

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

We see a homeless man, STERLING(50) sitting in front of the building. A black SUV stops in front of the building. Out of the driver's side comes MARGRET WHISNUT(45) with a bag and a cup.

MARGRET
Hey, Sterling. Got you some
breakfast and some coffee.

The homeless man has an upside down sign that says "Anything helps". From behind Margret, out of the building comes EBEN "EB" MISNER(60). He glances and goes straight to the SUV passenger door and gets in.

MARGRET (CONT'D)
Be safe today, Sterling and find
some place warm.

She runs back to the truck.

INT. MARGRET'S CAR - MORNING

Margret hops back into the SUV as EB stares at her.

MARGRET
WHAT?!

EB
Why do you insist on giving him
food every morning?

MARGRET
Cause he's homeless. Care,
Humanity...Any of those ring a
bell? You should try them from time
to time.

EB looks at the homeless guy for a second then rolls down the window.

EB
HEY! Your signs upside down...Hope
that helps.

He rolls the window back up and looks at Margret.

MARGRET
Brilliant.

INT. MARGRET'S CAR - MORNING

They stop at a light. EB gets out.

EB
I'm gonna grab a paper. I'll see
you upstairs.

EXT. FINANCIAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK - MORNING

It's the holidays and New York is being New York. Busy,
Crowded and Moving Fast. EB walks up to a news stand Kiosk.
FATS(60) is behind the counter.

FATS
Saw your brother and nephew walk
in.

EB
Does anyone say good morning
anymore?

FATS
Good Morning, Asshole. What's your
brother working on?

EB
The annual Money Drive. Raising
money...Again!

FATS
I thought he ran a foundation.

EB
They're all scams, Fats. I don't
understand organizations always
needing to raise money.

FATS
You're a lawyer, right? You
understand how non-profits work,
right?

EB
I do. I also find it funny that non-
profits raise money all year but
December, they shove it in your
face.

Fats is silent.

EB (CONT'D)
I have to go, Fats. (He turns to
walk away into building)

FATS
Have a good day, Ebenezer.

EB
Happy Holidays, Fats. That's the
phrase these days, right?

FATS
Bauh Humbug, I think. Have a good
day, EB.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A sprawling office, with a Lobby Desk. EB exits an elevator
and passes a receptionist, ROBERT (20ish).

EB
Morning, Robert.

ROBERT
Morning, Mr. Misner.

INT. OFFICE/NEAR EB'S OFFICE - DAY

Margret sits at her desk. Her desk sits in front of a large
glass window which exposes EB's office. EB's brother, ELLIOT
MISNER(55ish) and his son, MYCROFT(24)are in EB's office.
Mycroft has Down's Syndrome. He is seated on the couch.
Elliot is at the window looking at the city.

MARGRET
They're in town for the day. They
were already in your office.

EB
Fire Robert.

MARGRET
I won't. Elliot is your baby
brother.

EB
(Sigh)Do they want our annual
donation?

MARGRET

No. We sent that months ago.
They're going to be on The Today
Show talking about the foundation.
And you're gonna promise to watch.

EB

What do you mean?

MARGRET

Either you're gonna watch it or
I'll have to. I'm sure Mycroft will
ask you questions.

EB

Why do you do that?

MARGRET

To make you look good.

EB

If you don't make those promises,
you don't corner yourself.

MARGRET

Please, get in there and be nice.

EB

Not the best start to the day.

INT. EB'S OFFICE - DAY

Mycroft is sitting on the couch in EB's office and Elliot is standing by the window on his phone. Mycroft jumps up when he sees his uncle.

MYCROFT

Uncle Eben! Dad told me last week
we were coming today and it's all
I've been thinking about. I've
missed you. How have you been? Do
you have a Christmas Tree yet? You
wanna go get one? I can help pick
it out.

EB grabs Mycroft's arms and holds his hands for a second.

EB

No, Mycroft. I don't have one, but
I don't really have time for a
Christmas Tree this year. I have a
lot of work going on.

MYCROFT

Dad, we should help Uncle Eben. We should go get a tree for his house.

ELLIOT

That's a good idea buddy.

EB

I hear you're gonna be on Tv.

MYCROFT

Yeah. We did it in California too. I guess it's fun. They ask too many questions. I got bored listening to dad talk so much.

EB

Story of my life, buddy.

Mycroft laughs at his father's expense.

EB (CONT'D)

Where are you staying?

ELLIOT

We live in White Plains, remember? The town you never visit. The town you grew up in.

EB

I... visit.

ELLIOT

Any idea when was the last time you were there?

EB

I was there...Last year.

ELLIOT

You were there for that idiot's, who, by the way still owes you money, that idiot's inauguration.

EB

When was that?

ELLIOT

2017. A lot of folks would love to see you. Plenty of room at the house.

MYCROFT

Oh please, Uncle Eben! You can come for Christmas! Mom cooks the best stuff! Last year we had ham and the year before we had fish stuff!

EB

Fish stuff?

ELLIOT

Salmon. He'd love you there. Mirra would too.

EB

That I certainly doubt. The woman despises me.

ELLIOT

You did miss our wedding. Plenty of room.

EB

I like Chinese food for Christmas. Did you get the donation?

ELLIOT

Yes, darling brother and with great humility, I thank you. Margret says you're watching. (They head for the door)

EB

Wouldn't miss it.

With the door open, Elliot looks at Margret.

ELLIOT

You owe me 20 bucks. He lied.

MARGRET

Shit.

INT. MARGRET'S DESK - MORNING

EB walks up to Margret's desk.

EB

Why don't you get out of here? We don't have anything really pressing.

