The Shattered Oasis

A Graduate Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements For the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

By

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The graduate project of Roger Alan Robinson is approved:

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Acknowledgements

This project wouldn’t have been possible without the love and support of my closest friends and family. They encouraged me to keep moving forward when I thought that I couldn’t move anymore. These last few years have been an extreme challenge for me. I needed to make it across a roaring overwhelming ocean, and I couldn’t do it alone. These people have been my shoulder to lean on, my rock, and my source of salvation to get me through. I would like to first and foremost thank my mother Dorothy, for reminding me when I wanted to give up, to keep pushing toward the light at the end of the tunnel. I would like to thank my father Roger, for straightening up his life, and extending the olive branch in hopes of fixing our relationship. I would like to thank my dear friend Atesha, for helping me get my mind in order for this project and for constantly reminding me that I could do anything. She has shown me so much love and support and I know that we will be lifelong friends no matter what. I’d also like to thank my instructors at both California State University East Bay and California State University Northridge, for instilling the knowledge that I needed to get this far, and for allowing me to discover talents that I never thought I had. Thank you all for your help and it means the world to me. I love you all!
Dedication

I would like to dedicate this project to the old me, the old me who had the twinkle in his eye, the constant smile on his face, and who was an outgoing person. I know that one day we will meet again, and become one. We will obtain new life, like a Phoenix who will arise from the ashes and prevail over all evil.
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This story follows a college student, Jayce, whose life is turned upside down when he contracts the HIV Virus. Because of a new law, he is thrown into an Internment Camp called "The Oasis". Jayce must fight authority when he finds out that the United States government is using The Oasis in order to exterminate all people who have HIV. Will Jayce be able to survive this modern day genocide?
FADE IN:

EXT. NATION’S CAPITAL LAWN - NIGHT

Thousands of PEOPLE stand anxiously awaiting the State of the Union Address.

The ANNOUNCER walks to the podium.

ANNOUNCER
Hello Americans. The moment that you’ve all been waiting for has arrived. Please join me in welcoming our President. The President of the United States, Stewart Daniels.

PRESIDENT DANIELS shakes the announcer’s hand. The announcer gives the podium to the President.

The crowd cheers with excitement. The president motions for them to quiet down.

PRESIDENT DANIELS
My fellow Americans, I stand here today as your president with a special announcement. Protecting our country has been the main priority for my administration since I was elected to be your leader a year ago today. Our country has been under threat by terrorists from other countries; Jihadists, radicals, what are younger generation refers to as, “haters”. I am happy to say that we have conquered these so called haters of America.

The crowd erupts in applause.

PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
Yes, Yes, We did it together. Thank you, thank you. We banded together and did what was right for our country and we prevailed!

The joy of the crowd drowns out the end of the President’s sentence.

PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
We have conquered our biggest problem… So we thought. I’m sorry to say, but we still have more work to do.

(MORE)
PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
We have a new enemy and, I’m sad to say this, but this enemy has infiltrated our country. This enemy is much closer than we all believe.

INT. DARK ROOM- NIGHT

JAYCE RICHARDSON (23) stands in front of a MIRROR. PICTURES of people in relationships, kissing, hugging, embracing, surround him. He’s stares at his REFLECTION.

JAYCE (V.O.)
It's amazing, mind blowing, crippling.

Jayce continues his speech to his reflection, who stares at him with judging eyes.

JAYCE
The thought that life still goes on, if you choose to continue with it.

His reflection interrupts Jayce’s thought.

REFLECTION
Or you choose to give into to the pressure, and take yourself out of it.

Jayce raises his hand into view. He holds a GUN.

CUT TO:

EXT. NATION’S CAPITAL

PRESIDENT DANIELS
This enemy goes by a name that we all know. Three big letters, that we all need your help to eliminate.

INT. BUSY MALL - DAY.

A Big CROWD OF PEOPLE walk as if they are in a rush. Jayce stands still in the middle of the crowd. The people navigate around him. His Reflection stands back to back with Jayce.

JAYCE
As people walk by, you ponder-
REFLECTION
Who would even care?

Jayce points at a sharply dressed, middle aged, BUSINESS WOMAN.

JAYCE
Not her.

REFLECTION
Pretty sure she wouldn't. She wouldn't give a damn!

JAYCE
He totally wouldn't.

Jayce whips around and motions towards A MAN and his WIFE, who pushes a STROLLER. The guy makes eye contact with Jayce.

REFLECTION
Look at him chuckling to himself.

JAYCE
Quick to judge-

REFLECTION
When he doesn't know a damn thing about you.

JAYCE
You know what?

REFLECTION
FUCK HIM!

DARK ROOM

We hear the faint ticks of an OLD FASHIONED WALL CLOCK. With each TICK, the sound increases in volume.

REFLECTION
Tick Tock.

JAYCE
Tick Tock?

REFLECTION
The hands of the clock approach.
Tick Tock.

REFLECTION
I'd get away if I were you.

BUSY MALL

Tick Tock.

REFLECTION
In hot pursuit of you.

Tick Tock.

The Crowd suddenly stop in their tracks. They turn and line up in a single line. Jayce’s Reflection stands up and joins the front of the line. He begins to lead the crowd in a circular procession, around Jayce.

REFLECTION
Around and around they go.

DARK ROOM

Tick Tock.

Jayce raises the gun to his face and stares at it.

BUSY MALL

The Crowd stops again as they face Jayce’s reflection. He moves his hands up and down like a maestro conducting an orchestra.

REFLECTION
Isn’t this beautiful?

DARK ROOM

Tick Tock.

No!

BUSY MALL

The Crowd surrounds Jayce. They move eerily towards him.
They are gaining on you.

Jayce points the gun at the mirror.

Stop!

What if I don’t?

(Pleading) Please.

Don’t let them get you.

I’m begging you!

Or What?

You ain’t gonna do Shit. Tick (beat) Tock.

The gun trembles in Jayce’s hand.

Tick Tock. Tick Tock, Tick Tock.

Jayce closes his eyes.
REFLECTION (CONT’D)
(loud) You ain’t gonna do Shit!

Jayce pulls the trigger. The mirror shatters into a million pieces.

BLACK

INT. JAYCE’S BEDROOM-MORNING

Jayce wakes up to the sounds of BIRDS CHIRPING. The sun peers through Jayce’s blinds as he sits up. The shadows of the blinds break his body into segments.

His clothes are soaked with sweat from his nightmare. He looks at his CLOCK. His eyes immediately widen. He freaks out!

JAYCE
Fuck! I’m late.

Jayce jumps up and throws his clothes on. He grabs his BOOKS and trips over his BACKPACK. Books fly everywhere.

Jayce’s body thumps as it makes contact with the floor. He hops up. Recovers himself, and runs out the front door.

EXT. BREWER UNIVERSITY CAMPUS-MORNING

Jayce dashes across campus. He runs through lawns and hurdles over bushes.

INT. CLASSROOM

MR. SAM BRADFORD(42), the burly instructor rambles on.

MR. BRADFORD
You all know the importance of this time in your life. This is the time for you all to make a change. You seen the President’s Speech last night, what did it mean to you?

Jayce bursts through the door. He huffs and puffs.

JAYCE
I’m so sorry I’m late!

MR. BRADFORD
So nice of you to join us Mr. Richardson.
JAYCE
I don’t know what happened. I set my alarm and I must’ve slept through it.

MR. BRADFORD
This has become a regular routine for you.

JAYCE
I know, but I promise that it won’t happen again.

MR. BRADFORD
Sure you do.

JAYCE
Seriously, it won’t happen again.

MR. BRADFORD
Take a seat.

Jayce sheepishly walks to the one EMPTY DESK, which just so happens to be right in front of Mr. Bradford.

MR. BRADFORD (CONT’D)
Ladies and gentleman. You are the future. You’re so close to the finish line. It’s not the time to drop the ball and lose everything you worked this hard for.

Mr. Bradford makes eye contact with Jayce. Jayce lowers his head in embarrassment.

MR. BRADFORD (CONT’D)
Don’t let the enemy get a hold of you because you were so careless that you let it sneak up and grab you.

Jayce takes a deep breath. He closes his eyes.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER.

MR. BRADFORD
OK, you all know what you need to do, class is dismissed.

Mr. Bradford dismisses the class. The students stampede out of the door. Jayce is the last to get his stuff together. Mr. Bradford stands in front of him.
MR. BRADFORD (CONT’D)
I need to talk to you.

JAYCE
I already apologized, what else do you want from me?

MR. BRADFORD
Mr. Richardson, what’s going on?

JAYCE
You tell me.

MR. BRADFORD
I’ve been your professor for a while. I know you are a great student.

JAYCE
I’m the same person that I was when I first started here.

MR. BRADFORD
Bullshit! Something is going on. You are regularly tardy, turning assignments in weeks late-

JAYCE
I get them in don’t I?

MR. BRADFORD
Late!

Jayce rolls his eyes. He sheepishly exhales.

MR. BRADFORD (CONT’D)
Is something going on outside of school?

JAYCE
I don’t think that that’s your business. You are a teacher. You get paid to teach, not advise me about my personal life; Which by the way, is just great, perfect, and normal as ever. Nothing is wrong.

MR. BRADFORD
You sure?
JAYCE
I have to go, I have an appointment that I don’t want
to be tardy for.

MR. BRADFORD
OK, you can leave.

INT. TINY PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE-DAY
Jayce sits on a WHITE SOFA in the corner of a square white office. PICTURES of serene
scenes such as sun sets, children playing, puppies, etc, hang on the walls. Across from
Jayce, sits DR. SHANE SAMUELS (48), Jayce’s psychiatrist. As Dr. Samuels speaks,
his big white mustache flops up and down over his top lip. Jayce pays his undivided
attention to the movement of Dr. Samuels’s Mustache.

DR. SAMUELS
According to your file there’s some abuse in your
past?

Jayce continues to stare.

DR. SAMUELS (CONT’D)
Mr. Richardson?

Dr. Samuels clears his throat.

JAYCE
Uh, what were you asking?

DR. SAMUELS
You have a past history of abuse? Is that right?

FLASHBACK - UNKNOWN ROOM - NIGHT
Quick distorted images flash before us. A LARGE MAN beats a WOMAN until she is
bloodied. The large man grabs the frail woman by the neck, and lifts her onto the wall. Her
CRIES for help echo as a LITTLE BOY stands and watches his mother, as she struggles to
free herself. The large man suddenly drops the woman and turns towards the kid.

END FLASHBACK

JAYCE
(beat)
Something like that.
DR. SAMUELS
How’s your relationship with your father? I hear he works with the president.

Jayce shuffles uncomfortably then smiles.

JAYCE
Good question.

DR. SAMUELS
Are you in contact with your father?

JAYCE
I wouldn’t give him that high of a title.

Dr. Samuels jots down a note on a piece of PAPER.

INT. HAZY BAR - NIGHT

Jayce sits at a crowded table of people. Everyone feasts away at their food like they haven’t eaten a decent meal in years. Drinks flow, as LAUGHTER fills the room. Jayce stands up and begins to tell a joke to the group.

JAYCE
Guys, guy, guys. What’s worse than walking in on your old roommate while he’s mid bang with his girl?

The RINGS of Jayce’s cell phone cuts the joke short. Jayce looks at his phone which displays an UNKNOWN PHONE NUMBER.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
(to the crowd) Hold on. I will tell you the rest of the story after I take this.

Jayce runs to an empty corner of the bar and answers his phone. It is his father GEORGE.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Hello?

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - NIGHT

George leans on the wall of the church as he takes a few chugs out of a bottle of Jack Daniels. He stops to answer Jayce.
GEORGE

Yeah.

INTERCUT-HAZY BAR/CHURCH PARKING LOT

JAYCE
Who’s this?

GEORGE
You know damn well you know who the this is.

JAYCE
I’m sorry, I really don’t.

GEORGE
Still a fuck up I see.

JAYCE
Excuse me? Who the fuck is this?

GEORGE
Ya Daddy.

JAYCE
Why are you calling me? Don’t you have better things that you could be doing?

GEORGE
What, I can’t call my sissy little son anymore?

JAYCE
Are you serious?

