

**A Few Will Find This Difficult**

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FADE IN:

**INT. VISITING CUBICLE - DAY**

Slotted off by perforated glass.

EDWARD CONSAPUS, late 20's, orange jumpsuit, sits on one side.

SAVANNAH BEAN, early 20's, homely, sits on the other. A cheap notebook sits in front of her.

EDWARD

You look nervous.

SAVANNAH

A little.

Their voices echo in the small space.

EDWARD

This your first time in a jail?

SAVANNAH

My first interview.

EDWARD

In a jail?

SAVANNAH

Ever. The paper came to campus last week after the strike started and needed help. They sent me to cover you.

EDWARD

Scab, huh?

SAVANNAH

Yeah. They said you could make or break me. They said your case is unprecedented.

EDWARD

It's not going to be an easy story to tell. Most people won't understand my side of it.

She sets a small tape recorder as close to the perforated glass as she can.

SAVANNAH

So where are you from?

Edward pauses and looks at her.

EDWARD

A little over five years.

SAVANNAH

I'm sorry, what?

EDWARD

If you want to impress your editor, you should probably only ask important questions. I've been an addict for a little over five years now. About the same time as my mom's accident.

Savannah reviews an index card.

SAVANNAH

Jacquelin is your mother?

Edward nods.

SAVANNAH

Why wasn't your mom put in a hospital, or home?

EDWARD

I love my mother more than anything. No one would've taken better care of her than me.

(shrugs)

Besides, not having to waste a room on her; not having to pay employees to keep her muscles from atrophying; not having to pay for cable just so a vegetable can watch it; all those things appealed to the board. I didn't have to fight too hard to keep her home with me.

SAVANNAH

Why'd you keep her medication from her?

EDWARD

I didn't. Not totally. She's had dozens of routine punctures for stress tests. Her mind is mush. She doesn't feel a thing.

Savannah writes.

EDWARD

The state kept her on meds just to keep milking the insurance. I wasn't going to argue. I only weened her off the morphine to keep her system clean. I'd up her dosage to get her back to normal by the time the hospice nurses came around again to check on her.

SAVANNAH

Why'd you have to ween her off?

EDWARD

Cause I've been on probation for the last eight months.

Savannah looks at him.

**INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

Looks like a hospital room because of the equipment.

JACQUELIN CONSAPUS, mid-40's, lays in bed, hooked to an oxygen machine and feeding tube.

Her blank eyes dart miscellaneously around the room, but focus on nothing.

Edward brushes her stringy hair.

He finishes, leans over her and gives her a small peck on the lips. Her eyes never quit darting.

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

Edward pulls down a bottle of morphine sulfate from a cabinet. Shuffles a tablet out.

Grabs a soup ladle and large spoon from the dishrack.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Edward blotches the tablet with masking tape to remove the color. Mashes it in the soup ladle with the spoon. Adds water.

He flicks a lighter under the ladle and heats it. Blows a waxy film off to the side of the spoon.

He draws the liquid up in a syringe.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER**

Edward stares, relaxed.

He looks around and takes in the setting as if he just awoke. Grabs a phone off the coffee table and dials a number.

WOMAN

(filter)

You've reached Mahoning County TASC services for Tuesday, March twenty-second. The following are to report for urine screen today. TASC Track One, Judge Henry's Juvenile Court Phase One, and TASC Track Four, are all to report for urine screen today... You've reached Mahoning County TASC-

Edward hangs up and takes a deep breath.

**INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

Edward exchanges an empty catheter bag for Jacquelin's full one. He checks to make sure there's enough in it.

He opens his mother's bedside drawer and digs out a box of condoms. Takes one and walks in the bathroom with both the wrapped condom and urine bag.

**EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY**

Edward gets--

**IN HIS CAR**

-- and blasts the heat on. He makes sure enough hot air comes out the defrost vent on his dashboard.

He carefully sets the urine-filled condom, tied off at the end, directly on the vent.

**INT. TASC WAITING ROOM - DAY**

Edward's the only one waiting. A SPOTTER, 60's, probably used to be a corrections officer, opens a hallway door and peeks in.

SPOTTER

Consapus. You ready to drop, man?

EDWARD

All set.

Edward stands slowly. Careful.

**INT. TASC BATHROOM - LATER**

The spotter wears latex gloves and lets Edward into the bathroom. He closes the door and hands him an empty cup.

He folds his arms and leans back against a wall to watch Edward do his thing.

