

Cancelled

Written by
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1. EXT. THE FOXHOLE

Autumn is waiting to go on stage, leaning against a wall smoking weed.

2. INT. THE FOXHOLE STAGE

Autumn is performing.

AUTUMN

So I have Borderline Personality Disorder, and I found out pretty recently that I'm bipolar too. It's kinda hard to live with, but I was happy to know why I feel and act the way I do. I've felt like all my life, I've been bad at creating and maintaining, "healthy relationships". When you have Bipolar, you go through something called mania. Is anyone familiar with this? The highs of it are like snorting an 8-ball up your ass. You literally feel like Superman. But at the same time you feel violent and angry. Kinda like Superman on ketamine, and the next second you experience depressive lows that are so fucking low. For me, I've threatened to kill myself every single time I've been through a break up, and trust me, nobody wants that. I mean look at me, I don't even have the balls to do it. I would threaten it because I was manipulative and scared of being alone. My mental health is like a little storm cloud that follows you around raining all over your day.

Autumn pauses.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

But for real, it's isolating sometimes and makes me feel like I don't fit in. I see all these normal happy people around me who have their lives figured out and I just feel like an outcast. I think it's kind of what Buzz Aldrin feels like. I mean, that dude literally went to the moon. He got on a rocket and went to fucking space. But nobody else knows what that's like.

(MORE)

AUTUMN (cont'd)

What if he's fucked up from it?
Sitting alone in that station with
nothing but his thoughts, watching
the world turn. If I was lucky enough
to get off this planet, and had to
come back to this bullshit, I know
I'd be depressed. Not that he's
depressed, but not many people can
relate to that. They've never been to
space. They can see the moon, but
they'll never go there. When I tell
people about my mental illness, it
makes me feel lonely. They usually
ask if my meds help. And yeah, they
do. I also see a shrink, which has
been good for me. I'm just trying to
be a normal person. Normal is good,
right? I'm sorry, I don't even know
why I'm up here.

3. EXT. THE FOXHOLE

Autumn is leaning against the wall getting ready to smoke
weed. As he is lighting his joint, a man walks by.

RANDOM GUY

Hey! Didn't you just perform? I love
when people talk about their mental
problems. It's like, "Ah! At least
I'm not that guy!"

AUTUMN

Right.

The man continues to walk away. Autumn continues to smoke.
Two girls walk by, SAM and RILEY.

SAM

Hey, mind if we join you?

Autumn holds smoke in and shakes his head.

RILEY

I thought your set was interesting.
It wasn't funny. Are you trying to do
comedy or just public speaking?

AUTUMN

I don't really know right now, I just
wanted to be heard I guess.

RILEY

I'm Riley.

SAM

Sam.

AUTUMN

Autumn. Nice to meet you.

Autumn offers the joint to Sam.

SAM

Do you perform here often?

AUTUMN

Nah, I kinda just started.

RILEY

I like small clubs like this.

AUTUMN

Same, it's low pressure and people are usually nice. I get scared of being heckled, I don't do very well with criticism.

SAM

What are you up to tonight? We're about to meet my partner at Sully's for a drink if you were interested.

AUTUMN

Oh, I don't drink. Fucks with the meds. Thanks though.

Autumn points towards his head indicating he's crazy.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I just smoke weed.

RILEY

Doesn't that mess with your meds?

AUTUMN

Well, yeah, I guess it kinda does.

Autumn takes a drag and looks around uneasily.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I really appreciate it, but I haven't been out in a minute, I'd probably just make it awkward.

RILEY

Not awkward at all, I get it. It was nice meeting you, maybe we will see you again sometime.

Autumn takes a final drag and tosses his joint. He wants to go with them but struggles with social interaction. He is lonely.

AUTUMN

Hey, you know what, I'd love to go.

Autumn catches up to Riley and Sam and they begin walking down the street.

4. BAR INT.

Autumn, Sam, Riley, and Anthony sit at the bar. Everyone is drinking a beer besides Autumn who has a soda.

RILEY

I didn't even know being a comic was really a thing anymore. How long have you been performing?

AUTUMN

I'm not really a comic anymore, but I've been performing for most of my life. My mom left when I was little, and my dad was never around, so I think that lack of love and attention made me want to be in front of people. Also, I've never really been able to hold a job, so making fun of myself on stage for money seemed like an easy way to make a living.

ANTHONY

You can't work? Because of your...

AUTUMN

Borderline Personality Disorder and Bipolar.

ANTHONY

So you're like, what, retarded?

SAM

ANTHONY!

AUTUMN

Uh, kind of. It means I have different versions of myself.

ANTHONY

Like Dr. Jekyll?

AUTUMN

It's more like, entering conversations and relationships a certain way and suddenly exiting them in an unhealthy way. Like building a bridge of friendships and once it's built, I burn it down watching everyone burn alive including myself because I don't care what happens to me or anyone else. Like, happy one second, holes in the wall the next.

ANTHONY

Is it curable?

AUTUMN

I wish. No, but it's something that's treatable. I've been getting help for a little over two years now. It's been a process though. I've changed therapists and psychiatrists quite a bit. I still feel like I haven't found someone I totally feel comfortable with.

RILEY

Are you trying to perform full time?

Autumn looks down at his drink.

AUTUMN

I wanted to. Two years ago I got an audition on Upcoming Comedians and ended up receiving an offer.

RILEY

UC? I love that show. Why are you doing open mics? Shouldn't you be out in California?

Autumn is nervous to talk about his failures and what people will think about him.

AUTUMN
I should be, but I was, uh,
"cancelled".

RILEY
Cancelled?

ANTHONY
Like, cancel culture?

AUTUMN
Yeah.

Sam, Anthony, and Riley exchange glances.

SAM
So, you're a rapist?

AUTUMN
What?! No. I'm really sorry. I
shouldn't have come.

Autumn begins to leave.

RILEY
No, stay. You don't have to talk
about it, we don't care.

Autumn sits down.

ANTHONY
Maybe you don't but I do. What did
you do?

AUTUMN
I don't want to make anyone
uncomfortable.

SAM
It's cool, we don't judge.

AUTUMN
I was mentally and physically abusive
to my ex and people close to me. I
was manipulative and twisted
situations to project my anger onto
people and hurt them. It doesn't
excuse or change it, but being
medicated and understanding it has
helped me see who I was and make sure
I'm never that person again.

SAM
So, you got fired?

AUTUMN

I never officially accepted the offer. I just perform because I feel like I have to.

SAM

Have you tried talking to them since starting your treatment?

AUTUMN

No, I haven't, but no one will work with me now. I'm a liability.

ANTHONY

So, what are you supposed to do?

AUTUMN

I don't think I do anything.

RILEY

But what about the rest of your life?

AUTUMN

I've already wasted it. People hate me.

RILEY

What about the people you hurt? Did you make it up to them?

AUTUMN

I don't think it's possible to make it up. I've apologized but the damage I did can't be fixed with words.

RILEY

So, you just started performing again?

AUTUMN

Yeah. It's a miracle any club will let me. If you have allegations, people think you shouldn't be on stage. It's like having to sit alone at lunch. I've been turned down by almost every club in Columbus, but I met with the owner of The Foxhole and he said he would give me a chance, so I've been performing there some weekends. But like, I don't have any material. Just like tonight, I talk about my mental health because I feel like I have to. It makes me feel better than when I go to therapy.

SAM

What do you do during the week?

AUTUMN

I take care of my dad. He gets disability.

There is a pause in the conversation.

RILEY

I'm sorry, I feel like we're interrogating you. We are going to a Blue Jackets game this week if you want to join. Anthony's uncle can get us tickets.

ANTHONY

He got hit in the face with a puck and it blinded him.

SAM

If he's blind then why would he want free tickets?

ANTHONY

I don't know, I didn't ask him, it seemed insensitive. Maybe he just likes the smell of the ice.

AUTUMN

You sure you want me to come?

RILEY

Sure, You seem fine.

Riley smiles at Autumn.

ANTHONY

Just don't rape us!

SAM

Jesus Christ, Anthony, are you serious?

ANTHONY

What?! He's a comedian! It's called "dark humor".

Anthony winks.

SAM

It's called being an asshole.

5. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM

Autumn enters with fast food.

AUTUMN

I'm home.

Autumn's father is seated in his wheelchair, watching television. *The Andy Griffith Show* plays in the background.

DAD

Hello.

AUTUMN

Are you hungry? I brought food.

DAD

Yes. I thought we were waiting for your mother.

Autumn stares at his father and pities him.

AUTUMN

Let's go to the kitchen, Mom will be back later.

DAD

But what if I fall asleep?

AUTUMN

Then you'll see her in your dreams, now let's go eat.

6. INT. KITCHEN

Autumn washes dishes silently. There is an empty plate setting for his mother (This plate setting is never removed).

7. INT. BATHROOM

Autumn silently washes his father in the bathtub.

8. INT. DAD'S BEDROOM

Autumn tucks his father into bed.

DAD

Can you put on Andy?

Autumn pops open a DVD player and starts an episode of *The Andy Griffith Show*.

DAD (cont'd)

I like it for when I fall asleep.

AUTUMN

Sure.

DAD

Tell your mother I'm here when she gets home, okay?

AUTUMN

Yeah, okay.

DAD

I love you, Dad.

Autumn stares at his father.

AUTUMN

Love you too.

9. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

Autumn is smoking a joint. He is on the phone with DR. ASHLEY.

AUTUMN

He's been thinking my mom lives with us and that they're together still. He's also been calling me Dad, which is...weird.

DR. ASHLEY

Have you thought about a Home Health Aid?

AUTUMN

We can't afford much right now.

DR. ASHLEY

They can set you up on day-by-day payment. I know someone who I think would be a good fit for your father, she specializes in people like him. If you would like, I can give her a call and see if she's interested.

AUTUMN

Really?

DR. ASHLEY
I'll give her your contact
information.

AUTUMN
That's fine then. Thanks.

There's a pause in the conversation.

DR. ASHLEY
How have you been feeling lately?

Autumn hits his joint, and stares out into nothingness.

DR. ASHLEY
Autumn?

Autumn hangs up the phone.

10. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM

Autumn is laying on his bed looking at his phone. He sighs and bites his cheek hesitantly floating his fingers above the screen. He Googles himself knowing he shouldn't. A Google Doc reading "STOP SUPPORTING AUTUMN LILLY. HE IS A KNOWN ABUSER." is the top search result. He scrolls through countless YouTube videos about his "fall." He closes the tab and deletes his history. He locks his phone, sighs, and stares at the ceiling. A laugh-track from *The Andy Griffith Show* plays in the background.

11. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM

Autumn takes a plate from his father who is watching *The Andy Griffith Show*.

AUTUMN
I'm going out with some friends.

DAD
Where?

AUTUMN
A hockey game.

The doorbell rings. Autumn answers the door.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Hey...Ruth?

RUTH
Yes, hello! You must be Autumn.

AUTUMN

Yep, that's me. Thanks for coming.
This is the first time we've done
something like this. Hey Dad, I want
you to meet someone.

RUTH

Hi, Mr. Lilly!

DAD

Hello.

Ruth smiles and points to the television.

RUTH

I love this show! Would you mind if I
sat with you and watched it?

Dad hesitates to answer.

DAD

Sure, okay. Just know I'm happily
married.

AUTUMN

Chill, Dad, she's not a hooker.

Turning to Ruth.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

You sure you're okay? He can be a
lot.

RUTH

Absolutely, you have my number.

AUTUMN

Alright. Have fun, but not too much
fun. See you tonight.

12. EXT. HOCKEY STADIUM

Autumn is walking towards the stadium smoking a joint.
Riley, Sam, and Anthony wave to him as he approaches.

AUTUMN

Hey, thanks for the invite.

SAM

Do you know anything about hockey?

AUTUMN
Uh, I know there's a puck and
fighting.

RILEY
Should be enough.

13. INT. HOCKEY STADIUM

Seated left to right are Autumn, Riley, Sam, and Anthony. A
player is slammed against the glass. The crowd cheers.

ANTHONY
GET THE FUCK UP!

SAM
COME ON, YOU FUCKING PUSSY!

Autumn turns towards Riley.

AUTUMN
How have you been?

RILEY
Been good. Just working a lot.

AUTUMN
What do you do?

RILEY
I'm a graphic designer. I do
advertising for Riverside Hospital.

AUTUMN
That's cool. I was born there.

RILEY
Hey! Me too.

Another player is slammed against the glass.

SAM
GET FUCKED, BITCH.

ANTHONY
IF I COULD, I'D DIG UP YOUR DEAD
MOTHER AND FUCK HER.

Anthony whispers to Sam.

ANTHONY (cont'd)
His mom actually did die last year.

SAM

Dick.

RILEY

I looked you up.

AUTUMN

You saw it all? I'm sorry.

RILEY

I understand wanting to grow. That is, if you're genuine about it.

AUTUMN

I don't feel like that person anymore. I want to be good.

A player skates up to the glass and points at Anthony who is antagonizing him.

ANTHONY

YOU FUCKING SUCK. DON'T MAKE ME COME OUT THERE. I CAN SKATE CIRCLES AROUND YOU-REALLY?

The hockey player is flipping them off.

ANTHONY (cont'd)

REALLY? ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT.

Anthony begins climbing across the seats towards the glass while Sam pulls them back, scolding them.

RILEY

You live at home, right? With your dad?

AUTUMN

Yep.

RILEY

And how's that?

AUTUMN

It's okay I guess. He's been an alcoholic most of my life and he drank so much it gave him brain damage. He's pretty bad off now, so I take care of him.

RILEY

I'm sorry.

AUTUMN

Oh, it's cool. Growing up it kinda sucked. When my mom left, my dad took it out on me. He would blackout and come after me, just because I was there. So, that wasn't too fun. Not a great memory. But I feel bad for him, and I mean I love him too despite everything he's done.

RILEY

My dad died when I was in second grade.

AUTUMN

I'm sorry. I can't imagine how that feels.

RILEY

I really miss him.

AUTUMN

I'm sorry.

Sam and Anthony continue to scream at the game and players.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I'll be honest, I'm really nervous. Would you want to go smoke a joint?

RILEY

Please.

