit the limousine. Dr. Mossman has salt-and-pepper hair, split by a red Bindi on her forehead on her flawless face. She wears a Buddhist mala bracelet and off-white pant suit.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN

Emmett, Lily, welcome to our
gateway to nirvana. I'm Dr.
Mossman.

They approach and shake hands. Dr. Mossman's hands are covered with henna tattoos.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN (CONT'D)

We'll get your bags to your room
while I show you around.

They follow her into the resort.

INT. FACILITY LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Fountains, fresh fruit, and melon water adorn the lobby. PATIENTS wear matching pale blue P.J.s walk with I.V. poles around.

Everyone greets them with a HELLO or GOOD AFTERNOON and a smile as they walk past.

EMMETT

(whispers to Lily)
Do these people actually have
cancer?

LILY

(whispers back)
They look like actors.

Dr. Mossman walks backwards while she talks. She's done this a thousand times.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN

We like to think our guests can
walk anywhere while getting the
life saving treatment they need.

She stops at the front desk, speaks to the CONCIERGE.

Emmett and Lily watch the goings on like Charlie Buckets at the Wonka factory.

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

The three walk past patients lounging in chairs, sipping coffee, mimosas, eat lunch. A few swim in the pool or relax in hot-tubs.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN

Here you'll recognize our world
famous courtyard.

LILY

(whispers to Emmett)
It looks like an ashram.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN

It's our own private ashram.

E/I COURTYARD-HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They enter a hallway marked by signs reading: O.R. SUITES, RADIOLOGY, AYEURVEDIC WING, MESSAGE THERAPY, RESTAURANTS.

Dr. Mossman walks backwards while she talks.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN

We offer ground breaking
alternative and nutritional
adjuncts.

She turns and proudly points out the décor.

They walk past paintings of three former U.S. Presidents, a photo of John Wayne, Jayne Mansfield, and Gene Kelly, which catches Emmett's eyes.

EMMETT
(whispering to Lily)
This place is incredible.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN
It's heavenly. Don't you think?
Let's head back to the office where
we can talk privately.

They continue walking down a naturally lit hallway.

INT. DOCTOR MOSSMAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Mossman sits behind a one-of-a-kind modern desk. It's a brightly lit fishbowl room with mountains in the distance.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN
Thank you for sending your records.
I reviewed them with our esophageal
experts.

Emmett and Lily turn towards each other. Dr. Mossman hands them a binder.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN (CONT'D)
I've prepared a prospective
treatment regimen for you.

Emmett and Lily turn back to Dr. Mossman.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN (CONT'D)
Yes, we have super sub-specialists.
It's what makes us stand above
everyone else.

Emmett flips the pages. Page one is a list of charges.

INSERT LIST:

Total Costs: \$1,724,972.78

Emmett and Lily stare in shock and awe.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN (CONT'D)
Digest all this at your own pace.

Emmett looks back to Dr. Mossman.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN (CONT'D)
 Would you like some herbal tea?

EMMETT
 And...insurance?

DOCTOR MOSSMAN
 We bill you and you will submit the
 bill to your payer.

EMMETT
 You don't take insurance?

DOCTOR MOSSMAN
 Most payers will reimburse their
 members at about 65%.

EMMETT
 So, no, you don't.

She coldly smiles.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN
 I've arranged for you to meet with
 some of our patients and hear their
 stories. I have another appointment
 that I'm late for.

She gets up and shakes their hands.

DOCTOR MOSSMAN (CONT'D)
 So nice to meet you both. I hope we
 can help you through this trying
 time. Gerald will be here shortly
 to escort you to the auditorium.

She exits the room. Emmett sits speechless and deflated.

I/E. CANCER MIRACLES OF AMERICA - LOBBY - LATER

Emmett and Lily march towards the exit alone. He tosses the
 binder in a garbage bin as they exit the building.

EXT. CANCER MIRACLES OF AMERICA - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The DOORMAN opens the door as they exit.

EMMETT
 Thank you. Can you get us a cab to
 the airport?

The DOORMAN waves to a line of waiting cabs.

LILY
Are we not even going to discuss
this?

EMMETT
What's to discuss?

LILY
Maybe there's a payment plan?

EMMETT
Then what?

LILY
What do you mean then what?

EMMETT
After I'm dead, you'll be paying
this off for the next 50 years. For
what? A few extra months? A year?

LILY
Em...

EMMETT
I'm not going to leave you in debt
the rest of your life. We gave it a
shot. We'll stick with Bannerjee,
roll the dice and hope for the
best.

She smiles at him. He grabs her hand.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Let's head home.

He kisses her hand.