MARGRET

Are you ok?

EB
I'm perfectly fine.

MARGRET
Did Elliot say something to you?

EB
No...Not really. Do you ever visit
hometown?

MARGRET
Everyday. I'm from The Bronx.

EB has an uneven look, not knowing how to respond.

MARGRET (CONT'D)
You know, I'm the closest thing you
have to a friend. Wanna talk?

EB
No. Just... How long have you and
Clarence been married?

MARGRET
Think I can do better.

EB
Pretty sure he can. Anyway, how
long?

MARGRET
15 years. I'll be honest, Boss, I
didn't think you knew his name.

EB
Am I that cold?

MARGRET
Mmmm. Detached I think is a better
word.

EB
You know what our father did?

MARGRET
He was an apple farmer...Who bought
a patch of land that was mostly
rotted soil and turned it into some
of the most fertile land in the
North East.

EB
How do you know that?

MARGRET
Sometimes, Mirla, you do remember
your sister in law, yes?

EB
I do.

MARGRET
Sometimes she wants to have
lunch...And check on her brother in
law for her husband.

EB
Seriously?

MARGRET
You're an enigma, Eben.

EB
Merry Christmas, Margret.

MARGRET
Thanks, Boss.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

EB comes out of his office and on to the main floor. He sees
the cleaning group and acknowledges LOLA(30).

LOLA
Mr. Misner, you always seem to be
the last to leave.

EB
The law never sleeps.

LOLA
Makes you a lonely man.

EB
I beg your pardon?

LOLA
I know it's none of my business,
Mr. Misner. I'd just kinda like to
see you happy for a change.

EB
And how would you know, I'm not
happy.

LOLA

I see it in your face. Maybe this Christmas, Santa can bring you a girlfriend...Or a boyfriend. Whichever.

EB

Thanks, Lola. (His phone rings) I must get this, but...I'll see you tomorrow, yeah?

EB goes into the elevator.

EB (CONT'D)

Ah Linda. The work sister I never wanted. Is he dead yet?

The elevator doors close.

INT. LINDA HALLIGAN'S APT. - NIGHT

LINDA (65) is very wealthy and is a large apartment, decorated in modern chic but not gaudy, very elegant. She is the daughter of JASPER HALLIGAN(90) who started the law firm EB is the senior partner of. Jasper is dying.

LINDA

He asked for you, EB. That's why I'm calling. He's in and out, but he wanted to see you.

EB

I can be there in 20 minutes.

LINDA

By train? No you won't. There's a car out front.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - NIGHT

He walks out of the elevator and sees REGINALD (30), the "Driver".

EB

Reggie. Must be dire if she sent you.

REGINALD

Good evening, Mr. Misner. Mr. Halligan is fading. My job right now is to skip red lights.

EB
Ah. I'll buckle up.

INT. TOWN CAR - NIGHT

EB is in the back seat.

EB
What's he like?

REGINALD
He doesn't speak much. When your name came up, it was a surprise to me.

EB
Still not a fan of mine, huh?

REGINALD
Mr. Misner, it's not my place to like you or not.

EB
Still friends with my Alex, I gather.

REGINALD
Sir, I'm not sure your ex-wife is the conversation...

EB
Blah, Blah, Blah... I get it. Just drive and I'll stay quiet. I'll try and comfort Linda when I get there.

REGINALD
Yes sir.

INT. LINDA HALLIGAN'S APT. (FRONT DOOR/FOYER) - NIGHT

EB and Reginald come in and MAZI SUAREZ (50's) greets them.

MAZI
Good Evening, Mr. Misner. We are so glad you could make it.

EB
Did you check with Reggie? I'm getting conflicting stories.

MAZI

Ignore him. He's supposed to be mean. Let me take your coat.

LINDA

Don't fuss, Mazi. I'm sure he won't be long.

EB

Please, Linda, I just walked in. New mustache?

LINDA

Let me grab a drink. Follow me and I'll fill you in on where we are.

INT. LINDA HALLIGAN'S APT. (READING ROOM) - NIGHT

Linda is at the bar, pouring a drink.

LINDA

How's the office?

EB

According to the accountant, we make too much money. You should drop by.

LINDA

My father's dying.

EB

Accounting says we should pick up another charity.

LINDA

Who were you thinking?

EB

We already give Elliot enough money. I Thought maybe this time, you could choose something.

LINDA

How about something in your hometown? Maybe a shelter?

EB

A women's shelter run by a friend of yours?

LINDA

Yes, and ex-wife of yours. Strange, I've known her 25 years and most times, I think I know her and then...

EB

Then what?

LINDA

Eben this, Eben that, Eben some other damn thing. And for the life of me, I don't know why.

EB

How is it you and my ex-wife remain friends. You're cut from different cloth.

LINDA

We're both jilted women. I think we add Alex and her shelter. Dad agrees. You wanna tell her?

EB

I haven't spoken to Alex in a long time. We just don't fit. We did for a time and then, something just faded.

LINDA

Yeah, your compassion. You became a New York lawyer...My least favorite animal. Probably why I told my father to give you the firm. (Pause) She still loves you.

EB

Hard to believe.

LINDA

I don't get it either. At least she doesn't cry anymore...But I see it in her eyes.

EB doesn't respond.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Let's go in. Get it over with.

INT. JASPER HALLIGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JASPER HALLIGAN (90) weighs no more than 80 pounds. EB walks in with Linda and Reginald trailing behind.

JASPER
Reginald, put me in my chair.

LINDA
Father, is that a good idea?

JASPER
Reginald, is my name still on the checks?

REGINALD
Yes, sir.

JASPER
Do as I say...Please.

