In an otherwise conservatively decorated office, two slightly eccentric red sandstone candlesticks rest atop the doctor’s desk.

DAVID LINDEMAN, mid-20s, rugged, good-looking, wears shirt and jeans splattered with paint. DR. ALAN WEINSTEIN, 50s, sits across from him, listening.

LINDEMAN
I ran into Natalie last night.

DR. WEINSTEIN
You did?

LINDEMAN
And her new boyfriend.

DR. WEINSTEIN
This is a big moment for you. How did it go?

LINDEMAN
Well, this is the first time I’ve actually seen her since we stopped hanging out so--

DR. WEINSTEIN
--Since she dumped you.

LINDEMAN
The ending was complicated.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Six months ago Natalie told you she...

(references to notes)

...she didn’t want to be in a relationship and proceeded to drop you like it was her job.

(looks up)

You’ve been trying to get over her ever since.

LINDEMAN
Can I tell my story?

DR. WEINSTEIN
Please.
LINDEMAN
It was weird at first. Some of the old feelings kinda came up. But I guess it’s been a little while ’cause then the old feelings kinda went away.

Dr. Weinstein scribbles the word ‘interesting’ on his pad.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Interesting.

LINDEMAN
He’s an alright dude, and they seem pretty good together so, I almost hate to say it, but I guess I’m sorta happy for her.

DR. WEINSTEIN
It sounds like you’ve arrived at a healthy place with this part of your life.

LINDEMAN
I guess it kinda does.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Now is there anything else - anything new - on your mind?

LINDEMAN
Mmm-guess not.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Take your time. This is important.

Lindeman considers...

LINDEMAN
Actually, for the first time in a while I feel pretty good.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Terrific. Has it occurred to you that maybe our work here is done?

LINDEMAN
But we still have 45 minutes left.

DR. WEINSTEIN
What I mean to say is, maybe we’ve worked through all of your issues.
LINDEMAN
(suddenly defensive)
Well that can’t be right.

DR. WEINSTEIN
But you just said--

LINDEMAN
--I was lying.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Your trepidation is understandable. Real happiness is unchartered territory for you.

LINDEMAN
Wait-- there’s gotta be something. Like...what about my parents’ divorce?

DR. WEINSTEIN
Well, technically they were only separated, and, as you know, eventually they did get back together.

LINDEMAN
I might not be over that time that Sandy died.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Again here, I believe it’s important to clarify that your brother almost died, and medically speaking, it’s very rare that someone actually dies from a hernia.

LINDEMAN
(pleading)
But art is suffering.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Ah, but is art suffering or is suffering art?

LINDEMAN
Art is making something and calling it art. But if I’m not suffering, I’m not making anything.

DR. WEINSTEIN
(cleverly)
But are you calling it art?
Lindeman reacts, even more worked up, but can’t quite find the words to express his thoughts.

DR. WEINSTEIN
This is an exciting time for you. We turn the page to the beginning of a new chapter. Limitless possibilities waiting to unfold - full of discovery and exploration, creative wellsprings as yet--

LINDEMAN
I want you to put me back the way you found me.

DR. WEINSTEIN
But we’ve already worked through all your-- Oh, wait. Unless you’re Jewish?

LINDEMAN
I’m not.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Lindeman sounds like a Jewish name.

LINDEMAN
I know. Everyone asks.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Because if you were Jewish--

LINDEMAN
--I’m not. I’m Dutch. Mostly.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Then congratulations. You’re officially done with therapy. How does it feel?

Lindeman’s eyes widen in terror.

ROLL CREDITS.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Confused, distraught, and completely oblivious to the fact that he’s wearing a coat way too thin for present weather conditions, Lindeman waits for his bus.