A taxi pulls up. The doorman opens the back door for Lily.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - EVENING

A plane lands.

INT. UPSCALE ROMANTIC RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Emmett and Lily sit at a table for two. He holds her hand.
They stare into each others eyes.

LILY
I feel foolish.

EMMETT
Why?

LILY
Why?

EMMETT
Yeah, why.

LILY
I completely forgot.

EMMETT
No, not at all. We've had a lot
going on.

LILY
But you remembered.

He sadly smiles.

A server, BIRDIE, (mid-30, Hmong), approaches with a bottle
of champagne and an ice bucket.

BIRDIE
Good evening. I'm Birdie, I'll be
taking care of you tonight. Your
champagne, as requested.

She displays the bottle to Emmett. He smiles at Birdie and
nods.

Birdie opens the champagne. A SECOND SERVER adeptly places
two champagne flutes down as Birdie pours.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)
Celebrating an anniversary. That's
exciting. How many years?

EMMETT
Twenty, twenty years.

BIRDIE
Congratulations. That's definitely
worth celebrating. Well, to twenty
more.

She places the bottle in the ice bucket.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)
I'll return to discuss the
specials.

She walks away. Lily starts to tear up. He grabs her hands.

EMMETT
 Hey there. Tonight is about us.
 What we've built together.

INT. REEVES KITCHEN - EVENING

Emmett enters. Lily, Ava, and Evan all look at their own screens.

EMMETT
 Hey, anyone want to come to my game tonight?

EVAN
 Yes!

AVA
 Facts!

The kids look to Lily.

LILY
 Sure.

Emmett smiles.

INT. ICE RINK LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Emmett's Team gets ready.

BEARDED TEAMMATE
 Hey, are Lily and the kids seriously here?

EMMETT
 Yeah.

BEARDED TEAMMATE
 Maybe we should double shift you, get you more ice time?

A collective moan from the Team.

EMMETT
 Let's just play our game.

INT. ICE RINK - NIGHT

Emmett's team takes the rink, leaving water bottles and extra sticks at the bench.

They warmup skate around the rink, then collectively huddle at the bench.

ANGHHHHHHHH! The warm-up buzzer blares as the clock hits zero.

Emmett skates down the ice.

TEAM CAPTAIN

Okay guys, this is the most penalized team in the league. They have a short bench, so expect chippiness throughout and fatigue in the third.

EMMETT

And probably more penalties.

TEAM CAPTAIN

Emmett. Bring it in.

Emmett puts his hand in the center as the Team follows suit.

EMMETT

Loons on three. One, two, three!

TEAM

Loons!

The first line skates to center ice. The goalie heads to his goal.

Emmett stands opposite the OTHER TEAM'S CENTER. The REF skates up. Blows his whistle for the face-off.

The REF drops the puck. Emmett wins, drawing the puck behind him to the defense.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--PLAYERS skate chasing a puck.

--The OPPOSING TEAM trips a Loons Player. The REF blows the whistle and sends the PLAYER to the penalty box.

--After a couple of Emmett's TEAMMATES pass the puck they score a goal.

--Ava and Evan jump up and cheer. Lily claps with reservation.

--Game clock shows 0:00, score 1-1.

--Face-off at center ice. The CENTERS fight for possession. The OPPOSING TEAM wins the face-off.

--The clock ticks down from 17 minutes, period 2.

--There's a player scrum in the corner. A Loons player gets high- sticked. Another penalty. The opposing team player skates to the penalty box.

--The clock ticks down to 5 minutes. Period two.

--The opposing team has a breakaway and scores a goal.

--The clock shows 0:00, score 1-2.

--Both teams huddle at their respective benches.

--Face-off center ice.

--Players chase after the puck.

-- The clock shows 15 minutes, 1-2, period 3.

END MONTAGE.

INT. ICE RINK - NIGHT

Emmett skates to the side, behind the blue line.

BEARDED TEAMMATE

Reever!

He passes the puck to Emmett who speeds into the zone.

TEAMMATE 2

Right.

BENCH

Shoot!

Emmett zips the puck along the back wall to the other side of the ice. His TEAMMATE gets the puck.

OVERWEIGHT TEAMMATE

Point! Point!

His TEAMMATE skates into the corner then passes back to his defensemen at the point.

TEAMMATE 4

Left.

The DEFENSEMAN shifts the puck to the other DEFENSEMAN who feigns a slap shot and quickly passes it back to his DEFENSIVE PARTNER.

BENCH (O.S.)

Time! Time!

the DEFENSIVE PARTNER takes a slap shot but not on net, but back around the end- boards towards Emmett waiting for the puck.