14. EXT. HOCKEY STADIUM PARKING LOT

Autumn and Riley are smoking weed, sitting on a curb.

AUTUMN

I fucking love weed. If there isn't weed in heaven, I'm going to be so fucking pissed.

RILEY

I'm pretty sure heaven is only weed.

Autumn hits the joint.

AUTUMN

This has been fun. You never realize how much you miss hanging out with humans until you've been cast out of society.

Autumn stares at Riley.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Thank you.

RILEY

For what?

AUTUMN

Just this. Being normal. It's hard for me.

RILEY

I'm not normal either. I mean, I'm not cancelled, but I've had my moments. It sucks to admit but I struggle with self-worth. I've had a problem of letting people treat me like shit. I also have depression. I've been working through it and I'm in a better place than I used to be, but I just feel like my life lacks direction sometimes.

AUTUMN

It sounds like you have a lot of good things going for you though, with your work and stuff.

RILEY

I mean a bigger purpose. Like what I'm born to do. I can feel there's something missing. I wish I knew what it was.

AUTUMN

You've got a lot of life left to find it. You will.

RILEY

It feels like I'm not even living, just floating and watching the world pass me by. Sometimes I feel happy and then I look in the mirror and I get sad. Being sad is weird, especially when I have no reason to be.

AUTUMN

You don't need a reason to be sad, you can just be sad.

There is a silence.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
 Would you want to get dinner this
 week?

RILEY
 Alone?

AUTUMN
 Of course not, I meant with-

RILEY
 I'm joking. Sure. I can only listen
 to Anthony and Sam bicker so much.
 I'm free Tuesday. I've heard
 Michelangelo's downtown is really
 good.

AUTUMN
 Sounds great.

Autumn and Riley stare at the sunset in the distance,
 surrounded by cars in the parking lot. It is peaceful.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
 I'm fucking high right now.

RILEY
 Same. We should probably get back.

AUTUMN
 I don't even know if I can walk right
 now. I think I'm paralyzed.

RILEY
 I feel it too.

They laugh.

15. EXT. HOCKEY STADIUM

Autumn, Riley, Sam, and Anthony are walking out of the
 stadium with the crowd. The game is over.

ANTHONY
 I swear the Blue Jackets are fucking
 unstoppable. What did you think,
 Autumn?

AUTUMN
 Pretty much what I expected. Lots of
 fighting and I saw the puck. I had a
 good time.

ANTHONY

Let's hang again... I'll hit you up once I know what my work schedule looks like.

AUTUMN

I'm always around.

RILEY

And I'll see you Tuesday.

SAM

Tuesday? What's happening on Tuesday?

RILEY

We're gonna grab dinner.

SAM

Where? Why can't we come to dinner?

AUTUMN

You can come to dinner. Dinner is for everyone.

RILEY

Because I'm allowed to hang out with friends other than you two, Sam.

ANTHONY

You're hanging out? Alone? If he offers you anything to drink, you make him drink it first.

AUTUMN

I'm not a fuckin' rapist, dude!

RILEY

Seriously, everyone please shut the fuck up.

AUTUMN

So Tuesday?

RILEY

Right.

AUTUMN

Alright, I think I'm out. I'll text you. Thanks again for the invite.

As Autumn walks away, Sam, Anthony, and Riley wave.

SAM

Be careful Riley, we care about you too much to let something happen.

16. INT. DR. FOLLY'S OFFICE

Autumn is seated on a couch across from his therapist.

DR. FOLLY

What did you think about your triggers? Did you complete the exercise?

Autumn grabs the workbook from his bag and opens it.

AUTUMN

Yeah, so, I pretty much marked all of them. My biggest triggers are my thoughts and memories. I can't focus on anything. I feel fear and embarrassment about being cancelled. I have anger about it. When I get mad, I have a problem being verbally abusive and smashing technology.

DR. FOLLY

You've also been physically abusive. You need to be transparent in understanding your abuse, it is necessary to understand how your survivors feel.

AUTUMN

I read the things people say about me online.

DR. FOLLY

People are allowed to disapprove of you and the things you have done. If you hadn't been cancelled those behaviors would have continued. You can apologize but that doesn't mean people will suddenly change their opinion of you. What you have done in your life has hurt people deeply. Some never recover from being abused. Your mental health has been much better since you've been off social media. People close to you-

AUTUMN

People who were close to me are who cancelled me!

(MORE)

AUTUMN (cont'd)

They're the ones who ruined my life!
No one thinks I am a good person. I
don't even think I am a good person.

DR. FOLLY

The people who came out about you did
so because they feared for their
safety during your mania. Have you
been taking your medicine?

AUTUMN

Yeah.

DR. FOLLY

And how do you feel since upping your
dosage?

AUTUMN

I feel pretty much the same. They
help me think, but when reality sets
in, I'm still angry.

DR. FOLLY

Part of treatment and medication is
also making the choice to change our
perspective. Why are you angry?

AUTUMN

I'm angry because I don't understand
the idea of publicly shaming someone
into disappearing forever. I have
dreams still. I wanted to be able to
do something with my life, not just
pass the days. I wanted purpose, and
a bunch of people online who get off
telling everyone I'm a fucking maniac
took that from me. I want to be a
good person. It's hard to talk about
because no one understands what it's
like to get hundreds of messages
calling you a piece of shit. I'm such
a bad person. It was hard enough
getting a job with my brain before
all this shit. All I want to do is go
back to my normal life. I don't want
to think about my mistakes all day
every day. I feel sick when I think
about those things. I'm not that
person anymore, but I don't know how
to show people that. When I get angry
it's like a switch flips in my brain
and I have no control.

(MORE)

AUTUMN (cont'd)

When I get angry it shoots down my arms and spine. My brain gets foggy and I want to fucking break everything.

DR. FOLLY

Lots of successful people have BPD and Bipolar.

AUTUMN

Yeah, but they aren't cancelled.

DR. FOLLY

They may not be cancelled, but they are people with mental struggles who are able to overcome them and take back their illness, and they do that without hurting people.

AUTUMN

I honestly would be fine if I didn't have these allegations. It's just like, I miss being happy.

DR. FOLLY

You need to own this, Autumn. It's time to start moving on. It's been over two years.

AUTUMN

A year feels like a day when you dissociate because of public humiliation.

DR. FOLLY

Every time we meet you talk about all the reasons you are a bad person, but never what you are doing to become a better person. When you have been feeling overwhelmed and violent, what has been your coping mechanism?

AUTUMN

I took my television out of my room and moved it into my Dad's. It's safer that way, and I haven't punched holes in my walls in a while. But my verbal abuse... I'm still struggling with it when manic.

DR. FOLLY

How has your father been?

AUTUMN

Getting worse. He's started calling me "Dad."

DR. FOLLY

Do you feel like his dad?

AUTUMN

Yeah, I do. Oh, and I met someone. Just a friend, but we are getting dinner Tuesday.

DR. FOLLY

That's great.

AUTUMN

I told them about my cancellation.

DR. FOLLY

So, they know about your past and still want to be your friend?

AUTUMN

Maybe. She seems really nice.

DR. FOLLY

See? You have good things in your life. Your journey may be more difficult because of your past, but everyday that you move past it, your present and future become more important. But you have to understand the people you hurt have to live with it too. Abusive behavior is a learned routine. It is up to you to break the cycle. It's time for the next chapter in your life. If you really have changed, it's time to start living as a changed person.

17. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM

Autumn enters from the front door.

RUTH

Hey Autumn!

AUTUMN

How's it been?

Ruth smiles gathering her things.

RUTH
How was it, Mr. Lilly?

DAD
Fun.

AUTUMN
What did you do?

RUTH
We watched Andy.

AUTUMN
Ah, of course.

RUTH
Could I talk to you?

18. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

AUTUMN
What's up? Did he touch you?

RUTH
Goodness, no. Nothing like that, he's
a kind man.

AUTUMN
Really? News to me.

RUTH
I think that your father needs to be
in a full-time care center.

AUTUMN
Okay, why? We can't afford that. Dr.
Ashley told me that since he stopped
drinking, he might eventually make a
recovery and be able to do things
without my help.

RUTH
What were you doing before you had an
aid?

AUTUMN
Before?

RUTH
Yes, when you go out.

AUTUMN

I usually just had him watch television.

RUTH

You left him alone?

AUTUMN

Uh, yeah. Now that you say it out loud it sounds bad.

RUTH

Autumn, your father is barely able to clean himself or use the bathroom alone.

AUTUMN

I know. Who do you think takes care of him while you're gone?

RUTH

But what about when you're gone?

AUTUMN

Well, I thought that was why we hired you, but now you're quitting!

RUTH

I'm not quitting. While we were watching television, your father had an involuntary bowel movement. He didn't even notice. When I asked him about it, he said that his "dad will clean it up".

AUTUMN

I bathe him nightly. I had no idea. I've been having a really hard time mentally lately...

RUTH

I'm going to have Dr. Ashley call you tonight. I'll be back same time tomorrow.

AUTUMN

Ruth... I'm sorry...

Ruth begins walking to her car. She turns around.

RUTH

I know what you've had to go through. But you can't do the same to him, intentional or not.

Ruth gets in her car and Autumn watches as she pulls away.

19. INT. AUTUMN'S KITCHEN

Autumn is washing dishes silently. There is an empty plate setting for his mother. His father is sitting in his wheelchair in front of the television. Autumn stares at his father. He pities him.

20. INT. BATHROOM

Autumn washes his father and looks over to his pair of khakis that are folded over a chair. He stares at them thinking about the abuse his dad put him through, and feels guilty for leaving him alone. He continues to wash his father.

21. EXT AUTUMN'S PORCH (NIGHT)

Autumn is smoking a joint looking at his phone. He begins typing his name into the search bar and pauses. His phone rings, it's Dr. Ashley.

AUTUMN

Hey.

Autumn begins pacing while he smokes.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Why? I mean, yes, but why? Should I be concerned? If this is because... Okay.

The phone call is short. Autumn hits his joint and stares out into the nothingness.

22. INT. DR. ASHLEY'S OFFICE

Autumn is seated across from Dr. Ashley.

DR. ASHLEY

Thanks for coming, Autumn. How have you been?

AUTUMN

I've been fine. So what's the big secret you couldn't tell me over the phone?

DR. ASHLEY

Do you know what Korsakoff Syndrome is?

Autumn shakes his head.

DR. ASHLEY (cont'd)

It's a rare form of dementia, usually caused by chronic alcohol abuse, which leads to a vitamin deficiency. Alcohol keeps the body from absorbing enough thiamine to support brain activity. It causes permanent memory impairment and it's the reason your dad's day-to-day functioning is getting worse.

AUTUMN

So, he's going to die?

DR. ASHLEY

No, but patients with Korsakoff Syndrome rarely recover. Many require at least some form of supervision and social support, either at home or in a care facility. In the case of your father, I believe a care facility is in his best interest.

AUTUMN

But you said he could get better. We can't afford that...I don't work. We live off his disability. How am I supposed to pay? What about our house?

DR. ASHLEY

We have systems in place that make sure patients like your father are taken care of. Most patients use Medicare or Medicaid. We will connect you with the right people to help you.

AUTUMN

So, what was the point in hiring Ruth if you're just going to send him away anyway?

DR. ASHLEY

Ruth works for the care facility we think would be best suited for your father. She will still work with him daily.

Autumn sits quietly.

AUTUMN

Is this because of the piss?

DR. ASHLEY

Your father needs more care than you are able to give him right now.

AUTUMN

More care than I can give him? I do literally everything for him. I wash him, I make his meals, I put him to bed. I wipe his fucking ass. I'm more of a father to him than he ever was to me. And now because he drank himself to death I'm the bad guy? Are you even listening to yourself right now? Do you know what that man did to me?

DR. ASHLEY

That doesn't change the fact that he needs care.

Autumn sits silently.

AUTUMN

When?

DR. ASHLEY

We would like to start planning the transition process in the next couple weeks, with him fully moved by the end of next month.

AUTUMN

What about the insurance?

DR. ASHLEY

We will make sure you are set up by the time he transitions.

Autumn scoffs in disbelief.

AUTUMN

Alright, well, I guess I have no say in this.

DR. ASHLEY

You aren't losing him. He will be a car ride away.

AUTUMN

What about our home?

DR. ASHLEY

You will not be losing your home, Autumn. Your father will continue to receive his disability.

AUTUMN

Is this some sort of punishment for leaving him alone?

DR. ASHLEY

What? No, not at all. We care about your father and his well-being, just like you do. We just want him to be-

AUTUMN

To be safe? Like how safe I was when he would lock me in my room and beat the shit out of me? No. Fuck you. You aren't taking him.

DR. ASHLEY

Autumn-

AUTUMN

No. Fuck this. Who the fuck are you to tell me how to take care of my dad? You think you can just take him away because you feel like it? Like I'd just show up here like some puppy that will just do what it's told? I'm mentally ill, not retarded.

DR. ASHLEY

Autumn, listen-

AUTUMN

No, you listen to me. Stay the fuck away from me and my dad. And tell Ruth she can fuck off too. Fuck both of you. You aren't taking him.

Dr. Ashley attempts to speak again but Autumn stands up.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Save it, you fucking bitch.

Autumn storms out of the office slamming the door as hard as he can.

23. INT. PARKING GARAGE

Autumn storms to the car and slams the door as he gets in. He grips the steering wheel until his hands are red. He manically begins punching the steering wheel and screaming obscenities. It is emotional. He continues to punch the steering wheel and dashboard of his car until his knuckles are bloody. He is out of breath and stares at his reflection in the rear-view mirror. He begins to cry.

24. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM

Autumn lays on his bed staring at the ceiling. He Googles his name. The same results pop up. He continues to stare into nothingness. In the background a laugh track from *The Andy Griffith Show* plays.

25. DAD'S ROOM

Autumn stands in the entryway of his bedroom and watches his father sleep. He listens to the episode of *Andy Griffith* for a moment as he watches him. He sees a pair of khakis folded over the chair. He sighs. He takes out his phone and looks at the doctor's number. He places the call.

26. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM

Autumn is getting ready to meet Riley. Ruth is working with Autumn's dad.

AUTUMN
I'm going out.