GEORGE
Are you still playing with dolls and jump roping with the little neighbor girls?

JAYCE
What happened to you being saved and pursuing your mission to be the president’s religious slave?

George throws down his can and paces furiously.

GEORGE
Don’t you ever question me like that! I’m still your father and you are my son.
JAYCE
(Sarcastically) Hmmm. Look at the great job you’ve done with that.

GEORGE
I’m the adult here!

JAYCE
Last time I checked I’m an adult too.

GEORGE
Then act like one.

JAYCE
Again, is there a specific reason you are calling me?

GEORGE
(beat)
I need a favor.

JAYCE
What makes you think I would help you? You weren’t there when I needed you, even though you have more than enough resources to do so.

GEORGE
You brought that on yourself.

JAYCE
What?

GEORGE
You are a worthless Fuck up! A waste of space. A mistake!

Jayce looks at his phone with tears in eyes. His sadness quickly evolves to pure rage. He turns to the wall. He launches his phone at it. It shatters into many small pieces.

CUT TO:

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE

DR. SAMUELS
And how did that make you feel?
JAYCE
How the fuck do you think it made me feel?

DR. SAMUELS
Angry?

JAYCE
No Shit.

DR. SAMUELS
Do you really know who you are Mr. Richardson?

JAYCE
(beat)
No.

INT. METRO TRAIN- NIGHT

Jayce stands on the train with his headphones on. His eyes move about the train car.

Jayce focuses on an elderly man and woman. They hold each other. The picture of true love.

Jayce changes his focus onto a teenage couple. They embrace, smile at each other, then kiss. Jayce stares. The young woman makes eye contact with Jayce. She whispers to her boyfriend, and he turns his attention to Jayce.

BOYFRIEND
What you looking at?

JAYCE
Nothing.

BOYFRIEND
Fag!

The train comes to a stop. Jayce flips the guy off.

JAYCE
Fuck you dude.

The Boyfriend stands up, his girlfriend stops him. Jayce hurries to the train door, He exits, and the doors close just in time for Jayce to make the clear getaway. Jayce laughs as the train leaves the platform.
INT. STARBUCKS COFFEE - DAY

Jayce walks in. He spots his girlfriend SHAY TAYLOR(19), A tall modelesque girl with caramel skin and long auburn hair. She sits behind her LAPTOP as she types away. Jayce sneaks up behind her and covers her eyes.

JAYCE
Guess who?

SHAY
The cookie monster?

JAYCE
Close, but wrong.

They laugh.

SHAY
Hey babe.

JAYCE
Hey.

They embrace and share a very brief and cold kiss. Jayce sits down in front of Shay.

SHAY
It took you long enough. I tried to call. Then I remembered that-

JAYCE
Yeah, yeah yeah. That’s why I'm late. I swooped by the phone store and picked up my new phone.

SHAY
I still don’t see how you dropped the old one then stepped on it.

JAYCE
I did.

SHAY
OK? So how was your appointment?

JAYCE
Pointless.
SHAY
Why would you say that?

JAYCE
That man had to be loonier than a box of cracker jacks. With all his crazy pictures on the wall, stupid questions.

He imitates Dr. Samuels

JAYCE (CONT’D)
How does that make you feel Mr. Richardson? How do you get along with your father? How and when do you shave your pubes?

Shay busts out with a cackle.

SHAY
He did not ask you that!

JAYCE
Well, I bet that was going to be his next question.

SHAY
So what did he suggest?

JAYCE
Mannnn, he prescribed me some pills. He thinks that I’m depressed or some Shit.

SHAY
Well did you take them?

JAYCE
Fuck no. I’m not crazy.

SHAY
I never said you were. I’m just saying that it might help if you listen to what he says.

JAYCE
So you think I’m crazy?

SHAY
No. Calm down, people are starting to look.
Jayce raises his voice.

JAYCE
Let them look. Do you think that I'm crazy?

Shay closes her laptop.

SHAY
Shhhh. Come on now.

JAYCE
So?

SHAY
No I don’t think you are crazy. I just think you’ve been through a lot in your past and might need a little bit of help getting over it.

Jayce laughs.

JAYCE
You can’t be serious.

SHAY
I am.

JAYCE
You gotta be kidding me. My own girlfriend thinks that I’m crazy.

SHAY
No I don’t. You’ve been lashing out and having a lot of random mood swings lately.

(beat)
I feel like I’m starting to lose the Jayce that I know. The Jayce that I fell in love with.

JAYCE
Well I guess you don’t really know me as well as you think you do.

SHAY
Jayce, I feel like you are changing. Something is definitely wrong.
Jayce gets up.

    JAYCE
    Fuck this! I guess it’s rip Jayce apart day.

    SHAY
    Where are you going?

    JAYCE
    Why do you care? You don’t know me anymore.
    Right?

    SHAY
    Jayce.

Jayce gives Shay a smirk. He then walks out.

INT. JAYCE’S CAR - NIGHT

Jayce yaps away to himself as he drives. He takes a big swig out of a BOOZE BOTTLE.

    JAYCE
    I’m telling you man. Nobody knows you.
    (beat)
    Nobody. They sit there with their stupid little grins
    on their faces. Telling me that they want to help me
    and that they care.

    JAYCE (CONT’D)
    (beat)
    They don’t give two shits about me. They don’t
    fucking know me. They could care less.

Jayce makes a turn off of the freeway. In the distance we see A NEON PINK SIGN. It reads: “CANDY RAIN”. Jayce drives towards it, then turns into the parking lot.

EXT. CANDY RAIN PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Jayce exits his Car as ELECTRIC TECHNO MUSIC emits through the walls of the building.
INT. CANDY RAIN - NIGHT

Jayce enters as PINK LIGHTS reflect from his face.

Jayce’S POV

MUSCULAR MALE GO-GO DANCERS in tightie whities and banana hammocks, spastically dance on podiums. The light reflects against the GLITTER spread on their bodies which makes them glow.

The CROWD, composed of all men, dance to the beat of their own drums. Off screen we hear a feminine voice call out Jayce’s name.

FEMININE VOICE (O.S.)
Hey Jayce, Long time no see. We’ve missed you!

LADY FAYE,(46), an amazonian drag queen, with pounds of makeup caked on her face, stands behind the bar. She motions for Jayce. Jayce walks up to Lady Faye and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

JAYCE
Hey Faye.

LADY FAYE
Hey baby. Long time no see. Where the hell you’ve been?

JAYCE
I’ve been busy with school and trying to straighten things out. So you know I'm graduating this year?

LADY FAYE
Oh look at you. Anybody would be lucky to have a man like you.

Jayce grins.

JAYCE
Thanks. You know I come here to feel the love.

LADY FAYE
And we have a whole lot of it to give.

Something off screen catches Faye’s attention.
LADY FAYE (CONT’D)
Excuse me one second. They bet not be having sex over there. I don’t play that!

She rushes away as she yells across the room.

LADY FAYE (CONT’D)
Hey, Y’all bet not be doing what I think Y’all doing.
(beat)
This is not the place! This place exudes class, not trash.

Jayce laughs to himself as the HUNKY YOUNG BARTENDER, appears behind the bar.

HUNKY BARTENDER
Hey. Can I get you something?

JAYCE
Yeah. A Long Island Ice Tea with a double shot of you.

Jayce Winks.

HUNKY BARTENDER
Good one.

Jayce and the bartender laugh. The bartender makes Jayce’s drink. He gives it to him.

JAYCE
I never seen you around here before. Are you new?

HUNKY BARTENDER
Yeah, I started at the beginning of this month.
Name’s Bryan.

They shake hands.

JAYCE
Nice to meet you Bryan. I’m Jayce.

BRYAN
Likewise.

Jayce takes a sip out of his drink.

JAYCE
Damn this drink is strong.
Bryan laughs.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
That’s how I like em.

BRYAN
Gotta get your moneys worth, right?

JAYCE
Mmmm Hmmmm.

A smirk develops on Jayce’s lips.

INT. JAYCE’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jayce and Bryan burst through the front door. They can’t keep their hands and mouths off of each other.

JAYCE
Wait.

BRYAN
What?

JAYCE
I have nosey neighbors.

Jayce scurries back over to the door. He slams it shut and runs back towards Bryan. He tackles him onto the couch. They kiss wildly and passionately.

Jayce takes Bryan’s JACKET off and throws it to the floor. He continues to kiss him. In between kisses. They talk.

BRYAN
I don’t usually do this.

JAYCE
Do what?

BRYAN
Hook up with guys that I don’t know.

JAYCE
Me neither.

Jayce continues to kiss Bryan’s face. He moves on to his neck.
BRYAN
Also you are one of my customer’s. If Lady Faye
found out, she would fire my ass.

JAYCE
That’s what I want to do.

What?

JAYCE
Fire IN that ass!

Turned off by this, Bryan pushes Jayce away.

BRYAN
Maybe this isn’t a good idea.

JAYCE
Come on.

Jayce advances again. Bryan backs away. He then picks his jacket up and puts it back on.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
What’s the problem?

BRYAN
I don’t know you.

JAYCE
Then get to know me.

BRYAN
I want to know you as a person, not just sexually.

Jayce gets the game. Jayce grabs Bryan’s hand. He leads him to the couch.

JAYCE
So let’s talk.

BRYAN
OK.

They sit down. This time Jayce gives Bryan some space.

JAYCE
What do you want to know?
Bryan smiles.

BRYAN
I don’t know.

JAYCE
Well you gotta want to know something.

BRYAN
(beat)
Hmmm. So what brought you to Candy Rain tonight?

JAYCE
I came to see Lady Faye.

BRYAN
Oh you know her?

JAYCE
Yeah.

BRYAN
How?

JAYCE
OK, don’t tell anybody, but Lady Faye, she ain’t such a lady.

BRYAN
No Shit.

They laugh.

JAYCE
He’s my Uncle.

BRYAN
Ah OK.

JAYCE
Yeah my only family that I can be myself around.

BRYAN
Yeah.
JAYCE
You know? Someone who understands how it feels to be not like everyone else.

BRYAN
You don’t keep in contact with the rest of your family?

JAYCE
Not Really.

BRYAN
I couldn’t imagine not having my family around.

JAYCE
I don’t know. It’s like I’ve always been alone my whole life.

BRYAN
Mmmm Hmm.

JAYCE
So it’s kind of like normal for me.

Jayce laughs. Bryan just stares intently.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
But then again my idea of normal may be totally tainted because my life, for the lack of a better words, is pretty fucked up.

BRYAN
I would have never thought when I met you. You are so upbeat.

JAYCE
I gotta be.

BRYAN
Why though?

JAYCE
Well, sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying.
   (beat)
OK. So enough about me. Let’s hear about you.
BRYAN
We can do that later.

Bryan immediately jumps up and straddles Jayce. He takes his jacket back off and throws it on the floor.

JAYCE
Whoa. OK.

Jayce follows Bryan’s lead. They slowly strip down to their underwear while taking time to stare and appreciate each other’s physiques.

They awkwardly stare and touch each other. They begin to kiss again. Jayce picks Bryan up and carries him to the bedroom.

FADE OUT.

INT. JAYCE’S ROOM - MORNING

Jayce wakes up. He immediately rolls over. Jayce lets out a sigh of relief. He’s Alone.

He falls back to sleep.

INT. JAYCE’S ROOM - LATER

Jayce awakens to the sound of his cell phone as it vibrates against his night stand. He answers.

JAYCE
Hello?
(beat)
Who’s this?
(beat)
Emergency? Is this a prank call?

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Jayce walks into the viewing room. He immediately encounters a huge picture of his Father George, who wears a PIMP SUIT WITH A TOP HAT. The bottom of the picture reads, “In Loving Memory Of The President’s right hand man”
JAYCE

This guy.

Jayce laughs.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Tacky and still a douche bag even during death.

He looks up and scans the room. At the end of the room lies George, in a sterling silver casket. He wears a matching suit to the one in the picture.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
You gotta be kidding me. I mean seriously?

Jayce sits in the last row. Jayce’s busty stepmother STELLA (35) stands at the foot of the casket. She cries uncontrollably.

STELLA
Why? God Why?

