

NOT ABOUT ME

"Pilot"

written by
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CAST

THOMAS.....21 YEARS OLD, MALE
BRETT.....28 YEARS OLD, MALE
JENNY.....28 YEARS OLD, FEMALE
PAUL.....28 YEARS OLD, MALE
DOCTOR ROBBINS.....60S, ANY GENDER

DEDICATION:

FOR MY MOM. WHO DESERVED MORE TIME.

COLD OPEN

1. EXT. CONNECTICUT SUBURBS. CURRENT DAY. THOMAS AND BRETT'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON.

THOMAS' 21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY. MANY GUESTS TALKING AND LAUGHING. THOMAS CARRIES A VIDEO CAMERA FROM THE MID 90'S AROUND WITH HIM AS HE 'INTERVIEWS' GUESTS.

THOMAS
(to a guest)

Hi! What's your name?

GUEST ONE

I'm Betty.

THOMAS
Like "Betty Boop"?

GUEST ONE

No.

THOMAS
Damn. I'd never know. You have a very small waist and a very big head.

THOMAS GREETES ANOTHER GUEST.

THOMAS
Hey there! What's your favorite rom-com of all time?

GUEST TWO

When Harry Met Sally.

THOMAS
Ugh. YES! That orgasm scene!

GUEST TWO

Yeah...

THOMAS
(cutting her off)

Wanna see me do it?

THOMAS BEGINS TO RE-ENACT THE 'ORGASM' SCENE FROM 'WHEN HARRY MET SALLY'. **BRETT** APPROACHES HIM.

BRETT
(to guest)

Sorry. Sorry about this.

THOMAS
Brett! This is what parties are for!

BRETT
Fake orgasms?

THOMAS
I can do it SO much better than Meg.

BRETT
Tommy, let's go inside.

THOMAS
Oh. My. God. Did you get me a
stripper!? Or better yet - A
prostitute?!

THEY EXIT INTO THE HOUSE.

2. INT. THOMAS AND BRETT'S HOUSE. MOMENTS LATER.

BRETT SETS THE VIDEO CAMERA DOWN ON THE TABLE.

THOMAS
(to Brett)

Be careful! That camera is vintage.
1995, actually. Do you know how heavy
that thing is?! I think I sprained my
shoulder.

BRETT
(sarcastically)

I'll get some ice.

THOMAS

I'd rather it be a big slab of steak.
Like in the movies.

BRETT

That's for a black eye.

THOMAS

Should I punch myself in the face?

THOMAS EXTENDS HIS HAND INTO A FIST.

BRETT

Ok. Not funny.

THOMAS

Did you make me a cake?

BRETT

Of course I did.

THOMAS

Did YOU make it, or did that hot lady
baker make it?

BRETT

Would you be happier if I said it was
the "Hot Lady Baker"?

THOMAS

Duh! Ok, where are you hiding it?

BRETT

What?

THOMAS

The CAKE!

THOMAS BEGINS TO OPEN CABINETS, LOOK IN THE FRIDGE, FREEZER, ETC.

BRETT

Tommy, we need to talk.

THOMAS

Ok. Jane Fonda or Lily Tomlin?

BRETT

Tomlin.

THOMAS

Hepburn or Streep?

BRETT

Thomas. I'm being serious. Can you sit down, please?

THOMAS BEGINS TO EMPTY THE DISHWASHER.

THOMAS
(becoming manic)

I... I... I most definitely put five plates in this dishwasher twenty minutes ago. Why are there only four here?

BRETT

Maybe one of the guests needed a plate.

THOMAS

That's what the paper plates outside
are for. Do you think someone came in
here?

BRETT

I don't know. Thomas, can you
please...

THOMAS

No. Nobody was supposed to come inside
the house! Did you forget to tell
someone?

BRETT

I told everyone, Thomas. Just like you
asked me to.

THOMAS

But then, I don't... I don't
understand...

BRETT

I took the plate. I needed it for some
of the Hors D'Oeuvres.

THOMAS

Are you lying?

BRETT

No. Thomas, please sit down.

THOMAS SITS DOWN AT THE TABLE ACROSS FROM BRETT.

THOMAS

Well?! I have a party to get back to!

BRETT

I've been thinking about last night.

THOMAS

If you didn't get any sleep, that's not my fault. You were the one drinking coffee at 7am.

BRETT

I called Doctor Robbins.

THOMAS

What!?

BRETT

I had to, Thomas.

THOMAS

But - but you said it was my decision.

BRETT

I know. I know what I said.

THOMAS

So you lied? You LIED to me!?

BRETT

I just -

THOMAS

You ASS HOLE! Jenny said I was doing better. YOU said I was doing better!