REGINALD
Yes Sir.

JASPER
Come, Eben. Sit down.

EB crosses the room and sits in the opposite chair.

JASPER (CONT'D)
How are you?

EB
I'm concerned about you.

JASPER
Panther Piss. Don't worry, you and Linda split everything. Well, she gets a bit more. She is my daughter.

EB
I need for nothing, Jasper. You've taken great care with me.

LINDA
Don't worry, I'm not gonna put up a fight. The firm is yours. The apartment, well, that's mine.

EB
As it should be.

JASPER
Enough. And Elliot?

EB
Not sure he's been to her
apartment.

JASPER
I'm serious. How is his family?

EB
From what I gather, Mirla is fine
and I saw Mycroft today. Zelda is
off to UCLA next year.

JASPER
Ever miss not having a family of
your own? (Pause) I'm dying of old
age, Eben...Answer my question.

EB
(Long Pause) I don't.

LINDA
Not sure I believe that.

JASPER
Shut your mouth. I asked him here
to see me, not you. (To EB) Do you
ever think of trying again?

EB
I'm not much for the party and
dating scene.

JASPER
Independence is one thing. Dying
alone is quite another. Linda is
here because she feels obligated.

LINDA
That's not true.

JASPER
Of course it is. And it's fine. I
wasn't much of a father. I chose
work over family. (To EB) You're
headed down the same path.

EB
Think so?

JASPER

You are a strange one, Eben. Aloof and cold. Sarcastic. Reginald despises you. (To Reginald) Here's what you don't know, Reginald. There was a time when Eben here was happy. A caring, loving man. (To Eben) I have seen it all from you, sir.

EB

Youth is a smoke screen.
Responsibility sneaks up on you.

JASPER

His only sin, loneliness. He blames himself for his father's death and his broken marriage. And Linda, my dear, every time you dig at him, you push him farther away.

EB

I wouldn't be so hard on her. She's the owner of a prosecuting attorney's mentality.

JASPER

(To Linda) Oh, and he honestly adores you...Like an older sister.

EB

Much older.

Linda now has a confused smile.

JASPER

I don't want you to die alone, my dear man. You owe it to yourself, to try.

EB

Try?

JASPER

Dickens wrote of an old man, a bitter, angry old man that found humanity wasn't as bad as he had convinced himself and after searching, he found he was the owner of humanity.

EB

Fagen?

JASPER

Don't mock, boy. You cannot clear your conscience of your father. You weren't there, you can do nothing about that. However, in your heart, there is love. It cannot be disproved to me. You must believe it. Find your heart, Eben. Don't have this same talk with the person who replaces YOU. (Pause) Reginald, put me to bed. It is my last night. (To EB) Promise you will.

EB

Are there spirits coming? I must get to bed.

Jasper doesn't look at EB. Reginald lifts him into bed. EB turns towards the door. He walks through, catching eyes with Linda and goes to the front door.

EXT. UPPER WESTSIDE STREET/NEW YORK - NIGHT

EB stops and sees a couple walking. The MAN(Mid-20's) is balding, but sandy haired. The WOMAN(Mid-20's) are laughing and headed to Subway.

WOMAN

First, the tree then downtown. Maybe The Backfence for jazz. What are you staring at?

MAN

Look at you. The snow coming down around you. You're enchanting. Can you believe it, our first Christmas in New York.

WOMAN

You agreeing to move here is the best Christmas gift ever. Tulsa's for suckers.

MAN

Tulsa's for suckers. Come on, let's grab a cab.

WOMAN

No train?

MAN

Let's get to the Rockefeller Center, see the tree and then the train downtown. (Whistles) I love doing that.

WOMAN

WE'RE IN NEW YORK!!!

EB has stopped and watched this as it's happening.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

Flashback YOUNG EB(22) and YOUNG ELLIOT(18) are unloading apples for their dad, Thaddeus Misner or THAD(50). Thad is a rough, "I could have been the Winston Cigarette Guy" looking fella. He's speaking with BARDOLPH RENFRO(50ish). A young woman ALEXANDRA RENFRO(20) walks out with a check and hands it to Thad. He is kidding with her a bit and holds his hand straight out as to say I remember when you were this tall.

YOUNG EB

Yikes, who's that?

YOUNG ELLIOT

Who?

YOUNG EB

That woman talking to dad.

YOUNG ELLIOT

Are you kidding? That's Alex.

YOUNG EB

Alex...Renfro? She's got braces.

YOUNG ELLIOT

Had. You've been gone a long time. She works for her father during breaks.

YOUNG EB

Breaks from what?

YOUNG ELLIOT

School. She goes to school in the city. Jullian or something.

YOUNG EB

Julliard?

YOUNG ELLIOT

Is that a fancy dance school?

YOUNG EB
It's an arts school. You never
heard of Julliard?

YOUNG ELLIOT
I never leave the farm.
(Sarcastically) I'm not smart as my
brover. You being at Columbia,
figured you'd know.

YOUNG EB
You think New York schools have box
socials?

YOUNG ELLIOT
What the hell is a box social?

YOUNG EB
It's a party where...Never mind.

From across the way...

YOUNG ALEXANDRA
HEY EBEN! YOUR DAD SAID IT'S OK TO
STARE!

Thad and Bardolph laugh. Alexandra smiles.

EXT. OUTSIDE A DIVE BAR - NIGHT

EB stops and realizes he's in front of one of his old haunts.
He drops in.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

EB stops at the entrance. Behind the bar we he FRANKIE(70).
Frankie is OLD SCHOOL New York. He's rough, he's big and he's
knows all 8 million residents of New York.