She motions towards a CHUBBY BOY (7) and a SLENDER GIRL (9).

STELLA (CONT’D)
They need they Daddy!

Jayce sucks his teeth. The people in the row in front of him, turn and roll their eyes at him.

JAYCE
What?

EXT. FUNERAL HOME- DAY

The funeral lets out. Jayce rushes out of the door. People call out his name. He ignores it, puts on his sunglasses, and jumps into a waiting CAB.

INT. AMERICAN AIRLINES AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Jayce sits on the plane with his window shade up. He blankly stares out of the window. He then skim’s George’s obituary, closes it, then closes his eyes.

He keeps them closed for a few seconds. He tosses and turns a few times. Unfortunately no sleep tonight.
Jayce takes his CELL PHONE out of his pocket. He stops himself right before he presses the power button.

He looks around to make sure no one saw him almost commit flyings carnal sin. Everyone sleeps soundly.

Jayce breathes a sigh of relief.

All of a sudden. Jayce’s phone flickers on and begins to loudly ring. Jayce struggles to reach the power button.

He pushes the button, no luck. He holds the button, no luck,

He struggles to open the battery cover on his phone but can’t get a grip on it.

The passengers begin to stare as Jayce raises attention to himself.

Jayce turns the phone over to see the LCD screen. It displays a picture of his Dad in his casket. Under the picture, the caller ID reads: “Dad”.

Jayce yelps, then throws his phone onto the floor. The ringing stops.

Jayce addresses the passengers who stare at him

JAYCE
I’m sorry, I don’t know what just happened.

They shake their heads and turn away.

Jayce bends down and picks up his phone. He stares at it, then throws it into his CARRY ON BAG.

INT. JAYCE’S CAR - NIGHT

Jayce nervously drives home. His phone lies in his cup holder as talks to himself.

JAYCE
OK. That had to be just a dream.
(beat)
It’s impossible. My phone was off.

Jayce nervously looks around.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
(beat)
Fuck!
Jayce’s phone begins to ring.

He looks at it. He lets it ring until curiosity gets the best of him.

He grabs the phone and looks at the screen. Same scene as last time. Jayce cringes. The phone continues to RING. This continues for the next minute straight.

Jayce finally picks up the phone and answers. The speakerphone feature activates. A sinister voice begins to laugh.

**SINISTER VOICE**

Kept me waiting long enough.

**JAYCE**

Who the fuck is this?

**SINISTER VOICE (O.S.)**

Wouldn’t you want to know?

**JAYCE**

Stop joking around. You don’t fool me.

**SINISTER VOICE**

That would be too easy.

**JAYCE**

I’m sorry but you don’t scare me. I’m a big guy. If I ever run into you I will fuck you up.

**SINISTER VOICE**

Sure you will. You couldn’t hurt a fly.

**JAYCE**

How the hell would you know?

**SINISTER VOICE**

Trust me, I know you.

**JAYCE**

How did you get my Dad’s phone?

The Sinister Voice cackles.

**SINISTER VOICE**

You always asked so many questions. So many fucking questions.

(MORE)
SINISTER VOICE (CONT'D)
An attempt to cover up that you don't have all the answers. AND you don’t have the balls to demand and take the answers.

JAYCE
Where are you?

SINISTER VOICE
I’m not afraid to tell you where I am, but you won’t ever come here to see.

JAYCE
Try me bitch.

SINISTER VOICE
Oh yeah I will.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT
Jayce exits the only car on the dark lonely street. The strong wind whishes his baseball cap off of his head. It bounces into the darkness. Jayce reaches out, but it is far gone.

The wind picks up again. This time, dry dead leaves from his left side, collide with his face. He puts his hood on and turns to his right.

A shabby deserted home stands in his immediate view. The boarded up windows and the thirsty weeds that crawl up the house dance and rattle with the wind. Jayce stands for a second to contemplate.

Suddenly the strong crackle of thunder and a silver flash of lightening startles Jayce. It immediately begins to poor rain. Jayce Runs to the front door of the house. Before he can knock, the door cracks open.

Jayce hesitantly pushes the door open.

INT. JAYCE’S CHILDHOOD HOME
Jayce enters a pitch black living room. Silver and purple hues flash through the cracks in the boards on the windows. Faintly we see the back of a lazy boy chair and a DARK SHADOW.

JAYCE
Hello?
No Answer. Jayce takes a step closer. The floor squeaks.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Hello?

Suddenly, The TV powers on. It shows a faint picture of a kid as he runs around and plays on a playground. The light of the TV helps us see more of the shadow of a dark figure who sits in the chair. It begins to speak.

DARK SHADOW
Perfection, Nothing but Perfection.

JAYCE
What?

DARK SHADOW
Ugly. Something eerie isn’t it?

JAYCE
Excuse Me. Who are you?

The shadow laughs uncontrollably.

DARK SHADOW
Unknowing knowledge. Indeed you don’t know everything.

Jayce struggles to speak. His voice cracks in fear.

JAYCE
(beat)
You got two seconds to tell me what’s going on.
(yelling)
What the fuck is going on?

JAYCE (CONT’D)
(beat)
Who the hell are you? Tell me!

The house begins to shake. The beating of Jayce’s heart creates a rapid rhythm.

DARK SHADOW
It moves through your bones. It creeps into the depths of your toes.
JAYCE
You don’t scare me

DARK SHADOW
(Inquisitively) Really?
(beat)
I think I know you better than you know yourself.
You are a coward. A sissy.

JAYCE
Fuck you.

The Dark Shadow laughs.

DARK SHADOW
No, Fuck You!

The house shudders more violently. Jayce runs towards the door. It’s locked. The picture on the TV begins to flip.

DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
The earth trembles, trembles, trembles beneath us.

JAYCE
Make it stop!

DARK SHADOW
And if I don’t?

JAYCE
Just let me out!

The figure stands up from his chair. He walks towards Jayce.

DARK SHADOW
What are you going to do?

Jayce struggles with the door.

JAYCE
Please!

DARK SHADOW
Son.

CUT TO:
INT. JAYCE’S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jayce awakens.

    JAYCE
    Fuck this Shit!

INT. DOCTOR’S OFFICE - DAY

Jayce sits in the room alone. He is startled by a knock on the door. DR. RAO, a tall Indian woman walks in the door.

    DR. RAO
    Mr. Richardson.

    JAYCE
    Yes.

    DR. RAO
    I have the results of your test and I have some startling results.

    JAYCE
    I Must be crazy. I have been having these strange episodes like I’m in the twilight zone. Like crazy Shit

Dr. Rao interrupts Jayce’s tangent.

    DR. RAO
    Jayce when you came in, we weren’t sure what was wrong with you.

    JAYCE
    Me neither.

    DR. RAO
    Since you haven’t had a checkup in a while, we tested your blood for everything possible: diabetes, high blood sugar, anemia, gout-

    JAYCE
    Yes.

    DR. RAO
    All of those tests came back negative.
JAYCE
Good.

DR. RAO
But, one test-

JAYCE
Which one?

DR. RAO
We did a routine HIV test on you and the results were reactive.

JAYCE
What does that mean?

Dr Rao hesitates.

DR. RAO
Well.

JAYCE
Does that mean I have it?

DR. RAO
Yes, I’m sorry to say that it does.

JAYCE
That can’t be.

DR. RAO
Have you engaged in any intravenous drug use?

JAYCE
No!

DR. RAO
Unprotected Sex?

JAYCE
Can you test me again?

DR. RAO
Yes I can, we can do another rapid test for you but these tests are highly accurate.
JAYCE
Please do the test again.

INT. DOCTOR’S OFFICE - LATER

DR. RAO
I’m sorry but this one is reactive again.

JAYCE
It can’t be!

DR. RAO
I’m going to give you some time alone.

Dr. Rao leaves the room and closes the door. The sound of a lock latching on the door startles Jayce. The air conditioning storms on. Jayce looks up at the vent as a light mist escapes. The whole room begins to spin. Jayce drops to the floor.
Jayce slowly opens his eyes. Still in a daze he blinks a few times to clear his vision.

Jayce’s POV

Vivid colors swirl around the ceiling. Not normal pretty colors, but blinding shades that can't be made out or compared to anything else. Shapes blur together in a mess of confusion. A twirling spinning mess of madness.

Exit Jayce’s POV

Jayce tries to sit up, but his head, neck, arms, and legs are strapped to a table. He’s but naked and He can’t move an inch, but it doesn’t stop him from trying. He yells.

   JAYCE
   Hello, is someone there?

Silence.

   JAYCE (CONT’D)
   Anyone?

Jayce moves his eyeballs around. He’s alone. He yells again.

   JAYCE (CONT’D)
   Help!

Suddenly the table begins to lift towards the ceiling. A portal opens to envelope Jayce. As the portal opens, Jayce struggles a faint sound of Shrieking madness resonates.

   JAYCE (CONT’D)
   Someone please help me!

Terrifying sounds of death penetrates Jayce’s ears as he gets enters the portal. The portal closes.

The lights suddenly go out.

INT. PORTAL - NIGHT.

Blackness is all we see, but we hear everything around us. The screams and moans of many different people. Jayce screams out.
JAYCE

Am I dying?

No one answers.

JAYCE (CONT’D)

I don't want to die, not yet. I have so much more life to live.

EXT. THE OASIS - DAY

In the middle of nowhere a large Oasis stands. It appears to be made of glass, however it is impenetrable by the sun and other elements. It stands, still opaque, in eerie silence.

INT. THE OASIS - INTAKE ROOM - DAY

A rotund, African American NURSE sits at a COMPUTER in an otherwise empty white room. The table containing Jayce appears into the room out of thin air. The nurse grabs the folder that is attached to Jayce’s table.

NURSE

Hello. Uh Mr-

The nurse flips open the folder.

NURSE (CONT’D)

Richardson.

JAYCE

Who are you? Where am I? Why am I naked? What-

The nurse interrupts Jayce.

NURSE

Whoa, whoa whoa, Slow your role, Mr. Man.

She grabs a scanner that is connected to her computer. She scans BARCODES listed on Jayce’s paperwork.

JAYCE

What’s going on?
NURSE
The intake process has begun for you Mr. Richardson.

JAYCE
Intake? Why? Where? What the hell?

NURSE
Here we go with the questions again. Why are you so inquisitive?

JAYCE
Are you fucking serious?

NURSE
There’s no need for the unpleasant language.

Jayce’s driver’s license picture, height, weight, eye color, and hair color appear on the computer screen.

NURSE (CONT’D)
Do you wear glasses?

JAYCE
What? Why do you need to know?

NURSE
Sir, I’m just doing my job. Can you please answer the question.

JAYCE
No

NURSE
Thank you.

The nurse types into the computer. She says the words as she types.

NURSE (CONT’D)
Patient received diagnosis today. Attitude is difficult.

JAYCE
You know I can hear you.

NURSE
Combative.
JAYCE
I can get worse.

NURSE
T Cell Count two o three. Viral Load, fifteen thousand.

The nurse unstraps Jayce’s head.

JAYCE
What is going on?

NURSE
Please look at the screen. Is the information correct?

JAYCE
Why are you doing this?

NURSE
Sir, Is the information correct?

Jayce reluctantly answers.

JAYCE
Yes.

NURSE
Thank you.

The nurse presses a button on the computer. A EPIPEN LOOKING DEVICE dispenses from the computer.

JAYCE
What are you going to do with that?

NURSE
Mr. Richardson, This device contains your diode and the medicine that you will need to survive.

The nurse walks up to Jayce’s Leg.

JAYCE
What are you doing?

NURSE
This will hurt a little.
She slams the device into Jayce’s leg. Jayce screams in pain.

JAYCE
Fuck!

NURSE
Almost done.

The device beeps.

JAYCE
What did you do that for?

NURSE
That’s how we keep track of you here.

JAYCE
Why do you need to keep track of me?

NURSE
To protect you from yourself and to protect you from others around you.

JAYCE
This is all kinds of fucked up.

The nurse releases a quiet giggle. She scans Jayce’s leg with a bar code scanner. She types information into the computer.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
What are you doing now?

NURSE
I am wirelessly loading the orientation program. This program will answer some of the questions that I’m not authorized to answer for you. It is fully interactive, so please feel free to ask away.