Edward, his back to the spotter, unzips himself and lets the urine-filled rubber poke out just a little from his pants.

He pricks a hole into the end of the condom with a paper clip and squeezes the urine out into the cup.

He tucks the rubber back in his pants and zips up.

SPOTTER  
You finished?

EDWARD  
Yeah.

He sets the cup on the counter, where the spotter walks over and snaps the lid on it.

The spotter lifts the cup into the light and checks the heat sensitive label.

SPOTTER  
All right, sir. You're good to go.

Edward washes his hands.

**INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Edward only wears a towel. He wipes his mother's chin and cheek off with a rag.

Her eyes continue to dart past him around the room. He pecks her on the lips.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Edward clicks a button on the answering machine and sits down on the couch, still only wrapped in a towel.

TESLA  
(filter)  
Edward, this is Anna Tesla. I made you an appointment tomorrow. I need you in my office by three.

He rubs his eyes, breathes deep and exhales.

EDWARD  
Dammit.

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY**

A line of people wait outside an office door. Edward's closest.

A young WOMAN, mid-20's, briskly walks out of the office.

WOMAN  
(under her breath)  
Bitch.

TESLA (O.S.)  
Next.

Edward stands.

**INT. OFFICE - DAY**

ANNA TESLA, mid-40's, sits behind her desk, fills out paperwork.  
Edward walks in.

EDWARD  
Hello. How are you doing today?

TESLA  
(deadpan)  
Hi.

She doesn't even look at him, just signs and dates papers.  
Edward sits down. Waits.

Finally, Tesla dots her last period and hands out a yellow paper.  
He takes it and reads.

EDWARD  
What's this?

TESLA  
Your court date.

EDWARD  
For what?



TESLA  
Probation violation. You failed your  
drug screen yesterday.

EDWARD  
It couldn't've come back dirty.

TESLA  
It didn't. It came back clean.

He looks at her, confused.

TESLA  
Which is good, because you're pregnant.

Edward's silent. Can't speak.

TESLA  
Tell whosever urine it was that I  
said congratulations.

He puts his head in his hands.

TESLA  
The judge ain't going to like that you  
tried to pull a fast one. Expect to  
get your original eighteen months he  
took off the first time.

EDWARD  
But I have to care of my mom. There's  
not anybody else.

TESLA  
What's wrong with your mom?

EDWARD  
She's comatose. She's in a vegetative  
state.

Tesla shrugs.

TESLA  
Court date's not for two weeks. You  
have time to make arrangements.

He just sits there, in shock. Tesla continues her next item of paperwork.

He gets up and walks to the door. Tesla stops writing and looks at him.

TESLA  
Mr. Consapus?

He stops and looks back at her.

TESLA  
Where did you get the urine from?

He just looks at her.

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. VISITING CUBICLE - DAY**

Edward just sits there. Savannah's uncomfortable.

Finally, he shrugs.

EDWARD  
I had to tell. The person taking care of her while I'm in here had to know she was pregnant. I don't want my mom to lose my baby.

He shakes his head, frustrated.

EDWARD  
I should've never gotten this rape charge. I'll have to do so much more time if I don't get it dropped.

SAVANNAH  
She was defenseless.

He shakes his head.

EDWARD

I should've only gotten the probation violation. The judge would've dropped the eighteen months to ninety days. I'd be able to watch my child be born.

SAVANNAH

She was your own mother.

EDWARD

I love her more than anything.

Savannah grunts.

SAVANNAH

She had no way to defend herself. Look at her condition, she's likely not even to carry it to term.

EDWARD

There's medicines now. It's going to be tough, but she'll do it. I want so bad to be there and help her. They've already started the prenatal vitamins in her system, even with all the politics still going on.

SAVANNAH

You raped an unconscious woman. You had no right.

EDWARD

I felt her spasming when I was inside her. She dribbled fluids out all the time. I knew she liked it.

Savannah makes a face.

EDWARD

I know it's what she would've wanted, for us to continue loving each other like we have. She's always just wanted her little man Eddie to love her.

He snuffles.

EDWARD

It wasn't rape. It's never been rape.  
Not even when I was little... It was  
something we both wanted. What we had  
was everything to us.

Savannah closes her notebook, rubs a temple.

EDWARD

I should only get the probation  
violation. I want to be there when  
my child is born. I want to cuddle  
in the same bed as them. I want to  
take care of them. I want to tell  
him how wonderful of a mother he has.  
How loving she can be.

Savannah only stares. Shakes her head, disgusted.

CUT TO BLACK.