FRANKIE
Get the hell out of here! Is that
Eben Misner? Jesus, what's it been,
30 years?

EB
Frankie? Really?

FRANKIE
Don't recognize me behind the bar,
huh?

(MORE)

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(To a customer) He remembers when you could find me on the floor. Get your ass over here. Let me buy you a drink.

EB walks over and takes a seat. Two Drunk Fellas are at the bar.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Look at you, shittin' in high cotton. What is that coat, Virgin wool?

Frankie starts pouring a Jack Daniels.

EB

I don't know. How have you been?

FRANKIE

Well, I miss the Christmas cards from you, but I'm making it.
(Places EB's drink in front of him)
Your old buddy, Jack.

EB

How'd you remember that?

FRANKIE

Got sober. Look at you. You must be doing great. Bet you run that law firm, Dewey Cheetham and Howell?

EB

I do. We stopped cheating folks though. Up and up now.

FRANKIE

No such thing.

EB

Cheers.

FRANKIE

(To the two guys) This guy was the stereotype. Law Student, interning at Halligan's Law firm. You guys know Halligan, right?

DRUNK GUY 1

The mob lawyer.

FRANKIE

Yep. This guy would come in here,
tons of books and his young bride
and we would spend the night
entertaining her while he read. And
let me tell ya, she's a dancer on
Broadway and unbelievably
Gorgeous...Like French Runway
gorgeous. How's your wife?

EB

We're divorced.

FRANKIE

Things happen. I got another drink
for ya. The one time we got this
guy out, I was almost sober. It was
pretty early on the Christmas Eve.
He just finished his last exam. To
celebrate, we decided to fly a kite
on Amsterdam Ave.

EXT. OUTSIDE DIVE BAR - DAY

Flashback There's a group of folks standing on the
sidewalk. Some snow is on the ground. Watching traffic and
holding a kite is young EB. In the crowd is young Alex and
Frankie is holding the string end of the kite.

EB

Ok. Next red light, I'm taking off.
Hold it tight Frankie.

ALEX

Honey, please don't do this.

EB

It's gonna be fine. Frankie, it's
changing.

FRANKIE

I got it, knucklehead. (To Alex) He
dies, you're with me?

ALEX

What? Sure. Don't let him die.

FRANKIE

He'll be alright.

Traffic stops and EB starts running, darting in and out of
cars.

A bus is coming at him and he sidesteps to move out of the way. A Lincoln Town Car slams on the breaks but bumps him. He falls in front of the cab.

DRIVER

What the hell's the matter with
you!

A much young Jasper gets out of the car. EB is laughing and Alex runs up to him. She kneels down beside him and Jasper walks up.

ALEX

We're so sorry, sir. He just passed
his last exam and we're was
celebrating. Please sir, how can we
fix this.

EB continues to laugh. Jasper continues to stare at him.
Jasper breaks into a smile.

JASPER

Another fearless future leader. So,
what future genius are you gonna
be.

EB

No genius...I'm a lawyer.

Jasper starts laughing. Alex is confused.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

EB

And I passed the bar.

FRANKIE

This guy...So, what happened to
Alex?

EB

You remember her name. That's
pretty good.

FRANKIE

I remember everybody's name.

EB

Well, dancers reach a certain age
and they don't think they have it
anymore.

FRANKIE
Yeah...Go on.

EB
She decided to go home. Didn't
wanna dance anymore.

FRANKIE
(To the drunks) You guys buyin' it?

The two drunks are barely awake.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
They're no help. You're losing the
jury, counselor.

EB
What?

FRANKIE
I may have been a drunk, but I knew
how driven you were.

EB
Oh, you wanna blame me too?

FRANKIE
Ah, so that's what this is. The
start of a pity party. Think the
world's against you, Counselor? My
father once said to me, prize he
was, but this made sense. He once
said to me, if everyone around is
wrong, maybe you should rethink
who's right. When I gave up the
booze, I had to do some self
reflection. Advice from a guy who
was right about everything...(Long
Pause)

EB
How much do I owe you?

FRANKIE
For what...Old friend.

Over his shoulder, for the first time, we really notice a
sign reading, FRANKIE'S DUGOUT. EB notices it, smiles and
stands up.

DRUNK GUY 2
Tell your wife I'm here if she
wants to trade up.

EB looks at the drunk, looks back at Frankie.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET IN NEW YORK - NIGHT

EB walks and notices the streets are strangely quiet.

EB
When everyone around you is
wrong...

EB's head shifts to a light coming from an alley.

INT. NEW YORK APT - MORNING

Flashback ALEXANDRA(A bit older now) is dancing in the living room. EB, a little younger now, is just waking up and coming out of the bedroom. Alex jumps into action.

ALEX
HEY!!! I got coffee made and a
little breakfast!

EB
How on earth do you have such
energy this early in the morning?

ALEX
I went to Julliard. Our days start
at 3:30. I've run my routine at
least 50 times this morning.

EB
The Rocketettes! Oh hell, honey,
I'm sorry. I forgot about your
audition!

ALEX
It's ok. You're trying to make me a
kept woman...And I get it. (She
kisses him on the cheek) Can I
shower first?

EB
I insist. When is your...Call,
right, call?

ALEX
Yep. I have to sign in at 10 but
they probably won't see me until
noon.

EB
Where is it?

ALEX
At the place! Radio City! Can you imagine? Christmas Time and your wife is dancing on TV in Herald Square? Huh?

EB
Look at you. Are you nervous?

ALEX
Nah. (Long Pause) I'm terrified!
I've wanted to be a Rockette since I was 5.

EB
I wanted to be a garbage man.