BRETT

This is all just so complicated -

THOMAS

It's not! It's not "complicated". It's simple. You think I can't handle myself and only you can handle me FOR me.

BRETT

It's not about "handle" -

THOMAS

I'm not going.

BRETT

Thomas -

THOMAS

What are you gonna do? Bring a SWAT team in here to drag me off somewhere?

BRETT

It's not a hospital! It's a group home! You would be SAFE!

THOMAS

I AM SAFE! Maybe I'm just not safe from YOU!

WE HEAR **JENNY** AND **PAUL** ARRIVING TO THE PARTY.

JENNY (O.S.)

Sorry we're late!

JENNY AND PAUL OPEN THE DOOR AND ENTER THE HOUSE. THOMAS SEES JENNY AND RUNS TO HER.

THOMAS

Jenny! Help!

JENNY
(to Brett)

What happened?

JENNY HUGS THOMAS.

JENNY
Thomas. Breathe. Smell the roses and
blow out the candles.

THOMAS
(to Jenny)

He's sending me away!

JENNY
(to Brett)

What?

BRETT
Jenny, I -

JENNY
Brett!

PAUL STANDS NEXT TO BRETT.

PAUL
Jenny - Maybe this is the best -

JENNY
No. No! Paul, how can you -

THOMAS PULLS AWAY FROM JENNY AND RACES TO A CABINET IN THE KITCHEN. HE PULLS OUT A KNIFE. HE TURNS TO BRETT, JENNY, AND PAUL.

THOMAS
Don't come near me! Or I'll slice!

ACT ONE

3. INT. DOCTOR ROBBINS OFFICE. TWO MONTHS PRIOR.

IN-PATIENT HOSPITAL. , THOMAS' THERAPIST, SITS AT THEIR
DESK. JENNY AND PAUL SIT ACROSS FROM THEM. AFTER A MOMENT,
BRETT RUSHES IN, DISHEVELED. HE IS WEARING A COOKING APRON
AND A CHEF'S HAT.

BRETT

Sorry! SO sorry I'm late. The
restaurant was crazy.

DOCTOR ROBBINS

Nice to see you, Brett.

THEY SHAKE HANDS.

PAUL
(quietly, to Brett)

Brett.

BRETT

What?

PAUL

The hat.

BRETT
(reaching up and pulling off
the hat)

Sorry! I came straight from the
restaurant.

JENNY
(quietly, to Brett)

Brett - the apron.

BRETT LOOKS DOWN AT THE APRON HE IS WEARING, COVERED IN
FLOUR.

BRETT

God, you guys. I'm sorry. I'm a mess.

HE TAKES OFF THE APRON AND PUTS THE APRON AND THE HAT IN HIS BAG.

BRETT
(to Doctor Robbins)

I apologize.

DOCTOR ROBBINS
(smiling a bit)

It's fine, Brett. Perfectly fine.

BRETT
(to Doctor Robbins)

So? How have you been?

DOCTOR ROBBINS

Fine, thank you.

BRETT

Good to hear it.

DOCTOR ROBBINS

Well - I think it's time we discuss
Thomas' discharge.

BRETT

Ok. Yes. Are the medications working?

DOCTOR ROBBINS

We have increased his level of
Lamictal and lowered the Buspar.
Increased the Clonapin and added
Zoloft. His episodes have decreased
drastically and he seems to be doing
much better.

BRETT

That's - that's really good. Really good to hear. Thank you, Doctor Robbins.

DOCTOR ROBBINS

Of course. But please remember, Brett - psychiatry is no exact science. We have adjusted his meds the best we can, and - well. Now we hope for the best.

PAUL

That's it?

JENNY

Hope for the best?

BRETT

I can handle this.

JENNY

Are you sure, Brett?

BRETT

Yes.

PAUL

We'll be around. Every day.

DOCTOR ROBBINS

Thomas is very lucky to have such a wonderful group of supportive friends.

PAUSE.

DOCTOR ROBBINS

Brett - I trust you. I think you have done a wonderful job taking care of Thomas. Since - since you both lost your parents. But I need to reiterate, and I really need you to hear me - Thomas' condition may improve over time, but it also may not.

JENNY

It may not?

PAUL

What do you mean?

DOCTOR ROBBINS

There is a chance that his condition may reach a level where he may need to be somewhere, well - permanent.

JENNY

But - he comes here and then he comes home and he's better.

PAUL

Yeah, but not for long.

JENNY

(to Doctor Robbins)

There has to be something more you can do.

PAUL

She's not a miracle worker.

JENNY

Paul, stop!

DOCTOR ROBBINS

He does come here and go home.
Frequently. Three times in the past
two years, in fact.

BRETT

What do you mean by "permanent".

