

FADE IN:

1 INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

1

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

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

LINDEMAN

I ran into Natalie last night.

DR. WEINSTEIN

You did?

LINDEMAN

And her new boyfriend.

DR. WEINSTEIN

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

LINDEMAN

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

DR. WEINSTEIN

--Since she dumped you.

LINDEMAN

The ending was complicated.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Six months ago Natalie told you she...

(refers to notes)

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

(looks up)

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

LINDEMAN

Can I tell my story?

DR. WEINSTEIN

Please.

LINDEMAN

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

Dr. Weinstein scribbles the word 'interesting' on his pad.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Interesting.

LINDEMAN

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

DR. WEINSTEIN

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

LINDEMAN

I guess it kinda does.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Now is there anything else - anything new - on your mind?

LINDEMAN

Mmm-guess not.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Take your time. This is important.

Lindeman considers...

LINDEMAN

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

DR. WEINSTEIN

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

LINDEMAN

But we still have 45 minutes left.

DR. WEINSTEIN

What I mean to say is, maybe we've worked through all of your issues.

LINDEMAN
 (suddenly defensive)
 Well that can't be right.

DR. WEINSTEIN
 But you just said--

LINDEMAN
 --I was lying.

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

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

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

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

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

LINDEMAN
 (pleading)
 But art is suffering.

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

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

DR. WEINSTEIN
 (cleverly)
 But are you calling it art?

Lindeman reacts, even more worked up, but can't quite find the words to express his thoughts.

DR. WEINSTEIN

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

LINDEMAN

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

DR. WEINSTEIN

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

LINDEMAN

I'm not.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Lindeman sounds like a Jewish name.

LINDEMAN

I know. Everyone asks.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Because if you were Jewish--

LINDEMAN

--I'm not. I'm Dutch. Mostly.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Then congratulations. You're officially done with therapy. How does it feel?

Lindeman's eyes widen in terror.

ROLL CREDITS.

2

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

2

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