ALEX
I love you. (She giggles)

EB
Yeah, well...Do you know what an amicus brief is?

ALEX
Briefs written by individuals or groups who are not directly involved in a legal case, but have expertise or insight to offer a court to assist in making it's decision.

EB
You're the definition of an amicus brief. I'll do better.

ALEX
No need. Just show up if I get it!

EB
Not sure how you came along.

ALEX
Your dad was selling apples.

EB
I love you too.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET IN NEW YORK - NIGHT

EB comes out of his memory, smiling. He hears the train underneath and walks to the subway entrance. As he comes down the steps, the couple from earlier passes by him. They all get on the same subway car.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - NIGHT

He sits across from the couple. He over hears their conversation.

MAN

The walk back seemed longer.

WOMAN

That's cause the tree didn't impress you.

MAN

Sure it did.

WOMAN

Suddenly you were worried we wouldn't make the door at the bar? It's New York. Bars don't close.

MAN

Alright, alright. I get why folks wanna see it, but the ice skating wasn't my thing. Plus, it's the Back Fence! The famous Wednesday Free Style.

WOMAN

What's that?

MAN

Musicians come in and play. Students and old timers together.

WOMAN

You and your Jazz. How many stops is it?

MAN

We have to cross over to the 59th street.

EB

You're not on that train.

Both kids look up.

EB (CONT'D)

It's ok. You chose a better. It's easier. Get off at Canal St. It's a little walk, but it's faster. Trust me. You're gonna hear some really great jazz. Oh, the door guy, Donavan, he's an old pal. Tell him your friends with Eben Misner. It's 15 bucks tonight. Save some money and buy another drink.

(He winks)

They are at the Canal stop. The young couple gets up.

MAN

Thanks for your help.

WOMAN

Yes. We're new. I guess that's obvious.

EB

No problem. I was new once too. Have fun. And welcome to the City.

WOMAN

Thank you. Merry Christmas.

EB

(Smiling through a somber feeling) Merry Christmas.

"Stand Clear of The Closing Doors, Please" is heard on the speaker. EB smiles as the doors close.

INT. EB'S APT - MORNING

A large, but modestly decorated Lower East Side Apt. EB is in the kitchen, making coffee.

EB

Alexa, appointments.

"ALEXA"

You have no appointments scheduled today. Would you like to hear your reminders?

EB

Isn't that my appointments?

"ALEXA"

Hmmm. Don't know that one.

EB
Yes, Alexa. Reminders.

"ALEXA"
Mycroft and Elliot, TODAY Show.
7am.

EB is confused.

EB
Alexa, when did I make this
reminder?

"ALEXA"
30 minutes ago.

EB
Margret. Alexa, thank you.

"ALEXA"
Anytime, just doing my job. Have a
groovy Thursday, EB.

EB grabs his coffee and a slice of rye toast.

EB
Alexa, TV, Today Show.

The Today Show comes on TV. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE is sitting with
Elliot and Mycroft.

SAVANNAH
And, with the season in full swing
and knowing you have a lot of good
folks out there, I wanted to bring
on a couple of my favorites. And
they have a very special
announcement, here from The Down's
syndrome international
organization, Mycroft's Buddy List,
An initiative promoting Down's folk
in the work place, Elliot Miner and
Mycroft himself, Mycroft Misner. Hi
guys!

ELLIOT
Good morning, Savannah...

SAVANNAH
Hey Mycroft, back in The City.

MYCROFT
Yep. May I give you a hug?

SAVANNAH
Only to make my day!

Savannah, as ever full of energy, jumps into Mycroft's arms.

SAVANNAH (CONT'D)
First things first, Mycroft, what's
been the most fun thing you've seen
in the city?

MYCROFT
I went by my Uncle Eben's office. I
haven't seen him a while. He's a
famous lawyer.

Cut to EB.

ELLIOT
He does love his Uncle.

SAVANNAH
I know he's watching.

ELLIOT
Hope so.

SAVANNAH
So, first the new initiative.

ELLIOT
You know, next month, January, is
National Human Trafficking
Prevention Month. Mycroft had an
idea to team with Our Forgiveness
Palate, a survivors group with our
friend, Alexandra Renfro. (EB sits
up) What a lot of folks don't know
is the number of folks with special
needs are also taken advantage
of...I wanna be respectful to
everyone. But there is abuse,
trafficking that is never reported,
so...While we're finding jobs for
our Down's folks, we also want to
concentrate on helping folks,
mainly females, understand they've
done nothing wrong and their
special needs aren't an excuse for
them to have to experience the dark
side of the world.

SAVANNAH
Wow...Kinda heavy.

MYCROFT

There are more people listening
this time of year, so we wanted to
start the year with this new idea.
I want everybody happy.

SAVANNAH

You're one special dude, Mycroft.

ELLIOT

Living proof there are no
disabilities, just different
abilities.

SAVANNAH

I hear ya. And there's one more
announcement, right?

ELLIOT

You wanna tell everybody, Mycroft?

MYCROFT

We went around the world!

ELLIOT

Mycroft's Buddies List just opened
offices in London and Florence.
We've gone Global.

SAVANNAH

WOW!!! That is incredible! Mycroft,
do you ever sleep?

MYCROFT

I like working.

SAVANNAH

Awesome! Look, we have to break,
but you wanna come with me to the
plaza and hand out some goodies?

MYCROFT & ELLIOT

Yeah! Sounds like fun!

SAVANNAH

We'll be right back with some of
the members of the division leading
New York Giants and what's going on
with them this Christmas, come back
to Today...Mycroft, we gotta go!

They jump up with excitement and Savannah throws her arms
around Mycroft.