DOCTOR ROBBINS

There are places. Not hospitals.
Places where he can live. Where he
would be around other people like him,
who deal with similar conditions. It's
an option we might want to consider.

BRETT

I -

DOCTOR ROBBINS

We don't need to figure any of that
out right now. For now, take Thomas
home. He needs you.

BRETT

Ok. When can we see him?

DOCTOR ROBBINS

He's all set to go home. I just need
you to sign some paperwork. We'll meet
you in the lobby.

DOCTOR ROBBINS EXITS.

PAUL

Well, fuck.

JENNY

Stop.

PAUL

Like he would LIVE there? Forever?

JENNY

Now is not the time, Paul.

BRETT IS ENTRANCED IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS.

PAUL

(to Brett)

Are you sure this is all OK?

BRETT

Yeah. Yes.

PAUL

Ok. Well - I have to get back to the precinct.

JENNY

I have to get back to the Library.

BRETT

OK. Yeah. Fine. See you later.

PAUL HUGS BRETT. BRETT HUGS JENNY. JENNY KISSES PAUL.

JENNY

See you at home, babe.

JENNY EXITS. PAUL AND BRETT STARE AT EACH OTHER.

4. EXT. A FEW WEEKS LATER. BRETT'S HOUSE. DECK WITH POOL

JENNY IS READING A BOOK AND LOUNGING BY THE POOL. THOMAS IS SWIMMING.

THOMAS

Jenny! The water is amazing!

JENNY

I'm fine where I am, babe.

THOMAS

(loudly)

Brett! Paul! Get out here! The water
is SCRUM-DIDDILY-UMPTIOUS!

JENNY

What do you wanna watch tonight?

THOMAS

Notting Hill, duh! It's Friday night!

JENNY

I was thinking maybe The Notebook.

THOMAS

SO 2004.

JENNY

Um... Notting Hill was released in
1999!

THOMAS

But Jenny... I'm just a boy, swimming
in front of a girl... asking her to
let him watch his favorite movie of
all time!

JENNY

Ugh. Fine.

THOMAS

Yes!

THOMAS GRABS JENNY AND PULLS HER INTO THE POOL. JENNY SCREAMS.

JENNY

You little brat!

THOMAS
(with Jenny in his arms)

I'll never let go, Jenny! I'll never
let go!

5. INT. BRETT'S HOUSE. MOMENTS LATER.

BRETT IS SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING TV. PAUL ENTERS FROM THE BATHROOM. THERE IS A PILE OF UNPAID, OVERDUE BILLS ON THE TABLE. PAUL TAKES A FEW OF THEM AND SITS NEXT TO BRETT.

PAUL

Wanna tell me what this is all about?

BRETT

Shit. I meant to put those away.

PAUL

Well - you didn't.

PAUSE.

PAUL

What's going on?

BRETT

Nothing. Everything is fine.

PAUL

Why do you have over due bills? This one is from a collections agency.

BRETT

It's none of your business.

PAUL

It is my business.

PAUSE.

BRETT

(with a sigh)

The trust. It ran out.

PAUL

The one your parents left you? I thought there was like a million dollars in there.

BRETT

Yeah, well, eleven years and seven hospitalizations later, that much money doesn't go very far.

PAUL

But the restaurant -

BRETT

I got laid off.

PAUL

What!? How. Why?

BRETT

My manager said I was showing up late too much and was taking phone calls too much and a lot more of "too much" and so - yeah.

PAUL

Didn't you tell him why?

BRETT

He said my personal problems were inhibiting my ability to be a dependable employee.

PAUSE.

PAUL

I can give you money.

BRETT

No.

PAUL

Why won't you let me help you?

PAUL TAKES BRETT'S HAND AND KISSES IT.

BRETT

Jenny and Thomas are right outside.

PAUL

They can't see us.

PAUL KISSES BRETT. BRETT PULLS AWAY.

BRETT

Not here.

PAUL

Why not?

BRETT

They are right outside!

PAUL

So?

PAUL KISSES BRETT AGAIN. BRETT PULLS AWAY.

BRETT

Paul, I've been thinking. A lot. About this. About you. And I just can't. You and Jenny are getting married in a year. I can't and would never be able to live with the guilt.

PAUL

This is about Thomas, isn't it.

BRETT

What?

PAUL

He always comes first.

BRETT

What is that supposed to mean?

PAUL

You can't love me - you can't commit to me - because Thomas is your fucking world.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

Every time I try to make us work,
you're distracted and making excuses
and lying. What about YOUR life?

BRETT

Thomas IS my life! Don't you get that?
That's the way it's always been and
that's the way it will always be.

PAUL

How are you gonna pay your rent? How
are you going to pay for Thomas'
bills? Hell - how are you going to pay
for anything!?

BRETT

I'll figure it out.

PAUL SCOFFS.

