

Absurdly Morbid and Somewhat Humorous

written by

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INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

A grey Sedan containing a family of four winds down a rocky, gravel path towards a large, ominous mansion.

The mansions features are gothic of sorts with elements of postmodernist architecture. Whatever the hell that looks like.

The mom, TRISHA (Late 30s), is bawling her eyes out. Her tears stain the silky green dress she wore to this fairly dark occasion.

The dad, ZEKE (early 40s), sits stoic in the passenger seat. He's dressed like a homeless college student.

TRISHA  
(through tears)  
I'm sorry. I'm really trying to  
keep it together.

ZEKE  
You're not doing a great job.

TRISHA  
The kids and I are going to miss  
you so much. What are we supposed  
to do?

ZEKE  
I don't know. Oh, you could try  
dating women! You always talked  
about giving that a go when I  
croaked.

Trisha wails.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Jesus, babe, there's children in  
the car. Please, take it down a  
notch. I'm DYING, not DEAD.

TRISHA  
What's the difference?!

ZEKE  
If I was dead, we wouldn't be  
talking right now, would we?

TRISHA  
How could you be so casual about  
this?! This is the last time we're  
going to get to see you before...

ZEKE

I die. Yeah, I know.

Two teenage girls sit in the back seat. Their faces are glued to their phones. No tears in sight.

MARISSA (early 20s) looks up from her phone. Her curly, blonde hair hangs from either side of her face.

MARISSA

Would you guys please keep it down?  
I'm trying to catch up on Game of  
Thrones

ZEKE

Daenarys becomes the Queen, the  
brother fucker and sister fucker  
die, John kills Daenarys, Bran  
takes the Iron Throne.

MARISSA

DAD! WHAT THE FUCK?!

JUDE (late teens) rips out her headphones and throws them onto the floorboard.

JUDE

FUCK! DAD! I just started the damn  
show!

ZEKE

Good. Sounds like a saved you from  
wasting your time. Show sucks after  
season six anyways. Consider it my  
last act of kindness before I die.

Awkward silence as Zeke searches his pockets and the various car compartments for his "medication."

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Where the hell is my bud?

JUDE

Oh, I threw it out. I didn't want  
you wasting what time you have left  
getting high.

Zeke takes a deep breath.

ZEKE

(yelling)  
FUCK!

**SMASH TITLE/THEME SONG**

EXT. POSTMODERN GOTHIC MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Trisha parks the car, and they all exit.

A sign out front reads: **MORIBUND ETERNAL RESTING HOME**

NURSE HATCHET (late 20s), a woman in a weird, 1950s-style nurses outfit walks out to greet them.

NURSE HATCHET

Good morning! Who is the lucky man, woman, or non-binary person that will be joining us today?

The family points to Zeke.

NURSE HATCHET (CONT'D)

Excellent!

Nurse Hatchet jabs him with a syringe and then performs a whole barrage of medical exams before anyone can say a word.

Once she finishes, she double checks her clipboard to verify all of the information.

ZEKE

What the hell?! I haven't been violated like that since our last family reunion.

TRISHA

The Uncle?

ZEKE

No, Aunt. Uncle was after puberty,

TRISHA

Oh.

NURSE HATCHET

Wow, life has really done a number on you, huh? Zeke Bryant Narcissistic Personality Disorder, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Moderate to Severe Anxiety, Asthma, Obesity, and a genetic predisposition to late-onset Alzheimer's.

MARISSA

You forgot raging stoner and subpar father.

JUDE

No, no, I'd say he's up to par. No higher though.

ZEKE

(to himself)

Please just kill me now.

NURSE HATCHET

That part comes later!

Trisha sobs again.

NURSE HATCHET (CONT'D)

Follow me, please. I'll get your paperwork filed and then you can say goodbye to your family!

TRISHA

We'll see him again?

NURSE HATCHET

Oh of course! We've recently updated our visitor's policy. Now you'll be able to see him whenever you like as long as he's not in a session.

TRISHA

And how long are these sessions?

NURSE HATCHET

Depends on how long it takes for him to have a breakthrough.

Nurse Hatchet holds the door open as they enter the...

INT. MORIBUND - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The interior lobby is huge. Like, corporate office-style huge. Multiple hallways branch off to different parts of the facility.

NURSE HATCHET

Feel free to look around while I get these forms over to the front desk. Once I get back, it's time to part!

ZEKE

Ha, I see what you did there. Lame attempt at humor.

NURSE HATCHET  
I beg your pardon?

ZEKE  
Time to "PART", like, till death do  
us part?

Nurse Hatchet stares at Zeke, clueless as to what he's saying.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Really? No one else?