Emmett fumbles the puck against the boards, trapped between the boards and himself.

TEAMMATE 2

One on!

Emmett looks over his shoulder briefly.

CRUNCH! An opposing skater cross-checks him into the boards. Emmett goes down like a sack of sand.

Lily jumps to her feet, covering he mouth in shock and worry.

Screams from Emmett's bench and the crowd in anger for such a cheap shot.

He doesn't get up. Lily runs to the boards looking down at Emmett on the ground.

One of Emmett's TEAMMATES races and tackles the PLAYER.

A line brawl breaks out, Emmett's bench pours over the boards racing to the pandemonium. It's a rugby scrum.

WHISTLES blaring, REFS shouting.

REFEREE 1

Break it up!

The REFS pull PLAYERS apart, screaming.

REFEREE 2

Enough!

The ice looks like a hockey equipment yard sale.

Things settle down. SKATERS, yelling back at each other as the return to their respective benches.

TEAMMATE 2

You fucking assholes!

TEAMMATE 4

The guy has fucking cancer.

Emmett slowly gets up to all fours. Catches his breath. Then with the help of two TEAMMATES, gets onto his skates. The REFS check in on Emmett, still standing against the boards with his teammates. They converse.

The REF skates over to the opposing bench.

He points to the player who cross-checked Emmett.

REFEREE 1

You, you're out for the remainder of the game.

The OTHER REF at Emmett's bench.

REFEREE 2

You, you're out for the rest of the season for fighting.

FIGHTING TEAMMATE

Ref, the guy is playing with a chemo port. He has fucking cancer! A total fucking cheap shot!

REFEREE 2

We'll take it up with the league tomorrow.

Both REFS skate over to the score keepers box and explain the penalties.

Both ejected PLAYERS exit the bench to their locker rooms.

Emmett slowly skates back to his bench with assistance.

His TEAMMATES pat him on the shoulder.

TEAMMATE

You okay dude?

TEAMMATE 5 (O.S.)

Fuck that guy. And the horse he rode in on!

EMMETT

Yeah, I'll be alright.

He looks at the clock, only 1 minutes left, the Loons are down, score 2-1.

The REF skates to center ice, blows his whistle.

EMMETT'S POV, vision blurry, muffled sounds of skates cutting the ice, pucks passing, yelling from the ice.

AAAANNNNNHHH! The final buzzer sounds. Loons lose 2-1.

INT. EMMETT'S TEAM'S LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A dejected team quietly sits. They mumble to each other.

BEARDED TEAMMATE

Emmett, your jersey.

Everyone looks. It's bloody. He exposes the source, his chemo port is bruised and oozes blood.

EMMETT

That's not good. I better head to the E.R.

TEAM CAPTAIN

I'll text Lily, let her know.

EMMETT

No. I'll take care of it.

INT. HOSPITAL ER - NIGHT

Emmett sits on a hospital bed, shirt off. A NURSE cleans his wound. Emmett's face tightens from the pain.

Lily enters.

LILY

Jesus!

EMMETT

It looks worse than it is.

LILY

What did they say?

EMMETT

I'm waiting to hear from the doctor.

LILY

I think it's time to stop playing.

EMMETT

Can we do this at home?

Lily's concern replaced by anger.

An E.R. DOCTOR, BEN, (50s) walks in. They both look up.

LILY

Hey Ben.

BEN

Hey Lily. Sorry you guys are here.

LILY

Have you talked with Bannerjee?

BEN

I have. We need to have one of the surgeons remove the port, let it heal for several days then will have I.R. place a new one next week.

LILY

What about chemo?

BEN

Yeah, about that. He'll have to postpone chemo until he gets the new port. Dr. Bannerjee said he'll still have what's running in the infusion port keep going, but not the main chemo.

Lily covers her face with her hands.

EMMETT

Can't they place the new one on the other side?

BEN

Unfortunately, that's not an option. Given the trauma, it needs to come out. I've called surgery, they'll be down in an hour.

Lily shoots him a look. Ben shrugs.

BEN (CONT'D)

Sorry, a trauma just came in.

INT. CHEMOTHERAPY INFUSION ROOM - DAY

Emmett sits next to a jaundiced Iris.

EMMETT

We went to Cancer Miracles of America last week.

She slowly shakes her head.

IRIS
How is it they can provide a bill
down to dollars and cents?

EMMETT
You been there?

She nods.

IRIS
It's for rich people. They get
pampered, made to feel important.
But in the end, those meant to die
still do.

EMMETT
It's like they're proud your
insurance covers sixty-five
percent.