PAUL

Look - maybe Doctor Robbins was right.
If Thomas went somewhere like -
permanent? You wouldn't have to worry
about all of this! You and I could get
a place together. I could break it off
with Jenny. We could actually BE
together.

BRETT

That will never happen, and you know
it.

PAUL

Fine.

PAUL PICKS UP A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE TABLE. IT IS OF A YOUNG BRETT AND THOMAS WITH AN OLDER MAN AND AN OLDER WOMAN ALL STANDING TOGETHER, SMILING.

PAUL

(referencing photo, to Brett)

Your parent's wouldn't have wanted you to do this alone. They would have wanted you to be happy. And you may love Thomas, but he doesn't make you happy. He is destroying you, manic episode by manic episode. Don't you get that?

PAUL PUTS THE PICTURE BACK ON THE TABLE. PAUSE.

BRETT

Paul, you - you'll just never understand.

PAUL

Yeah. Yup. I guess not.

PAUL EXITS.

6. INT. A FEW WEEKS LATER. BRETT'S HOUSE. THOMAS' ROOM.

THOMAS IS WATCHING A MOVIE ON HIS LAPTOP. BRETT ENTERS.

BRETT

Hey Tommy-Tom.

THOMAS

(not looking up)

Hey.

BRETT

Whatcha watching?

THOMAS

"The Holiday".

BRETT

It's not even Christmas.

THOMAS

So?

BRETT

You watch it almost every week. Don't
you get sick of it?

THOMAS

Nope. Never. I learn a lot.

BRETT

About?

THOMAS

Like romantic stuff. It might come in
handy some day.

BRETT

How would it come in handy?

THOMAS

Like if I meet a girl. And she's like,
a romantic. I'll know all the right
lines to say and how to act with her
and how to get her to like me.

BRETT LAYS DOWN IN THE BED NEXT TO THOMAS.

BRETT

I think you'd be romantic enough for
the two of you.

THOMAS

So you think I could?

BRETT

Could what?

THOMAS

Get a girlfriend?

BRETT

Of course I do.

THOMAS

What if she doesn't understand, my. My

-

BRETT

If she doesn't understand, she's not
worth it.

THOMAS

You're just saying that because you're
my brother and that's what your
supposed to say.

BRETT

Not true.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

I'm turning 21. I don't want to be
alone forever.

BRETT

You are young! You have plenty of time. To fall in love, to watch sappy rom-coms, to be your hilarious, corny self...

THOMAS

"I like corny. I'm looking for corny in my life"

BRETT

(referencing the movie on the screen)

The fact that I know that quote is from THIS movie proves...

THOMAS

(cutting him off)

That you eavesdrop way too much.

BRETT

Ha. Yeah, I guess.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

I wish I were normal.

BRETT

Tommy, you are normal.

THOMAS

You know what I mean.

BRETT SIGHS.

BRETT

We don't use the word "normal" in this house, remember?

THOMAS

I'm keeping you from living a happy
life.

BRETT

Thomas! Stop.

THOMAS

You could do so much more, be so much
more - actually be happy - if I wasn't
around holding you back.

BRETT

(standing)

We are not having this conversation.

THOMAS

Ok. Fine.

BEAT.

THOMAS

Do you wanna watch the rest with me or
do you have stuff to do?

BRETT

I actually do love this movie.

THOMAS

Grab the comforter.

BRETT GRABS THE COMFORTER FROM A CHAIR AND WRAPS IT AROUND
HIM AND THOMAS.

THOMAS

Cameron Diaz is SO hot.

7. INT. PAUL AND JENNY'S HOUSE. NIGHT. A FEW WEEKS LATER.

JENNY AND PAUL ARE LYING IN BED TOGETHER, JUST HAVING HAD SEX. PAUL HAS HIS ARM WRAPPED AROUND JENNY.

JENNY

I could stay like this forever.

PAUL

Same, Babe. Same.

JENNY

I've been thinking.

PAUL

Oh, yeah?

JENNY

What if we just went to Town Hall? And got married? No wait, no big fancy wedding. Just us. You can wear your uniform. You know how much it turns me on.

JENNY KISSES PAUL. PAUL IS LOST IN THOUGHT.

JENNY

Hello. Earth to Paul.

PAUL

Ugh - yeah. Yeah. We could do that.

PAUL STANDS AND PUTS ON A BATHROBE.

JENNY

Where are you going?

PAUL

I have the night shift tonight, remember?

JENNY

Oh, right.

PAUL BEGINS TO GET DRESSED. SO DOES JENNY.

JENNY

I'm worried about Tommy.

PAUL

Isn't everyone.

JENNY

What does that mean?

PAUL

Nothing.

JENNY

No. Don't do that. What were you going to say?