DAD
Where?

AUTUMN
Dinner with a friend.

DAD
A girlfriend?

AUTUMN
Just a friend.

As Autumn exits the front door to his car, Ruth follows him quickly to the porch.

27. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

RUTH

Hey, Autumn I wanted to say thank you. For making the right choice to move your dad to the care facility.

AUTUMN

Oh, I didn't have a choice. Dr. Ashley pretty much forced me to. I don't give a fuck what you think.

Ruth looks hurt.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

So? Are you done or?

RUTH

I didn't mean to cause any harm, Dr. Ashley told me that-

AUTUMN

Here's a message for Dr. Ashley. Suck my dick. How's that? And you can join him too if you want. Why don't we make it an all-out three way? Fuck off, Ruth.

Autumn exits to his car.

28. EXT. MICHELANGELO'S PARKING LOT

Autumn is smoking a joint in his car. He is nervous. A cop pulls up in the spot near him. He ducks down, taking a drag hiding from the police.

AUTUMN

Fuck! Fuck!

29. EXT. MICHELANGELO'S

Autumn is standing in front of Michelangelo's waiting for Riley. She approaches. She looks dressed up.

AUTUMN

Wow. You look amazing.

He looks down at his own clothes.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Well, fuck. I'm really underdressed.

RILEY

You look fine!

RILEY (cont'd)

We probably should have made a reservation.

AUTUMN

Probably. It's a Tuesday so I doubt they'll be busy. But maybe they'll feel bad for us because I look like I'm homeless and let us sit in the back alley like that movie about those two dogs.

RILEY

I do love my meal to include the distinct decor of garbage.

AUTUMN

Then perfect. Bon appetit.

30. INT. MICHELANGELO'S

Autumn and Riley are at the host stand.

HOST

Completely booked.

AUTUMN

Really? Nothing?

HOST

You can make a reservation online.

AUTUMN

But we're here in person right now. Dude! I can see empty tables. Can we reserve one of those for right now? The place isn't even full.

HOST

We have a fantastic app, sir. It's incredibly easy to use.

AUTUMN

You know what's easier? Letting us sit down at one of those empty tables right now, here in reality.

HOST

I'm sorry, but those tables are for paying customers.

AUTUMN

That's what we're trying to do right now! We want to give you our money!

HOST

And we will gladly accept it, sir. As long as you make a reservation using the app.

AUTUMN

What if we sit in that corner?

Autumn gestures to an empty table in the corner.

HOST

Reserved.

AUTUMN

There?!

HOST

Reserved.

AUTUMN

What about there?

HOST

Reserved.

Autumn stares at the Host for a moment.

AUTUMN

I don't suppose you have anything available by the dumpster?

31. EXT. MICHELANGELO'S

Autumn and Riley are walking in front of the restaurant.

RILEY

Well, that went about as well as it could have, I think.

AUTUMN

Yeah, it was pretty much perfect. Thanks for a great night.

RILEY

So, now what?

AUTUMN

I've got an idea.

32. INT. THE FOXHOLE

Autumn and Riley sit in an empty booth. The club is mainly empty and no one is performing.

AUTUMN
Bad idea?

RILEY
Good idea.

AUTUMN
Cool.

RILEY
So, that's it huh?

Riley stares at the empty stage.

RILEY (cont'd)
What you were born to do?

AUTUMN
I used to think so.

Riley turns back to Autumn.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
I don't feel about it the same way now. I'm not funny anymore. No one wants to just see a maniac with BPD and Bipolar vent. I lack the confidence I used to have. Plus it feels weird making fun of shit now.

RILEY
I didn't know much about BPD or Bipolar before I saw you perform. I think people would connect with it. Are you scared?

AUTUMN
I don't know if you've noticed, but I'm kind of a bitch. If we were in an active shooter situation, I wouldn't try to save anyone. Most likely, I'd be the first guy out, using the women and children as shields.

RILEY
Wow. That just got really dark. Let's change the subject.

AUTUMN

Do you live at home?

RILEY

No. I live near OSU with a friend. I'm getting my Master's in Graphic Design. I know it's just a stupid piece of paper, but I want more money.

AUTUMN

What's it like working for the clinic?

RILEY

Busy, boring. If I could do my life over again, I would become a painter. I like to create.

AUTUMN

Well, why don't you become a painter?

RILEY

Because there are a million artists in Columbus, and they are a lot better than I am.

AUTUMN

Yeah, but there are always people better than us at something. Your art is unique and individualized to you, so no one can do what you do. What do you paint? Do you have anything I could see?

RILEY

Uh, sure.

Riley opens her phone to a picture. It is a canvas painting of a man holding a girl on a swing that hangs off the branch of an oak tree.

AUTUMN

What are you talking about, this is incredible.

RILEY

Thanks. I need to work on my self-worth.

AUTUMN

I'd be honest if I thought it sucked. Do you submit to galleries or shows or whatever it is artists do?

RILEY

Nah, I'm too nervous of being rejected.

AUTUMN

Listen, my entire life is rejection, it's not that bad. The worst that can happen is they say no.

RILEY

Rejection is hard for me. When I think of it, I feel sick. Just like frozen, like it's confirmation that I'm not good enough. So the opinion of someone on my art hurts me deeply.

AUTUMN

But they could like it, and even if they don't just keep submitting. For every person who doesn't connect with your art, there is someone who will. I'd love to see what else you've made.

RILEY

I'll show you sometime, but you also have to say you like them.

AUTUMN

I mean, I want you to like me but I wouldn't lie. Art to me is like an extension of our soul. It's unique to each person. Whether it's a joke, a song, a painting, it starts deep in our chest and it hurts to be lied to about it because it's so vulnerable.

Riley smiles.

RILEY

I agree, it's also why it feels so good when it's accepted. Nothing feels better than knowing someone connects with what I've made. Especially for painting. I've always felt it's harder to get people to understand the meaning of a picture than connect with writing. I don't have the opportunity to sway an opinion with words.

(MORE)

RILEY (cont'd)

I have to hope they see it in a way that touches them.

AUTUMN

The only way to do that is to put it out there. If you ever decide to submit, I would be there to support you. I've never been to a gallery.

RILEY

How do you deal with rejection? In comedy, I mean.

AUTUMN

That's a good question. There was a point in my life where I welcomed rejection because I thought it meant I was doing something right. What I considered to be funny was offensive to someone else, but I thought that being a comedian let me defy that rejection and it made me feel invincible. I'm afraid of it now though. I can't tell the types of jokes I used to because they don't come across as jokes. With my past, I've had to reprogram what I find to be funny, but nothing seems funny anymore. I think that's why I've started just sort of public speaking about my mental health. I don't want to face rejection anymore. I feel rejected in every aspect of my life and it hurts.

RILEY

I think you should perform still. It's healing.

AUTUMN

I want to.

RILEY

What about this weekend? You said I should submit and face rejection, I think you should do the same.

AUTUMN

You're right. Okay, I will.

There is a silence.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

...Why are you here with me?

RILEY

I'm allowed to like you.

AUTUMN

Well, you shouldn't.

RILEY

Do you like me?

AUTUMN

I do, but I don't think I should. My brain is really, really fucked up. I don't want to hurt you. You read what my ex said about me.

RILEY

So you don't want me to like you because of things you said and did before I knew you? And those things are representative of you now?

AUTUMN

No, of course not...But it's only been two years.

RILEY

How long are you going to live for? A year is part of your life. If you live to be 100, it's a whole percentage you don't get back. You deserve to be normal and have normal friends, and normal relationships. You said yourself that's what you want.

AUTUMN

It would be selfish and wrong for me to like you.

RILEY

Why do you talk about yourself like you are a monster? Why do you paint this picture of a violent, abusive asshole every time we talk? I don't get it. If you want normal relationships, you have to start with one.

Autumn sits quietly.

AUTUMN

I don't know what to do.

Riley sticks her hand out to Autumn across the table. Autumn stares at her hand for a moment and takes it in his own.

RILEY

It's okay.

They sit quietly staring at one another.

33. INT. AUTUMN'S CAR, MICHELANGELO'S PARKING LOT

Autumn is dropping Riley off at her car. He pulls into the parking lot.

AUTUMN

I like you.

RILEY

I like you too. Would it be okay if I kissed you?

AUTUMN

Are you just doing this, because you feel bad for me?

RILEY

I'm doing this, because I think you are a good person with a lot of personal struggles, and I like you.

AUTUMN

I think you are a good person too.

RILEY

Then why can't we be good together?

Riley kisses Autumn, and Autumn kisses Riley back.

34. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

Autumn is smoking a joint. His phone rings, it's Dr. Ashley. Autumn puts him on speaker phone as he smokes.

AUTUMN

What's up?

DR. ASHLEY

Hey Autumn. How are you doing?

AUTUMN

I was doing fine until you called. What do you want?

DR. ASHLEY

Ruth passed along the message you gave her earlier.

AUTUMN

Oh good. Thanks for calling.

Autumn hangs up the phone manically. He closes his eyes and sighs. He calls Dr. Ashley back.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Can't you just text me?

DR. ASHLEY

I wanted to tell you that I'm sorry for how our meeting went. I know this isn't easy. Ruth and I care about your father very much and I understand I came across as cold. But I promise you Autumn, your father will be safer and happier in a facility.

AUTUMN

Can you stop calling it a facility? It sounds like he's being shipped to the kennel.

DR. ASHLEY

We were hoping to start the transition process at the start of next month. It should be easier than usual because Ruth will be working with your father still, so she will be the one helping provide the transition services.

AUTUMN

He doesn't even know he's leaving yet. I haven't said anything.

DR. ASHLEY

The first part of the transition is informing your father of his move. Ruth will be there to help explain. I will send you some resources to review about how to have that conversation.

Autumn is heartbroken thinking about that conversation.

AUTUMN

Okay. Can I go now?

DR. ASHLEY

Thank you for taking my call. If you need anything at all, please call me.

Autumn hangs up. He takes a hit of his joint, and stares out into the nothingness.

AUTUMN

Fuck.

35. INT. GROCERY STORE

Autumn is shopping alone. He pushes his shopping cart down the aisle as he texts. He is in a group text with Anthony, Riley, and Sam.

ANTHONY (TEXT MESSAGE)

Coming to see you this weekend DAWG.
(Fire emoji) Don't shoot up the place! (Laughing crying emoji)

Separate text.

ANTHONY (TEXT MESSAGE)

(Skull emoji)

Separate text.

ANTHONY (TEXT MESSAGE) (cont'd)

(Tombstone emoji)

Separate text.

ANTHONY (TEXT MESSAGE)

(100 Emoji)

Autumn grabs a box of cereal off a shelf and tosses it in his cart.

SAM (TEXT MESSAGE)

WTF?

RILEY (TEXT MESSAGE)

Why do you think it's okay to make those kinds of jokes?

SAM (TEXT MESSAGE)

I think I want to break up.

Separate text.

SAM (TEXT MESSAGE)

I'm not joking.

Anthony does the "Haha" reply on Sam's text.

Autumn answers.

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)
I don't know if I'm up to it this weekend. Haven't been feeling great.

RILEY (TEXT MESSAGE)
You promised!

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)
Alright, but be prepared to be depressed. I have no material.

SAM (TEXT MESSAGE)
What was your old material like?

RILEY (TEXT MESSAGE)
You can look it up. YouTube exists!

Autumn stares at his phone.

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)
Wasn't that great either.

ANTHONY (TEXT MESSAGE)
It doesn't matter, man, there's probably not going to be anyone there anyway!

SAM (TEXT MESSAGE)
Anthony, I'm removing you from the group chat and blocking you.

A new thread pops up on Autumn's phone with Autumn, Riley, and Sam. The name of the group is "Anthony is an asshole club"

Autumn locks his phone and continues to push the cart.

36. INT. DR. FOLLY'S OFFICE

DR. FOLLY
I'm so sorry, Autumn. How has your father responded?

AUTUMN
I haven't told him yet. Our In-Home Aid is going to help me break the news next week.

DR. FOLLY

Are you prepared to do something like that?

AUTUMN

I don't think I get much of a choice.

DR. FOLLY

How do you feel?

AUTUMN

Sad, I guess.

DR. FOLLY

Do you want to talk about it?

AUTUMN

Nah.

DR. FOLLY

Well then, the last time we met, you said you were seeing a girl.

AUTUMN

Yeah, her name is Riley.

DR. FOLLY

How did it go?

AUTUMN

Good. I like her a lot. But I'm not going to date her or anything.

DR. FOLLY

Why?

Autumn points to himself.

AUTUMN

Abuser, remember? I don't want her to get hurt. I don't know if you forgot, but I have violent tendencies.

DR. FOLLY

Autumn, you are in control of your body.

AUTUMN

Whatever fucked up chemicals are in my brain control my body. They make me do whatever they say, whenever they want. I wouldn't be able to, you know, "emotionally support anyone."

DR. FOLLY

You emotionally support your father.

AUTUMN

I mean, like, caring about other people. I'm selfish, and lazy, and when people cry I get angry. I'm jealous and paranoid, and emotionally abusive. I get manic over nothing and make people feel bad for just being around me...and if you get in my face, I...

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I want to be a good person.

DR. FOLLY

Isolating yourself from society doesn't make you a good person, Autumn. It creates a cycle of self-destruction.

AUTUMN

As long as I'm the only one that I'm destroying, I'm okay with that.

DR. FOLLY

Well, I'm not, and I'm sure a lot of other people wouldn't be either.

AUTUMN

What am I supposed to do? I recognize the type of person I am and what I'm capable of. Everyone does. It's all over the internet. In my eyes, I have two choices: live like Gollum for the rest of my life, or kill myself.

DR. FOLLY

Why do you keep threatening that? It's manipulative.

AUTUMN

I don't know what to do.

DR. FOLLY

No matter what you do, the heavens are not going to just open up and say you're forgiven.

AUTUMN

I wish they would.

DR. FOLLY

There are always going to be people who dislike you for the things you have said and done. At the same time, there are always going to be people who understand you. Your life is not over, and you need to stop acting like it is. At this point, it seems as if you are the one labeling yourself. When you met Riley, did she INSTANTLY know you had been "cancelled?"

