

2 Scores
Pick 1 Scene to Read

~~PAUL
Can we have dinner tonight?
I can discuss the fate of our
marriage or at the very least
decide what we're going to tell
Ade tomorrow? Because right now
my stomach is empty, your mouth
isn't.~~

Scene 1

~~PAUL
Okay. Dinner.~~

~~PAUL
Good. Where's the hearing--~~

~~CATHY
In the linen closet.~~

~~PAUL
Which one of the linen~~

~~CATHY
I'm in the hallway.~~

~~PAUL
I love you!~~

He heads into the house. Cathy notices her ELDERLY NEIGHBOR SITTING ON THE PORCH OF HER RUN DOWN HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET. She has a faraway look and a scowl on her face. Grass is growing up around her TIRED OLD BASSET HOUND who lays in the yard. Cathy smiles and waves at the old woman.

~~CATHY
Happy first day of summer!~~

~~The old woman gets up and goes inside.~~

~~CATHY (CONT'D)
(to herself) Okay, then.~~

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER (D-1)

Start

Cathy sits on an exam table in a PAPER ROBE talking to young handsome DR. TODD who listens patiently.

CATHY
We didn't really have that much money growing up but we did have a pool in our back yard and my brother and I would stay in it all summer making up dives. My signature was the Banana Split and Dive.

DR. TODD

The C-Word

DR. TODD
Sounds fun.

CATHY
Except when Sean would hold me
under the water and fart on my
face.

She glances down to see that her paper robe is slightly open
in the front.

CATHY (CONT'D)
Oh, hello breast. How long has
that been happening?

DR. TODD
I didn't notice.

CATHY
Well, screw you. Anyway, in regard
to your question, I don't think I
want to do that.

DR. TODD
Not at all?

CATHY
I just have always liked my hair.
I cry every time I get it cut.

DR. TODD
You won't necessarily lose your
hair.

CATHY
My nose is another story. If you
told me I was going to lose my nose-

He hands her A BROCHURE.

CATHY (CONT'D)
What's this?

DR. TODD
Some information on alternative
treatments.

CATHY
Oh, crap. I thought it was a cure.

DR. TODD
How does your husband feel?

CATHY

He has a knot in his back from sleeping weird. He's using a heating pad. Is that what you'd recommend? (off Dr. Todd's look) I haven't told him yet.

Dr. Todd is clearly taken aback.

DR. TODD

I grew up with parents who perfected the art of talking about each other in front of each other but not actually to each other, and still, you've shocked me.

CATHY

I'm just kind of a private person. Except around you. I can't seem to shut up around you.

He hands her ANOTHER BROCHURE.

DR. TODD

Here are some tips on how to tell your loved ones. A lot of people find it difficult.

CATHY

Are you married?

DR. TODD

No. But I think I'd want to know.

CATHY

I planned to tell him. But when I got home that day, he had trapped a mouse under a skillet and was standing there waiting for me to come do something about it and I just found myself saying "I need to be alone for a while."

He hands her yet ANOTHER BROCHURE.

DR. TODD

Some support groups you might be interested in.

CATHY

I just got an image of when you do get married, you and your bride standing at the altar passing brochures back and forth.

DR. TODD
Don't you think you should be honest with your family?

CATHY
Honesty is overrated. White lies can really keep a marriage together. You're single so you still romanticize the idea of a symbiotic relationship with no secrets.

DR. TODD
Can you tell your brother?

CATHY
I'm afraid he'd just try to squeeze in one last attempt to fart on my face for old times sake.

DR. TODD
I don't have a brochure for that.

CATHY
Then are we done?

He hands her a prescription.

DR. TODD
As needed for discomfort.

CATHY
Wow. I should get in touch with my college boyfriend and see if he still has his bong.

DR. TODD
You don't have to. You can get it in cigarettes, tea, cookies, brownies...

CATHY
Can I mix and match?

DR. TODD
I believe you can.

CATHY
I believe I will.

DR. TODD
Tell someone, Cathy.

Beat.

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END

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Scene 2

~~PAUL (CONT'D)
 Paul, you know I'm not
 we're not from you let me go
 co...
 what...
 for...
 were...
 well, am I
 Are you
 having an affair?~~

~~She doesn't respond~~

~~(CONT'D)
 I need to be alone for a while~~

He grabs his jacket and exits. She stares after him for a moment, then turns to the phone and plays Dr. Todd's message again.

EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - THE NEXT MORNING (D-3)

Cathy has three pieces of cake in front of her. Dr. Todd picks at an omelet.

DR. TODD
 So who have you told so far?

CATHY
 You're like a dog with a bone about that.

DR. TODD
 Eventually you'll have to tell them.

CATHY
 Maybe not. Maybe I'll just leave a Post It on my front door that says-- heard Morocco was great this time of year.

DR. TODD
 Morocco's so random.

CATHY
 Maybe you should tell them for me. After all, you have more practice with giving this sort of news. Does it get easier? Do you kind of like it? Does it give you a bit of a God complex?

DR. TODD
 You're my first.

Dr. TODD

The C-Word

Start

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Beat.

CATHY

Really?

DR. TODD

I mean...I've been in on other diagnoses, with other doctors when I was in training--

CATHY

How old are you?

DR. TODD

Thirty-one.

CATHY

(teasing)

Holy Shit. (sarcastic) Shows you how good my insurance is. I got the new guy. What if I'm healthy as a horse and you just got caught up in youthful exuberance?

DR. TODD

That's what second opinions are for.

CATHY

So, as your first, how was I?

DR. TODD

The first thing you said was, "It's okay." Like you were more worried about me.

CATHY

That's a bad habit of mine. It takes twenty eight days to break a habit, right? I have that.

DR. TODD

So how was I?

CATHY

(thinking)

Very matter of fact and professional but detailed. You dumbed it down just enough to be clear but not insulting. And underneath it all you seemed sad, and I appreciated that.

(MORE)

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CATHY (CONT'D)

But after you left the room I heard you joking with a nurse about putting the donuts too close to the urine samples and was that what you were supposed to wash them down with.

DR. TODD
(horrified)
You heard that?

CATHY
Made me question your sincerity.

DR. TODD
Well, I can't just fall apart in the hallway at work.

CATHY
Couldn't you though? I would have appreciated a little screaming to the heavens on my behalf.

DR. TODD
They discourage that in med school.

CATHY
You asked my opinion.

DR. TODD
I did. And...thin walls. I'll remember that.

CATHY
You'll remember more than that.

DR. TODD
I will?

CATHY
Of course. Because you always remember your first.

They share a smile. The WAITER approaches.

WAITER
How are you all doing?

CATHY
I don't know about him but I'm almost finished.

The WAITER nods and exits. Cathy winks at Dr. Todd.

END

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