PAUL

It's just Tommy. Always just - Tommy, Tommy, Tommy.

JENNY

Yeah, it is. As it should be.

PAUL

Ever since High School, and their parents dying, and Tommy getting worse - everyone's life just revolves around him.

JENNY

I don't think that's fair. Or true.

PAUL

When I found him, the first time -

JENNY

I don't want to talk about that -

PAUL

I knew. I just knew, in my head. That this was it. I'd probably find him again. Pills. Knives. Whatever. He needs HELP, Jenny. Brett has to let go of his fucking savior complex and put him in a fucking home.

PAUSE.

JENNY

Doctor Robbins said -

PAUL

Fuck Doctor Robbins! I bet she thinks the same thing I do but she's just waiting for things to get so bad that she's justified in sending Thomas away. Well guess what? He passed that point a long time ago!

JENNY

Why do you even care so much? You don't even seem to like him.

PAUL

That's not fair.

JENNY

It's true!

PAUL

I love Tommy.

JENNY

Well, you sure don't show it.

PAUL

I show it in my own way.

JENNY

You are SO fucking selfish, you know that? All you do is strut around like you're a hot-shit cop with no feelings or true emotions.

PAUL

I'm plenty emotional.

JENNY

Well I don't see it!

PAUL

Other people do!

JENNY

What the fuck does that mean?

PAUSE. PAUL BEGINS TO BECOME FURIOUS, OUT OF CONTROL. HE PUNCHES THE WALL. JENNY SCREAMS.

JENNY

Paul! What the fuck!

THE DOORBELL RINGS.

PAUL

Fuck.

JENNY IS IN SHOCK.

JENNY

I -

PAUL

I'll get it.

PAUL GOES DOWN THE STAIRS INTO THE HALLWAY AND OPENS THE DOOR. ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THOMAS.

THOMAS

Hi. Um - I just wanted to return these books Jenny lent me. I think they are due back soon.

THOMAS HANDS THE BOOKS TO BRETT.

PAUL

Thanks.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

Is everything OK?

PAUL

Yes, Thomas. Everything is fine. You should go home. It's late.

THOMAS

Can I talk to Jenny?

PAUL

She's not feeling well.

THOMAS

Oh. Um - Ok. Bye, then.

PAUL CLOSES THE DOOR AND THOMAS RUNS OFF.

ACT TWO

8. INT. BRETT'S HOUSE. A BIT LATER.

THOMAS CREEPS DOWN THE HALLWAY TO BRETT'S ROOM. HE SNEAKS IN.
HE SITS ON THE BED NEXT TO BRETT.

THOMAS
(quietly)

Brett. Brett! Are you awake?

BRETT

I am now.

THOMAS
I have to tell you something. But I'm
scared.

BRETT

Scared of what?

THOMAS
Scared of getting caught.

BRETT

What? Did you steal something? Do I
have to turn you in?

THOMAS
When I went to give Jenny her books
back, before I rang the bell, I heard
a loud, like - huge punching sound and
Jenny screamed.

BRETT

What!?

BRETT STANDS UP AND GETS DRESSED.

THOMAS

Where are you going?

BRETT

To make sure Jenny is OK.

THOMAS

Paul will know I told you!

BRETT

I don't care. Stay here.

BRETT EXITS. THOMAS FOLLOWS QUIETLY BEHIND HIM.

9. EXT. OUTSIDE PAUL'S HOUSE. A FEW MINUTES LATER.

BRETT BANGS ON PAUL'S DOOR.

BRETT

Paul! Open up!

SILENCE.

BRETT

Paul!

JENNY ANSWERS THE DOOR.

BRETT

Jenny, what's going on?

JENNY

What? Nothing. Why are you here?

BRETT

Where is Paul?

JENNY

Working. Night shift.

BRETT

When will he be home?

JENNY

Later.

PAUSE.

JENNY

Why are you acting so weird? What's going on? Is it Tommy!?

BRETT

No. No, Tommy's fine.

THOMAS APPEARS.

THOMAS

No! I'm not fine! I heard what he was doing to you, Jenny! You can't -

JENNY

Thomas - you don't know what -

THOMAS

I do!

JENNY

It's not what it -

THOMAS SCREAMS AND BEGINS TO POUND HIS FIST AGAINST THE WALL NEXT TO THE DOOR. JENNY TRIES TO HUG HIM BUT HE PULLS AWAY.

THOMAS

Why doesn't anybody BELIEVE ME!?

HE RUNS OFF.

JENNY

(To Brett)

I'll go.

JENNY GOES AFTER THOMAS. BRETT SITS DOWN ON THE STEPS AND BEGINS TO CRY.

10. EXT. SAME NIGHT. A FEW HOURS LATER. PAUL'S HOUSE.

BRETT IS STILL SITTING ON THE STEPS. PAUL ENTERS.