JAYCE
OK.

NURSE
It may be strange at first but you will adjust. Are you ready?
JAYCE
Do I have a choice?

NURSE
Not really. Good luck. Nice meeting you.

JAYCE
Wait I don’t even know your-

The Nurse presses the start button. The light cuts off then back on. Jayce is alone. He is now dressed in an all white jumpsuit.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Hello?

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - DAY

Jayce transports to a forest. The dark shadow appears next to Jayce. When his voice speaks a shiver runs up Jayce’s spine. The voice is very familiar.

DARK SHADOW
The complex make up of my mind will dazzle you, confuse you, inspire you, inspire you to be better. To trust, to love, to be loved. The twists and turns that my mind presents, can make you sicker than the wildest roller coaster. Enter at your own risk, because once you come in, there's no turning back. If you can make it out alive, and unscathed, I commend you, because you have accomplished a feat that many have failed. Is it possible? Who knows?

JAYCE
You’ve got to be kidding me. I’m not doing this. I’m done!

DARK SHADOW
Who do you think you are?

JAYCE
Well you act like you know who I am. Why don’t you tell me?

DARK SHADOW
I don't think you even know who you are.
JAYCE
You did this to me.

DARK SHADOW
Face it, you did this to yourself.

JAYCE
Why won’t you leave me the fuck alone!

The shadow disappears. Jayce now stands next to SHELDON MICHAELS (65), a hefty white man with silver hair.

SHELDON
Are you OK young man?

JAYCE
No the fuck I'm not! What the fuck is going on?

SHELDON
I know this may seem a little crazy, but you need to calm down. I can assure you that you are OK right now.

JAYCE
Who are you?

SHELDON
I’m Sheldon?

JAYCE
Where am I?

SHELDON
The Oasis.

JAYCE
What is the Oasis?

Sheldon spots a Buff guy in Military Fatigues. He nervously responds.

SHELDON
Sir, please get in line behind these people. The presentation will begin and you will find out what you need to know. You will see me around. We can talk later.
Sheldon, walks away in a hurry taking quick glances back at the man in the Fatigues. Jayce notices this, but heads to the line.

Jayce falls in behind CREE FIELDS(30), a tall slender white man and TY MASON (20), a handsome petite back man with glasses.

   CREE
   Dude, here we go again.

   TY
   Why you always got to see things in a negative light, no pun intended.

   CREE
   All of this Shit is pointless.

   TY
   The more that we go to these things, the closer we get to getting out of here.

   CREE
   You really think they are letting us out of here?

   TY
   I do.

   JAYCE
   They are keeping us hostage in this place?

   CREE
   Don't ask me.

   TY
   Don't listen to him.

   CREE
   Pssh.

   TY
   Don't mind him. What's up, I'm Ty.

Ty motions to Cree.

   TY (CONT’D)
   This dude here is Cree.

   JAYCE
   I'm Jayce.
CREE
Jayce Richards

JAYCE
Richardson. How do you know who I am.

CREE
I'm your roommate.

TY
See, you should've been nice. He could be a serial killer.

Ty smiles at Jayce. Jayce smirks back.

CREE
I'm sorry man.

JAYCE
No worries.

TY
You seem cool, you can sit with us if you like.

JAYCE
Thank you. I will take you up on that offer.

CREE
Oh fuck, you are not setting me up to be the third wheel again, Ty.

Ty Shushes Cree.

TY
You are not the third wheel.

CREE
I can already see it now.

TY
Shut up here comes you know who.

Ty and Cree suspiciously stop talking.

TODD STIMPLETON, a man in a white T-shirt and blue jeans walks out of a flash of the light. He heads straight for Jayce.
TODD
Hello Jayce Richardson, I am Todd Stimpleton. I am your Oasis Assimilation Guide.

Jayce stares at Todd. Todd smiles at Jayce. Jayce mocks Todd.

JAYCE
Hello Todd, I’m not planning to be here too long so you can save the introductions.

Jayce goes to walk away.

TODD
I’m sorry to say but you cannot leave.

Todd presses a button and Jayce feels intense pain. He falls to the floor in convulsions.

CREE
Damn, he got shocked already, and he's barely been here a few minutes.

TY
Todd, please go easy on him, he's new.

TODD
Mr Mason, stay out of this.

TY
Pleas, I will make sure he stays out of trouble.

Jayce stops convulsing. He recomposes himself.

TY (CONT’D)
Thank you.

Ty and Cree help Jayce up.

JAYCE
What the fuck was that about?

TODD
I am here to introduce you to the program and answer any questions that you may have.

JAYCE
OK. But why did you have to shock me? I wasn't dong anything wrong.
A cheerful TONE goes off over the loud speaker.

   TODD
   The orientation is starting please make your way to
   your seats.

   CREE
   Come on dude.

Jayce stares at Todd. Todd shoos him away with his hands and walks away.

INT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Hail to the Chief begins to play. The President of the United States appears out of thin air. He stands behind a podium. No one responds.

   PRESIDENT DANIELS
   I am President Stewart Daniels. You may be asking
   yourself is it really him?

   JAYCE
   No not really.

   PRESIDENT DANIELS
   Well it isn’t me but a very good Hologram of me.

   JAYCE
   Figures.

   PRESIDENT DANIELS
   I am here to welcome you to The Oasis.

Silence.

   PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
   This facility has been created for people like you.

The voice of The Dark Shadow arrive.

   DARK SHADOW (V.O.)
   See he said people like you.

   JAYCE
   Please.
DARK SHADOW
You've been put in a fucking box. You have been labeled, and you will never be able to get that off of your head. You are a freak! Now what you gon' do hot shot?

Jayce blinks hard. He looks around and no one is reacting. He's obviously the only one who hears the voice. He avoids the voice.

PRESIDENT DANIELS
If you watched my State of the Union address, you can skip to the next step.

Everyone looks around.

PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT'D)
One day you will be able to skip that step, but we are still improving the technology. So anyway, did you watch the broadcast?

The figure of the president stares at Jayce.

Jayce stares right back at the figure of The President, as it waits for an answer? Jayce, looks around, he’s the only person there.

PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT'D)
I’m sorry, I did not understand your answer. Did you watch the State of the Union broadcast?

JAYCE
Um.

PRESIDENT DANIELS
Please say yes or no.

The Dark Shadow appears next to the President. Jayce looks around.

JAYCE
Do you see that?

TY
What?

JAYCE
That hooded man up there.
CREE
Dude you must be going crazy. I don't see nothing.

DARK SHADOW
A little pushy are we?

The dark shadow releases a guttural laugh.

JAYCE
Please.

Silence.

PRESIDENT DANIELS
Young man, I'm talking to you.

The president points at Jayce.

JAYCE
What happens if I say no?

PRESIDENT DANIELS
You answered “no”.

JAYCE
No but-

PRESIDENT DANIELS
That's unfortunate.

DARK SHADOW
I'm telling you he is useless.

PRESIDENT DANIELS
Then you may want to pay attention.

DARK SHADOW
Good luck with him.

The Shadow disappears.

The president goes into his speech.

PRESIDENT DANIELS
This facility has been created as a response to the uprising cases of HIV in America.

(MORE)
PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
(beat)
We cannot handle such a threat in our country, so
this facility has been created to help you.
(beat)
The facility is also geared to help the unaffected
people of America, stay that way.

The crowd begins to grumble and some shout profanities. At the hologram.

PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
Excuse me. You are here for your own good. And if
you cooperate, you have the opportunity to be
released into the general population.

The crowd rumbles again.

PRESIDENT DANIELS (CONT’D)
I will now turn the program over to your helper
(beat)
Your liaison of sorts
(beat)
The man who will make sure that this experience is a
success for all of you. But before I go, I would like
to say good luck to you on your endeavors on behalf
of the United States of America.

JAYCE
(Sarcastically) Where was he when I was getting
infected?

The President disappears. A flash of light appears then dims. A Projector Screen Floats
down from the ceiling.

The screen halts right above the floor. A film begins to play. On the screen we see, DANE
TUCKER (55) and military man, who wears all of the bad things he's seen during his
career on his face.

He plasters a smile on, and begins to speak. However there is no audio.

The audience begins to whisper. Todd runs up to the stage. He grabs a microphone.

TODD
Excuse me everyone, we are having a few technical
difficulties please bear with us for a moment while
we get this sorted out.
Todd makes a motion to the backstage. The tech crew run out to fix the problem.

Through the sounds of tools clanging, Jayce turns to Ty.

    JAYCE
    Thank you again for earlier.
    
    TY
    No worries. I've been where you were.

They smile.

    JAYCE
    I feel like I owe you.
    
    TY
    I don't think that way. When you do something for someone it doesn't necessarily mean I'm trying to get something out of it.

    JAYCE
    Never really thought of it that way before.

Suddenly the sound of the video blasts on and Elevator Music drowns out the conversation.

Ty motions for Jayce to turn his attention to the screen. Jayce stares at Ty. Ty notices.

    TY
    You don't owe me anything.

Jayce smiles and turns to look at the screen.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO SCREEN - INTRODUCTION VIDEO

Dane Tucker walks along a beautiful grassy knoll. He smiles as he takes in the scenery. He stops as if he notices the camera. He begins to speak.

    DANE
    Oh Hi. How rude of me, My Name is Dane Tucker.
    I am the The Director of the Center For Disease
    Control, That C.D.C for short, but you all know that.
Dane looks around at the beautiful view and smiles so big he looks like the joker from batman.

DANE (CONT’D)
I’m sorry I’m just looking at my beautiful creation here. I’m so amazed that I’ve been able to make this dream into a reality. What is this dream you ask?
(beat)
Well you are in it.

Dane stands in place as the camera whirls around to reveal a glass haven filled with tall green trees, a gigantic lake, a city within itself.

DANE (CONT’D)
The President has already welcomed you, but I would also like to personally welcome you to the Oasis. What is the Oasis? You are in it!

Dane transports to a laboratory.

DANE (CONT’D)
This facility was created to help the people of the United States, and most importantly YOU get better. You will go through an intense program, that will test your strength and your mental health.

Behind Dane, We see scientists in a laboratory looking through microscopes, testing blood, and watching people do physical fitness tests.

DANE (CONT’D)
It’s purpose? To gauge if you are well enough to be released. We expect you all to work hard to get better as we work hard to make you better.

Dane puts on his best politician impression.

DANE (CONT’D)
But don’t worry, you won’t be alone during this journey. Each patient is assigned a guide.

We see a patient literally holding hands with their guide.

DANE (CONT’D)
Your guide will be along with you for the duration of your time here.
(MORE)
DANE (CONT’D)
They will help make sure that you complete this program with the least amount of difficulties. All you need to do is put your trust in them and in me, because again, we are here to help you.

Dane Transports back to the forest.

DANE (CONT’D)
Again, I’m Dane Tucker, and the Oasis awaits you.

The Video Ends.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The presentation is over. Jayce hangs behind to talk to Todd. Todd Notices Jayce, but doesn’t stop talking to TWO PATIENTS who ask him questions about everything they just saw. Jayce walks up and interrupts.

JAYCE
May I but in and ask a few questions?

TODD
I’m actually in the middle of-

The two patients dismiss themselves.

JAYCE
Now it looks as if you are free.

TODD
I guess I am. You have questions Mr. Richardson?

JAYCE
Yes, what the hell is the point to all of this? Like why should I care?

TODD
You have a chance to be healed here.

JAYCE
Wait, are you telling me there has been a cure this whole time?
Todd changes his tune.

TODD
If everything goes well you have a chance to be healed and you may be released from the program into the general world.

JAYCE
So If I win the challenge, I will be released?

TODD
I’m not sure what challenge you are referring to.

JAYCE
OK. Who do I have to kill to get out of here?

TODD
You will not need to kill anyone. You will need to prove yourself worthy.

JAYCE
OK, so who’s dick do I need to suck to get out of here?

TODD
That will not be necessary.

JAYCE
Is it you?

Todd breaks his professional facade.

TODD
Man, What’s wrong with you?

Todd snaps back into his false professionalism.

TODD (CONT’D)
You are only challenged to let the program work for you.