AUTUMN

No, she didn't. But it's the first thing I had to tell her. It's awful having to apologize to someone the first time you meet them.

DR. FOLLY

Why is it the first thing you have to tell people?

AUTUMN

I don't want to be dishonest. That would just make everything worse.

DR. FOLLY

And so then she told you to fuck off?

AUTUMN

No, but I don't think she understands how messed up I am.

DR. FOLLY

You are victimizing yourself. You should be upset about what happened to you because you need to take it as a lesson on what not to do with relationships. At this point you are constantly feeling bad for yourself.

AUTUMN

Why would you say that?

DR. FOLLY

Because I care about you. You were cancelled, you were called out for being a misogynistic abuser. You were blacklisted. You have a past. You need to accept those things. Not wallow in them.

AUTUMN

But my Bipolar...

DR. FOLLY

So what? What if you get cancer? Are you going to sit around saying, "I have cancer I'm going to die" every single day? To every person you meet? Would you really introduce yourself by saying "I have cancer"?

AUTUMN

Probably! I would probably get a lot of nice, free shit that way!

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

It's different though.

DR. FOLLY

No, it's not. People face challenges every day. Much worse than your situation. It's a life change, and if you want to live your life then you need to start living it.

AUTUMN

So what? I'm supposed to act like nothing happened?

DR. FOLLY

You aren't supposed to live like nothing happened. Live like you know your past is fucked up and that you were a piece of shit. Embrace your mental illness. Control it, don't let it control you.

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN

What if I work hard and lose everything again?

DR. FOLLY

Then you start over again.

Autumn nods.

DR. FOLLY

What are your dreams?

AUTUMN
I've told you them.

DR. FOLLY
Tell me again. Let's say in a perfect world, where you haven't been cancelled, what would you do? How would you feel? Close your eyes and try to tell me.

AUTUMN
I'd rather not.

DR. FOLLY
Please.

He begrudgingly closes his eyes.

AUTUMN
This is dumb.

DR. FOLLY
If you can't think of anything, then we'll stop.

Autumn is thinking. It is silent.

AUTUMN
I guess it feels...like this film of gray that's around my heart is gone.

DR. FOLLY
And what does that feel like?

Autumn opens his eyes.

AUTUMN
I don't want to do this.

DR. FOLLY
It's okay.

Autumn closes his eyes.

AUTUMN
Um...It feels like...

Autumn stops himself.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
It feels like this memory I have of my mom and dad.

DR. FOLLY
What does that feel like?

Autumn pauses. Autumn keeps his eyes closed.

DR. FOLLY
Can I ask what the memory is of?

Autumn sits silently.

AUTUMN
I don't know if it's actually real.
My mom would make us dinner, and we
would sit in the living room and
watch *The Andy Griffith Show*. I
remember asking if I could sit
between them on the couch because I
didn't want to make one of them sad.
And we just kinda sit there. I can
see them both, and I can feel that
they love me.

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
It makes me feel safe.

DR. FOLLY
And if you were safe, what would you
want to do?

AUTUMN
I thought I wanted to do stand-up.
But now I don't know.

DR. FOLLY
Why would you not do what you love?

AUTUMN
Because I thought performing was
something it wasn't. I didn't fit in.
My jokes were cruel. I made fun of
things I shouldn't.

DR. FOLLY
Is that not something that's allowed
on stage?

AUTUMN
I don't know. I used to think on
stage, of course, but I made those
types of jokes off stage to people
who didn't find them funny.

(MORE)

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I would make them even when they said not to, and now...I don't think I was ever that funny.

DR. FOLLY

What would you do instead?

AUTUMN

I don't know.

DR. FOLLY

I think you should write down some things that interest you, and see if it could be suitable as a career. We can make those things happen.

AUTUMN

I can't, nowhere would hire me.

DR. FOLLY

We're writing this as though you are safe. That's paranoia. Sometimes the things we thought were good for us turn out not to be. What you recognize about yourself and the environments that are bad for you, shows you are ready to move on. You want to, you just need some help. And that's what I'm here for.

Dr. Folly smiles warmly.

AUTUMN

Thanks.

DR. FOLLY

I'm really glad you came today, Autumn. Next time we meet, we can start going over your interests. Please call me if you need anything.

AUTUMN

Alright. Good session doc, thanks.

Autumn stands up and walks to the door.

DR. FOLLY

You are going to be okay.

Autumn exits.

37. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM

Autumn is getting ready to go to The Foxhole to perform. He is tying a tie. He stares in the mirror and looks at himself. He looks at the tie in his hands. He ties it into a noose. It's implied he is thinking about hanging. He unties the noose and continues knotting his tie.

38. INT. THE FOXHOLE. BACKSTAGE

The Foxhole has a small crowd. Autumn is backstage reviewing jokes on notecards, getting ready to perform. He is watching another comedian finish up. Someone behind him calls his name.

VINCENT

Autumn?

Autumn turns around and quickly pockets the cards.

AUTUMN

Vince?

VINCENT

Hey, man! I thought that was you.
Good to see you.

AUTUMN

What are you doing here?

Autumn looks embarrassed.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I thought you were out in California?

VINCENT

I'm back visiting the folks. Thought
I'd pop in and watch some newbies.

Autumn is not prepared to talk.

AUTUMN

How have you been?

VINCENT

Can't complain, man. Cali's the shit.
Literally. Like, there is actual
human feces in the streets. It's
insane.

AUTUMN

Sounds awesome.

VINCENT

So, you're performing still?

AUTUMN

Not really. Just like for fun sometimes. I'm not trying to do anything.

VINCENT

What happened to you? You kinda just disappeared. You don't have social media anymore, right?

AUTUMN

Uh, no, nope. I'm off the grid.

VINCENT

Listen, man...I'm really sorry about what happened.

AUTUMN

Don't be. It's my fault.

VINCENT

You must be humiliated.

AUTUMN

Yeah, it's probably just because of the public shaming though. No big deal.

VINCENT

Did you really do everything they said?

Autumn is at a loss for words. Vincent takes the hint.

VINCENT (cont'd)

Sorry. It doesn't matter. I'm glad to see you. The show wasn't the same without you. It would have been wild.

Autumn tenses up.

AUTUMN

Thanks.

VINCENT

It's been an insane year for sure. Did you hear I'm getting a Netflix special?

AUTUMN

No, I didn't.

VINCENT

Yeah, man, yeah. They say I'm like some "prodigy of comedy."

AUTUMN

Well, that's great.

VINCENT

You're on next?

AUTUMN

I guess.

VINCENT

Man, this is awesome. Autumn Lilly doing standup again. You aren't still making rape jokes...Probably can't with the...

Autumn is staring at Vincent.

VINCENT (cont'd)

You know what, I'm just going to stop talking. Would you want to get lunch before I fly back to LA? I'm free Sunday.

AUTUMN

I don't know.

VINCENT

Come on, man! It'll be like old times.

AUTUMN

I don't think it would be a good idea.

VINCENT

Why? Because I'll tell everyone I found you?

AUTUMN

No, no. It's just I've been in treatment and...

VINCENT

And your treatment says you aren't allowed to have friends?

AUTUMN

No. But...

VINCENT

You were too good to be playing little clubs like this. If you wanted I could try to see if anyone at UC would talk with you. It's been over two years, and you said you're in treatment. That's something they would want to see.

AUTUMN

I'm not getting treatment to seem like a good person. I actually need it. Plus, I'm not funny anymore.

VINCENT

What are you doing this weekend? I could come pick you up Sunday. We could go up to Cleveland like we used to.

AUTUMN

I really appreciate it, but I can't. I have to take care of my dad.

VINCENT

Oh, right. Is he still sick?

AUTUMN

Like a dog. I have to move him into a care center.

VINCENT

Damn man, I'm sorry.

AUTUMN

It's fine. Things are going great for me.

VINCENT

I'll text you Sunday and see if you're free. Same number?

AUTUMN

No, I changed it.

VINCENT

What's your new one?

Autumn hesitates to give the number because of his paranoia of giving it back to someone who was a part of his old life. It makes him feel like he's going back into those unhealthy relationships/environments.

AUTUMN

Um, I don't give out my number anymore.

VINCENT

I get it. You went full Snowden, huh?

AUTUMN

Yeah.

VINCENT

I can give you my number, and if you feel like it, text me.

Applause sounds as the comedian on stage finishes his set.

AUTUMN

I'll talk to you later.

The comedian on stage exits between Autumn and Vincent.

VINCENT

Autumn, I...

Autumn exits onto the stage.

39. INT. THE FOXHOLE STAGE

Autumn walks up to the mic. Slight applause sounding. He stares out into the crowd and sees Riley, Anthony, and Sam at a table. They wave to him. Autumn stares at Riley. He scans the crowd and sees Vincent further back. It makes him nervous. Autumn is unable to perform comedy anymore.

AUTUMN

What's up, everyone. I hope you've been drinking, and if you haven't been, I'd advise you start. My name is Autumn, I'm a disgraced comedian, and this is going to be my last performance. I was debating even coming here tonight, but was talked into it by some friends. I don't have a set prepared because I don't really have anything to say. Basically my life has been a nightmare lately. To be honest, I've been thinking about killing myself.

People in the crowd look confused.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

It's probably because I've been thinking a lot about how my dad used to abuse me when he was drunk. So, I have this awful sense of humor to cope with my problems. He's sick now, so I take care of him. I used to channel it into "shock humor" that I thought was funny. But I was just angry.

The crowd is silent and uncomfortable. Riley, Sam, and Anthony watch.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Basically I'm a piece of shit. I'm fucked up. If I were to stand here and make jokes about sex and race and politics, it would be wrong. I'm not a role model. I've never been and never will be. If you want a talented comedian, look back there at that man in the jacket. That's Vincent from UC. He's a famous comedian with a Netflix special coming out. I'm just an abusive piece of shit. So I wanted to come out here to let you know. I don't even know most of you, but I wanted to let someone know. Thank you.

Autumn makes eye contact with Riley and exits the stage.

40. EXT. THE FOXHOLE PARKING LOT

Autumn is rushing to his car. Riley chases after him calling his name.

RILEY

Hey! What are you doing?

AUTUMN

I'm going home.

RILEY

Why would you do that?

AUTUMN

You know why.

Autumn takes his keys out as he walks. Riley speedily follows.

RILEY

Why would you break your promise?

AUTUMN

Because we barely know each other?
You don't know what this is like for
me.

RILEY

I've tried to and I want to! Why
would you have me come?

AUTUMN

I don't know.

RILEY

Did I pressure you? I'm sorry-

Autumn is unlocking his car.

RILEY (cont'd)

Please don't run away from this
conversation.

Autumn drops his keys on the ground and Riley quickly picks
them up.

AUTUMN

Riley, give me my keys.

RILEY

We all came out here for you. People
like you. You don't have to isolate
yourself and live in fear.

AUTUMN

What the fuck did you think was going
to happen? I told you, I can't
perform anymore. But you made me
promise. Please give me my keys.

RILEY

Why are you doing this? You've given
up.

AUTUMN

What's the big deal? Lots of people
don't make it. It's part of the game,
some make it and some don't. I
didn't. Vincent did. Please, give me
my keys.

RILEY

What about me?

AUTUMN

What about you?

RILEY

I thought you liked me.

AUTUMN

I do like you, but we've been on one date. I don't, like, love you. We aren't married or something.

RILEY

Why are you being so hurtful to me? I haven't done anything to you.

AUTUMN

I feel manic...you're right. I saw Vincent backstage and got lost in my head. We used to perform together. He was signed to UC the same time I got my offer. Just him telling me about all his success...

Autumn looks down. Riley hands the keys back to him.

RILEY

I was really looking forward to tonight.

AUTUMN

I know.

RILEY

You owe me some jokes.

Autumn reaches into his back pocket and takes out the notecards.

AUTUMN

Your wish is my command.

41. INT. AUTUMN'S CAR

Riley and Autumn are reading Autumn's notecards.

RILEY

Sometimes, when I fall asleep, I count how many voices I hear in the dark.

She looks at Autumn.

RILEY (cont'd)
These aren't even jokes, just weird confessions.

AUTUMN
I told you. I'm ready to move on.

RILEY
Seriously?

AUTUMN
Yeah, I think so. Tonight I just didn't want to be seen.

RILEY
What do you want?

AUTUMN
To be normal.

RILEY
I do too.

AUTUMN
I'm really sorry. I shouldn't have reacted the way I did, it was inappropriate. You are such an amazing supportive person and I don't want to take that for granted.

Autumn looks at Riley.

AUTUMN
Would you want to start dating? I don't want to be selfish. You make me happy.

RILEY
I forgive you, and you make me happy too. I understand you and care about you.

Autumn leans awkwardly across the car seats and hugs Riley. They hold each other.

RILEY (cont'd)
So, what do we do now? Officially as boyfriend and girlfriend?

AUTUMN
Obviously matching tattoos.

RILEY
Of half a heart?

AUTUMN
With our initials.

They are silent.

RILEY
Want to come over?

AUTUMN
To your house? You sure?

RILEY
I have a roommate, but they shouldn't
be home.

Autumn pulls out a joint.

AUTUMN
As long as we can get high first.

RILEY
That goes without saying.

Autumn and Riley sit smoking the joint.

42. INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT

Autumn and Riley enter. There is a man sitting in the living
room.

ANDREW
What's up!

RILEY
Oh, hey Andrew. I didn't think you
were going to be home.

Autumn waves.

AUTUMN
Yo.

Andrew stands up and comes to shake Autumn's hand.

ANDREW
Hey man, Andrew, nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

AUTUMN
Autumn.

ANDREW
You're the comedian, right?

AUTUMN
Ex-comedian.

ANDREW
Really? That's a shame. Riley talks
about you all the time.

RILEY
Alright, Andrew, that's enough.

ANDREW
What?!

RILEY
Come on, Autumn.

ANDREW
Should I leave, or is it safe to be
here?

RILEY
What are you even talking about? We
are going upstairs. Goodbye.

ANDREW
Good to meet you, Autumn, I'm sure
I'll see you around.

AUTUMN
For sure.

43. INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM

RILEY
Sorry about him.