BRETT
(standing, to Paul)

You've got some nerve.

PAUL

Huh?

BRETT

I know about what you did to Jenny.

PAUL

Stop jumping to conclusions.

BRETT

You're SUCH an ASS HOLE. Next time I
fall out of line, what are you gonna
do? Beat me up?

PAUL

Nothing happened. We just had a fight.

No big deal.

BRETT

No big deal!?

BRETT PUNCHES PAUL. THEY WRESTLE, HITTING EACH OTHER. THEY
TALK AS THEY WRESTLE.

PAUL

I punched a fucking wall, not her!

BRETT

Why do you do this!?

PAUL

Do WHAT?

BRETT

Make everything about yourself!

PAUL

Because nobody ever makes anything
about me!

THEY ARE BOTH EXHAUSTED AND COLLAPSE ON THE GROUND. THEY
BREATHE HARD.

BRETT

I'm not doing this anymore.

PAUL

Do what?

BRETT

YOU!

PAUL

What are you talking about.

BRETT

We're over. For good.

BRETT STANDS AND BEGINS TO EXIT BUT TURNS BACK.

BRETT

We don't make it about you because it
shouldn't be about you. It should be
about Thomas. Maybe if you weren't so
obsessed with getting what YOU want
all the time, you would see that.

BRETT EXITS. PAUL IS LEFT ON THE GROUND.

11. EXT. PARK. LATER SAME NIGHT.

THOMAS SITS ON A PARK SWING. JENNY ENTERS.

JENNY

I knew I'd find you here.

TOMMY

Our spot.

JENNY

Our spot.

PAUSE.

JENNY

Does Brett know where you are? That
you're OK?

THOMAS

I'm not OK. YOU are not OK!

JENNY

I am!

THOMAS

You're not!

JENNY

(comforting)

Babe. I got you. I got this. Don't
worry.

THOMAS STANDS AND HUGS HER TIGHTLY. HE BEGINS TO CRY.

JENNY

Hey there, now.

THOMAS

What happened? What's wrong?

JENNY

I'm fine, babe!

THOMAS

I heard you scream. I -

JENNY

What?

THOMAS

I can't lose you.

JENNY

You have nothing to worry about! It was just a misunderstanding. Nothing is wrong and I'm not going anywhere.

THOMAS

You're lying. About everything. Just like everyone does. Everyone thinks I can't handle anything. Everyone is always protecting me when I don't need to be protected! I can keep you safe, Jenny!

PAUSE. JENNY HUGS THOMAS TIGHTLY. THOMAS CALMS DOWN A BIT.

THOMAS

Did he hurt you?

JENNY

No.

THOMAS

You SWEAR!?

JENNY

Yes, babe.

THOMAS

I might be scrawny and kinda weak, but
I'll KICK HIS ASS!

JENNY
(laughing)

I know you would.

PAUSE. THEY BOTH SIT ON THE SWINGS.

THOMAS

I can't stop thinking.

JENNY

About what?

THOMAS

About what my life would be like.

JENNY

You mean, if you -

THOMAS

Yeah.

JENNY

Life is hard for everyone, Tommy.

THOMAS

I know. But for me?

JENNY

I know.

THOMAS

I don't want to go back to the
hospital.

JENNY

You don't have to, babe. You're doing
so much better!

THOMAS

For now.

JENNY

What do you mean?

THOMAS

The monsters always come back. The
demons always resurface. Eventually.

PAUSE.

JENNY

You can talk to me, Tommy. Any time,
day or night. I won't judge.

THOMAS

(after a moment)

Do you ever wonder what it would be
like if you were a different person?
Like - if you had all the things you
wanted but never could have? Like - be
a person you could make up in your
mind and never go back to the you you
really are?

JENNY

Yeah, I have that feeling. Sometimes.
I wish I were braver. Stronger. I wish
I spoke up more.

THOMAS

You always speak up.

JENNY

About some things, yes. But not always about the important things.

THOMAS

What important things?

JENNY

It's hard to explain.

THOMAS

Yeah, I get that. Trust me. I REALLY get that.

JENNY

I know you do.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

What movie would you want to live in?

JENNY

Huh?

THOMAS

Like - if you could escape - and live inside a different world, where would you go? Pick a movie.

JENNY

I'm worried if I don't say "Notting Hill" I'll be in big, big trouble.

THOMAS

Haha.

JENNY

Um - well. I'd like to be a princess,
maybe. Rapunzel!

THOMAS

Have a dashing young prince climb up
your hair? Sounds painful.

JENNY LAUGHS.

JENNY

How about you?

THOMAS

Tom Hanks in Cast Away.

JENNY

That is VERY morbid. He almost died!