IRIS
Mother fuckers.

EXT. EMMETT'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Cars drive past the building.

INT. EMMETT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Emmett looks at his laptop and the memorial logo he designed
for the Wild. He holds a sample in his hand, squeezes it and
tosses it in a box with other personal items.

Roger peeks his head in.

ROGER
Hey buddy. You ready?

Emmett looks up, closes his laptop.

EMMETT
(sniffles)
Yeah.

He grabs his laptop, puts it in the box.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
After all these years. What's
different?

ROGER

Emmett, this firm has risen to new heights. And it wasn't me.

Emmett looks at Roger.

Roger steps inside and sits in front of Emmett's desk.

ROGER (CONT'D)

I was going to say this out there. This firm has grown in every direction, all because of you.

He pulls out a business card and hands it to Emmett.

Emmett looks at the card. It reads:

DAVIS AND REEVES GRAPHIC DESIGN.

Emmett is at a loss for words.

ROGER (CONT'D)

I've wanted to do this for a long time. I just didn't know when.

EMMETT

I don't know what to say.

ROGER

You don't need to say anything. I can do what I want. And what I want is for you to own half of it.

Emmett holds his hands.

ROGER (CONT'D)

I'll have Lily sign the papers. She and the kids will never have to worry.

They stand, embrace, and cry together.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Emmett and Roger walk together.

They turn the corner, co-workers line their path, some wearing the new Wild jersey with Emmett's design. All give him gentle fist bumps as if walking down a stadium tunnel without the fan cheer.

Lily stands at the end of the hallway smiling, but eyes watering. Roger hands her a folder of documents. She opens it, reads it. She bear hugs Roger.

INT. CT SCAN - DAY

Emmett goes through the CT scanner. Visibly nervous.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Bannerjee reviews the scan with Emmett and Lily. They sit with apprehension.

DR. BANNERJEE
Emmett, today I only have bad news.

Lily's drops her head in her hands.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)
The tumor has spread to your liver.
And after several rounds of
traditional chemo and targeted
immunotherapy.

EMMETT
Are there...

LILY
Are there...

They stop, look at each other.

LILY (CONT'D)
Sorry.

EMMETT
Do I have any options left?

DR. BANNERJEE
Only palliative ones.

EMMETT
Palliative?

DR. BANNERJEE
It won't make you live longer.

EMMETT
Then why do it?

Dr. Bannerjee starts to speak before Emmett cuts him off.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
You're telling me it's time to get
my affairs in order.

He turns to Lily. Shrugs softly.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
How long?

DR. BANNERJEE
Three months would be generous.

EMMETT
And without?

DR. BANNERJEE
Weeks maybe.

They look at each other.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)
Take some time. You don't have to
give me an answer now.

The doctor logs out of his computer and prepares to leave.

DR. BANNERJEE (CONT'D)
You can reach out to me in MyChart
either way.

EMMETT
Doctor?

He stops and turns.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
If I'm gonna die, I'm gonna go out
on my terms.

Lily turns. Her face shy of livid.

She tries to talk, he holds up his hand.

DR. BANNERJEE
Absolutely.

He shakes his head as he exits.

EXT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Lily drives with Emmett, pulls up into their driveway.
Screeches to a stop. She storms into the house.

INT. REEVES KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Lily storms in, slamming her purse on the counter

LILY
What! The! Fuck!

He listens.

LILY (CONT'D)
The doctor tells you that you have
maybe three months to live.

EMMETT
Look--

LILY
Your "going out my way" is a veiled
attempt to say you're still gonna
play hockey.

EMMETT
Look--

LILY
Is that all that's important to
you?

EMMETT
I--

LILY
A year from now. When you're dead.
Will your team mourn you?

EMMETT
Listen--

LILY
Are they going to be there for Ava?
For Evan? Or me? For this baby?

She starts to sob.

EMMETT
Love--

LILY
Jesus!

Exhausted, she slides to the floor. He slowly approaches her.

EMMETT
Love. This isn't about me.

He sits next to her. Her head turned away.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Because I haven't talked about it,
doesn't mean I haven't thought
about it. For that, I'm truly
sorry.

Honey, I know I'm going to die.
I've known it for some time.
The body keeps the score.

She looks down at him.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Ava got an invite for the Women's
USA National Development camp.

(beat)

I know she has reservations about
high-school tryouts, so I haven't
said anything about this.

LILY

Please, please, please tell me how
this is important.

EMMETT

Ava is afraid she won't succeed at
the next step. But I know she's
better than good enough.
I want to be better than my father.

LILY

You have always been better than
your father.

EMMETT

He was a quitter. I want to teach
my children how to live.