JAYCE
When does this thing start?
Me and you have our one on one orientation meeting scheduled tomorrow at 9 a.m., So I suggest for you to go back to your room and get some rest, we have a lot planned for you.

JAYCE
Oh Shit.

INT. THE OASIS- TODD'S OFFICE - DAY

Jayce and Todd sit in his little white office. Pulls out a packet of papers and puts them down on his desk.

TODD
First of all, how are you?

JAYCE
I’m OK I guess.

TODD
Did you sleep well?

JAYCE
Not really.

TODD
Why not?

JAYCE
What is the purpose of this meeting?

TODD
Mr. Richardson, I have a list of preliminary questions to ask about your health history.

JAYCE
OK.

TODD
This questions are used to help determine the best route for treating you, and how we can basically plan what to do next.

JAYCE
OK.
TODD
I will need you to answer these questions openly, and honest as possible.

Jayce’s Dark Shadow appears next to Jayce.

TODD (CONT’D)
Do you think you can do that?

The Dark Shadow walks over to Todd and takes a look at his questions.

DARK SHADOW
Don’t you tell this nosey bastard a fucking thing.

The sound of this voice makes Jayce’s skin crawl. He jumps and looks past Todd with terror in his eyes.

TODD
You OK?

Jayce doesn’t respond.

DARK SHADOW
No you are not OK.

Todd notices something is wrong.

TODD
Mr. Richardson?

DARK SHADOW
Fuck him!

Todd waves his arm in front of Jayce.

TODD
Jayce.

Jayce snaps out of it and answers apprehensively.

JAYCE
Yes.

TODD
I’m sorry is it alright to call you by your first name?
DARK SHADOW
No, that is the first sign that he is disrespecting you.
Fuck that!

JAYCE
I guess.

DARK SHADOW
What do you mean you guess? Show him who’s boss.

JAYCE
Sure.

TODD
OK. My first question is, When did you become sexually active?

DARK SHADOW
Why is that any of his fucking business? You don’t know him.

JAYCE
What?

DARK SHADOW
You heard me!

TODD
When did you become sexually active?

JAYCE
Why do you need to know that?

TODD
We need to know as much as we can about your history to be able to help you.

JAYCE
I don’t know why I’m going to answer this?

DARK SHADOW
Me neither.

JAYCE
I was eighteen.
TODD

Thank you.

Todd writes this down.

TODD (CONT’D)

Was this with a male or female?

JAYCE

It was with a girl.

TODD

Did you use protection?

JAYCE

Yes we did.

TODD

Good.

DARK SHADOW

Why is that such a surprise?

JAYCE

Why are you surprised?

TODD

I’m not surprised, I am just commenting back.

DARK SHADOW

He needs to keep that to a minimum.

TODD

I apologize. I won’t do that again.

JAYCE

Thank you.

TODD

What is your sexual orientation?

DARK SHADOW

What?

TODD

Do you identify as gay, straight, bisexual?
JAYCE
I’m straight.

TODD
Have you ever had sexual relations with the same sex?

Jayce hesitates to answer.

TODD (CONT’D)
Are you alright?

DARK SHADOW
No you aren’t alright.

JAYCE
Yes.

TODD
Yes you are alright.

Jayce hesitates again.

JAYCE
Yes to both questions.

TODD
So you’ve had sex with the same sex?

Jayce nods with shame.

TODD (CONT’D)
Has this happened more than once?

JAYCE
Yes.

TODD
So you are bisexual?

JAYCE
I didn’t say that.

DARK SHADOW
Look at you, you can’t even admit it to yourself.

JAYCE
I didn’t say that.
Todd looks at Jayce inquisitively.

DARK SHADOW
He’s judging you.

TODD
Let me remind you that I’m not here to judge?

Jayce looks at the Dark Shadow and at Todd. Todd continues.

TODD (CONT’D)
Has this happened unprotected with either sex?

JAYCE
Yes.

TODD
How many times?

JAYCE
I don’t know.

The dark shadow begins to laugh. Jayce stands up in anger.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Fuck it! I’m not doing this.

TODD
I’m going to need you to calm down.

DARK SHADOW
It was bound to happen. If not to you, someone else.
He’s the enemy!

JAYCE
Stop it!

Tears start running down Jayce’s cheeks. Todd stands up and comes face to face with Jayce. The dark shadow disappears. Todd grabs Jayce’s arm.

TODD
I’m here to help you. I’m not here to work against you.

Jayce stops in his tracks.
TODD (CONT’D)
But I can’t help you unless you respond to these questions.
(beat)
They seem a little bit much to deal with now, but once you answer them, we won’t have to talk about it anymore.

Jayce calms down and takes a seat.

JAYCE
OK.

TODD
Can we continue?

JAYCE
Yes.

TODD
Can you give me names of the people that you had unprotected sex with in the last six months?

INT. DANE’S OFFICE - DAY

Todd stands in front of a desk all we see is his back. He covers our view of an unidentified person. Standing next to that unidentified person is the Buff guy dressed in Military Fatigues that we seen earlier.

TODD
I don’t know about this guy. I don’t know how much we are going to get out of this guy. He’s really messed up.

The camera pans around, revealing Dane Tucker, the director of the C.D.C. That we were introduced to earlier.

DANE
Well keep pushing him Todd. That’s what you are here to do.

TODD
I know but-

DANE
Do you want to keep your job Todd.
TODD
Yes I do, but I feel like we-

DANE
You aren’t paid to feel.

TODD
I know. I understand.

Dane slams his fist on the desk.

DANE
No, do you really understand me? You aren’t paid to feel anything for these mongrels.

TODD
These are people that we are talking about.

DANE
Fuck that! These are monsters that we are dealing with. They didn’t feel anything when they inflicted Emily with this, with this predicament.

TODD
I-

DANE
No, you fucking listen to me. I have to much riding on this. Do you know how it feels when you have people depending on you?

TODD
Yes.

DANE
Do you know how it feels to have the well being of the people of the United States weighing on your shoulders.

TODD
No.

DANE
No you don’t. When you have that problem, you can start to feel something, but until then, stay in line and do your fucking job!
TODD
Sir, I apologize.

DANE
Drop the fucking chart and get out of my face!

Todd puts the chart down on Dane’s desk. Todd goes to exit. Dane stops him.

DANE (CONT’D)
Did I dismiss you?

TODD
I’m sorry, no you didn’t.

DANE
Then come back here.

Todd walks back over helplessly Dane. They look at each other in silence. Dane skims the paperwork that Todd placed on his desk. He makes a few notes with his pen. Dane hands the chart over to the man in the fatigues.

DANE (CONT’D)
Handle this Darryl.

DARRYL(30), nods back to Dane.

DANE (CONT’D)
See that’s all I ask. Do what you told and don’t piss me off. Thank you Darryl.

DARRYL
Yes sir. I will take care of this.

Darryl leaves. Dane notices that Todd is still there.

DANE
Oh. You can leave.

TODD
Thank you sir.

As Todd walks away, Dane yells in his direction.

DANE
You know what? Don’t come back. Your services are no longer needed.
TODD
Sir, I need this job. I have a family-

DANE
Do I look like I care?

Dane answers his own question.

DANE (CONT’D)
No. Frankly I can’t have weakness on my team.

TODD
Sir Please-

DANE
I don’t give a damn about what you got to say. Get the fuck out!

Todd stops. He shakes his head, and walks out.

EXT. DARRYL’S ROOM - NIGHT
Darryl walks with Jayce’s file in hand. He flips through the pages and chuckles to himself. He grabs the doorknob to his room and he hears faint sounds of conversation at the door. He puts his head to the door.

INT. DARRYL’S ROOM
Jayce sits on an empty bed, as Sheldon paces back and forth.

SHELDON
I don’t know if it was such a good idea to reveal some of the stuff that you did.

JAYCE
What was I supposed to do. It seemed like he was staring into a pathway into my soul.

SHELDON
They are pretty good at that here.
JAYCE
After he asked me all of these crazy questions, including the names and addresses of the last people I hooked up with, he poked my finger and used some kind of machine to suck up the blood. I guess it was another blood test for something.

SHELDON
It probably was to figure out the date of infection.

JAYCE
They can do that?

SHELDON
Technology has progressed leaps and bounds these last ten years alone.

JAYCE
But how can they do this?

SHELDON
They can do almost anything. They can practically see into your mind.

JAYCE
What do you mean?

SHELDON
I’m sorry. I’m going to get myself in trouble.

JAYCE
What do you mean.

Sheldon looks down.

SHELDON
I can’t.

JAYCE
Are you saying that they can hear my thoughts are something?

Sheldon apprehensively answers.
SHELDON
Just know that that thing that they implanted into you when you first got here can do a lot more than you think it can do. Your inner thoughts can reveal a lot about you. It can do wonders.

JAYCE
Damn.

Sheldon hears someone at the door. His attention is now completely on the door.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
I can’t believe this. I can’t keep anything to myself anymore.

SHELDON
Yes you can.

The door knob starts to rattle. Sheldon hushes his tone to a whisper.

JAYCE
How.

SHELDON
Shhh.

Sheldon points to the door. He continues in a quick whisper.

SHELDON (CONT’D)
Get out of your own head.


DARRYL
Long night.

SHELDON
I bet.

JAYCE
I’m sorry.

Jayce gets off of Darryl’s bed. He extends his hand out to Darryl.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
I’m Jayce.
DARRYL
Nice to meet you man, I’m Darryl.

JAYCE
Nice to meet you too.

Sheldon interrupts and gets Jayce’s attention. He gives Darryl the side eye. Jayce nods as he takes the hint.

SHELDON
What the author is trying to explain in this chapter is you need to start eating more nutritious foods to help your immune system get better.

JAYCE
Oh OK, I understand.

SHELDON
It probably won’t get to where it was before but pretty close.

JAYCE
What about airborne? That has loads of Vitamin B in it. Won’t that help?

Darryl laughs.

SHELDON
Is there a problem.

Darryl disregards Sheldon and responds to Jayce.

DARRYL
I think you mean C?

JAYCE
Yeah, C.

Sheldon responds under his breath.

SHELDON
You can’t keep to your own business so you have to get in other’s?

DARRYL
What you say?
Nothing.

DARRYL
You might want to speak up next time. You never have a problem speaking your mind, even if the information is false, or not yours to tell in the first place.

SHELDON
Excuse me?

Jayce tries to change the direction of this disagreement.

JAYCE
What time is it?

SHELDON
Nine.

JAYCE
Oh.

Darryl takes a look at his watch.

DARRYL
It’s actually Nine Thirty.

SHELDON
Can you mind your own business?

DARRYL
You might want to take your own advice.

SHELDON
Respect your elders.

JAYCE
Alright gentlemen. It’s getting a little late. I think it’s time for me to head back to my room.

Jayce musters a fake yawn. The guys don’t notice.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Alright nice to meet you Darryl. Sheldon, I’ll Talk to you later.

Jayce jogs out of the room and leaves the door open behind him.
INT.JAYCE’S ROOM - NIGHT

Cree sits at his bed writing. Jayce bursts into the room and slams the door behind him. This scares the hell out of Cree.

    CREE
    Oh Shit! You came running in here like somebody was chasing you.

    JAYCE
    Sorry.

    CREE
    What the hell is wrong with you?

Jayce releases a nervous laugh.

    JAYCE
    Nothing.

Jayce nervously undresses, throwing his clothes around the room.

    CREE
    What’s on your mind?

    JAYCE
    Too much for me to comprehend.

    CREE
    Try me.

Jayce composes himself.

    JAYCE
    Well I just left Sheldon’s room.

    CREE
    That weird old man?

    JAYCE
    Yeah. He told me some interesting stuff.

    CREE
    Was it conspiracy theory Shit?

    JAYCE
    Kind of.
CREE
Some of the stuff he says makes a little bit of sense, but he can’t seem to prove any of it. What are his credentials?

JAYCE
I’m not sure.

CREE
Take what he says with a grain of salt dude.

JAYCE
Well he was telling me some creepy Shit, but his roommate walked in, and things got weird.

CREE
That roided up dude?

JAYCE
Yeah.

CREE
Something is up with that dude too. I’d say don’t trust either of them.