THOMAS

But he didn't. He survived. He was
strong. He figured out how to make his
own food and create his own shelter.
And he had a best friend to keep him
safe.

JENNY

Yeah - a volleyball!

THOMAS

Yeah. But, I mean - he didn't need
anyone's help. He was free. He learned
how to take care of himself.

JENNY

You mean - no doctors?

THOMAS

No doctors.

JENNY

Just wide-open space.

THOMAS

A beautiful beach.

JENNY

And he was saved.

THOMAS

Yeah. He was saved.

PAUSE.

JENNY

I think you have a gift, Tommy. In fact, I think you're more "normal" than the rest of us.

THOMAS

Very funny.

JENNY

I mean it. You see the world in a different way. You've been through so much trauma. And it's made you smart. And strong. And loving. You care. You genuinely, genuinely care. That is a quality very few people have. But YOU survived. And you will continue to.

THOMAS

Thanks to you.

JENNY

No. Thanks to YOU.

THEY SWING IN SILENCE.

ACT THREE

12. INT. BRETT'S HOUSE. EARLY IN THE MORNING. SAME NIGHT

BRETT SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE, STARING AT A CUP OF COFFEE THAT HAS LONG-SINCE GONE COLD. BRETT ENTERS QUIETLY. THEY BOTH HAVE A FEW BRUISES AND SCRAPES ON THEIR FACES. PAUL STARES AT BRETT. PAUSE.

PAUL

I'm sorry.

BRETT DOES NOT RESPOND.

PAUL

Did you hear me?

BRETT CONTINUES TO STARE AT THE CUP OF COFFEE.

PAUL

So, you're just going to ignore me
forever?

PAUSE.

BRETT

I know you are.

PAUL

Are what?

BRETT

Sorry.

PAUL

Ok. And?

BRETT

If you're expecting me to apologize,
you've got this all wrong.

PAUSE.

PAUL

If you think I don't care, if Jenny thinks I don't care - you're both very, very wrong.

BRETT

How are we supposed to think you care when you act the way you do about him.

PAUL

I worry. A lot, Brett. I honestly don't know what to do or think or feel. I just want him to be OK.

BRETT

He is OK.

PAUL

Why can't you see that he's NOT?

BRETT

And here we go - the same old fight.

BRETT STANDS, BRINGS THE COFFEE TO THE SINK, POURS IT OUT, AND FILLS A NEW CUP WITH COFFEE.

PAUL

Ok.

BRETT

Ok?

PAUL

Yes. He's fine.

BRETT

Don't do that.

PAUL

I'm not, Brett. I'm serious. Maybe I do have this all wrong. Maybe I'm looking at it the wrong way or something - I don't know. But Brett - you have to try to see this from my point of view. I've seen how things like this can go.

PAUSE.

PAUL

Do you know how many times I've been called to a scene involving suicide? I've seen people jumping off of bridges - people suffocating themselves - and worse.

PAUSE.

BRETT

I know.

PAUL

Do you?

BRETT

I'm sorry.

PAUL

I thought you weren't going to apologize.

BRETT

Well - maybe Tommy is rubbing off on me.

PAUL

Hm?

BRETT

You wouldn't get it.

PAUL

Then TEACH me! Help me see what I'm not seeing!

BRETT

Ok.

PAUL

Ok?

BRETT

Yes. Just - just give us time. All of us. I think we all just need time. To figure this out. Tommy is doing better. Much better. And I need to hold onto that. Maybe all those therapist I've seen are right - live in the moment.

PAUL

I'm not good at that.

BRETT

I know.

BRETT POURS PAUL A CUP OF COFFEE AND THEY BOTH SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE. PAUL PUTS HIS HAND ON TOP OF BRETT'S.

PAUL

I really do love Jenny.

BRETT

I know you do.

PAUL

But -

BRETT

You love me too.

PAUL

Yeah. Yes. So much.

PAUSE.

BRETT

You have to choose, Paul. You have to
choose - and soon.

PAUL

It's not that easy.

BRETT

It needs to be.

PAUSE.

PAUL

Jenny texted me a bit ago. She's with
Thomas at the park.

BRETT

I know.

PAUL

Of course you do.

PAUSE.

PAUL

So?

BRETT

Go home. Get some sleep. We'll talk later.

PAUL

Ok.

PAUL STANDS AND BEGINS TO EXIT BUT TURNS BACK.

PAUL

"So it's not gonna be easy. It's gonna be really hard, and we're gonna have to work at this every day. But I wanna do that because I want you. I want all of you, forever. You and me. Every day"

BRETT

That's from The Notebook.

PAUL

One of Thomas' favorite movies. I get more than you think I do.

PAUSE. PAUL TAKES OUT A CHECK FROM HIS POCKET AND HANDS IT TO BRETT.