She softens. Now strokes his head on her lap. Tearing up.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I'll never know this child.

LILY

I can't do this by myself.

EMMETT

Yes you can. You've always been the
foundation of our marriage, our
family.

LILY
(sniffles)
I want you to myself.

EMMETT
I know.
Subconsciously I think I'm trying
to prepare you for life without me.

They sit in the quiet.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
You'll do great. You are everything
the kids need.
I've been logistics. You're the
engine that drives this family.

He smiles at this.

LILY
Love?

EMMETT
Hmm.

LILY
You know those extra shifts I
scheduled?

EMMETT
Uh huh.

LILY
I scheduled them to keep you from
playing hockey.

EMMETT
I know.

She smiles, leans down, and kiss his head. He smiles.

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ava works at her desk. KNOCK KNOCK.

Emmett stands in the doorway.

EMMETT
Hey, how ya doin'?

AVA
You mean besides watching you die
before me?

EMMETT

Yeah. Well, you could include that.

AVA

I used to love that feeling of the pre-game jitters. But now I have them all the time.

He walks in and sits on her bed.

They lock eyes. They each smile.

EMMETT

Well, maybe this isn't the best time.

He hands her the invitation letter.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I got this a few weeks ago but I haven't found the right time to give it to you.

She reads it and looks to him in shock.

AVA

Is this real?

He nods and smiles.

AVA (CONT'D)

Dad, I--I'm not USA development material.

EMMETT

Their scouts have been watching you play for the better part of the season. You are.

She's now bug-eyed.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Part of why they want you is because your first thought, that there must be a mistake, is EXACTLY why they want you.

AVA

Seriously Dad, competing against girls from all over the US.

EMMETT

Remember what I said.

AVA
About the elephant?

EMMETT
The other thing.

Ava can't remember.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Bravery doesn't mean you're not
afraid. It means you're afraid, but
you go anyways.

She hugs him tightly.

INT. CHEMOTHERAPY INFUSION ROOM - DAY

Emmett takes his usual seat. The clock shows 1:00 pm. ROLEX GUY, (50s) year old, Audi key fob on the table next to him, sits in Iris's seat.

EMMETT
(to Rolex guy)
Hey.

Rolex Guy types on his laptop. Ignores him.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

He looks up.

ROLEX GUY
Yeah?

EMMETT
That's Iris's seat.

ROLEX GUY
Sorry pal, not today it's not.

EMMETT
Yes, today it is. She'll be here
any minute.

ROLEX GUY
Look, this is where they sat me. If
she shows up, I'll move. Do you
mind? I have work to do.

Emmett stares ahead.

He texts Iris. Waits for a response that never comes.

He calls her number. We hear "The number you have called...".
He hangs up.

Eyes water. Closes his eyes. Tears drip down his face.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--Rolex Guy closes his laptop, checks his phone, makes a
phone call and talks to someone.

--Emmett watches him.

--Rolex Guy multitasks between laptop and phone.

--Emmett adjusts his posture, feels sorry for Rolex guy.

--Rolex Guy, animatedly talks on phone.

END MONTAGE.

The clock shows 2:30. Emmett turns to Rolex Guy.

EMMETT

Esophageal.

Rolex Guy looks at Emmett.

ROLEX GUY

Huh?

EMMETT

I have esophageal cancer. You?

A beat.

ROLEX GUY

Pancreatic.

EMMETT

Metastatic?

ROLEX GUY

No. You?

EMMETT

Probably easier to say where it
hasn't spread. Bone, liver,
toenails.

Emmett manages a slight smile. Turns towards Rolex guy and
they talk.

EXT. EXCEL ENERGY ARENA - NIGHT

Ariel view of the Minnesota Wild's home arena.

INT. EXCEL ENERGY ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Fans cheer as the Wild rush to the ice to the sound of a bull horn.

Emmett and his team sit in a loge at center ice.

GAME ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and Gentlemen. Starting us off tonight's game is Emmett Reeves and his team all the way from Duluth. Emmett plays hockey for the Loons in an adult league in Duluth, and he hasn't missed a game while battling cancer.

(beat)

Take it away Emmett.

Emmett is projected on the Jumbotron.

The CROWD stands, claps and cheers.

Both teams on the ice smack their sticks against the ice.

The PLAYERS on the benches pound the outside boards with their sticks to the deafening sound.

A weaker Emmett stands with a mic. He attempts to speak but the applause is thunderous.

He smiles, gets choked up. Waits for the crowd to quiet down.

EMMETT

All right...

The applause crescendos.