JAYCE
You seem to know how to critically read people.

CREE
Hell yeah. You don’t know who you can trust here. I wouldn’t even trust me.

Jayce pauses.

CREE (CONT’D)
I’m kidding.

Jayce sits down in his bed.

JAYCE
Well I have a question about someone.

CREE
Who?

Jayce hesitates.
CREE (CONT’D)

Spit it out.

JAYCE
What’s up with your buddy Ty? You guy’s seem pretty close. How do you know him.

CREE
I met him right after I got in here. He’s one of the realist guys I met here since I been here, so we’ve been hanging with each other.

JAYCE
Interesting.

CREE
What you like him or something.

JAYCE
No. I’m not gay.

Cree smiles. He puts down his pen and paper on his desk.

CREE
I don’t see him like that. He’s like a brother to me. We are like the total opposites of one another. We would end up killing each other.

They laugh.

JAYCE
Oh OK. So he’s safe?

CREE
Sure, he’s cool. I’d say, get to know him. He’s a cool guy.

JAYCE
OK. Well I’m going to head to sleep.

CREE
Alright. Good night.

JAYCE
Good night.

Cree gets up and turns of the light.
INT. DANE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING.

Dane walks with breakfast on a tray on his hands. Dane balances the tray in one hand and he opens the door of a bedroom and enters.

INT. DANE’S HOUSE - EMILY’S ROOM

Dane enters the bedroom.

    DANE
    Rise and shine sweetie.

Dane’s sickly daughter, EMILY (9) Struggles to open her eyes.

    DANE (CONT’D)
    Wakey, wakey, eggs and bakey.

    EMILY
    Hi Daddy.

    DANE
    I brought you breakfast in bed.

Dane sets the tray down gently on Emily’s lap.

    EMILY
    Thank you daddy.

    DANE
    How did you sleep?

    EMILY
    Not too well.

    DANE
    Was it the medicine again?

    EMILY
    Yeah, I had nightmares all night.

    DANE
    What about?

    EMILY
    Mommy.
DANE
You don’t have to tell me.

EMILY
I miss her.

DANE
I miss her too, but she is watching down over us everyday to make sure that we are OK.

EMILY
I know.

DANE
Before you know it. You won’t have to have those nightmares anymore. We are working on a medicine that will make you feel better and help you get a good night’s rest.

EMILY
Really? When will I get to try that?

DANE
As soon as it’s done baby. I’m pushing the scientists everyday at the lab to get this done right. But don’t worry about that right now, eat your breakfast. I made you your favorite, Pancakes with fresh fruit.

EMILY
Thank you daddy.

Emily searches the tray.

EMILY (CONT’D)
No syrup?

Dane smiles.

DANE
Baby, you know that’s not good for you.

EMILY
I know daddy.
DANE
I have to get ready to head to work. Do you want me to turn the TV on for you?

EMILY
Yes please.

DANE
OK, Eat up, and don’t forget to drink that full glass of orange juice and take your vitamins, I know you like to conveniently drop them in the garbage disposal.

Emily smiles and nods. Dane leaves.

INT. DANE’S OFFICE - DAY
Dane sits at his desk with a group of scientists in coats around him.

DANE
Alright people. I know we need to get these formulas right, but we need to speed it up.

A TRACY (45), a thin Middle Eastern female Scientist raises her hand.

DANE (CONT’D)
Yes Tracy.

TRACY
We are staying late every night trying to test this medicine, reformulate and get it right.

DANE
Well that’s nice Tracy, but you all need to try harder. Does finding a cure mean something to you all?

TRACY
Yes sir but-

DANE
No But’s Tracy.

TRACY
Yes Sir.

SHAWN(50), a scientist with a large salt and pepper toupee atop his head speaks up.
SHAWN
With all due respect sir, I agree with Tracy. We are working our asses off. However, you know we are testing on the limited amount of patients that we are allotted. We need more subjects, so that we can find out how these formulas work on different people.

DANE
How do you not have enough patients to test on?

SHAWN
We are losing them sir. Some of our formulas are not strong enough, and some are too strong. Don’t you think people are going to start noticing when people come up missing?

DANE
Well they all have to go sooner or later right?

TRACY
But what do we tell the patients.

DANE
Oh Naive Tracy. We tell the patients what we want them to believe. Not necessarily the truth. They didn’t tell the truth to the people that they infected, why should we allow them that luxury.

TRACY
Well sir, our stories are starting to conflict and patients are starting to deny treatment because they don’t trust us.

DANE
Tracy, what are you letting slip to these patients?

SHAWN
Nothing in particular-

DANE
I didn’t ask you Shawn, I asked Tracy.

SHAWN
I know sir but-

DANE
You speak when you are acknowledged.
Shawn sheepishly backs down.

DANE (CONT’D)
Tracy, answer my question.

TRACY
Nothing to worry about too much sir. But they are starting to ask questions.

DANE
Questions huh? Well, I have a solution, we will get rid of them. We only have so many beds, it’s about time to free up some beds.

INT.JAYCE’S ROOM - DAY

Jayce sits alone in his room. Reading a book. He hears a frantic knock at the door. He gets up and answers the door. Ty stands in the doorway with a big smile on his face and a letter in his hand.

TY
Cree?

Ty notices it’s Jayce.

TY (CONT’D)
Oh, hi Jayce. Is Cree around.

JAYCE
Sorry, Cree went to take a shower he will be back soon. Do you want to come in and wait for him?

TY
Sure.

Ty comes into the room, and Jayce closes the door behind him. Ty sits on Cree’s bed.

JAYCE
What’s up?

TY
Looks like I'm getting out of here soon?

JAYCE
What do you mean?
I'm being released next week.

Really? How do you know?

It says it right here in this letter.

Ty hands Jayce the letter. Jayce sits down next to Ty. Jayce reads the letter silently. He reads the last sentence out loud.

You have progressed exponentially, where we believe you will be a great asset to your community. A specific scheduled release date and time will be available to you soon. Sincerely the Center for Disease Control.

Cool right?

Yeah. Do you actually believe this stuff?

I do.

OK.

I have been working hard and making greater strides each and everyday. I volunteer more than anyone else, and most importantly, my Viral Load is almost Non Existent.

Good for you. I’m happy for you.

Ty senses Jayce’s non sincere tone.

What’s really up Jayce.
JAYCE
Nothing.

TY
Really Jayce.

Jayce hesitates.

JAYCE
You want the truth?

TY
The real truth.

JAYCE
OK, I have to admit, I’m a little sad that you are leaving so soon.

TY
Why?

JAYCE
Well I hoped to have a chance to get to know you a little better.

TY
What do you mean?

JAYCE
Well I never really had somebody defend my well being like you did for me the first day I arrived here.

TY
Well you are a cool guy, and I didn’t want them to hurt you so soon.

JAYCE
Oh OK.

Jayce smiles.

TY
What?

Jayce continues to smile.
TY (CONT’D)
You have a great smile Jayce, which would make anybody melt, but what are you smiling about?

JAYCE
You like my smile?

TY
Yeah, sure.

JAYCE
Thank you.

Jayce moves in closer to Ty. They share a light kiss. Jayce stops himself.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
I’m so sorry.

TY
For What?

Jayce smiles, Ty leans in for a kiss. They begin to make out passionately. They lay back on Cree’s bed as they continue to kiss. Jayce tries takes his shirt off. He now tries to remove Ty’s pants. Ty stops him.

TY (CONT’D)
Wait.

JAYCE
What’s wrong?

Jayce kisses Ty again. He attempts to unbutton Ty’s pants. Ty stops him.

TY
No.

JAYCE
Why?

TY
Why every time I get close to a guy he just wants to get into my pants? Just because I show interest doesn’t mean I want to have sex right now.

JAYCE
I’m sorry.
TY
I’m sorry too. I thought you would be different than they regular guys that I encounter. I think I need to go.

Ty adjusts himself and heads to the door.

JAYCE
Ty wait.

TY
What?

JAYCE
Can I be honest with you?

TY
Please feel free to do so.

Jayce Hesitates. Ty loses his patience and continues to the door.

JAYCE
Wait.

Ty stops.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
I've never been asked on a real date before. I've never encountered a guy who wants to really get to know me and not just want to get into my pants.

TY
Are you serious?

Tears begin to stream down Jayce’s face.

JAYCE
Yes I’m serious.

Ty sits next to Jayce.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
I don't know how to get to know someone first before anything sexual happens. I was never offered that opportunity.
TY
I’m sorry about that, but you can’t let your past dictate how you act.

JAYCE
Ty, You are doing everything I ever wanted, and I hope I didn't screw it up by something stupid I did.

Ty stops to think. He looks at Jayce. Jayce won’t make eye contact.

TY
Jayce.

Jayce doesn’t respond. Ty physically grabs Jayce’s face in his hands, and makes him look at him. Ty lightly kisses Jayce.

TY (CONT’D)
It’s OK. I know how that feels.

Jayce kisses Ty. Ty stops the kiss.

JAYCE
What did I do wrong?

TY
Nothing. I don’t want to rush this. I’m leaving soon. Is this the right thing to do?

JAYCE
Well if you give me the chance, I think so.

Ty takes a second, and composes himself.

TY
Jayce, you are a great person. I would be crazy to let you slip through my grasp.

JAYCE
I love you.

TY
It’s a little bit early for that, don’t you think?

JAYCE
I’m sorry.
TY
Stop saying that.

They begin to laugh.

JAYCE
I know you are leaving soon, but I would love the opportunity to continue to get to know you, the little time that we have left together.

TY
You are growing, and I can totally see you being released behind me.

JAYCE
You think so?

TY
I do. How about we spend the last few days I have here to get to know each other, and see where this goes after we are both out of here.

JAYCE
OK. I would love that.

Ty gives Jayce a look.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
I would like that.

They kiss softly. After the kiss, Jayce hugs Ty. Suddenly over Ty’s shoulder, The Dark Shadow appears. He holds a book in his hands. He begins to read. Jayce’s eyes stay on the Shadow.

DARK SHADOW
Lust, Ooh sweet lust. The feeling that can’t be defined. The scent of you that lingers behind after we part, makes my heart race. The soft feel of your lips as they press against mine stays in my mind. Your soft touch makes me shiver as electricity exits you and lives inside of me. The chaos that pure lust can only put you through. It’s the feeling of slight insanity that excites you, makes you crave more.

The dark shadow begins to laugh. He throws the book down.
This haze, it’s fucking blinding you. It’s confusing you Dammit!

Jayce closes his eyes, and begins to smile. Furious, The Dark Shadow fumes.

DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
It’s making you want something that you do not need! Are you listening to me!

Jayce continues to embrace Ty.

DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
I can’t watch this.

The Dark Shadow disappears.

INT.JAYCE’S ROOM - DAY

CREE
OK, guess I will get it.

Cree gets up and walks to the door. He opens it. Sheldon stands in the doorway.

SHELDON
Hey, is Jayce around?

CREE
Yes, physically, but not mentally come on in.

Sheldon enters their room.

SHELDON
Hey Jayce.

JAYCE
Hey Sheldon.

SHELDON
How’s it going?
JAYCE
It has been really good.

CREE
That’s an understatement. He’s been like this for days.

JAYCE
What do you mean?

Jayce smiles. Cree looks at Sheldon.

CREE
He’s crazy in love.

Jayce waves to get Sheldon’s attention.

JAYCE
Sheldon, he’s just crazy.

CREE
Whatever. I’m going to breakfast. See you guys later.

JAYCE
Bye.

SHELDON
Bye.

Cree leaves the room and closes the door.

SHELDON (CONT’D)
So Romeo, I seen your beau walking today with an extra pep in his step.

JAYCE
He should. He’s on his way out of this place.

SHELDON
What do you mean?

JAYCE
He’s being released. They are having some sort of ceremony tonight.

Sheldon freezes in his tracks.
SHELDON
Oh my god.

JAYCE
What’s wrong with you? Jealous?

SHELDON
No not in the least.

JAYCE
Sure you aren’t. I am going to miss him, but I know that I will see him soon.

SHELDON
Are you sure about that?

Jay stares at Sheldon.