PAUL

It's a loan. I don't want to hear one word come out of your mouth.

PAUL EXITS.

13. INT. BRETT'S KITCHEN. A BIT LATER.

BRETT IS STILL SITTING AT THE TABLE, HIS COFFEE NOW COLD AGAIN. THOMAS ENTERS QUIETLY AND TRIES TO SNEAK UP THE STAIRS TO HIS ROOM.

BRETT

Stop it right there, young man.

THOMAS

God, you have better hearing than a bat.

BRETT

Come here, please.

THOMAS ENTERS THE KITCHEN.

BRETT

Sit down.

THOMAS SITS.

THOMAS

You're not gonna offer me any coffee?
Rude.

BRETT

You scared the shit out of me. Out of all of us.

THOMAS

I was with Jenny. I was fine.

BRETT

It's not about that.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

I'm sorry, Brettifer.

BRETT

You only call me that when you know
you've done something wrong.

THOMAS

Oh no! You've caught on to me! I'm
ruined!

BRETT AND THOMAS BOTH LAUGH. PAUSE

BRETT

I've been thinking.

THOMAS

About what?

BRETT

About how you said you want a
girlfriend.

THOMAS

Yeah. What 21-year-old doesn't?

BRETT

What if you did go somewhere. To get
better. Like - REALLY better. And not
stay there forever. Just a month or
something. And not a hospital. Like a
group home. You'd be around other kids
who deal with the same issues as you.
Maybe you'd meet a girl who -

THOMAS

Is as fucked up as me.

BRETT

That's not what I meant.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

I know. I mean -

BRETT

What?

THOMAS

Maybe that's where I belong.

BRETT

Just for a little bit! There are things they can do there for you, things that can help you that a hospital can't provide. And then you'd come home and you would feel better. I know you would.

THOMAS

Yeah.

BRETT

I'm not going to force you. It's up to you. I do believe you, Tommy. About everything. And I trust you. So if you want to stay here, that's fine. But if you want to go somewhere -

THOMAS

I'll think about it.

PAUSE.

THOMAS

I'm really tired.

BRETT

Get some rest.

THOMAS

The party is tomorrow. Well, today.

BRETT

The guests arrive at 4.

THOMAS

Not as much beauty rest as I deserve,
but I'll take what I can get.

THOMAS EXITS. BRETT PICKS UP HIS CELL PHONE AND DIALS.

BRETT

(leaving a message)

Hi, Doctor Robbins. This is Brett. Can
you call me when you get into the
office? Thanks.

HE HANGS UP.

TAG

14. INT. BRETT'S HOUSE. TIME OF THE BIRTHDAY PARTY.

WE HEAR JENNY AND PAUL ARRIVING TO THE PARTY.

JENNY (O.S.)

Sorry we're late!

JENNY AND PAUL OPEN THE DOOR AND ENTER THE HOUSE. THOMAS SEES JENNY AND RUNS TO HER.

THOMAS

Jenny! Help!

JENNY
(to Brett)

What happened?

JENNY HUGS THOMAS.

JENNY

Thomas. Breathe. Smell the roses and
blow out the candles.

THOMAS
(to Jenny)

He's sending me away!

JENNY
(to Brett)

What?

BRETT

Jenny, I -

JENNY

Brett!

PAUL STANDS NEXT TO BRETT.

PAUL

Jenny - Maybe this is the best -

JENNY

No. No!

THOMAS PULLS AWAY FROM JENNY AND RACES TO A CABINET IN THE KITCHEN. HE PULLS OUT A KNIFE. HE TURNS TO BRETT, JENNY, AND PAUL.

THOMAS

Don't come near me! Or I'll slice!

PAUL
(cautiously)

Tommy, put down the knife. Please.

THOMAS

No! I'm not eleven years old anymore!

I can take care of myself!

BRETT

Tommy, please -

JENNY

Tommy, listen to me -

THOMAS

Just SHUT UP! EVERYONE!

EVERYONE FALLS SILENT. PAUSE.

THOMAS

There are so many things I want to say right now. But I don't think anything I could possibly say would change any of your minds. I could say, "I'm not crazy" - but I've said that a million times and nobody believes me. I could say, "I can take care of myself" - but nobody would think that's true.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I'm sick of this. Of my mind. Of the
demons in my head. I can't take the
pain in my brain anymore! I love you
all. I'm sorry -

THOMAS SLOWLY BRINGS THE KNIFE TOWARDS HIS NECK. SUDDENLY,
BRETT RACES TO THOMAS AND YANKS THE KNIFE OUT OF HIS HANDS.
THOMAS FALLS DOWN.

THOMAS

No. NO!

BLACKOUT. END OF PILOT