AUTUMN
He seemed nice. How long have you
been roommates for?

RILEY
A long time. He goes to OSU so it
works out. I couldn't pay rent on my
own.

Autumn looks around the room. Riley has multiple paintings
she has done hanging on the walls.

Riley sits on her bed.

RILEY (cont'd)
You can come sit next to me. I'm not
gonna hurt you.

Autumn sits next to Riley. He sees a picture on a desk of a
man holding a young girl on his shoulders.

AUTUMN
Is that your dad?

Riley smiles and gets up to grab the frame.

RILEY
Yep. That's my daddy. He was the
best.

Autumn is silent as Riley stares at the photo.

RILEY (cont'd)
He was in the military. He did
multiple tours in Iraq and
Afghanistan. He was home between
deployments and was killed by a drunk
driver.

Autumn sees the sadness in Riley's eyes.

RILEY (cont'd)
It always seemed silly to me. That he
survived a war but got killed at
home. He was a good man. I love him a
lot.

AUTUMN
It looks like he loved you a lot.

RILEY
He did. I know everyone with a dead
dad says this, but I wish I could
talk to him one more time and say the
things I never got to say to him,
like, as an adult. I think we would
have been good friends.

Autumn puts his hand on her shoulder. She reaches up and
touches his hand. She leans into him.

AUTUMN
I'm glad I met you.

RILEY
I'm glad I met you too.

The two lay staring at her father's photo.

44. INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM (NIGHT)

Autumn and Riley lay naked next to each other.

AUTUMN
I'm really sorry.

RILEY
Is it me?

AUTUMN
No! No. It's just my BPD. I also haven't...done this...for a long time. I haven't felt like I could.

RILEY
There's no pressure. I'm not just trying to fuck you.

AUTUMN
Fucking is good. It's one of my favorite parts of a relationship.

RILEY
Oh, me too. I'm ready to go down there. I'm like Niagara Falls.

Autumn lifts the sheets up and talks to his penis.

AUTUMN
Why do you hate me? What have I ever done to you?

Riley lays on Autumn's chest.

RILEY
Thank you for coming over.

AUTUMN
This has been nice.

RILEY
We fit well together, don't you think?

AUTUMN
I think so.

RILEY
Can you stay the night?

AUTUMN
I wish I could. I have to go home and take care of my dad.

RILEY
How has that been?

AUTUMN
Bad. I don't know how to talk to him
about the transition.

RILEY
Would you like me to be there?

AUTUMN
Really?

RILEY
Of course.

AUTUMN
Ruth will be helping too.

RILEY
When are you telling him?

AUTUMN
Next week.

RILEY
If you want me, I'll be there.

AUTUMN
Yeah, I would like that.

Riley kisses Autumn on the cheek.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
You are way too nice to me. I'm
worried I'll ruin this.

RILEY
There is no way you could ruin this.
I know all your bad parts.

AUTUMN
True, but you've never really seen
them.

RILEY
Believe it or not, I considered them
before making this decision. Accept
the fact that you have a girlfriend
who likes you.

Riley smiles at Autumn. They kiss and she lays with her eyes
closed on his chest as he stares at the ceiling.

45. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM

Autumn enters. Ruth is packing up. Autumn's father has been put to bed by Ruth.

AUTUMN

Hey. Thanks for staying so late.

RUTH

Of course.

AUTUMN

Listen, I'm really sorry about what I said. You didn't deserve that. I'm happy you're here, you're good for him.

RUTH

It's okay. I know this is hard, thank you.

AUTUMN

So, how do we tell him? It seems unfair.

RUTH

Often, the transition of someone with dementia to a care facility is harder on the family members watching it, than the person experiencing it.

AUTUMN

He's not brain dead. He'll understand what's happening. He's lived here his entire life, I don't think he can handle leaving.

RUTH

While you will continue to remember the way it used to be, people with dementia typically live in the present.

AUTUMN

Well, then he'll just be peachy keen about it.

RUTH

I'm also going to be with him. Our established relationship should make it easier.

AUTUMN

Do we really have to do this?

RUTH

I believe it is for the best, yes.

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN

Can we do it tomorrow?

RUTH

If that's something you're comfortable with. We want to make sure it's a positive experience for him. If we model this as a good thing, he will reciprocate that.

AUTUMN

Okay. Thank you for everything. Seriously.

RUTH

Of course.

Ruth gathers her things and exits.

46. INT. DAD'S ROOM

Autumn sits next to his father and watches him sleep. He speaks to him.

AUTUMN

I'm not prepared for this. I'm not an adult, I'm scared. I miss Mom. The way you talk about her, I can see the way her face looked. She had brown hair, and wore dresses with earrings. She laughed a lot, and she smiled when she saw me.

The camera rests over the empty setting on the table, the couch where he once sat between his parents, and *The Andy Griffith Show* playing on the television.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I don't want to forget what she looks like. Do you think she remembers what I look like? I don't want to be forgotten.

A montage of Autumn's father's transition plays with piano over the scene. We see a living room with Autumn, Riley, and Ruth sitting with his father. Autumn takes his father's hand and smiles. He has tears in his eyes and he rubs his father's hand while Ruth rubs her hand on his father's back.

We see things being taken from Autumn's father's bedroom and put up in a nursing home bedroom. We see Autumn watch his father in his wheelchair in his nursing home bedroom with Ruth by his side. Autumn and Riley walk down the hallway exiting the nursing home. Riley takes Autumn's hand and leans into him as they walk. We see Autumn putting away the setting for his mother. It shows Autumn silently doing dishes, and he stops. Autumn enters his father's bedroom. It is empty besides the television and some other items.

(End montage)

47. INT. DAD'S ROOM

Autumn loads a copy of *The Andy Griffith Show* into the DVD player and sits on the floor watching. As he watches tears begin to build in his eyes and flow. He thinks of the abuse and isolation he felt from his father. Autumn begins to destroy the room. He begins smashing things and punching holes in the walls. He sobs. *The Andy Griffith Show* plays in the background. Autumn smashes the television cutting the show off. He falls to the floor exhausted in his destruction. He continues to sob.

(2 months later)

48. INT. DR. FOLLY'S OFFICE

DR. FOLLY

Did you ever think about any careers that interest you?

AUTUMN

A little bit.

DR. FOLLY

How's Riley?

AUTUMN

She's good.

DR. FOLLY

And your father?

AUTUMN

Ruth being there has made it easy.

DR. FOLLY

How have you been feeling?

AUTUMN

Better.

DR. FOLLY
So, what's next for you?

AUTUMN
I don't know, it's a weird time.

DR. FOLLY
You're handling it well. There have been a lot of sudden changes in your life lately.

AUTUMN
I know. I'm okay with it.

DR. FOLLY
It seems like your life has been heading into a positive direction. I'm proud of you.

AUTUMN
Thanks.

Autumn's phone vibrates in his pocket. It's a text message from Riley.

RILEY (TEXT MESSAGE)
Can I see you tonight? I need to tell you something.

Autumn replies.

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)
Sure. Everything okay?

RILEY (TEXT MESSAGE)
It's better if we talk in person. Could I come over?

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)
Yeah, I'll be home soon.

Autumn puts his phone away.

AUTUMN
Sorry about that.

49. INT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

Autumn is smoking a joint. Riley's car pulls in. He waves.

AUTUMN
Hey, are you okay?

RILEY
Hey. Could we talk inside?

AUTUMN
For sure. Did I do something?

RILEY
No, you haven't done anything.

Riley and Autumn enter the home.

RILEY (cont'd)
I like you. A lot.

AUTUMN
I like you a lot too. Are you
breaking up with me?

RILEY
No, no. I don't want that at all.
There's just something I need to tell
you.

AUTUMN
Okay, what is it?

Riley sighs.

RILEY
Before I met you, I had sex with
Andrew. I've been wanting to tell you
because it's not fair for you not to
know with us living together. It was
a one time thing and a mistake, but I
wanted you to know because I want a
serious relationship with you.

AUTUMN
What?

RILEY
I'm sorry. I've been scared to tell
you.

Autumn thinks for a moment.

AUTUMN
I didn't know you. Why would you be
scared to tell me that?

RILEY
I don't know. Most guys probably
wouldn't be cool with us living
together still.

AUTUMN

That's not my business. You said you aren't sleeping together now. I trust you.

RILEY

I don't want something to ruin this. My lease is up at the end of the year and I'll be moving out.

AUTUMN

It's seriously okay.

RILEY

I regret it.

AUTUMN

I regret a lot of things too. You're a good person. It doesn't make a difference who you were in your past. You've never judged me for who I've been and I would never judge you either. I care way more about you than anything you've done.

RILEY

I feel like shit, Autumn. I don't know what I'm doing with my life. I need to find purpose in myself and I don't want to depend on other people to feel like I'm happy anymore. My work, who I've been with, who I am, it scares me. I feel like this is it for my life, just doomed to work a job I don't care about until I die with dreams I never followed because I was so scared of failure.

AUTUMN

I want to be someone who can help you feel like you have purpose, like you do for me. Just know I am here for you in any way possible. I am your cheerleader and support you and your dreams.

RILEY

I don't want to die a nobody. I want people to know my name. But at the same time I know it doesn't matter. Everyone dies and is forgotten.

AUTUMN

I know your name and you mean a lot to me.

RILEY

I hate that I want people to like me, and not just like me, but love me.

AUTUMN

I think most artists are like that. That love we feel from people we don't know means a lot to us, and sometimes it feels better than the love we receive from those we are close with. But what the hell do I know, I'm the same way, I want everyone to love me.

RILEY

Do you think I am going to be okay? Like find happiness?

AUTUMN

You are going to be more than okay. Someone like you will thrive. Just don't give up on your dreams. It sounds generic, but if you haven't found happiness yet, you can. What can I do to help you? Have you thought any more about submitting your art?

Riley nods.

RILEY

Yeah, I think I'm going to.

AUTUMN

You need to or I don't think those feelings will ever pass. You want to be an artist, so you need to be an artist. Don't let it bottle up inside you with nowhere to go. I think it will give you the purpose you are looking for, and anything I can do to make that happen I will.

RILEY

I know you will, this is something I need to do myself though.

AUTUMN

You aren't alone in this, I want you to find happiness too.

RILEY

Thank you.

Autumn hugs Riley.

RILEY (cont'd)

How has it been here without him?

AUTUMN

It's lonely. I feel like I'm a failure as a son. I don't get why everything had to be the way it was, or is, I guess. I feel selfish.

RILEY

You definitely aren't. Keeping him here would have been selfish.

AUTUMN

I know, but I'm a selfish person.

RILEY

I'm here for you.

AUTUMN

I know you are.

RILEY

Would you like to go out for a bit?

AUTUMN

You mean get high and go to the mall to play arcade games?

RILEY

I would love that.

50. INT. ARCADE INSIDE MALL

Autumn and Riley are walking around the arcade.

AUTUMN

I used to slay at these.

RILEY

Same.

AUTUMN

Really?

They approach a *Space Invaders* cabinet.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Go ahead. Teach me.

Riley hops on the machine. As she is playing, Autumn catches someone in his eye. It is his ex. He looks away back at the cabinet. He is uncomfortable. He whispers to Riley.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
We need to get out of here. Like now.

RILEY
Why what's wrong?

AUTUMN
My ex is here.

Autumn is scared.

RILEY
The one from the...

AUTUMN
I haven't seen her since it went up.
I don't want her to see me.

RILEY
Okay.

Riley picks up her bag and they move towards the exit. As they do, they cross paths with Autumn's ex. They make eye contact. His ex is with a new partner. They are silent as they walk by. Autumn and Riley exit.

51. INT. MALL

Autumn is silent as they walk.

AUTUMN
Should I have said sorry?

RILEY
No, it doesn't work like that.

AUTUMN
But what if she posts that she saw me?

RILEY
You can't help that.

AUTUMN
I feel so terrible about the things I did.

RILEY

Approaching her in public isn't going to fix those things. She needs to separate herself from you to heal. You shouldn't interact again. Especially as her abuser.

Autumn feels sick.

AUTUMN

I feel small. I have so much shame in my heart about it all.

RILEY

It's okay to feel shame, but you also can't let it debilitate you. I know you wish you could change who you were, but you can't. You have to move forward.

AUTUMN

But how does she move forward? I ruined her life.

RILEY

She has moved on in her life. She doesn't need you or want anything to do with you. Your relationship was toxic because of you. Let her grow beyond who she was and what you put her through.

AUTUMN

I don't feel like I deserve to move forward.

RILEY

You have to. The world is continuing to turn whether you do or not, so be better. What's the point of your treatment if you aren't letting yourself change?

AUTUMN

I'm an abuser, Riley.

RILEY

You were an abuser.

AUTUMN

I'm worried I'll always be labeled that way.

RILEY

And so what if you are? You decide who you are going to be, not other people. You have to be an adult about it. You can't change anything that's happened and running away doesn't do anything. Nothing has changed.

Autumn closes his eyes and calms himself.

AUTUMN

Okay. I'm thankful for you.

RILEY

Want to get out of here?

AUTUMN

Not really. I'm upset and want a soft pretzel.

RILEY

Then let's get a pretzel.

Riley takes Autumn's hand.

Autumn and Riley walk holding hands with pretzels.

RILEY (cont'd)

Let yourself have fun!

AUTUMN

I am!

RILEY

You keep looking around all paranoid!

AUTUMN

I'm still having fun!

RILEY

I am too.

AUTUMN

I hope someday I won't be so paranoid.

RILEY

Today can be that day.

AUTUMN

I tell myself that every morning. I just can't turn it off.

RILEY
Why can't it be today?

AUTUMN
Eh, just doesn't feel like it.

RILEY
I don't think any day will just feel like it.

Autumn takes a bite of his pretzel as they walk holding hands.

AUTUMN
That's true. Okay. I'll start today.

Riley smiles.

RILEY
Right now?

AUTUMN
No time like the present.

Riley holds her pinky out.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Wow, a pinky promise? The most sacred of all promises.

Autumn locks pinkies.

RILEY
Okay, you can't break it.

AUTUMN
I've never broken a pinky promise. I know the weight they carry.

Riley kisses her thumb. Autumn kisses his. Riley kisses Autumn. They continue to walk holding hands.

52. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM (NIGHT)

Autumn is laying on his bed on his phone. He searches Andrew and finds his social media. He scrolls through it seeing Andrew. It's apparent he's jealous.

53. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

Autumn is on his porch smoking. His phone lights up. It's Dr. Ashley.

DR. ASHLEY

Autumn?

AUTUMN

Hey, what's up? You sound upset.

DR. ASHLEY

Your father has had a heart attack.

AUTUMN

What?

DR. ASHLEY

I would advise you to come to see him.

Autumn is silent and confused.

AUTUMN

Are you serious?

DR. ASHLEY

I would leave now if you could.

Autumn hangs up the phone. He grabs his keys and rushes to his car. He starts the engine and it stalls.

AUTUMN

You've got to be kidding me.

Autumn tries again. Nothing happens. He grabs his hair in a panic. He tries the car again before becoming frustrated and punching the wheel.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Fuck, fuck!

Autumn pulls up Riley's contact to call her. She doesn't pick up. He calls her again. He hangs up when it goes to voicemail.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Okay, okay, don't panic. Come on.
Bus.

Autumn exits his car.

The camera follows him as he runs. He is panicking. He runs down the street. He continues to run as fast as he can. The camera focuses on Autumn who is breathing heavily. He trips and smashes onto the concrete cutting and bruising his face. He lays on the ground, blood pouring from his face. His breathing continues to slow. We see his phone, several feet from him, light up with Riley's name as she calls him.

Autumn is sitting on the curb as Riley pulls up in her car. She rolls down the window and calls to him. He enters the car.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
I'm fine.

RILEY
You don't look fine. You look awful.

Autumn enters the car.

AUTUMN
I don't know what's going on, Dr. Ashley and Ruth aren't answering their phones.

RILEY
I'm sure he's going to be okay. He's in the perfect place for this to happen.

AUTUMN
But what if something happens and we don't make it?

RILEY
We will. He's going to be fine.

Riley is speeding.

Autumn stares out the window. Blood is still fresh on his face.

54. INT. HOSPITAL

Autumn is running down the hallway towards his father's room. He sees Ruth outside the door and he begins to approach her. She is crying.

AUTUMN
What's going on? Can I see him?

Autumn brushes past Ruth and enters the room. Dr. Ashley is standing around his father. He is dead. Autumn stares at his lifeless body. Dr Ashley notices the blood.

DR. ASHLEY
Autumn, my God, what happened to you?

AUTUMN
I missed it?

Dr. Ashley is silent.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

What the hell happened?! You said he would be safe here!

DR. ASHLEY

It was sudden, we acted as fast as we could.

AUTUMN

You moved him here just to die?! We were fine at home with Ruth! What the fuck is wrong with you?!

DR. ASHLEY

Would you like some time alone to say goodbye?

AUTUMN

To who?! His fucking corpse? How could you let this happen?

DR. ASHLEY

We were able to act much faster because he was here. We did everything we could.

AUTUMN

Well, apparently not because he's fucking dead! Get the fuck out of here! Leave us alone.

DR. ASHLEY

We will be right outside.

AUTUMN

No, you stupid asshole, leave us the FUCK alone.

Autumn grabs Dr. Ashley to physically move him out of the room.

DR. ASHLEY

Don't touch me!

Autumn aggressively drags him out of the room.

AUTUMN

You wanted to kill my dad! You've never fucking liked us!

Autumn throws Dr. Ashley to the floor.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Get the fuck out of here!

Autumn turns to Ruth.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
You get the fuck out of here too!

Dr. Ashley stands up and he and Ruth quickly walk away. Autumn is causing a scene. Riley approaches, as well as other doctors and nurses into the hallway.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
They fucking killed my dad!

Security begins to approach.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
My dad's body is in there! He's
laying there like some animal! I
didn't even want him here! I didn't
even get to talk to him! Who was the
last person he talked to? You?!

Autumn looks at Dr. Ashley.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
You wanted this to happen, you
fucking bitch!

Autumn begins to move towards Dr. Ashley. Security moves in on Autumn to apprehend him.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Get off of me! I didn't even talk to
him yet! I want to say goodbye!

Security holds him to the ground and handcuff him. They make a call.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
You're hurting me!

DR. ASHLEY
Gentlemen, please, could let him to
see his father first?

The guards agree.

Autumn stands up. The guards hold him by his shoulder and escort him into the room. Security gives him time alone with the body.

55. INT. AUTUMN'S FATHER'S ROOM (HOSPITAL)

Autumn stands handcuffed in front of his dead father. He stares at his body, Autumn's face is swollen with dried blood. There is a moment of silence, and he says his goodbye. It is emotional.

AUTUMN

I'm sorry I made you hate me, and I'm sorry I wasn't there for you. I knew you were lonely and that you felt like nobody cared about you. I think I could have helped you if I was stronger, but you were so angry all the time, and I was afraid of you. But I knew that I was in pain, because you were too, and you wanted me to feel your pain as intensely as you did.

Autumn approaches his father's body, and holds his hand through his handcuffs.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I have been waiting for you to get better my entire life. I feel like a father who lost his son. I want you to come home so we can watch *The Andy Griffith Show*, and make dinner. We can leave a plate out for Mom in case she's hungry, and I can tuck you into bed and hold you the way I wanted to be held. I can bathe you, and keep you safe, and tell you that you matter to me. And I would love you just because I see you. I tried to make it in time. I tried, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have left you.

Autumn rubs his father's hand through the handcuffs.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

If you see her, tell her I miss her.

Autumn speaks his last words to his father.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I won't forget what you look like.

We follow a silent montage with piano over it.

We see a flashback of Autumn as a baby, wrapped in a blanket, being held by his mother.

She has on a dress with earrings. We see Autumn's father as a young dad. They sit on the couch in the living room, smiling at their child.

We see a present day shot of the empty couch, the empty table setting for his mother, The Andy Griffith Show, and holes in the wall that have been plastered over.

We end on a shot of Autumn's parents in the past holding him on the same couch. They are a family, and it is beautiful.

(End montage)

56. INT. HOSPITAL

Autumn is escorted into the hallway by security. Dr. Ashley, Ruth, and Riley are watching.

RUTH

Is this really necessary?

SECURITY

We don't want to do this either, but he assaulted a doctor, so we have to arrest him.

AUTUMN

I'm sorry.

SECURITY #2

We get it, we don't care. But if we let you go then we aren't doing our job correctly.

Autumn stares at the floor.

RILEY

Can we at least know where he's going?

AUTUMN

It's okay. I'm good.

He looks at Dr. Ashley and Ruth.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I know you cared about him.

Autumn is escorted out.

57. INT. JAIL

Autumn sits in a cell. He sits silently. The door opens.

OFFICER
You made bail.

AUTUMN
Just like in the movies.

Autumn gets up and follows the officer. Riley, Dr. Ashley, and Ruth are here to pick him up.

Riley hugs Autumn.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Thanks. Sorry for being a dick.

DR. ASHLEY
We understand.

RUTH
We're glad you came.

AUTUMN
I'm glad you were there with him.

Autumn asks a question genuinely.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Why are you here?

He is speaking to Dr. Ashley and Ruth.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
I've been a complete ass to you, you don't owe me anything. Don't you have like other dying people to attend to?

DR. ASHLEY
Yes, we do. But you are a good man and we care about what happens to you.

AUTUMN
You aren't my parents, you don't have to do that.

RUTH
Of course not.

DR. ASHLEY

Your verbal abuse is something you need to speak with your therapist about. We aren't your enemy and it makes it impossible to communicate with you when you are upset.

RUTH

I agree, it's something we've all been victims to. I understand your illness makes it hard, but at some point it's just an excuse to treat others badly under pressure.

AUTUMN

It's because I'm angry. I'm sorry. Seriously, no more excuses. It's a routine behavior that needs to change and I know it's my responsibility to change it. Thank you for giving me a chance. I mean it, I'm going to be better. I won't take advantage of your trust.

RUTH

I accept your apology and believe you

AUTUMN

Just missing it and seeing him there...it doesn't excuse it, I just lost control. I'm so sorry. I can't believe he's gone.

RILEY

I like to think people we love are never truly gone.

AUTUMN

Can we get out of here? I'm starting to feel like Epstein.

DR. ASHLEY

Sure, let's get you home.

Autumn turns to Riley.

AUTUMN

Will you come with me?

RILEY

Of course, you aren't alone in this.

AUTUMN

Thank you all. I don't know what I would do without you.

They exit.

58. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

Riley and Autumn sit in chairs against the wall on Autumn's porch.

RILEY

I'm so sorry, Autumn.

AUTUMN

You don't have to be sorry, you didn't kill him. Plus, you lost your dad way before I did. I was lucky to have had him most of my life. Abuser or not, he was still part of me.

RILEY

I know how much it hurts losing someone you love. Are you going to be okay here?

AUTUMN

Like here, in this house? I think so. I mean, I would like it better if you lived here too.

RILEY

I can barely afford my place now.

AUTUMN

I just meant, because I like you. You make me feel safe.

RILEY

You make me feel safe too, but we haven't been dating that long.

AUTUMN

Is it because of my past?

RILEY

I don't hold your past against you or base our relationship around it, I know you are who you say you are.

(MORE)

RILEY (cont'd)

I have boundaries and you haven't crossed those, but because of how little confidence or respect I've for myself, I don't want to be manipulated into an abusive relationship. Things have been great between us but I have to think about things that could happen when we struggle. Every couple fights, it's inevitable. Just like with Dr. Ashley and Ruth, will you verbally abuse me when I make you upset? Will you put holes in the walls when you're angry?

Autumn looks sad.

AUTUMN

I wouldn't do that to you.

RILEY

You do things you wish you hadn't, you've said that yourself.

AUTUMN

I thought you didn't hold those things against me.

RILEY

I don't, but I want to be safe and loving someone with mental illness is complicated. I think it would be selfish of me to just move in without having a serious conversation about the challenges it could present.

AUTUMN

You know me. I struggle with self-esteem and anger, but I'm in control of myself now. I take my therapy and medication really seriously. I still struggle with it, but our relationship is so important to me that I can be accountable for myself. I want to be good for you, but I understand and I will do whatever it takes to prove I am someone you can trust. How I am when we are together now is how I'll always be, fights and all. You're my favorite person and I respect you, I would never want to betray that.

RILEY

Do you love me?

Autumn stares at Riley.

AUTUMN
I do love you.

RILEY
I love you too.

Riley smiles. Autumn and Riley kiss.

AUTUMN
You should move in, it'll be like a
sleepover all the time.

RILEY
But we have sex?

AUTUMN
Don't be gross.

They smile.

59. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM (NIGHT)

Autumn is sitting alone in his living room. He searches Andrew again and finds his social media. He scrolls through it and sees a picture of him and Riley on his feed. It's apparent he is jealous.

60. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM (MORNING)

Autumn is tying his tie.

Riley beeps her horn outside signaling she is there to pick him up.

61. INT. RILEY'S CAR

Autumn enters.

AUTUMN
Do we have to go?

RILEY
It's your fucking dad, dude. Yes, you
have to go.

AUTUMN
But I already said all the sappy shit
at the hospital.

RILEY

I think you'll regret it if you don't.

AUTUMN

Yeah, you're right, I just don't want to. If I had died, he would have been too drunk to notice. There wouldn't have been a funeral for me. In all honesty, he probably would have tried to sell my kidneys for more alcohol.

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN

Plus, it's less real if I don't go. I'm scared I'll be sad. I don't want to be sad about him. I know I shouldn't be.

RILEY

It makes sense to be sad.

AUTUMN

Does he deserve it though? After all he's done.

RILEY

Sure, you can miss his good parts.

AUTUMN

I do.

Autumn stares out the window.

62. EXT. GRAVEYARD

Autumn and Riley approach a lonely grave. They stare at the grave silently. Autumn is smoking a joint.

AUTUMN

You got anything to say? I got nothing.

RILEY

Rest well, Mr. Lilly. We miss you.

Riley walks away leaving Autumn alone with the grave.

Autumn continues to smoke and puts out the joint on the grave and sets it down in front of it.

63. INT. DR. FOLLY'S OFFICE

DR. FOLLY

Is the hospital pressing charges?

AUTUMN

No, thankfully not. I got lucky.

DR. FOLLY

So, tell me about the situation.

AUTUMN

I went manic. I didn't get to say bye to him and I lost control of myself. It's not an excuse but I lost my mind. I just couldn't believe I missed it. Something I've been wanting to talk about and focus on is my verbal abuse. When I flip it's like I'm spitting fire with my tongue and when I'm stable I know it's wrong and unjustifiable, but when I have an episode I resort to it almost immediately. I do it to everyone and I don't want to anymore. I know verbal abuse is emotional abuse and my diagnosis doesn't rid me of the responsibility of my actions, but I can't control it. I need help.

DR. FOLLY

I think it's important for you to understand how emotional abuse affects someone. Have you ever read testimonies of people who have been victims of emotional abuse? It would give you insight into your own behaviors. You have done serious, sustaining damage.

AUTUMN

No, I haven't.

DR. FOLLY

Let's do it right now.

Autumn takes out his phone.

AUTUMN

So, what do I search?

DR. FOLLY

What do you think?

Autumn searches "Emotional Abuse."

We see an article that states the signs of an emotional abuser:

Making unrealistic demands.

Expecting the victim to put everything aside and meet their needs.

Being dissatisfied no matter how hard the victim tries.

Undermining, dismissing, or distorting perceptions of reality.

Making jokes at the victim's expense.

Controlling who the victim sees or spends time with.

Monitoring the person digitally.

Having no respect for boundaries.

AUTUMN

These are all thing's I struggle with. I know they're wrong.

DR. FOLLY

Something all of these things have in common is that they are products of not thinking about other people, or thinking in general. They are routine behaviors that look different for each abuser. For you, you try to use verbal abuse to put other people down so low that they feel beneath you. Like you've said, it helps you feel in control of the situation. You need to give up that control and anger, so when something goes wrong or someone says something you don't like, you don't default to trying to control it.

AUTUMN

The thing that's hard is I'll sit here and agree with you and say I won't. But as soon as I'm scared, it'll happen again.