Now his family shares in Nurse Hatchet's confusion.

Nurse Hatchet takes off towards the front desk.

JUDE  
What the hell was that joke, Dad?

ZEKE  
I got a lot going on and I thought  
it would be funny. Can we drop it,  
please?

MARISSA  
Can you just take him now? Please?

TRISHA  
Marissa! Quit! Can't you see your  
father is dying?!

MARISSA  
I can see, I just don't really  
care. He left us a long time ago.  
The only reason we're here is to  
support you.

JUDE  
1. Don't speak for me. 2. I'm here  
for MOM.

TRISHA  
Thank you, Jude.

MARISSA  
(to Jude)  
Jude the Prude.

Trisha mouths "Fuck you."

TRISHA  
Honestly, this place looks really  
nice.

A cute, little, ghost floats by the family.

JUDE  
Was that a ghost?

ZEKE  
Yeah actually, they're on the  
brochure.

Zeke whips out the brochure from his pocket.

JUDE  
What?!

Jude snatches it from him.

TRISHA  
Are you excited?

ZEKE  
Yeah, I can't wait to get the tour.

TRISHA  
Keep in touch? Please?

ZEKE  
As long as I'm not in one of those  
"sessions" I'll write and call  
every day.

JUDE  
Can we go please?

MARISSA  
Jude!

JUDE  
(whisper to Marissa)  
I can't see him like this. Please?

MARISSA  
Okay.  
(to Zeke and Trisha)  
Jude and I are going to wait  
outside.

ZEKE  
Oh, okay. I'll see you girls later  
then.

Zeke, Jude, and Marissa share an awkward hug.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
I love you both.

Zeke and Trisha continue their conversation as the girls leave.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
They both hate me.

TRISHA  
No, they don't. They're just a lot like their mother. I'll miss you. I know they will too.

ZEKE  
Promise you'll come visit?

TRISHA  
Yes. I promise.

NURSE HATCHET  
Okay, right this way Mr. Bryant.

ZEKE  
(sigh)  
I guess it's time.

Zeke and Trisha embrace.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
I love you.

TRISHA  
I love you too.

Trisha, through a stream of tears, exits Moribund.

Nurse Hatchet escorts Zeke down the left-most hallway towards a set of double doors.

He and his family wave goodbye to each other.

Zeke and Nurse Hatchet exit.

TRISHA (CONT'D)  
I'll give you both \$25 to ditch school this week and stay home with me.

MARISSA  
Make it \$100 and you got a deal.

JUDE  
Marissa! You gotta lowball first dumbass.  
(to Trisha)  
\$50 and you got a deal.



TRISHA

Deal.

They trio leaves the facility.

MARISSA

I would've done it for free.

TRISHA

You are your father's daughter.

INT. MORIBUND - WAITING ROOM - LATER

Nurse Hatchet sits behind a desk at the front of the room.

Zeke, still looking homeless, sneaks a joint out from his pocket.

Another patient, REBECCA (late 30s) who looks like a total narc, does the narc thing to do and raises her hand.

REBECCA

Nurse, newbie here is smoking in doors.

NURSE HATCHET

Now, now Rebecca. What have I told you about snitches?

REBECCA

Snitches get stitches and end up in ditches.

NURSE HATCHET

That's right, now shut the fuck up, okay?

Zeke stops in his tracks.

ZEKE

What the hell was that?

NURSE HATCHET

What was what?

ZEKE

I get she's a fucking narc, but you don't need to shut her down like that. Damn, Nurse.

NURSE HATCHET

Mr. Bryant, there's a lot about this facility that you have yet to learn but let me cue you in on a few things.

ZEKE

Oh God, please don't start singing.

NURSE HATCHET

What? No, idiot. Listen! The facade of the quiet, prim and proper, calm resting home is bullshit. This place is the last stop people like you go to address their pasts, solve their mental issues, and die. With that being said, obviously we play it ridiculously loose here with the rules. I.E., we have no rules.

ZEKE

What about murder? Rape? Bestiality?

NURSE HATCHET

Okay, we have one rule, but that's it.

ZEKE

Not being allowed to leave once you arrive.

NURSE HATCHET

Okay, FUCK, TWO RULES! You can't leave when you get here and no raping anyone.

ZEKE

So, wait, murder is allowed though?

DR. SINGH (late 50s) a small, Indian fellow in a lab coat emerges from his office.

DR. SINGH

In a sense, yes, Mr. Bryant. You see, our facility is surrounded by an "Immortality Field."

ZEKE

Oh God, that's just lazy writing.

DR. SINGH  
I am Dr. Singh. I am the head  
doctor here at Moribund.