JAYCE
What the fuck is your problem?

SHELDON
I would tell you, but you young bucks don’t like to listen.

JAYCE
Of course not, when all that comes out of your mouth is a conspiracy theory.

SHELDON
You need to think about what you are saying.

JAYCE
I know what I’m saying. Not everybody is up to something wrong!

SHELDON
Well they are!

JAYCE
Who?

Sheldon doesn’t respond.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Tell me.
SHELDON
All of them!

Sheldon quiets his speech to a whisper.

SHELDON (CONT’D)
If they catch me saying anything, I won’t be around for too much longer either.

Sheldon shakes his head.

JAYCE
Cree is right, you are crazy. If you don’t have anything nice to say, you can go.

SHELDON
But-

JAYCE
No!

Jayce begins to push Sheldon towards the door.

SHELDON
I’m trying to help you.

JAYCE
How?

Sheldon takes a card out of his pocket.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
What is that?

SHELDON
This will help open your eyes to what’s really going on here. That bastard Darryl let it slip out of his pocket.

JAYCE
Now you are stealing his stuff too?

SHELDON
There up to no good Jayce.

JAYCE
Who?
SHELDON
You just need to follow the instructions on the back of this card.

Sheldon forces the card in Jayce’s hand.

JAYCE
Why?

SHELDON
You need this, if you ever want a chance to be with that Ty fella.

JAYCE
Go!

Jayce pushes Sheldon out of the door.

INT. JAYCE’S ROOM - NIGHT
Jayce sits and looks at the card. Cree walks into the room.

CREE
Hey.

Jayce doesn’t respond.

CREE (CONT’D)
I’m back.

Jayce snaps out of it.

JAYCE
Oh, hey.

CREE
What’s up with you?

JAYCE
Nothing.

CREE
You need some time?
Cree puts on his headphones and gets into bed.

Suddenly the dark shadow appears. He laughs uncontrollably.

**DARK SHADOW**
There’s nothing he can do to get away. He’s trapped, you’re trapped, now what are you gonna do?

Jayce has had enough.

**JAYCE**
Shut up!

**DARK SHADOW**
That would be way too easy smart ass!

**JAYCE**
Why do you do this?

**DARK SHADOW**
Do What?

**JAYCE**
You know damn well what you do!

The dark shadow plays coy.

**DARK SHADOW**
I have no knowledge of what you speak.

**JAYCE**
Bullshit!

**DARK SHADOW**
I’m just here to show that you don’t know what you think you know.

**JAYCE**
Fuck you!

**DARK SHADOW**
You are too scared to face the truth.
JAYCE

No I'm not!

DARK SHADOW

Sure you're not.

The Dark Shadow disappears through the door. Jayce exhales, He lays back on something. He feels grabs under himself and pulls out the Key Card. Jayce stares at the card.

Jayce’s POV

Jayce zeros in on the words “Eight O Clock Sharp” He looks at his watch. It’s 7:50.

Exit Jayce’s POV

Suddenly Jayce jumps up with the card. He puts his coat on and heads towards the door.

Cree removes his headphones.

CREE

Where are you going?

JAYCE

I got to go!

CREE

But it’s late.

Jayce runs out the door.

EXT. TY’S ROOM - NIGHT

Jayce bangs on the door furiously. Ty’s roommate PETER (22) opens the door. Jayce pushes past Peter. Jayce looks at Ty’s side of the room. It’s empty.

PETER

What’s going on?

JAYCE

Where’s Ty?

PETER

He just left. He was picked up a few minutes ago.

JAYCE

Where did he go?
PETER
I don’t know, but they made him take his bags with him.

JAYCE
Fuck!

PETER
What’s going on?

JAYCE
Which way did he go?

PETER
I don’t know.

Jayce looks at the card. He darts out of the room into the darkness.

EXT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM-NIGHT

Ty swipes is card at the card reader. The door unlocks. He walks into the auditorium with his bags.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Jayce’s POV

Jayce runs through darkness. He looks at his watch. It says “7:57”

Exit Jayce’s POV. Jayce runs faster but he trips and falls.

The Dark Shadow appears next to Jayce. The sounds of a clock loudly ticking begins. The Dark Shadow begins to speak with mimicking the rhythm of the ticking clock.

DARK SHADOW

Jayce composes himself. He sits up. He’s face to face with the Dark Shadow.
DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
Don’t you ever wish that you were able to stop the hands of the clock and move time backwards? Just for a few seconds?

Jayce stands up and continues to run.

DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
Just for enough time for you to rethink a decision, make a change, right a wrong?

CUT TO:

INT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM

The announcer’s voice reverberates through the auditorium.

ANNOUNCER
Attention everyone. Please find your way to your seats, the ceremony will begin shortly.

Ty makes his way to a seat in the crowded auditorium.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST

Jayce sees the light of the building ahead.

DARK SHADOW
You will not make it. No matter how much you try to avoid the inevitable, it will always find a way to peek through the curtains and say, “Remember me?”

The watch beeps twice to indicate the new hour.

DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
You failed! Give up now.

Jayce continues towards the auditorium.

CUT TO:
INT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM

A Projector Screen Floats down from the ceiling.

The screen halts right above the floor. A film begins to play. On the screen we see Dane sitting behind a desk.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO SCREEN - EXIT VIDEO

DANE
Hello Everyone. I congratulate you all for making it here. You all are prime examples of what it means to persevere.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM

Jayce makes it to the door. He sees the card reader. He tries to swipe the card. Nothing happens. Jayce looks at his watch.

Jayce’s POV

The watch reads “8:02”.

Exit Jayce’s POV.

Jayce pulls at the door. It’s locked.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO SCREEN - EXIT VIDEO

DANE
Unfortunately not everyone can make it. You all have worked very hard, but I am sorry to say that we no longer have space for you. We need to let you go. However it would be wrong to burden the United States Citizens with the fear that they can be infected.

CUT TO:
EXT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM

Jayce stands at the door peeking into the small window on the door.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO SCREEN - EXIT VIDEO

DANE
Thank you for all of your help but the road ends here for you all.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM

The screen goes black.

Suddenly balls drop from the ceiling of the building. They explode, releasing a toxic white gas.

The helpless men, women, and children begin to cough. When they realize that what’s going on, screams and coughs begin to fill the room. Chairs fall as people run over them.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE OASIS - AUDITORIUM

Jayce stands at the doors shaking it to try to free the people.

JAYCE
Oh my fucking god. They are killing them all!

Jayce bangs on the door. He looks around, and screams for help.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Somebody, anybody, help! Please.

Suddenly he becomes face to face with a figure in front of him on the other side of the door. It’s Ty. He tries to hold his breath, to avoid breathing in the fumes.

This site frightens Jayce.

JAYCE (CONT’D)

Ty!
Jayce shakes the door harder but it won’t budge. Jayce begins to cry uncontrollably as both him from the outside, and Ty from the inside, try to open the door.

The Dark Shadow stands behind Jayce.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Hold on Ty, I’m going to get you out of there.

DARK SHADOW
You can’t hide from the truth. It stares at you in the eyes. Piercing through your soul. It will smack you in your face hard as hell.

JAYCE
Please, somebody help me.

People behind Ty push and claw their way to the door. They slam into Ty hard, knocking his breath out of him. He inhales and chokes in front of Jayce’s eyes.

DARK SHADOW
The truth hurts.

Ty drops from Jayce’s view.

JAYCE
Ty. Where are you?

The cloud of fumes overtakes the auditorium, preventing Jayce from seeing into the building, but he can still hear the cries and banging of the people trying to get out.

DARK SHADOW
You made this happen.

Jayce crumbles to the floor. He shakes with every cry.

DARK SHADOW (CONT’D)
Are you awake now?
EXT. FOREST-NIGHT

Jayce sits on the ground behind a tree trunk. He holds his head in his hands. His body heaving.

A familiar voice calls out to Jayce.

SHELDON

Jayce!

Jayce snaps out of his grief.

SHELDON (CONT’D)

Jayce!

Jayce jumps to his feet when he realizes that it is Sheldon.

JAYCE

They killed Ty. They killed all of them.

SHELDON

I’m sorry that you had to find out the way you did.

Jayce jumps in Sheldon’s face.
JAYCE
You! You knew what they were going to do to them all along. You could of stopped it all.

SHELDON
No I couldn’t have.

JAYCE
You fucking liar!

Jayce pushes Sheldon to the ground.

SHELDON
Jayce please.

JAYCE
I could’ve had it all. He was the one, and you stood by while he was on his way to his death.

SHELDON
It’s more complicated than you think.

The Dark Shadow appears.

DARK SHADOW
He knows what he did. You can’t trust him.

JAYCE
Stop your lying!

Jayce punches Sheldon in the face. Bloodying his nose. He continues to pummel and kick Sheldon until he curls up in the fetal position. Through kicks Sheldon pleads with Jayce.

SHELDON
Please don’t do this.

DARK SHADOW
The heat rises, time skips a second as you realize that you are stuck, and all alone, There’s no way out of the darkness.

Jayce turns his attention away from Sheldon to the Dark Shadow.

JAYCE
Shut Up!
DARK SHADOW
You lost all of your free chances. He’s still breathing. What are you going to do now?

JAYCE
I know what I’m doing!

DARK SHADOW
Oh you do don’t you?

SHELDON
Jayce you are OK.

Jayce turns back to Sheldon.

JAYCE
Shut the fuck up!

Jayce stares at Sheldon.

DARK SHADOW
What are you waiting for? Time doesn’t freeze frame, to give you a chance to think. Take him out now!

Jayce turns back to the Dark Shadow.

JAYCE
You can’t make me do anything. I make the decisions not you!

DARK SHADOW
Oh you do don’t you? Then make the decision big boy. Show me how it’s done.

JAYCE
I will. So just shut up!

SHELDON
Jayce listen to me.

Jayce turns to Sheldon.

SHELDON (CONT’D)
You need to conquer your demons first before you will be able to get anywhere.
JAYCE
What do you know?

SHELDON
Think about it. I haven’t steered you wrong before have I?

Jayce thinks about it. A familiar voice calls out.

DARRYL (O.S.)
Hey! What are you doing?

SHELDON
Jayce, you need to get out of here. They will kill you, if you don’t.

DARK SHADOW
Don’t listen to him.

JAYCE
I’m so sorry.

Darryl comes into view. He has a whole bunch of men behind him. Jayce makes eye contact with him.

DARRYL
Stop where you are!

Sheldon yells out to Jayce.

SHELDON
Get the fuck out of here now!

Jayce disappears into the forest.

EXT. FOREST- LATER

Jayce sits behind a tree hiding from Darryl and the crowd that’s after him. His body trembles and tears flow from his eyes.

JAYCE
What the fuck did I do now?

The Dark Shadow appears in front of Jayce. A ring of Fire surrounds them. The fire blazes to heats unimaginable. Beads of sweat drips from Jayce’s head.
DARK SHADOW
There's nothing you can do to get away. I'm trapped, you're trapped now.

JAYCE
What are you gonna do?

DARK SHADOW
No smart ass, what are you going to do?

JAYCE
Shut up!

The Dark Shadow produces a stop watch hanging from a chain. He pushes a button on the watch. The watch begins to tick so loud that we can’t hear anything but the watch ticking. Tick tick.... Tock!

DARK SHADOW
The end never comes for me, but it is imminent for you.

The Dark Shadow releases a sinister laugh.

JAYCE
I know what I'm doing.

DARK SHADOW
Oh you do don't you?

JAYCE
Yes I do. You can't control me. You have no control over me, you can't make me do anything. I make the decisions not you!

(beat)

DARK SHADOW
I make all of the decisions!

JAYCE
Not anymore.

DARK SHADOW
Son, you are so naive. You have no idea who you are, what you are, where you are. You need me. You will always need me so why don’t you just accept it.
Jayce looks up with tears in his eyes.

JAYCE
Dad.

DARK SHADOW
Yes.

The Dark Shadow finally steps into the light of the moonlight. He removes his Dark hood and reveals himself to be Jayce’s father George. The fire dissipates.

The tears stop, and Jayce begins to smile. His smile turns into a strong cackle, reminiscent of the laugh of the Dark Shadow.