INT. REEVES LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lily stands, hands to her mouth as she and the kids watch the game on TV. Evan and Ava envelop her with hugs.

INT. EXCEL ENERGY ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Emmett smiles again. The crowd remains standing but quiets.

EMMETT

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Emmett regains his composure.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

All right Wild fans. Are you ready!? Tonight is our night! So say it with me!

EMMETT (CONT'D)

LETS...PLAY...HOCKEY!

CROWD (O.S.)

LETS...PLAY...HOCKEY!

KERNKRAFT 400 by Zombie Nation blares. The crowd cheers. Emmett's teammates fist-bump, hoist beers.

At ice level, the players from both teams again tap their sticks as they look up to Emmett.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--Emmett takes off his oxygen before getting dressed to play hockey.

--Emmett plays hockey with his team. Lily sits in the stands watching him play. He moves more slowly than before.

--Lily watches Ava at practice.

--Lily drives Evan and Ava to practice.

--The Reeves's SUV pulls into a rink parking lot and drops off Evan, then heads off with Ava to a different rink for her practice.

--Ava exits the car. She smiles at her mom, get's her stuff and heads to the rink.

--Lily preps Ava's hockey sticks in the kitchen before her tryouts.

--Lily empties Ava's hockey bag in the laundry room. She attempts to place Ava's gear on an already full hockey tree with Evan's gear.

--Lily boils water on the stove with Evan. She plops a mouthguard in the water. Takes it out, runs it under water, Evan shoves it in his mouth. OUCH! HOT! Yanks it out.

She tussles his hair and both laugh at the rookie mistake.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. HOCKEY RINK PARKING LOT - DAY

Players walk into the building with gear and parents in tow.

INT. HOCKEY RINK - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: USA Women's National Development Camp

Emmett sits zombie-like in the stands wearing an oxygen mask.

He's jaundiced. His eyes are sunken.

Lily joins him moments later.

EMMETT
Everything good?

LILY
Yep, all checked in.

EMMETT
Sticks?

LILY
Taped. The Bauer Hyperlite.

He turns, a surprised look. She smiles as he turns back.

LILY (CONT'D)
Thought the low kick point would
help with her accuracy.

He slowly shakes his head.

EMMETT
Mouthguard?

LILY
Boiled, last night.

He squeezes her hand.

Ava takes the ice with a GROUP OF GIRLS when she falls flat on her face. Embarrassed, she stands again and falls.

A look of horror on Emmett and Lily's faces.

A COACH on the ice notices her gaff.

She looks to her skate, she forgot to remove a skate guard. Rookie mistake. She removes the guard and starts skating.

The rest of the GIRLS take a lap around the rink.

A stack of pucks sit on the half-boards, a COACH swipes them onto the ice.

Ava regains her composure, backwards skates with increasing speed, spins around and steals a puck skating towards the goal and SNAP! Slap shot on goal. DONK! Misses off the post.

The COACH blows the whistle. The group collects around the coach at the bench and all take a knee. He address them.

Emmett looks nervous, looks again at Lily. She squeezes his hand. He smiles. Kisses her hand.

Emmett and Ava lock eyes while the coach talks. Her face is tight. She's scared. Emmett's eyes water.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

--Ava and the others skate strait and Rapidly move a puck back and forth between small orange cones. Ava misses one of her passes and skates after it.

--At center ice, three lines, the coach launches the puck against the end boards, three players chase the puck.

--Two lines of players form just inside the blue line. The person at the front of the line passes the puck to the player at the front of the other line who winds up to take "one-timers." Ava's turn. She receives the pass. She winds up and, connects with the puck, DONK! Hits the upright and misses.

--Emmett squeezes Lily's hand.

--During a break, Emmett talks with Ava in a hallway off the ice, he holds her face in his hands.

--A scrimmage is in play. Players skate, pass the puck, shoot, chase the puck.

LILY (CONT'D)

What'd you say to her?

EMMETT

They're all scared.

--Ava watches from the bench. She hops over the boards.

AVA

Center! Center! Center!

Ava receives the puck, passes it to the RIGHT WING who dumps it deep in the zone behind the GOALIE.

Ava speeds past the DEFENDERS, skates from the right behind the net, gets to the puck, flips the puck onto her stick blade, lifts the stick and drops the puck from behind the net into the goal!

The coach in disbelief. He slowly shakes his head.

EMMETT

H-o-l-y shit. She did a Michigan.

He squeezes Lily's leg and hugs her.

The other girls stop in shock.

END MONTAGE.

FWEET FWEET! The coach blows the whistle.

COACH

Okay, okay girls. Ava, that was a nice move. I've never seen it in real game time. Alright, settle up at center ice.