Zeke stands up and saunters over to him.

ZEKE  
Nice to meet you, Doc. Were the  
writers too lazy to give you a more  
culturally unique name?

DR. SINGH  
I'm not sure what you're talking  
about.

ZEKE  
I don't really expect you to  
understand. Hey, got a light?

Zeke displays his unlit joint to the doctor.

Dr. Singh lights it and Zeke takes a long drag.

ZEKE (CONT'D)  
Fuck, that's what I needed.

DR. SINGH  
Nurse Hatchet, add addictive  
tendencies to his rap sheet.

ZEKE  
Nurse Hatchet, draw a dick by my  
primary caregiver's name.

She looks at Dr. Singh for confirmation on if she should  
actually do what Zeke says.

Dr. Singh shakes his head, "No."

DR. SINGH  
Please enter my office so that we  
may begin your orientation.

ZEKE  
Oh joy. I love orientations. The  
last one I had lasted an hour and a  
half.

DR. SINGH  
Funny, that's the shortest time you  
held down a job according to your  
chart.

ZEKE

You know what's even funnier? It was the same job.

DR. SINGH

Good one, Mr. Bryant.

INT. MORIBUND - SINGH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Singh's office looks a lot like literally every other doctor's office in every movie and tv show you've ever seen.

DR. SINGH

Please, take a seat. Stage Four Lung Cancer, correct?

ZEKE

You know what? I had honestly forgotten, but thanks for bringing it up!

DR. SINGH

Feeling very sassy today, Mr. Bryant? In any case, my apologies. I was just making sure that I have the correct information. Lets get started.

ZEKE

(sarcastically)

Oh great, here comes the exposition. Buckle up everyone!

DR. SINGH

Mr. Bryant, this facility and its subsidiaries have managed to marry the normal with the paranormal. The sciences that we use in everyday life are blended with the supernatural to allow for us to help people like YOU come to terms with the concept of death.

Zeke takes a hit from his joint.

ZEKE

Y'all got ghosts and shit here?

DR. SINGH

Correct. And much more, Mr. Bryant. Understanding the concept of death requires us to understand concepts and beings that were previously seen as "unreal" or "nonexistent." If we wish to have a complete understanding of life and death, then we must completely understand ALL life and how it dies.

ZEKE

You mean nonexistent like a politician that tells the truth and isn't just in it for the money?

DR. SINGH

(laughing)

Please, Mr. Bryant, use nonfictional examples.

ZEKE

Ummm, Gremlins?

DR. SINGH

Precisely.

DR. SINGH (CONT'D)

Now, first and foremost, this process will not be easy. That is why, during your down time, you are free to do whatever it is you want.

ZEKE

Anything?

DR. SINGH

Well, except for leaving and raping of course. The facility is vast and stretches far wider than our exterior may lead you to believe. You're bound to go on several adventures and meet many wacky, zany characters that you will call friends.

ZEKE

Ah, now we're foreshadowing.

DR. SINGH

Our lackadaisical format allows for unparalleled freedom as long as you are making strides to come to terms with the life you lived and mentally prepare for the end of your life.

ZEKE

So, to sum things up, I basically just need to listen attentively, take my sessions seriously, and start to accept my impending doom. As long as I'm doing those things then I can do whatever I want?

DR. SINGH

Correct. Do we have an accord?

ZEKE

You had me at "weed", Doc.

DR. SINGH

Wh-- What? I never said anything about weed.

ZEKE

Whatever, we have a deal.

Dr. Singh signs a form and slides it across the desk over to Zeke.

He signs.

DR. SINGH

Head back out to the waiting room and your first session will be later today, Mr. Bryant. I hope you're ready.

Zeke shoots up from his seat and is already out the door when Dr. Singh finishes his sentence.

INT. MORIBUND - WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zeke saunters over to a door that leads out into the hallway and tries to open it.

It doesn't budge.

He takes a long drag of his joint.

ZEKE

Nurse Hatchet, your door thingy is stuck.

NURSE HATCHET

You have to wait for your accountability buddy.

ZEKE

My what?

NURSE HATCHET

She'll be here in a moment. Take this for me, please.

ZEKE

What's this? Homework?

NURSE HATCHET

Essentially, yes. Dr. Singh is tasking you with finding anything or anyone here at Moribund that triggers a strong emotion in you. Simply write down who or what it is on the sheet and turn it in to him at your first session today.

ZEKE

What the hell is the point of this?

NURSE HATCHET

Well, the point of it is to help you be more perceptive of your emotions and prep you for your first session. These feelings that you will get will be very intense, Mr. Bryant. Your guide will help you through it, but it is solely your responsibility to feel and interpret those feelings.