Cut back to EB.

EB
Alex, huh?

EXT. STREET/LOWER EAST SIDE - MORNING

Margret is waiting outside EB's building. She has two cups of coffee. Stirling is in his regular place.

EB
Thought I told you to take the rest of the week off. (Sharply To Sterling) Good Morning, Sterling.

MARGRET
Um...You forgot to tell Ishmael Baruch.

EB
What has that orange baboon done?

MARGRET
A child. She's 14. And Mr. Baruch says he's done nothing wrong.

EB
(He sighs) Who's the cop?

MARGRET
Not that it matters in this case, they already found the Child's underwear, But Sharpton.

EB
Good cop. I like Billy. Looks like we may have finally found a way to get rid of this scumbag, Baruch.

MARGRET
You know, he's your client.

EB
Which a good DA should have put in jail a long time ago. This guy can't buy Billy, And I don't like the guy.

MARGRET
Is your image that important to you?

EB
He was friends with Jasper.

MARGRET
Was?

EB
Jasper's dead, finally. Now, we can start to get rid of that mafia stench.

MARGRET
Damn, that's cold.

EB
We're known for handling mobster, Margret. I've wanted change that for long time. I wanna practice law, not skirt it. I wouldn't mind handling more innocent people.

MARGRET
Um...Pro Bono smells good. Wanna grab a couple cases?

EB
Let's start with one. Baby steps, yeah? (To Sterling the homeless guy) Find someplace warm, Sterling. Damn it, it's cold.

EB and Margret walk to the car. Margret secretly smiles.

INT. COP STATION - DAY

EB and Margret come in. Cops and criminals everywhere. EB and Margret approach the Dispatch Desk. Behind the counter is a cop that must be 116 years old, feeble but with an attitude, Officer CAM BIZIC(70).

CAM
You got coffee on your shirt.

EB
Still quite the sleuth, Cam.

CAM
What are you doing here? Usually you send a flunky. Her, I think.

MARGRET
Thanks, Cam.

CAM
Weren't you on our side once?

EB
Alright. Look, it's the holidays, I missed you and I had to see you.

CAM
Uh-huh? You're here for that kid rapist, huh?

EB
I'm here for Mr. Baruch.

CAM
Yeah, the kid rapist. Wanna bet who's gonna win this time? They got her underwear.

EB
Should you be sharing this?

CAM
They ought to cut his nuts off. And I think deep down, you agree.

EB
Where's Officer Sharpton, Cam.

CAM
BILLY!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

SHARPTON(30) opens the door exposing BARUCH(70) at a table.
EB and Margret come in. Margret goes to the table.

SHARPTON
How long you need?

EB
5 minutes. Less if he keeps his mouth shut.

SHARPTON
I'll be right outside.

EB
Thanks Billy.

BARUCH

(Loudly) I've been framed! It's a scam! (Door shuts) Pretty cozy with the cop.

EB

They found her underwear, you idiot. What the hell were you thinking?

BARUCH

Look, she came on to me.

EB

And that makes it ok? She's 14.

BARUCH

Alright, alright...What's our plan?

EB

Maybe you stop breaking the law.
(Sighs) IF you can't keep your mouth shut, we have witnesses now a days (Pointing to a camera), I quit.

BARUCH

Hey...You can't talk to me that way!

EB

Wanna bet?

BARUCH

I own Jasper, therefore I own you.

EB

Jasper dropped dead last night.
(Stands and leans in) and no one owns me. You are nothing short of white trash with money. Things are changing at the firm. I will hear your bail, then...Who knows?

Margret stands and heads for the door. EB stands, staring at Baruch.

BARUCH

You think I'm scared? My father owned this town and now I own this town. I don't need you. You're FIRED!

EB
(To the window) Did you hear that
Billy?

Sharpton opens the door.

SHARPTON
It's on the record.

EB
(Back to Baruch) Best of luck,
scumbag. But hey, MOST of your
secrets are safe with me. Roast in
hell.

INT. COP STATION - DAY

EB and Margret are headed out as cops are looking at them.

MARGRET
Hey boss...

EB
Wait until we're outside, please.

EXT. FRONT OF COP SHOP - DAY

Margret has a grin on her face.

MARGRET
THAT was bad ass. THAT'S the guy I
wanted to learn from.

EB
Lunacy. Just plain lunacy.

MARGRET
You did nothing wrong and he fired
you. It was perfect.

EB
Are you going in today?

MARGRET
I got a new boss this morning. He
may need some coffee.

They start walking toward the car.

INT. MARGRET'S CAR - DAY

Margret is talking about nothing important and EB is looking out the window. He has another memory.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

FLASHBACK At an old Broadway theater dressing room, we find Alexandra putting on some sweats and ALLISON (27) changing her shirt.

ALEX

Holy God, Allie, what happened to your back?

ALLISON

Oh, it's nothing. I banged into the fire escape at the apartment when I jumped out for a smoke.

ALEX

It looks terrible. Does it hurt?

ALLISON

A little. Just stupid, I guess. Maybe I should quit smoking...Less injuries.(She tries to laugh)

Allison grabs her coat and her bag.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

You heading out?

Alex stands up.

ALEX

Yeah. Yeah, let's go.

EXT. STAGE DOOR - NIGHT

Flashback There is a man, DARIUS(30) waiting at the in the alley as the ladies come out.

DARIUS

(To Allison)Are you ready? I've been here for 20 minutes. And what are you wearing? We're going out.

ALEX

And you are?

ALLISON

It's ok. This is Darius, my
boyfriend. (To Darius) Let's go. I
can change in the cab. I'll see you
tomorrow Alex.

