Good Night

Ву

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INT. HOSPITAL - CARL'S ROOM - DAY

PUSH IN toward a curtain drawn around a bed. HOSPITAL SOUNDS float in from the HALLWAY, but as we pass through the curtain all is SILENCE.

A DOCTOR sits beside CARL WATERS (early 40's). Carl stares out the window seeing nothing.

CARL

Can I go home?

DOCTOR

Yes, of course. I'll make the arrangements - for you to come back.

beat

DOCTOR

I'm going to leave some pamphlets here on the dresser.

Carl says nothing, stares out the window. The doctor puts some pamphlets on the dresser and rises to leave.

CARL

There's a guy next door, about my age.

DOCTOR

Mister Reddiker.

CARL

Will I look like him?

Carl finally turns away from the window: the doctor says nothing.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. MINIVAN - HOSPITAL PATIENT PICK-UP AREA - DAY

Carl puts an OVERNIGHT BAG into the back, closes the hatch and climbs into the passenger seat of a mini-van. In the driver's seat is JOANNE (late 30's). In the back seat is DYLAN (7).

**JOANNE** 

Ready?

CARL

Yeah.

Joanne puts the van in gear and they begin to move.

DYLAN

Dad, when I get big I'm gonna build houses. Great big ones with pools and a bowling alley.

CARL

Sounds good buddy.

DYLAN

I'll build one for me and one for you and Mom. Does that sound like a plan?

Carl tries to smile.

CARL

Yeah. That's a great plan.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Joanne, Carl and Dylan enter the house. Dylan rushes off. Carl drops his overnight bag inside a closet and closes the door. Joanne is watching him, tears ready to fall: he avoids her eyes.

CARL

Coffee?

Dylan rushes back in.

DYLAN

It's only three weeks 'til spring break. What are we gonna do?

**JOANNE** 

We'll talk about it later okay?

DYLAN

Can we go to...

JOANNE

Later.

He gives up and disappears again.

**JOANNE** 

Coffee.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

Carl, Joanne and Dylan are watching TV. Dylan, in pajamas, is almost falling asleep. Carl looks thinner and much sicker than before.

Carl stares at Joanne and Dylan snuggled up together on the couch: the sound of the TV slowly fades away and...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CARL'S ROOM - DAY

The doctor is walking out the door.

CARL

Doc. I have one question.

CUT BACK TO:

DEN

Joanne turns off the TV.

**JOANNE** 

Bedtime pal - you've got school in the morning remember.

DYLAN

I don't wanna go.

**JOANNE** 

You never wanna go. Maybe you should just get a job - what do you think?

DYLAN

How come spring break went so fast? I wish school was a week and vacation was all the rest of the time.

JOANNE

Write a letter to the President, see what he says. Hugs for Daddy and go brush your teeth.

DYLAN

Night Dad. Love you.

CARL

Love you too Buddy.

He gives Dylan an extended hug and a kiss. Joanne and Dylan leave: Carl sits in the dark.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carl walks out of the en suite bathroom dressed in pajamas. He looks around, listens, then sits on the bed and opens the nightstand drawer.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - SAME

Joanne opens the closet and takes out Carl's overnight bag. She is about to close the door but stops: she reaches out and touches the sleeve of Carl's FOOTBALL JACKET.

CUT TO:

MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Carl lines up blister packs of PILLS on the nightstand. He opens the drawer, takes out one more pack and slips all the pills into his pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Carl is in bed, Joanne sits on the bed holding his hand. The Doctor is packing up his medical bag. He snaps the bag shut.

JOANNE

When do we have to come in?

DOCTOR

Anytime in the next two or three days - everything's set up.
(then)

I wouldn't wait longer than that.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Joanne, carrying the overnight bag, slips into a GUEST BEDROOM and closes the door behind her.

She puts the bag on the bed and walks over to the closet. She opens the closet door: inside is empty except for a carefully prepared pile of pajamas, toiletries and slippers. On top of the pile is a PHOTOGRAPH of Carl and Dylan.

CUT TO:

MASTER BEDROOM - BATHROOM - SAME

Carl studies his face in the mirror - he looks awful.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CARL'S ROOM - DAY

Carl sits in bed staring at the Doctor's back. The Doctor closes the door to Carl's room, pauses and then deliberately locks it.

CUT BACK TO:

## MASTER BEDROOM

Carl walks out of the bathroom just as Joanne walks into the bedroom.

CARL

You look exhausted.

**JOANNE** 

Maybe a little. Do you wanna watch TV for a bit?

CARL

I'm gonna watch in the den, you need to sleep.

She hugs him.

**JOANNE** 

You okay?

CARL

I'm good.

**JOANNE** 

Okay.

He puts his face in her hair, smells her smell.

CARL

I love you.

She gives him one more squeeze and then walks into the bathroom. He watches until the door closes.

CUT TO:

DEN - NIGHT

Carl sits in his armchair, the TV is on but the sound is OFF.

He digs underneath the cushion and retrieves a small bottle of VODKA.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CARL'S ROOM - DAY

The Doctor sits beside Carl's bed, he rubs his forehead - troubled.

**DOCTOR** 

It isn't that easy.

CARL

But that would do it, right?

DOCTOR

Maybe - probably.

CARL

So?

DOCTOR

What I mean Carl - it's not that easy to let go.

beat

The Doctor stands up, walks to the door.

DOCTOR

I'll see you in a few weeks.

CUT BACK TO:

DEN - NIGHT

Carl removes pills from the blister packs. He twists the cap on the vodka bottle, finally breaks the seal.

CUT TO:

DYLAN'S ROOM

Carl looks down on his sleeping child. Slowly, painfully he sinks to his knees: his face is inches away from Dylan's, he can feel the child's breath.

CARL

Goodbye Buddy.

Dylan wakes up, looks around - his door is open but the room is empty. He closes his eyes, goes back to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Carl, in street clothes and carrying his overnight bag, looks into a PATIENT ROOM. He turns away, leans against the wall and closes his eyes.

CUT BACK TO:

DEN - NIGHT

Carl puts one - two - three pills into his mouth and swallows. His hand shakes as he picks up the VODKA.

He stares at the bottle, brings it closer to his mouth...

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Carl hands Dylan his school bag and opens the door.

DYLAN

See you tonight Dad.

CARL

See you tonight Buddy.

He closes the door behind Dylan, glances into the kitchen where his overnight bag sits on the table.

FADE OUT:

## THE END