ZEKE

Dying is so much work.

NURSE HATCHET

You can say that again.

A girl throws open the door that Zeke stands behind. It whacks him in the face.

He stumbles backwards and catches his footing before he collapses.

FLORENCE PUGH (late 20s) stands in front of Zeke and he's fucking stunned.

ZEKE

Oh. My. God.

FLORENCE PUGH

Are you Zeke Bryant?

ZEKE

I'm Pugh, nice to Florence Zeke.

Nurse Hatchet and Rebecca laugh. Zeke, realizing his mistake, lashes out at the pair.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(to Rebecca)

Anything you have to say is invalid and irrelevant because you're a narc.

(to Nurse Hatchet)

And don't you have a dick to draw?

FLORENCE PUGH

My, my, quite the temper on this one, eh? I'm Florence. Pleasure to meet you.

ZEKE

The pleasure is all mine. Seriously, can't even right now.

FLORENCE PUGH

Can you odd if you can't even?

ZEKE

Wow... that's terrible.

They both share a so-long-they-might-as-well-kiss smile.

FLORENCE PUGH

Follow me. I'll give you a quick rundown of the place before your first session.

Florence and Zeke exit the waiting room.

INT. MORIBUND - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Florence and Zeke arrive back in the lobby and Zeke sees another father being dropped off. The departure is far more emotional than his. His face is static, but pain lies behind his eyes.



ZEKE

So, how in the hell did they get you here?

FLORENCE PUGH

Well, to be honest with you, I'm not actually Florence Pugh. I'm a manifestation of your desires. Which happens to be...

ZEKE

Ah, yup. No need to go on more.

FLORENCE PUGH

Do you have the assignment the doctor gave you?

ZEKE

Right here.

FLORENCE PUGH

Excellent, let's get started with the tour.

Florence and Zeke stop by the front desk of the lobby.

FLORENCE PUGH (CONT'D)

This is the lobby where the to-be-dead arrive and are sent to the waiting room. Some people come with their families and others just come here alone because they don't have anyone.

ZEKE

I envy those people.

Zeke collapses to his knees. His head writhing in pain.

FLORENCE PUGH

Oh boy, got a big one there. That's one you should jot down for the doctor.

Zeke writes down what just happened on his assignment sheet.

ZEKE

This is fucking stupid.

FLORENCE PUGH

It's necessary stupidity as I like to call it.

ZEKE

Good name.

FLORENCE PUGH

So, you envy the ones that came here alone?

Zeke nods.

ZEKE

They don't have to worry about the pain they're causing others.

FLORENCE PUGH

Weird concept, isn't it?

ZEKE

What?

FLORENCE PUGH

Death is supposed to be the most tragic thing that can happen to someone, but when it happens for you, that's it. You're dead. The people around you though, they still have to live and cope with it. They have to live with the pain of YOUR death.

ZEKE

Sounds unfair when you put it that way.

FLORENCE PUGH

It's sad to die alone too though. Then all you have of your final thoughts are all of the people who've left you up until the point of your death. That's why Moribund exists. Here they can help loved ones and the to-be-deads--

ZEKE

Come to terms with death. Jesus, that's like beating a twice dead horse at this point.

Florence Pugh laughs.

FLORENCE PUGH

Twice dead, I like that.

ZEKE

This got dark real fast.

FLORENCE PUGH

Sure did!

ZEKE

Hey, what's that over there?

FLORENCE PUGH

That room is where some of the more... intense sessions happen.

ZEKE

You know, I keep hearing about these sessions, but I have NO idea what they entail.

FLORENCE PUGH

You'll find out soon enough. Have you seen the dormitories yet?

Zeke blushes.

ZEKE

Florence! Are you inviting me back to your place?

Florence laughs

FLORENCE PUGH

Nothing of the sort! I just think you'll get a real kick out of your room.

ZEKE

Lead the way, please.

Florence and Zeke stroll across the lobby and up a set of steps which Zeke is 85% sure weren't there when he first arrived at Moribund.

The stairs then lead to a door and beyond this door is when shit really goes wild.

FLORENCE PUGH

Now listen, once I open this door, I need you to maintain an open mind.

Zeke takes a final drag of his joint to finish it off, but Florence steals it just before it burns out.

She finishes it off and throws it away.

ZEKE

Oh, is this the part where I meet the wacky, zany characters that Dr. Singh was talking about?

FLORENCE PUGH

Yes.

ZEKE

Oh, don't worry, I've actually been looking forward to this.

Florence pushes open the door and BOOM. A huge fucking explosion of color and life hits their eyes with the force of 10 million suns.