Darius gives Maggie a look.

ALEX

(To Darius) What are you looking
at, tough guy?

Darius stares as he walks away.

INT. NEW YORK APT. - MORNING

Flashback Alex is on the couch.

ALEX

Honey, I think he hits her.

EB

Then ask her.

ALEX

She won't admit it. She's scared of
him.

EB

You got all that in a 15 second
exchange?

ALEX

Hey...Don't make light of this.

EB

Alexandra, I'm not. But, you can't
just guess on this stuff. It's
serious.

ALEX

Will you talk to her?

EB

What the hell can I say?

ALEX

You're a lawyer!

EB

That doesn't give me the right to
ask a woman if she's abused.

(MORE)

EB (CONT'D)

Besides, she finds out I'm a lawyer, she won't speak to me.

ALEX

How do you know?

EB

Alex...(He pauses) How's the audience look tonight?

ALEX

I don't know, why?

EB

Linda, Jasper's daughter has a friend. She's a counselor at A Safe Place.

ALEX

That's for trafficked women.

EB

It's for battered women. Many who have been trafficked. Maybe I bring her to the show tonight and...We get a back stage pass.

ALEX

Are you serious?(Alex starts to lighten up)

EB

Look, I've only met this woman a couple times. She may have plans tonight.

ALEX

And maybe she doesn't!!! Oh, I love you! I'll call the box office now and get two house seats! Oh, I love you, I love you, I LOVE YOU!!!

She grabs her phone and runs to the bedroom.

INT. MARGRET'S CAR - DAY

EB is looking out the window. Margret is parking.

MARGRET

EB? What do you think? EB? EBEN!

EB

Huh? I'm sorry. What did you say?

MARGRET
Are you ok?

EB
Yeah, sorry. What did you say?

MARGRET
Never mind. It wasn't important.
Let's grab a sandwich.

EB
Yeah. Yeah. Wanna just hit the
deli?

INT. DELI/GROCER - DAY

EB and Margret are sitting at a table in a deli/grocer.

EB
Would you stop staring at me and
eat your food? I'm fine.

MARGRET
Where'd you go?

EB
I guess Baruch got to me. I knew an
abused woman, well, my ex-wife did.
We helped her out, but it was
complicated.

MARGRET
How so?

EB
We introduced her to a therapist
and she was doing great...Then she
disappeared.

MARGRET
Disappeared?

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Flashback Alex and Allison are looking at each other in the
mirror. Alex pulls out an envelope.

ALEX
I want you to take this. Get a
fresh start.

ALLISON

I guess you know Darius was arrested.

ALEX

Yeah. I wish I had known he was a dealer. Are you...ok?

Allison opens the envelope.

ALLISON

Oh my god. What is this? How much is here?

ALEX

Find an apartment. Find a new city. Find a new life. You can't live like this. The next guy will come along. Get some help.

ALLISON

What did your husband say?

ALEX

I'll deal with that.

ALLISON

I promise...I promise I will pay this back. I do't know when, but I promise.

ALEX

Just...Get started. And don't stop until the air smells better.

ALLISON

Thank you.

Allison grabs her coat and heads for the door. As the door shuts, a small, plastic bag falls on the floor. Alex walks over and picks it up. It's heroine.

INT. NEW YORK APT - DAY

EB is in disbelief as Alex is trying to explain.

EB

What the hell do you mean she gone?

ALEX

I told her to get a fresh start.

EB
That's a good thing, right? She's
your friend.

ALEX
As she was walking out of the
dressing room, she dropped this.

Alex holds up a small, plastic bag.

EB
Um...Is that what I think it is?

ALEX
I think so.

EB
And you have it in our home?

ALEX
I didn't know what to do with it.

EB
Maybe flush it...Preferably in a
bathroom in another part of town
that we don't visit?

ALEX
I just wanted to help.

EB
Did you plan on giving it back?

EB grabs the bag and dumps the contents into the kitchen
sink.

ALEX
I think I've done something really
stupid.

EB
Honey, it's ok. Just never had
heroine in the house.

ALEX
I took \$10,000 out of the bank
account...To help her start over.

Eb starts to speak and nothing comes out.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Please, don't look at me like that.
I thought I was helping.

EB
Wait...You did what?

ALEX
Eben...

EB
You gave her how much money?

ALEX
I thought...

EB
No...I don't think you did. \$100 is
help, even \$1000, maybe. \$10,000?

ALEX
Eben.

EB
What were you thinking?

ALEX
I wanted to give her a fresh start.

EB
So, you what? You just decide we
have it, you'll give it? And not
even discuss with me?

ALEX
She was desperate.

EB
As am I, right now. I wanna figure
out how the hell someone I hardly
know has \$10,000 of my money.

ALEX
I thought it was our money.

EB
Oh, I'm the one in the wrong now,
is that it?

ALEX
No. No, you're exactly right. I
will leave alone to ponder. I read
it wrong. I read you wrong.

Alex walks out of the apartment.

INT. DELI/GROCER - DAY

Back to the table.

EB

She was gone for hours.

MARGRET

Is that how you and Alex split up?

EB

It was the start of it. I just
couldn't get past it.

MARGRET

I can imagine.

EB

When I finally did, she was already
gone. I woke up one day to an empty
apartment, wondering why my heart
couldn't be as kind as hers.

MARGRET

You started blaming yourself?
\$10,000 is a lot of scratch.

EB

We had it. We weren't struggling.

MARGRET

Still!

EB

I was growing in the firm and she
was landing bigger and bigger
roles. The straw broke when she
landed Velma in CHICAGO and I never
showed for a performance. I wanted
her to hurt because I thought she
had stolen from me.