DR. FOLLY

The only person who can fix this is you. Think of it like being addicted to a drug.

(MORE)

DR. FOLLY (cont'd)

To get clean there has to be a first day, then a second, then a third and sometimes that first day on the road to recovery seems impossible, but getting clean starts one day at a time. The first situation that challenges you will be the hardest, but as you practice control and the willingness to control your anger the more routine it'll become.

AUTUMN

I want to be a good person.

DR. FOLLY

Someone with an abusive past can be good, and you will be good if you truly want to be.

Autumn is silent.

AUTUMN

I asked Riley to move in with me. I think it was a mistake. I asked her after my dad died, and I think I was manipulating her emotions.

DR. FOLLY

Did she say yes?

AUTUMN

Yes.

DR. FOLLY

Is the house being empty the reason you asked her to move in?

AUTUMN

Partially. I love her a lot, she's the first person in my life that accepts all parts of me, even the bad ones. To be honest, another reason is that I've been jealous about who she lives with. It's someone she slept with before she met me.

DR. FOLLY

So, you want her for yourself to control the situation?

AUTUMN

Not entirely, but after reading that stuff, I think so.

DR. FOLLY

Do not have her move in. You aren't ready.

AUTUMN

I know. I'm just so lonely and she's an amazing person. I don't want her to leave me.

DR. FOLLY

You cannot control that. Have you made her feel bad for sleeping with her roommate?

AUTUMN

No, I haven't, but it's something I think about a lot.

DR. FOLLY

This is part of respecting boundaries. If she told you in confidence, it's because she trusts you.

AUTUMN

I shouldn't have asked her.

DR. FOLLY

You need to be honest with her. Honest but respectful. This is the type of situation you need to prove yourself in. It's your chance to show growth.

AUTUMN

It's her birthday next week. I'm supposed to go to a party at her place and I'm worried I'll see him there and feel insecure.

DR. FOLLY

If you don't think you can handle it, you need to be honest with yourself and her.

AUTUMN

Yeah, I know, I want to make sure it's a healthy environment but I feel like if I don't go then I'm not an "adult." She's done nothing wrong. She's such a strong, independent, deep thinking person and I'm just extremely insecure. But I don't want to be like that anymore.

(MORE)

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I keep saying I want to be better, so I'm going to be.

DR. FOLLY

It's okay to be jealous, but if Riley chooses to be with you, you need to respect her boundaries.

AUTUMN

I'm gonna do it. I'm not going to be that person anymore.

DR. FOLLY

If Riley is with you, you need to have boundaries.

AUTUMN

I will. I won't let anyone down.

Autumn's phone goes off. It's Sam.

SAM (TEXT MESSAGE)

We are going to pick out gifts for Riley tomorrow, want to come?

64. INT. STORE

Autumn, Anthony, and Sam are walking the halls of a store looking for gifts.

ANTHONY

Why can't we just give her money?

SAM

Because Anthony, no one just wants money. It has no meaning behind it.

ANTHONY

Shit, I would love money. If I could exchange every gift I've ever gotten for money, I would probably be a lot happier. But at least I'm not Autumn, you have to get her something good.

AUTUMN

Yeah, I know. It's actually a ton of pressure for me. I was thinking of something for her painting.

SAM

That's a good idea.

They walk over to the arts and crafts department. Autumn picks out a canvas with some paint brushes and paint.

AUTUMN
What do you think?

ANTHONY
She probably would like money more.

SAM
No, she wouldn't. She's gonna love those.

ANTHONY
If he gave her money she could just buy her own supplies.

AUTUMN
That's true.

SAM
No money. It's douche-y.

AUTUMN
Okay, no money.

ANTHONY
I'm gonna get her this!

Anthony holds up a WWE action figure.

AUTUMN
Why?

ANTHONY
Maybe she'll hate it and give it to me. I don't have this one.

SAM
God damn, you are selfish.

ANTHONY
I'm telling you, man. Go with the money.

AUTUMN
I'm good on it, but thanks.

ANTHONY
Alright, man, but don't blame me when she throws all that in the trash.

AUTUMN
You think?

SAM

No, she is not going to do that. Why are you trying to make him feel bad?

ANTHONY

I'm not, he just has competition. I'm just looking out for him.

AUTUMN

Competition?

Sam and Anthony are silent.

ANTHONY

Nothing, I don't know why I said that.

SAM

It's probably the holes in your brain.

AUTUMN

You mean Andrew?

They look uncomfortable.

ANTHONY

She told you?

SAM

We aren't talking about this. It's none of our business.

Autumn is embarrassed, but wants to be better.

AUTUMN

Agreed. I'm just excited to celebrate.

ANTHONY

Let's go get some birthday poppers, I could try filling some with gunpowder to make them really explode.

They begin walking towards the poppers.

SAM

So, you and Riley are moving in together?

AUTUMN

Oh, maybe. It wasn't really official or anything.

SAM

Really? She made it sound pretty official.

AUTUMN

We haven't figured out the details, I was gonna talk to her about it more.

SAM

I'm happy for you both.

AUTUMN

Thanks. I love her a lot.

Anthony has opened a pack of party poppers and pulls one.

ANTHONY

Love's for suckers, dude!

SAM

Someone has to clean this up!

Sam continues to scold Anthony. Autumn thinks about how he has to talk with Riley.

65. INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT

Autumn enters holding the gifts. A canvas, paints, and brushes. They are gift-wrapped. Anthony, Riley, Sam, and Andrew greet him. Riley is sitting on the couch and Andrew is sitting near her. Autumn notices.

RILEY

Hey!

AUTUMN

Hey! Happy birthday and all that good stuff. I come bearing gifts.

She jumps up and meets Autumn, giving him a hug and a kiss. Anthony and Sam greet him. Andrew approaches and puts out his hand for Autumn to shake.

ANDREW

What's up, Autumn!

Autumn shakes his hand and looks uncomfortable.

AUTUMN

Hi.

RILEY

Come upstairs for a minute? I have to show you something.

Autumn follows Riley up the stairs with his gifts.

66. INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM

Autumn and Riley enter. He sets his gifts down.

RILEY

Are you okay?

AUTUMN

Yeah, I'm just really tired today, sorry if I seem off. I think it's my medication. I love you. Want to open your gifts?

Riley is excited.

RILEY

Before I do, I got you a gift. Well, made you one.

AUTUMN

It's your birthday, why would you give me a gift?

RILEY

It's more of something for the both of us.

Riley goes into her closet and walks out with a canvas that is turned around.

RILEY (cont'd)

I thought we could hang it in the house.

Riley turns the frame around and it is a painting of her and Autumn. Autumn lays into Riley's chest in the painting with his eyes closed. Like a mother holding a son.

RILEY (cont'd)

I've been working on it all week.

AUTUMN

Riley, I...

He doesn't know what to say.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I love it.

RILEY

Really?

AUTUMN

I absolutely love it. You are so talented and I am so thankful for you. You make me feel so loved.

RILEY

You can take it home and hang it tonight if you want.

AUTUMN

I will.

RILEY

Can I open my gifts?

AUTUMN

Uh, yeah, they kinda suck though.

Riley opens her gifts. She stares at the canvas and painting supplies

RILEY

I love this. Thank you for supporting my art, it makes me feel good.

AUTUMN

I could take them back if you don't like them.

RILEY

I love them! I'm going to paint us something.

AUTUMN

You already painted something.

RILEY

That's the great thing about art, a blank canvas is like starting over for an entirely new story. This is the best gift you could have gotten me.

AUTUMN

What about, like, money?

RILEY

Money?

AUTUMN

Yeah, that way you could, like, buy your own stuff.

RILEY

I don't want money, I want this!

AUTUMN

What did Andrew get you?

RILEY

What?

AUTUMN

Why is he here?

RILEY

Why is he here? He lives here.

AUTUMN

Yeah, but I'm here.

RILEY

You've never had an issue with him being here before. Are you sure you're okay?

AUTUMN

You don't think it's weird to have two people you've fucked at the same party?

RILEY

Are you serious, Autumn? That isn't appropriate to ask me.

AUTUMN

I just wanted to come see you without having to shake hands with some dude you fucked. But you obviously don't care about my feelings.

RILEY

I told you that because I care about you. You know it was before I met you. You told me you understood. Why are you acting like it's not okay now?

AUTUMN

How am I supposed to be okay with being on the same couch as a dude who knows what you feel like?

RILEY

Did Anthony tell you Andrew got me money or something? Why are you doing this?

AUTUMN

I'm not doing anything. I'm uncomfortable. It's selfish you didn't tell me Andrew would be here.

RILEY

Autumn, he lives here! I can't control what he does!

AUTUMN

Well, you could have controlled fucking him.

RILEY

This is abusive. I thought you knew I love you. We're supposed to be moving in together!

AUTUMN

I only wanted you to live with me because I'm lonely and don't know if you're fucking him still.

Riley stands up.

RILEY

You need to leave. You're crossing my boundaries.

AUTUMN

So, I'm getting kicked out, but Andrew gets to stay? Is he better in bed or something?

RILEY

I listen all day, everyday about how much you regret your past, and I have never once judged you. What gives you the right to judge me? I have too much respect for myself to let you do this to me. Get out.

AUTUMN

Fine.

Autumn turns to leave, and when he does, he kicks in the canvas of them both. He puts a hole in it. Riley watches in tears.

RILEY

Why would you do that? It's my birthday. I've been waiting all day to see you.

AUTUMN

Fuck you.

RILEY

You keep saying you want to be better, but you haven't changed. You haven't learned anything. You treat everyone who gives you a chance like shit. Dr. Ashley, Ruth, me, you've verbally abused us all. You aren't supposed to treat me like this. I love you.

Autumn quickly heads down the stairs. Anthony, Andrew, and Sam watch him storm past. Sam runs upstairs to Riley. Autumn turns on his ignition and pulls out of the driveway. He begins driving silently and then punches the dashboard.

AUTUMN

Fuck!

He takes out his phone and calls Riley. It goes straight to voicemail. He texts her.

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)

I'm sorry.

There is no response.

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE)

Riley?

No response

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE) (cont'd)

Please, I'm sorry.

No response.

Autumn calls her again. It goes straight to voicemail.

AUTUMN (TEXT MESSAGE) (cont'd)

Please, I need you.

Autumn calls Dr. Folly. He begins sobbing.

DR. FOLLY

Hello?

AUTUMN

I fucked up.

DR. FOLLY

Where are you? Are you safe?

AUTUMN

I did it. I couldn't hold it in. I was too jealous.

DR. FOLLY

What did you do?

AUTUMN

I yelled at her. I made her feel bad. I broke a canvas she made. A painting of the both of us. She isn't picking up, I'm scared.

DR. FOLLY

Oh Lord, Autumn.

AUTUMN

I didn't mean to! I didn't want to, I wanted to tell her how beautiful it was.

DR. FOLLY

Do not contact her.

AUTUMN

Why?! I have to fix this. I have to, I need her. I love her.

DR. FOLLY

Autumn, calm down, you aren't in a good head space.

AUTUMN

I want to kill myself. I want to kill myself.

DR. FOLLY

Where are you?

Autumn hangs up the phone and begins turning around. He texts Riley again, and calls her. It goes straight to voicemail. He is going back to the apartment. As he approaches, he sees the canvas painting of them both next to the trash. He parks his car and takes it, putting it in his trunk. He goes up to the door, collects himself, and rings the bell. Anthony answers.

ANTHONY

You can't come back here, you need to go.

AUTUMN

I wanted to apologize.

ANTHONY

She's with Sam, it's not safe for you to be here.

AUTUMN

Not safe? I'm not going to do anything.

ANTHONY

Why would you break that canvas?

Autumn is silent. He realizes this is a bad idea. Andrew approaches the door.

ANDREW

You need to get the hell out of here before I call the police.

Autumn cowers from Andrew out of embarrassment. He leaves. He texts Riley again in the car, and it goes to a green text meaning he has been blocked. He calls her and it goes straight to voicemail.

67. EXT. AUTUMN'S DRIVEWAY

Autumn approaches his house. There are two police cars in the driveway and an ambulance.

OFFICER

Autumn Lilly?

AUTUMN

Is everything okay?

OFFICER

We're here on a wellness check. We received a call saying you were threatening to kill yourself.

AUTUMN

I was having a hard time so I called my therapist. I wasn't trying to make a big deal, sorry.

OFFICER

We have to take these calls very seriously, are you planning to harm yourself?

AUTUMN

No, absolutely not.

OFFICER

Then why were you threatening to?

AUTUMN

I was just overwhelmed. I have BPD.

OFFICER

Where are you coming from?

AUTUMN

A birthday party.

OFFICER

For who?

AUTUMN

My girlfriend.

OFFICER

Did something happen that made you call your therapist?

AUTUMN

No, not really.

The officer is silent.

OFFICER

We were told that they believe you are going to harm yourself or someone close to you. We are going to have to take you for an involuntary admission.

AUTUMN

I'm fine, I'm not going to do anything.

OFFICER

We are afraid you will, so we are going to still need to admit you.

AUTUMN

Can I at least bring my stuff inside?

OFFICER

Sure.

68. INT. AUTUMN'S LIVING ROOM

Autumn sets the painting with the hole in it against the wall. He calls Riley, it goes straight to voicemail. The officers escort him to a stretcher.

AUTUMN

I don't need a stretcher, I'm fine.

OFFICER

I'm sorry man we have to. It's required procedure.

Autumn is put on the stretcher and loaded into the ambulance.

OFFICER (cont'd)

We are wishing you the best. I hope this is the start of a new life for you.

The doors close.

69. INT. HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS WORKER

Do you have any plans in action to hurt yourself?

AUTUMN

No. I was just being dramatic. Why do you have to take my phone and clothes?

ADMISSIONS WORKER

It's just something required for admission. It's meant to keep you safe. You'll get them back when you are discharged. Do you have a history of mental illness in your family?

AUTUMN

I don't know. My mom left when I was young and my dad was an alcoholic.

ADMISSIONS WORKER

Do you have anyone close to you that we could get in contact with?

AUTUMN

Just my therapist.