INT. MORIBUND - REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's a really vibrant, upbeat atmosphere. Totally different from the somber mood of the lobby and the brash, realist vibe of the waiting room.

Ghosts float freely in the air, whatever creatures that have wings fly with them, every possible land creature (humans included) interact and mingle with each other.

It's a beautiful scene of majestic mythical pageantry.

The room itself is huge with a lot to do. It's basically the lobby that we saw before, but with lots of games, couches, tables, bookshelves, basically anything you can think of that would go in a communal space to occupy any number of people.

ZEKE

Well, I'll be fucked like a pornstar's salary.

FLORENCE PUGH

It's a lot to take in so take your time and--

Like Batman, Zeke has vanished from her field of view. He's already intermingling with the multitude of lifeforms that inhabit this space.

VAMPIRE #1

So yes, basically blood is in fact the life force of all vampires. We can drink animal blood without a problem, but HUMAN blood is where the real fun is at!

ZEKE

Why's that?

VAMPIRE #2

They give us the best high.

ZEKE

Wait, you mean to tell me that  
vampires choose to drink human  
blood for the high and not because  
they need to to survive?

The vampire siblings look at each other.

VAMPIRE #1

Yeah basically.

ZEKE

Wow...

FLORENCE PUGH

Zeke! Come on, mate. Your first  
session is going to start soon!

ZEKE

Thanks for the useless info and  
pointless filler! See you around!

Zeke leaves the confused vampires who notice a male stripper  
wearing a choker with the words "Bite Me" inscribed on it.

You can guess what happens next.

Still passing through the rec room, Zeke follows Florence to  
a door which reads: **DORMITORY.**

FLORENCE PUGH

Each dorm is occupied by two people  
who are destined to die within an  
hour of each other.

ZEKE

Hold on... I don't know how I just  
thought of this, but why are you  
here?

FLORENCE PUGH

I'm sorry?

ZEKE

Like, you're 26-years-old, in great  
shape, and have a shit ton of money  
and fame. There's no way you're  
supposed to die soon.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I mean unless you pull a Cobain and blow your head off or pull an Elvis.

FLORENCE PUGH

Pull an Elvis?

ZEKE

Yeah, that's when you take enough drugs to OD yourself, but you time it out well enough so that it happens while you shit.

FLORENCE PUGH

Th-- that's something people do on purpose?!

ZEKE

No, not exactly, it just happens. Most of the times they just shit themselves and THEN OD.

FLORENCE PUGH

Did Elvis even shit?

ZEKE

Look, I didn't come up with the terminology. I'm just relaying it to you.

Florence, in shock over the disturbing revelation, recomposes herself.

FLORENCE PUGH

Anyways, I volunteer here in my free time.

ZEKE

So, beyond that, you have no special connection to this place?

FLORENCE PUGH

Nope.

ZEKE

Huh. Okay. Continue.

FLORENCE PUGH

Fuck, I lost my trail of thought...

ZEKE

My roommate.

FLORENCE PUGH

Right! So, you and your roommate will split this dorm until it's your time to go and then you're OUT.

Florence does a baseball "you're out" motion.

ZEKE

That was just so unnecessary. I mean genuinely, just, absolutely unnecessary. Like, why?

FLORENCE PUGH

I'm sorry. I don't know. It was the first thing that came to mind.

She does it again.

ZEKE

Please... just... please. No more.

FLORENCE PUGH

Now that I know that it bothers you. I'm going to do it more often.

ZEKE

You sonofva--

FLORENCE PUGH

Here's your roommate!

Florence cuts Zeke off as she throws open the door. Behind it is...

Nothing. It's just a hallway with a bunch of other doors.

ZEKE

It's empty.

FLORENCE PUGH

Oh, yeah, I know. I just wanted to cut you off. Let me show you to your room!

INT. MORIBUND - DORMITORY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She escorts Zeke into the corridor and stops almost immediately.

FLORENCE PUGH

This one will be yours right here.

She inserts a key into the door.

It doesn't budge.

FLORENCE PUGH (CONT'D)  
What the hell?

She aggressively tries to open the damn door to no avail.

After a few moments, TIPPY KNOBGOBBLER (unknown) a female troll, flings the door open as Florence flies off and into the wall.

Her neck SNAPS and she lies unconscious for a moment before readjusting her neck and standing up.

ZEKE  
OH MY GOD!

TIPPY KNOBGOBBLER  
Holy shit! Are you okay?! Florence, I'm so sorry!

FLORENCE PUGH  
It's totally fine, love! No harm done! Where is Dax's new room?

TIPPY KNOBGOBBLER  
Oh, he's three doors down.