JAYCE
You always wanted me to call you Dad. You practically begged for it. You always desired for it, but the reality is you never deserved it.

GEORGE
How dare you say that to me.

JAYCE
It’s time for you to face the truth Dammit!

GEORGE
Tomorrow is never promised boy. It's not a guarantee. You aren't as special as you believe yourself to be. Time won't stop for you, me, or any other Joe, no matter who you are or what you may have done. Life as I know it is over.

George comes closer to Jayce.

GEORGE (CONT’D)
You lose some, you lose some more, and that routine continues until you are left with nothing. Not a god damn thing! There's no winning in this world here, only losing.

JAYCE
I know what I'm doing. I learned and accepted that I need to live in the now. Why worry about what happens next? I can’t waste my time anymore. I can't, and I won't. I refuse!
GEORGE
And what makes you king, the almighty ruler.

JAYCE
You lived your life for you and I will live my life for me.

GEORGE
I am human.

JAYCE
Was…

GEORGE
I made mistakes.

JAYCE
You sure did, A lifetime full of them.

GEORGE
Please.

JAYCE
No. The madness, the sorrow, and the despair, which has been building up for years needs to go. It weighs so heavy on my shoulders. You need to go and let me live my life.

George stands in silence and ponders what Jayce has just said. He speaks with defeat in his voice. Much different to his normal voice because Vulnerability finally exists in it.

GEORGE
Helpless, powerless, nothing, this is how I feel. I don't want to be inferior and be conquered by anything.

JAYCE
Me neither.

GEORGE
I wasn't perfect and you're not either.

Jayce smiles.
JAYCE
But I'm me and that's all I can be. I refuse to let the past hold me down. I've done so much of that, that I never give myself the time to live for me. The real me.

GEORGE
So you really don't need me.

JAYCE
You blocked me for too long. Not a day, hour, minute, second more. I don't need you. I don't need you. I don't need you.

GEORGE
OK.

George disappears. Jayce breathes a sigh of relief. Suddenly a strong fist pops Jayce in the face. He drops to the ground knocked out cold.

INT. DANE’S HOUSE- OFFICE- NIGHT
Dane sits at his desk observing the surveillance cameras. Suddenly he receives a knock on the his door.

DANE
Bring him in Darryl.

INT. DANE’S OFFICE- MORNING
Jayce awakes sitting in a seat with his hands behind his back. He tries to move, but he is tied to the chair with zip ties.

JAYCE
What the hell?
Jayce yells out.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Somebody help me.

Dane’s voice startles Jayce.

DANE (O.S.)
Save your voice, nobody is going to help you.
Dane steps into Jayce’s view. Jayce stares at Dane’s face.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Haven’t I met you somewhere?

DANE
I’ve met you, but you haven’t yet had the pleasure to meet me. It’s unfortunate that we have to meet under these circumstances, Mr Richardson.

JAYCE
Wait, Aren’t you the peppy guy from that corny video?

DANE
I can’t say I know what you are talking about.

JAYCE
You are that guy. Damn you look a lot older in person.

Dane hauls off and slaps Jayce in the mouth. Jayce whimpers.

DANE
I’m someone who doesn’t like to be fucked with. You will respect me!

JAYCE
What was that for?

DANE
Cut the crap asshole. You have single-handedly been trying to make a failure out of me.

JAYCE
What the fuck are you talking about?

Dane pulls a gun out of his pocket and waves it in Jayce’s face.

DANE
Believe me, you don't want to see me when I'm angry. I'm probably the nicest person that you will ever meet, but don't you dare cross me.
JAYCE
You don’t have to-

DANE
Betray me, and you will encounter a totally different entity. Once I’m at that point, you better stand back because you will definitely get your head shot off. Are you sure that you want to play these games with me?

JAYCE
What games?

Dane cocks the gun and puts his hands on the trigger.

DANE
You know too much. We make sure that we are tight with our alliances here at The Oasis. There’s obviously a leak in the foundation and you are going to tell me what I need to know. Who supplied you with everything you know?

JAYCE
I’m sorry but I don’t have anything, I don’t have any information to give to you.

Dane laughs, then he hits Jayce in the mouth with the gun.

Darryl runs in the room and interrupts the interrogation.

DARRYL
Sir.

DANE
Not now!

DARRYL
I’m sorry sir, but there is a problem.

Dane’s phone begins to ring.

DARRYL (CONT’D)
Don’t answer that sir. I need to speak to you now. It’s an emergency.

Dane turns his attention back to Jayce.
DANE
You are so lucky. I’m going to give you a few minutes to get rid of your selective amnesia. When I come back I won’t be so forgiving.

DARRYL
Sir, please.

DANE
Darryl, You know better than to rush me.

Darryl and Dane exit the office in a rush, leaving Jayce alone.

Once Darryl and Dane are out of sight, Jayce immediately begins to scream.

JAYCE
Hello? Can anybody hear me? Someone is trying to kill me. Please help me.

Jayce gives up when no one responds.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Fuck!

EMILY (O.S.)
That’s not a good word to use.

Jayce jumps when he hears this voice. There’s hope!

JAYCE
Hello? Can you please help me?

Emily peeks her head into the office.

INT. DANE’S OFFICE- DAY
Dane and Darryl comes rush into the office. They fail to notice that Jayce is gone.

DANE
I can’t believe this Shit. Seem like nobody on this fucking staff can do their jobs right.

DARRYL
Who could’ve leaked this information.
DANE
I don’t care! We need to fix this now!

Dane stops in his tracks.

DANE (CONT’D)
Darryl Go to the lab and start shredding the records.
We can fix this before it can become a problem.

DARRYL
You are a genius.

DANE
I’m supposed to have to do the thinking for everybody. Go there now. Meet me back here in 15 minutes and we will go from there.

DARRYL
Yes Sir.

Darryl disappears.

INT. THE OASIS-HOSPITAL LABORATORY- NIGHT

Darryl searches through file cabinets. He grabs files and sorts them into piles. Frantic in his movements, he consistently checks his watch over and over.

Darryl stops looking in the file cabinets and runs over to an industrial shredding machine. He flips the switch. Nothing happens. He slaps the shredder, nothing. He goes to the rear of the machine to check to see if it’s plugged in. He crouches down to examine the cord.

Suddenly there are faint sounds of foot steps nearby.

Darryl jumps to attention.

DARRYL
Who is that?

Silence. Darryl cautiously looks around. He decides to continue checking the electric cord. He pulls the cord. It is unplugged from the wall. He picks up the cord to go to plug it in. He goes to stand up. Suddenly a silver tray hits him in the face.
Darryl, hits the ground. Jayce stands above Darryl holding the tray. He raises the tray again.

CUT TO:

INT. DANE’S HOUSE - OFFICE - NIGHT

Dane types away on his computer. He runs a System Restore program.

DANE
Where the hell is Darryl?

Dane looks at his watch. He stands up, while the program continues to run.

DANE (CONT’D)
Fuck! I have to save everyone’s ass here.

Dane leaves the office.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OASIS-HOSPITAL LABORATORY - NIGHT

Dane enters the laboratory. The lights are turned off. However standing near a pile of files, stands a shadow.

DANE
Darryl, What the hell? You didn’t get any of these files shredded?

The shadow figure shakes his head.

DANE (CONT’D)
Are you fucking serious right now?

The figure begins to laugh manically.

DANE (CONT’D)
What the fuck is wrong with you?

JAYCE
The complex make up of my mind will dazzle you, confuse you, inspire you, inspire you to be better. To trust, to love, to be loved.
DANE
Are you fucking losing your mind?

JAYCE
The twists and turns that my mind presents, can make you sicker than the wildest roller coaster. Enter at your own risk, because once you come in, there's no turning back. If you can make it out alive, and unscathed, I commend you, because you have accomplished a feat that many have failed. Is it impossible? Who knows?

Dane runs to the light. He flips the light switch on. The first thing Dane notices is Darryl’s body spread out on the floor. When he looks up Jayce is in Dane’s face. He stabs Dane in the neck with a syringe filled with blood. Dane pulls the syringe out of his neck.

DANE
What the fuck are you doing? You are definitely going to need to die now.

JAYCE
No, actually it looks like you are the one about to die. That syringe was filled with the HIV Virus.

Dane grabs at his neck.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
You’ve killed so many people. You won’t be able to do it anymore.

Dane shakes his head.

JAYCE (CONT’D)
Yes, now you will know what it feels like to go through hell.

DANE
Nonsense surrounds me.

Dane knocks over a desk sitting in front of him.

DANE (CONT’D)
Behind every fucking corner lies something in disguise, preparing to jump at the chance to take me out. What they fail to recognize is that I'm always one step ahead of them.
JAYCE
Well not this time.

DANE
I always have a Plan B, C, and D. I prepare myself for anything and everything that will come my way.

JAYCE
You don’t get to prepare for this. You can’t win this battle.

DANE
You fucking idiot, I have HIV already!

Dane rushes at Jayce. He tackles Jayce, sweeping his feet from under him. They both slam to the ground.

Dane pummels Jayce in the face with his fists. Jayce tries to fight back.

DANE (CONT’D)
Unlike you, I wasn’t careless like you.

JAYCE
Fuck you!

Jayce catches Dane in the face with a good jab. Dane, falls backward for a split second, allowing Jayce enough time to get to his feet. Jayce takes a few steps backward when he realizes that Dayne has reproduced his gun from earlier. He points the gun at Jayce.

DANE
Now what?

JAYCE
We don’t have to do this man.

DANE
There’s nothing stopping me.

JAYCE
What about your daughter?

DANE
Don’t talk about my fucking daughter. She’s all that I have.
JAYCE
She is a sweet girl. She loves you so much. It would kill her if she knew the sick kind of things that her dad does.

Suddenly Dane shoots Jayce in the leg. Jayce crumbles to the floor screaming. He holds his wound.

Dane stands above Jayce with the gun.

DANE
You have your nerve, trying to be a hero, well now you can die for all that you’ve done.

Jayce makes eye contact with Dane.

JAYCE
I’m ready.

DANE
What?

JAYCE
For the longest time, I have isolated myself from the people I love and the people that love me because of the fear that they will see the person that I am, and my jig will be up. But this whole time I’ve been hurting myself. But that’s life, which isn’t infinite. My pulse slows down gradually, but when will it stop? I’m sure that it will one day, If it’s now, I am ready for the end.

Dane points the gun at Jayce. Jayce closes his eyes. Suddenly a boom at the door startles both Jayce and Dane.

EXT. THE OASIS- NIGHT

We finally see a view of the oasis from outside of the structure. It is massive, and beautiful from the outside, however if people knew what really went on here, they would see that it is far from beautiful.

JAYCE (V.O.)
This year, my life changed forever. I thought immediately that all was lost, but today is a new day.

(MORE)
I finally realize that you can never change what has happened in your past life, you can only hope to be more in control of what happens in the present and in the future.

INT. THE OASIS-HOSPITAL LABORATORY- NIGHT

Jayce sits at the feet of Dane pointing the gun at him. They both turn as a large swat team storm in the room with guns drawn.

JAYCE (V.O.)
The Police raided the Oasis that night.

Dane is removed from the office in handcuffs. Jayce lays on a stretcher, Todd is at his side.

JAYCE (V.O.)
Turns out that Todd, finally listened to his heart and did what was right. It's hard to think what would have happened if he didn't get fired, and expose Dane and his plan for what it really was.

EXT. THE OASIS- NIGHT

The Patients are led out of the modern day concentration camp, where they have been held captive against their will.

JAYCE (V.O.)
The Oasis was shut down and demolished.

INT. AUDITORIUM- DAY

Jayce walks across the stage during his graduation from college. He receives his diploma from Mr. Bradford and he hugs him. Lady Faye, Todd, and Cree applaud from the audience.

JAYCE (V.O.)
Life continued, or I should say that my new life began at a fast pace. But it got better, the pieces of the puzzle, that began unorganized and in a mixed mess, slowly moved around and aligned themselves into an intriguing pattern. A pattern that tells my story; A story pulls you into its grasp and feeds off of you. Its structure is complex and has an undeniable beauty. Stiff, rigid, tight, and tense.

(MORE)