ADMISSIONS WORKER

The soonest we allow an involuntary admission to leave is 72 hours. But it's up to the doctor's discretion when they feel you are ready. Someone will be in shortly to show you to your room.

There is a knock at the door.

RACHEL

Hello Autumn, I'm Rachel. I'm here to show you to your room.

Autumn stands up and follows Ms. Rachel.

RACHEL (cont'd)

How are you feeling?

AUTUMN

I'm good. I don't think I need to be here though.

RACHEL

We are glad you are here. We want you to be safe.

AUTUMN

Is there a way I could talk to someone about, like, an early dismissal? I really am okay, I just say crazy things sometimes when I'm upset.

RACHEL

When you speak with the doctor, you can let him know. Couple of things: no sharp objects, no mouthwash with alcohol, no shoelaces, and we do a wellness check every fifteen minutes while you sleep. You'll hardly notice after the first couple days.

They arrive at the wing. People sit in a room with a television while others walk around. There is a front desk with a nurse, and Autumn is led to his room. It is bare besides a bed with no sheets, and an empty bookshelf.

RACHEL (cont'd)

Your shower is timed, you just need to hit the button again for water when it stops. We have it that way to protect you.

AUTUMN

Can I please speak with someone?

RACHEL

Like I said, the doctor will speak with you. You can come out to spend time with everyone, or stay in your room to get accustomed to it.

AUTUMN

There's no point in meeting anyone because I'll be out of here by the end of the day.

RACHEL

We will come get you when the doctor is in.

Rachel leaves and closes the door. Autumn lays on the bed and stares at the ceiling.

70. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM (HOSPITAL)

There is a knock on the door. It's Rachel.

RACHEL

The doctor is here to speak with you.

Autumn gets up and follows Rachel.

71. INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

DR. LESLIE

Hey Autumn, I'm Dr. Leslie, nice to meet you.

AUTUMN

I'm so glad you're here, I don't need to be admitted. I was just having a hard time.

DR. LESLIE

It looks like you are here for suicidal ideations. Your therapist told us about a pattern of threatening suicide.

AUTUMN

It's just something I say as a coping mechanism.

DR. LESLIE

Okay. You also have a history of verbal and physical abuse as well. They said you had been abusing your girlfriend.

AUTUMN

They said that? You can't keep me here because of what my therapist says. Isn't that a violation of doctor-patient confidentiality or something? Plus, it isn't true.

DR. LESLIE

They also told us that they think you are a good person who needs a lot of help.

AUTUMN

I've already gotten help! That's why I see them, because they're a therapist. Can I call Dr. Folly?

DR. LESLIE

We allow phone time, so you can call them then, absolutely.

AUTUMN

No, I mean right now.

DR. LESLIE

I don't think that would be a good idea, I know you're upset.

AUTUMN

I am not staying here.

DR. LESLIE

Would you like Rachel to take you back to your room for a bit to collect yourself?

AUTUMN

I think the best thing for me would be for me to go home.

DR. LESLIE

Can I ask you a question? Do you want to be better?

AUTUMN

You mean get better? Like, not have Bipolar or BPD? What do you think? Of course. I've been getting better the last two years.

DR. LESLIE

No. Being better and getting better are two different things. Neither of those diagnosis are curable. You are never going to get better, but you can be better.

AUTUMN

I have been being better. I was cancelled and I got help. I didn't hurt anyone.

DR. LESLIE

Just because you aren't physically abusing people does not mean you're better. That should go without saying.

AUTUMN

You wouldn't understand, man. I'm really messed up, but I am better.

DR. LESLIE

I do understand. When I was 29 years old, I was diagnosed with BPD too.

Autumn is silent.

DR. LESLIE

And I struggled like you are. Growing up, I was abused emotionally and physically, and that abuse festered into my BPD which I took out on people. It cost me my marriage.

AUTUMN

Listen...

DR. LESLIE

There came a time when I was hospitalized myself. I thought I didn't need it either, but I wanted to be better. I was tired of feeling isolated, and lonely, and angry. The things that you fear being. I was tired of hurting people.

AUTUMN

I'm not an abuser.

Dr. Leslie is silent.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I'm not an abuser, I just have anger problems. I don't hate anyone.

DR. LESLIE

Okay.

AUTUMN

I think you've got the wrong idea, I'm not an abuser.

DR. LESLIE

What idea do I have?

AUTUMN

That I'm some sick fuck who likes hurting people because it's fun for me? Well, news flash, man, it's not fucking fun for me. I don't get joy out of hurting people, but I get angry and I can't control it. Even with fucking pills and therapy and all the isolation, I am still so fucking angry. But I am NOT an abuser.

DR. LESLIE

Hurting people is abusive. No matter if you mean it or not. Have you and Dr. Folly ever talked about taking ownership of being an abuser?

AUTUMN

All the fucking time! It's all I think about! I take ownership of it every fucking week when I sit in therapy like it's some kind of fucked up Groundhog's Day.

DR. LESLIE

Then why won't you admit it?

AUTUMN

I have admitted it!

DR. LESLIE

Then say it. It's not a big deal. I said I was an abuser.

AUTUMN

What kind of magic trick is that? If you say it, so should I? What are we, children?

DR. LESLIE

It's not a big deal. It's a problem, you can either fix it or not.

AUTUMN

I've tried to fix it. I tried to stay positive.

DR. LESLIE

You cannot treat mental illness by staying positive, and you can't treat it alone.

AUTUMN

But I've been in therapy. I've been trying.

DR. LESLIE

The thing about mental illness is that it's not collective. It's unique to each person, and sometimes certain illnesses require more than what we think is enough.

AUTUMN

I'm...

Autumn begins to finally come to terms about his abusive behavior.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

I am an abuser. I've lost everything I love. Please, help me. I don't want to be like this.

DR. LESLIE

If you stay, I promise you we will help you, but you need to help yourself. It's time to face this. You have to stop hurting people.

Autumn is silent.

72. EXT. HOSPITAL

A shot of the hospital exterior. It is snowing out indicating a change in time. We see different shots of the snow falling and the hospital parking lot.

73. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM (HOSPITAL)

Autumn is making his bed. He looks happy. Rachel opens his door.

RACHEL
Hey Autumn, Dr. Leslie is here.

AUTUMN
Cool, thanks. How has today been?

RACHEL
The sun is shining and I'm still here.

She smiles and exits.

74. INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Autumn enters and sits down.

AUTUMN
What's up? I thought we were meeting Friday?

DR. LESLIE
I wanted to come see you, how have you been?

AUTUMN
Actually, really good.

DR. LESLIE
I'm happy for you. I wanted to see what you thought about discharging next week. You are allowed to leave any time you want now.

AUTUMN
I don't know if that's a good idea.

DR. LESLIE
Why?

AUTUMN
I've never done well on my own. The structure here is good for me.

DR. LESLIE
We are having an influx of new patients, and the hospital is short on rooms right now. We were hoping to have someone new in your room next week.

AUTUMN

Oh.

DR. LESLIE

Remember how you felt when you got here?

AUTUMN

Yeah.

DR. LESLIE

They feel like that right now.

AUTUMN

I understand.

DR. LESLIE

I know it's a big transition.

AUTUMN

No, I get it.

He is silent.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

Thank you for everything. I don't think I would have made it. People would still be getting hurt.

DR. LESLIE

You don't have to thank me. You're the one making the changes.

Autumn smiles.

75. INT. AUTUMN'S BEDROOM (HOSPITAL)

Autumn is laying on his bed reading. There is a knock at the door.

RACHEL

I heard you're going home!

AUTUMN

Yep. Today's the day.

RACHEL

Well, it's been a pleasure. Oh! This came for you.

Rachel hands Autumn an envelope. It states:

"To Autumn

From Riley"

RACHEL (cont'd)
I'll leave you alone.

Autumn stares at the envelope and sits on his bed. He opens it carefully.

The letter is read by Riley's voice.

RILEY (LETTER)

I'm sorry it's taken me so long to write to you. I heard about your hospitalization, and I am happy you're receiving the treatment you need.

When we met, you made me feel like I had finally found someone like me. Someone who had a past they regretted and would understand my mistakes.

I wanted you to love me so badly that I made the mistake of thinking I could take care of your mental health when you couldn't.

I felt like if I had been there with you when you were locked away, then maybe your mind wouldn't be damaged the way it was. You don't deserve to be locked away, and you have locked yourself away from so many people.

You have this power to destroy people when you're upset, and you don't stop until you've hurt them so badly they can't even recognize themselves anymore.

I blocked your number because I knew you would try to manipulate me back into an unsafe relationship, and I would have let you because I love you.

I thought to myself maybe I could take the abuse because I knew you were sick, and if I showed you acceptance and kindness, you would reciprocate that. But it's not possible to have a normal relationship when only one side wants it, and I cannot become another victim with scars shaped like you.

I know you push people away because you want to see whose love is the strongest, and you test people to see who will weather the storm with you at your worst, but you don't return that affection at your best.

You still treat that person like anyone else. You still push them away. And I know that makes you feel afraid, like you will be forgotten.

So, I want to let you know that I will never forget what you look like, and I hope you never forget what I look like either.

I'm scared at the thought of never seeing you again. It makes me feel like it did when I realized my dad wasn't coming home.

I miss you both so much.

I don't know how to end this letter because the idea of living life without you hurts.

But, I need to be loved and accepted the same way you do.

Just because you see me, with all of my imperfections.

Our mistakes do not define us.

I'll always love you, Autumn.

Pinky Promise.

Riley

Autumn looks at the bottom of the letter and a piece of paper falls out. It is the canvas that Riley had drawn that Autumn destroyed. She has redrawn it on a piece of paper.

76. INT. DR. FOLLY'S OFFICE

DR. FOLLY

So, when do you start?

AUTUMN

Online orientation's next week. I do emotional therapy with Dr. Leslie 3 days a week, but classes are at night.

DR. FOLLY

Coding is a really valuable skill set, you are going to have your hands full.

AUTUMN

That's what I'm hoping for.

DR. FOLLY

Any plans for the holiday?

AUTUMN

I might go out.

DR. FOLLY

I know this time of year can be difficult without your father.

AUTUMN

It always felt like I was celebrating alone anyway. Never been a huge fan of Christmas.

DR. FOLLY

You're a new you now.

AUTUMN

I feel like I've been a new me too many times to count.

DR. FOLLY

Then let this be the real you. No more starting over.

AUTUMN

No more starting over.

77. EXT. AUTUMN'S PORCH

Autumn is smoking a joint on his patio. It is Christmas Eve. His house isn't decorated at all. On the television *A Christmas Story* plays. He takes a drag and looks at his phone. He doesn't have any notifications. He grabs his coat and walks to his car.

78. EXT. THE FOXHOLE.

Autumn is leaning against the wall smoking. Christmas lights decorate the building and city. There is a sign outside the club that says "Christmas Eve Open Mic!" As he is lighting his joint, a man walks by.

RANDOM GUY

Hey! Didn't you just perform?

Autumn shakes his head, taking a drag.

RANDOM GUY

Well, you should! You look funny!

AUTUMN

Right.

The man wishes him a happy holiday as he walks away.

79. INT. THE FOXHOLE.

People are drinking and enjoying the evening. Autumn is sitting at a table alone. He reaches into his coat pocket and finds the stack of notecards he used previously. He shuffles through them. He had forgotten they were there. He comes across one he had written earlier:

Sometimes when I fall asleep, I count how many voices I hear in the dark.

He looks at the card silently.

80. EXT. THE FOXHOLE.

Autumn is heading to his car smoking a joint.

He takes a final drag and tosses the roach. Autumn goes to grab his keys in his pocket and realizes he's forgotten them and his notecards inside.

81. INT. THE FOXHOLE.

Autumn walks back to where he was sitting. He doesn't see his keys. He walks up to the bartender.

AUTUMN

Hey, I left my keys and some notecards on my table. Did someone turn them in?

The bartender checks.

BARTENDER

Notecards?

AUTUMN

Yeah, notecards, and car keys.

BARTENDER

Why do you need notecards?

AUTUMN

I don't know, man. Have you seen them or not?

BARTENDER

Yeah, we found them, but some lady said she knew who they belonged to and would return them.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Well, that's creepy, because I came here alone. Did you happen to see which way they went?

BARTENDER
No. Sorry.

AUTUMN
So, the lost and found here is pretty much just up for grabs then? It's on the honor system? I see there's a Rolex in that bin, that's actually my dad's. Could I grab it for him?

BARTENDER
I apologize again.

AUTUMN
Happy holiday.

Autumn exits the bar.

82. EXT. THE FOXHOLE PARKING LOT

Autumn is walking towards his car. He is going to call an Uber. As he approaches, he sees his keys and notecards on his hood. The keys lay on top of the notecards. He picks up the keys and the top notecard reads,

"Normal is good, right?"

Autumn looks around the parking lot and enters his car.

83. INT. MALL ARCADE

Autumn is playing *Space Invaders* by himself. He is trying really hard and gets a "game over."

AUTUMN
Fuckin' Space Invaders.

He picks up his shopping bags and heads towards the exit.

As he does, Autumn sees Riley walk by with a man he doesn't recognize. They are holding hands. Autumn and Riley lock eyes. They stare at each other and it is silent.

The mall noises fade as they stare at each other and become enveloped in what they once had. We see a close shot of Autumn's eye, and then Riley's eye.

84. INT. AUTUMN'S CAR (FLASHBACK)

AUTUMN

I like you.

RILEY

I like you too. Would it be okay, if
I kissed you?

AUTUMN

Are you just doing this because you
feel bad for me?

RILEY

I'm doing this because I think you
are a good person with a lot of
struggles, and I like you.

AUTUMN

I think you are a good person too.

RILEY

Then why can't we be good together?

Riley kisses Autumn, and Autumn kisses Riley back.

85. INT. MALL (PRESENT DAY)

Autumn and Riley break eye contact as he walks away.

He continues walking silently. Riley and her partner become further and further away behind him. We see their blurry images still for a moment, and then walk away.

He stops and turns around to see Riley and her partner gone. He stares for a moment at the empty spot.

This is the start of a new life for Autumn. One where he understands the consequences of abuse and pushing people away.

He continues to walk as he eats his pretzel.