ZEKE  
(to himself)  
Good God, how many references to relatable things are we going to make?

FLORENCE PUGH  
Thanks for the help Tippy! Have fun gobbling knobs!

Tippy and Florence wave goodbye as Tippy slams her door shut.

ZEKE  
JESUS! That was so violent with the snapping and the bones and flesh and UGH. God that was a lot to take in at once.

FLORENCE PUGH  
Be glad it happened to me and not you!

ZEKE  
What did you mean back there?



FLORENCE PUGH

I was gonna show you how the Immortality Field worked after we met Dax. I was going to surprise you with a bullet to the back of the head, but I guess that'll have to wait.

ZEKE

Or you could just not do it?...

Florence ponders this idea for a minute.

FLORENCE PUGH

Nah, I'm still gonna do it. I'll just keep it a surprise!

ZEKE

And what about that thing back there?

FLORENCE PUGH

Oh Tippy? She's great! She's one of many resident pleasers we have here. She gobbles knobs.

ZEKE

Excuse me?

FLORENCE PUGH

I know you heard me, and I know you fully understand what that means.

ZEKE

You got me there.

Florence comes to a sudden stop again.

FLORENCE PUGH

Here we are! So Dax will guide you to and from your first session. It looks like Dr. Singh has requested to personally take you on, so you'll be in good hands.

Florence grabs Zeke's hand and places a blank card flat on his palm.

She smacks it with her hand.

FLORENCE PUGH (CONT'D)

Flip it over.

He does.

The card has all of Florence Pugh's contact info.

ZEKE

But... I don't get it.

FLORENCE PUGH

What do you mean? It's magic?

ZEKE

Yeah, but the information could've already been on the other side of the card.

FLORENCE PUGH

But it wasn't.

ZEKE

I don't know that.

FLORENCE PUGH

Here, let me try again.

She punches him in the arm this time and the information is now tattooed on his forearm.

Zeke groans from the pain.

ZEKE

DAYUM! Was that necessary?

FLORENCE PUGH

Don't joke about my magic, SON! Or I'll knock you OUT!

She does the stupid-ass baseball umpire motion once again.

FLORENCE PUGH (CONT'D)

Anyways, if you need anything, you got my info on that card and inked onto your skin now. Hit me up!

Florence knocks on the door and skips away as it opens to reveal...

DAX (late 30s) a light-skinned, Hispanic male wearing the nerdiest get-up you can imagine.

DAX

Hola! What's up, dude?! I'm Dax.

Zeke and Dax do a "bro" handshake.

DAX (CONT'D)

Come in!

INT. MORIBUND - DAX AND ZEKE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dax's room is a lot like his outfit, nerdy as FUCK. That's on purpose. It's very mancave-like as well.

Bean bags, gaming consoles, a stocked bar, and a phone for room service.

ZEKE

Love the room.

DAX

Are you a fellow nerd?

ZEKE

One of the biggest.

DAX

Fuck yeah, wanna get high and watch Dune?

Zeke tears up.

Dax takes a seat on one of the bean bags and resumes playing his game while Zeke explores his new home.

ZEKE

Dude... that sounds perfect.

DAX

We'll do it after your first session.

ZEKE

People keep bringing up my "first session" but no one has told me what time it's going to be at or where.

DAX

Oh, the first one's just in the room all the way down the hallway. Like, literally the last door, bro.

ZEKE

Okay... when?

DAX

Whenever you feel ready, man.

ZEKE

Oh, well, I kinda want to get it over with so that I can chill the rest of the night.

DAX  
Totally fair man.

ZEKE  
Got any pointers before I head in?

DAX  
Yeah, just take it by stride and be really open with yourself. The more open and honest you are with yourself, the easier this whole process will be.

ZEKE  
Wow, that's really deep. You guys love getting deep here.

DAX  
Yeah, gotta balance out the dark absurdist humor with some lighthearted revelations every now and then.

ZEKE  
Yeah... sure. Anyways, I'm gonna head out now so wish me luck!

DAX  
Hey, good luck man! We'll celebrate you're first session when you get back!

Zeke leaves. Dax farts and then giggles like a schoolboy.

DAX (CONT'D)  
Much better.

Zeke hadn't closed the door yet, so he heard it.

INT. MORIBUND - DORMITORY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zeke finally closes the door and walks towards the end of the hall.

He arrives at a door and on it is a sign that reads: **KNOCK ONCE FOR FIRST SESSION.**

He does.

The door slowly opens and shows Dr. Singh sitting in a pitch-black room with a single light shining over him.

INT. MORIBUND - SESSION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zeke enters.