The team skates to center ice.

COACH (CONT'D)

Since Ms. Reeves has decided to show-boat, lets finish up with some fun and see what you have for shoot outs.

FWEET! FWEET!

The GOALIES head toward their goals.

The SKATERS assemble at center ice.

COACH

Alright, lets see what you got.

SKATER 1 approaches the GOALIE, quick moves back and forth, closer, closer, forces the puck into the goalie's pads. No goal.

SKATER 2 slowly approaches the GOALIE, slides the puck back and forth, looks left, quick shot right corner. Score.

COACH (CONT'D)

Nice work.

SKATER 3 slowly approaches. She pulls the puck back and forth, five feet in front of the goalie. She pulls back for a slap shot allowing the momentum of the puck to slide through the goalie's legs never actually shooting the puck. Score!

WHOOHOOO from the GIRLS.

Ava's turn. She approaches the GOALIE like a ninja. She slips the puck behind her between her legs. Then she slides her stick back between her legs, finds the puck. The GOALIE lunges left, Ava flips the puck from behind her and into the open net! SCORE!

The COACH shakes his head back and forth.

Emmett and Lily proudly smile, hug each other.

INT. SCHOOL MATH CLASS - DAY

Ava sits at her desk. The clock shows 2:50 pm.

TEACHER

Okay class. That wraps up everything. I give you the gift of ten minutes to take care of whatever you need.

Ava excitedly opens her laptop. Looks to her email.

INTERCUT: SCHOOL MATH CLASS/EMMETT'S OFFICE

INT. REEVES'S HOUSE - EMMETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Emmett weakly grabs an empty sheet of card stock and his fountain pen and writes.

Ava scans her email, nothing. She frowns. She leans back in her chair watching the clock tick.

Emmett finishes a letter, folds it into an envelope. He takes another sheet of card stock. He writes.

Ava closes her laptop when an email pops up.

INSERT: email screen. Top email shows USA Women's... She perks up and opens the email.

Three finished letters sit on Emmett's desk, he finishes the fourth letter. Folds it into an envelope, seals it with wax and stamps it with the LETTER R.

INSERT: Email from USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAMP.

Dear Ava, we are excited to welcome you to the USA Women's National development camp this summer...

Emmett take the four wax sealed letter-envelopes, and neatly places them on his desk.

END INTERCUT.

PRELAP- RINNNNG!

INT. SCHOOL MATH CLASS - DAY

Ava excitedly runs out the door with her backpack.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

School buses depart.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

A school bus drives down the street. It pulls up to a corner and stops.

Ava quickly exits the bus first followed by several KIDS.

Excitedly, she runs down the street to her house.

EXT. REEVES DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ava runs up the sidewalk towards her house. An EMS rig sits out front, lights flashing.

The PARAMEDICS wheel Emmett out of the house. He wears an oxygen mask. Ava runs up to her dad.

AVA

Dad!

He's barely conscious.

AVA (CONT'D)

Dad!

AVA (CONT'D)

(to Paramedics)

Where are you taking him?

Lily runs outside with a back pack. Fear in her eyes.

LILY
To the hospital.

AVA
Can I ride with him?

LILY
Um, ah, sure, yeah. I'll meet you
at the hospital with Evan.

EMT#1 and EMT#2 load Emmett into the rig. EMT#1 sits in the back, offers his hand to Ava and pulls her into the back.

Emmett mumbles. Ava holds his hand. Tears run down her face. EMT#3 closes the back doors.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

AVA
Dad! Dad! I'm here. It's Ava.

EMT 1 (O.S.)
Pulse fifty, BP seventy over forty.

EMT 2 (O.S.)
Starting Epi drip.

The driver turns on the siren as the ambulance speeds away.

EMT 1
Sats eithty-five percent. Turning
up to fifteen liters. Do we have
his code status?

EMT 2
He's DNR.

EMT 1
I hope he--

EMT#2 stops him short with a hand and a head nod towards Ava.

EXT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

The ambulance speeds along the highway. Lake Superior in the background.

EXT. AMBULANCE - DUSK

The Ambulance turns into the hospital ambulance bay.

INT. ER AMBULANCE ENTRANCE - DUSK

The doors crash open as they wheel Emmett through. Ava follows. A NURSE meets them.

ER NURSE
 Onc called ahead. He's a direct
 admit to eight south.

The EMTs look surprised. The E.R. NURSE tilts her head.
 They push Emmett through the E.R. towards the elevators.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

A sign on the hospital room door reads "All visitors please check in with the nurse."

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The family surrounds Emmett, barely conscious. Lily, sobs.