DR. SINGH

Mr. Bryant, I've been wondering when you were going to stop by. How was Florence?

ZEKE

Better than I expected.

DR. SINGH

Excellent.

Dr. Singh finishes up whatever the hell he's doing on his desk. He turns around and flips a switch directly behind him.

A second long turns on to show a black couch sitting beneath it.

ZEKE

This is really giving me Severance type vibes... are you an ex-lover of mine?

DR. SINGH

No. I'm not.

ZEKE

Okay, geez.

DR. SINGH

Lay down on the couch, please.

ZEKE

How am I supposed to get over there?

DR. SINGH

What?

ZEKE

How do I just walk over to the couch in complete darkness? There could be traps or something. How do I know I won't fall into a literal pit of despair?

DR. SINGH

I guess you'll just have to take a leap of faith.

ZEKE

Doc, I have no intention of dying before my due date. I'm not pulling an Assassin's Creed just for you to trick me.

DR. SINGH

Why is that?

ZEKE

Why is what?

DR. SINGH

Why are you scared to take a leap of faith?

ZEKE

Because I don't know if I can trust you. Also, if I'm right and it is some kind of pit of despair or some shit, what if I fall? What if it hurts?

DR. SINGH

So, it is the pain that concerns you?

ZEKE

Amongst other things...

DR. SINGH

What other things?

ZEKE

Oh my God, you're a nuisance. Don't try to come at me with that fuckin psychologist bullshit. Fuckin asking me questions about every statement I make in hopes of rooting out my true emotions.

DR. SINGH

It seems to be working.

ZEKE

YOU seem to be working, BITCH!

Dr. Singh sits at his desk confused by that "burn."

Zeke pretends to stand proudly by his "insult."

DR. SINGH

Would you please sit down, Mr. Bryant?

ZEKE

Did I stutter? I said NO! N.O.  
spells fuck you!

DR. SINGH

I believe it actually spells "no",  
Mr. Bryant.

ZEKE

I believe you can suck my dick.

DR. SINGH

Where is all of the aggression  
coming from, Mr. Bryant?

ZEKE

Fear.

DR. SINGH

Fear of what?

ZEKE

I don't know.

DR. SINGH

Mr. Bryant, what are you scared of?

Zeke's emotions are starting to get the best of him. He's  
pacing back and forth now showing no regard for the darkness  
that surrounds him.

ZEKE

I don't know! Everything! All of  
this! I'm fucking terrified of  
leaving my family behind, man.

Zeke fights through tears to continue speaking.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

We may not be perfect, hell my wife  
and I aren't even together anymore,  
but fuck... FUCK. I love them so  
much. The memories we made that  
we'll never make again.

DR. SINGH

What do you mean?

ZEKE

I'll never get to see them get  
married. I'll never get to see them  
have kids and a family of their  
own.

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'll never get to feel my wife's touch after a log day of work. I'll never get to hug or hold my kids again. This is bullshit! This isn't FUCKING FAIR!

DR. SINGH

What is not fair, Mr. Bryant.

ZEKE

Why me?! Why fucking me?! Why do I have to be the one to go? Why can't it be fucking Bob Barker or William Shatner or fucking Donald Trump! Why not some old decrepit fuck?! Huh?! WHY ME?! WHY DO I HAVE TO DIE?! WHY! WHY! WHY!

DR. SINGH

MR. BRYANT!

There is a pause, but during Zeke's rant... he sat on the couch. At some point he unconsciously made the decision to do it.

DR. SINGH (CONT'D)

Did you notice you're sitting on the couch?

Zeke is finally starting to calm down.

ZEKE

No... No, I didn't.

DR. SINGH

You allowed your emotion to take over and they guided you through the darkness and into the light, Mr. Bryant. Acknowledging your fears and your feelings led you into the light. Did it hurt?

ZEKE

Pretty sure I stubbed my toe on my way over here, but other than that, no.

DR. SINGH

Good. Now, Mr. Bryant, I can't promise you that this process will be easy. I can't even promise you that it will be fully successful.

(MORE)



DR. SINGH (CONT'D)

All I can promise you is that we are going to try out hardest here at Moribund to make it as painless as possible. I have taken you as a patient because I saw something in you that you didn't even see.

ZEKE

An uncontrolled craving for anything that brings me pleasure or gets me high or gets me inebriated? I'm well aware of that.

DR. SINGH

No. I see a man intelligent beyond his years who for the first time in his life is struggling to understand something. THAT is what you fear most. Yes, you fear missing you family, the memories of them, and the times that could've been. Everyone does. For you, Mr. Bryant, what you fear most is what's to come AFTER you die. That is what we are going to help you with here.