LILY
 My love. I know you're tired. It's
 okay. We're here.
 We're all here.

She holds his hand, kissing it. Sobs.

LILY (CONT'D)
 (to Evan)
 Honey, come, it's okay, talk to
 Dad.

Evan moves close to his father. He whispers into his Dad's ear. A barely perceptible laugh, then coughs.

The cardiac monitor shows PULSE 45, RR 6, SPO2 70%.

Lily and Evan look to Ava who's crying. She approaches him.

AVA
 Dad.

She holds his hands. She whispers in his ear.

Emmett weakly smiles. Then it slowly fades. The monitor flatlines along with a monotone beep.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

On a bluff, bright sun, shimmering lake Superior ripples in the background.

FRIENDS and FAMILY surround his casket suspended over a grave.

A MINISTER presides.

EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER

Ava stands at the foot of the casket.

AVA

A few months ago, I asked my Dad why he started playing hockey. He said "two words. Gene Kelly and King T'challa."

She wipes her tears.

AVA (CONT'D)

I told him that's four words, two people.

More soft chuckles.

AVA (CONT'D)

He told me when he moved here from Los Angeles with my Mom.

Lily's eyes flood with tears.

AVA (CONT'D)

He said watching hockey players skate was like watching Gene Kelly dance, so athletic yet so graceful, he was awestruck. He said he had to do it. But deep down, he was hesitant. Who starts hockey at thirty? But T'Challa was his inspiration.

A beat.

She tears up more.

AVA (CONT'D)

I now know what I was really
running away from. I will keep that
in my heart forever.
Thank you Dad. You are my T'Challa.

Every person, including the Minister, has tears in their
eyes.

INT. REEVES HOUSE - HALLWAY -DAY

Lily walks past Emmett's office. She stops, steps back to the
office looking at his pristine desk with four envelopes on
it. She enters.

INT. REEVES'S HOUSE - EMMETT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lily sits at Emmett's desk, closes her eyes, and feels for
his presence.

She flips through the four letters, one for Lily, Ava, Evan,
and one with a "?"

She takes a moment to regain her composure. Evan and Ava see
Lily at their father's desk. They enter.

AVA

Mom?

She looks up. Crying.

Ava rush to Lily and hugs her, Evan stands inside the door.

Ava and Evan wipe their tears. Lily hands them each their
letters.

Ava kisses her mom without taking the letter and leaves.

Lily takes her letter and breaks the wax seal. As she reads
it, Emmett's voice takes over:

Lily, my love...

EMMETT (V.O.)

My pain is gone but I know yours
has just begun.

She looks up. Tears drip down her cheeks.

EMMETT (V.O.)

I love you Lily Reeves, Always and
forever. EM

(MORE)

EMMETT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

P.S. I signed you up for adult hockey classes in the fall and registered you for the coaches clinic. You'll be great.

Lily cries, smiles, and nods.

INT. HOCKEY LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Lily holds court in the locker room with Ava's team.

LILY

Girls, their goalie is quick to over compensate to dekes. Be patient, look high right side or five hole.

(beat)

Questions?

(smiling to Ava)

No? Okay, bring it in.

INT. CAR - DAY

Lily, Ava, and Evan drive down a highway.

SUPER: Two months later.

Lily looks at Ava then reaches in her purse and hands Emmett's letter to Ava.

LILY

You left this at home.

Ave takes the letter and stares at it. She opens it and begins reading.

EMMETT (V.O.)

Ava, I'm sorry that bus came early.

Ava pauses. She looks outside at the passing woods.

EMMETT (V.O.)

But know that when you look up in the stands, I'm there with you.

She stops reading and takes a deep breath.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

The Reeve's car parks.

INT. USA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Ava checks in at the desk with her gear. Lily wears a Bauer fleece and carries Ava's sticks.

AVA

Hi, I'm Ava Reeves.

DESK CLERK

Hi. Welcome to the USA Women's National Development camp. Here you are.

The desk clerk reaches into a bin of jerseys.

DESK CLERK (CONT'D)

It looks like you requested fifty-three. Is that your number?

Ava quietly smiles.

Lily smiles and puts her arm around her.

INT. DEVELOPMENT CAMP DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Ava sits on her bed and reads the letter.

EMMETT (V.O.)

Remember what I said about fear and how you eat an elephant.

AVA

(whispers to herself)
One bite at a time.

INT. HOCKEY RINK - NIGHT

Emmett's Team exits the locker room. They all wear the patch Emmett designed, but with the #53 and the letters E.R. on their jersey chest. They take the ice.

FADE OUT.

THE END