ZEKE

Are you saying my entire point in being here is to conquer my fear of death by coming to terms with it's inevitability?

DR. SINGH

Indeed, Mr. Bryant. The reason you are here and all of this is happening is the same reason we treat all of our other patients. Everyone that has died with in the last twenty years has come to facilities, much like Moribund, to prepare them for the next step in their journey of life. The Afterlife.

ZEKE

So by accepting the process, I'll become happier about moving on?

DR. SINGH

Well, you'll be way less sad at least.

ZEKE

Ha! That's a good one! I love AJR.

DR. SINGH

They are truly fantastic aren't they?

ZEKE

Oh yeah, they're music really speaks to me and my generation.

DR. SINGH

Right... exactly.

ZEKE

Yeah...

Awkward Silence.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Anyways, how do you plan on helping me achieve peace? How will you prevent me from having an existential crisis, go completely insane, and believe that storming the U.S. Capitol is a right that I'm entitled to when actually its literal treason?

DR. SINGH

Well, we have a plethora of paranormal experts, mythical talking creatures, psychologists, life coaches, therapists, etc. that want to help you. It will be a long, arduous, depressing, thought-provoking, and often humorous process--

ZEKE

Well, when you put it that way it sounds like we have a lot of work to do, but at least it'll be fun!

DR. SINGH

I think with time you'll come to fear nothing and finally accept your fate. Sound like a plan?

ZEKE

Sounds terrifying still but fuck it. Let's do this.

DR. SINGH  
Excellent, Mr. Bryant.  
Congratulations on completing your  
first session. You're free to go.

Zeke stands up, flips off the doctor and walks out the door.

He's still wiping tears from his face, but underneath all of that sadness and fear... there is a comforting smile that takes over for a brief moment.

Dr. Singh returns to doing whatever he was doing before. He turns around to flip the switch to turn off the overhead couch light, but accidentally turns off BOTH lights.

Now, he sits in complete darkness.

DR. SINGH (CONT'D)  
Shit, where are the light switches?

QWe hear him fumble around for a moment before there is a loud crash. He definitely fell flat on his ass.

INT. MORIBUND - DORMITORY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zeke walks back to his shared room with Dax.

His mind is reeling from what happened just moments ago. His eyes are frantic, his walk is slow, and the entire world around him seems to be going in slow motion.

As he approaches the door to his room. He goes to knock but stops himself.

He collapses against the wall in front of him and cries.

Hearing the commotion, Dax opens the door. He looks down at Zeke crying on the floor and smiles.

DAX  
I remember my first session, man.  
It was a doozy. I had Dr. Charles.  
That little dude got me to open up  
about my entire life. Even the  
murders—

ZEKE  
Murders? With an "S?"

DAX  
Let me finish my story.

Zeke, scared for his life, scoots away.

DAX (CONT'D)

I didn't calm down until I felt this warm feeling consume my body like being hugged by my great aunt Bertha. God she was a massive, massive woman. Oh Bertha..

ZEKE

Stay on topic, Dax.

DAX

Exactly, so that's when I found out I was sitting on a couch, and I had just pissed myself.

Zeke stares at Dax with a look of utter terror and confusion.

DAX (CONT'D)

Anyways, moral of the story, be glad you didn't piss yourself.

ZEKE

I honestly didn't think there would be a moral to the story.

DAX

There's always going to be a moral or lesson fit into the story somehow.

ZEKE

Is the lesson here that I'm going to die and there's nothing I can do about it?

DAX

Yeah, probably.

ZEKE

(under his breath)  
Fuck my death.

DAX

What?

ZEKE

Nothing, Dax. Want to get stoned, eat pizza, and play Battlefront II?

DAX

Sounds like a plan, man.

Zeke and Dax stand up and enter their room.

Before closing the door, Zeke looks back directly at the camera.

ZEKE

(to audience)

See you guys next episode. Keep tuning in for more humor and deep conversations about life and death! Also girls, lots of girls. Maybe some dicks too. Separate of course unless we got picked up by HBO or Netflix. In that case, BRING ON THE ORGIES. But seriously, no sex... I think. Definitely tons of violence though. And cursing... just don't let your kids watch this show. Okay! Byesies!

CUT TO BLACK.

TEXT ON SCREEN

"Help support screenwriter James Oden in paying for a vacation for his family and in-laws. He went on a trip to Myrtle Beach with them all once and had an absolute blast. He won't shut up about it and keeps attempting to recreate it, but he's too broke. Help his broke-ass out so that he'll stop asking me, my family, or my friends, please. This is my last dying wish as the one and only..." - Zeke Bryant.