MARGRET

Knock that off.

EB

Yeah. What would your husband do?

MARGRET

Clarence? He'd be the Alex in this
story. Give somebody the money. I
make more than he does.

EB

And what would you do?

MARGRET

Get to where you are quicker. Can't imagine life without Clarence.

EB

I envy that.

MARGRET

No you don't. I understand why you're sick of mobsters.

EB

Looking out for criminals for so long. I'm starting to think I am one.

MARGRET

It's your firm now. Let's start over. Clean slate. I'm with you.

EB

Let's go. Oh, pick up the tab...Sounds like your boss pays you too much.

Margret grabs her billfold.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET. BUSINESS DISTRICT - DAY

As EB and Margret are walking back to the office, EB sees the young woman from the night before. She has a back pack and is headed toward a subway entrance. She looks to have been crying a bit.

EB

Hey...How was The Back Fence?

The woman stops. She's a bit surprised.

WOMAN

Oh, hi. Yeah. It was great. It was so much fun. We told the bouncer we met you and walked right in.

EB

Oh, this is my friend, Margret.

MARGRET

I'm his assistant. He doesn't have friends.

WOMAN

I don't believe that.

EB

Headed to Brooklyn?

WOMAN

We had a fight. I let a friend borrow some money and she hasn't paid it back. We're pretty tight right now and I guess I let him down. It was my fault.

EB and Margret look at each other.

MARGRET

Um...Is there anything we can do to help?

EB

Um, yeah, is there anything we can do?

WOMAN

I'm going to stay with a friend in Coney for a couple days. I guess the shock of me taking money was unexpected. What do you think, Mr. Misner? Think he can forgive me for not talking to him first?

EB just stares in disbelief. Margret hands her a card.

MARGRET

If you need anything, call us.
We're at 28 Liberty Street.

WOMAN

You're a lawyer?

MARGRET

A New York lawyer, so it's not that glamorous. Seriously, if you need anything, give us a ring.

WOMAN

Thanks. Not everyone in New York is this kind.

The woman disappears into the subway entrance.

MARGRET

Ok...Now, that's weird, right?

EB
(Pause) Yeah...That's weird.

INT. MARGRET'S DESK - DAY

EB has a seat outside of his office in a chair by Margret's desk. Margret is in her seat.

MARGRET
You know I met Alex once?

EB
I am intrigued. Where?

MARGRET
One of Mycroft's fundraisers. You know, she's a big supporter. Probably why they're teaming up with the whole "Special Needs Abused Folks" thing.

EB
And here I thought I was the one who didn't know how to word things.

MARGRET
She's, um...Gorgeous. Like, out of your league gorgeous.

EB
What am I chopped liver?

MARGRET
You look like a horse headed for the glue factory.

EB
Thanks a lot.

As they are talking, a young man holding a bike helmet and an envelope comes in.

CYCLIST
Excuse me, there was no one at the front. Could you tell me where to find Eben Misner?

EB
Who's looking for him?

CYCLIST

I'm a courier for Leibowitz and Shiner and there's a rumor he stood up to Rapist Baruch.

EB

How did you hear about that?

CYCLIST

A cop shop is like a beauty shop...No secrets.

EB

(To Margret) I'm a celebrity now.

MARGRET

You can request more money with celebrity.

CYCLIST

You're Mr. Misner? Dang man! You got nerve. That was awesome! Did you really call him a scumbag?

EB

You really down here from Ira Leibowitz for this?

CYCLIST

Let me ask, do you know Allison Canzano?

EB

(Confused) Yes, how do I know that name?

CYCLIST

I might be able to help. (Takes out envelope) This is for you. Can I get your signature?

EB

Sure.

MARGRET

Gonna sell it on the inter web.

CYCLIST

Cute. Thanks. Better open it and Merry Christmas. Oh, and thanks for standing up to Baruch! So cool.

The cyclist leaves.

EB
He is creative.

MARGRET
Story is getting really good. Who's
Allison Canzano?

EB pulls out a cashiers check for \$10,000.

EB
She owed me \$10,000.

MARGRET
No way. Gonna take the money?

EB
I wonder if she...

There's a pause. EB puts the check back in the envelope. The phone rings and EB reaches for it. Margret looks surprised. EB stops.

MARGRET
Go ahead, it's your phone.

EB
Halligan, Schmitz and Misner.

MIRLA(V/O)
Hello, Eben.

EB
Mirla?

MIRLA(V/O)
We're at Columbia Hospital. Can you
come uptown? Elliot needs you.
(Pause) I need you.

EB
What's wrong?

MIRLA(V/O)
Mycroft. He passed out.

EB
I'm on my way. (He hangs up)

MARGRET
Eben?

EB
Can you drive to Columbia
University Medical?

MARGRET
Mycroft?

EB
Yep.

MARGRET
Come on.

Margret grabs his hand.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL WAY - DAY

Margret and EB are walking toward MIRLA MISNER(47), Hispanic.
She is Elliot's wife and Mycroft's mom. Her daughter, ZELDA
(18) is with her. When Zelda sees EB, she flings herself at
him and starts crying.

EB
Ok, Ok...I'm here. Are you ok?

ZELDA
He just passed out. He was talking
and then he passed out.

MARGRET
Ok, sweetheart. You want some
coffee?

MARGRET (CONT'D)
How about you, Boss?

EB
Would you stop that! And black.

MARGRET
I know, but would you like some
coffee?

Margret, with her arm around Zelda head off to find the
coffee/cafeteria.

EB
(To Mirlla) So?

MIRLA
It's the PDA.

EB

PDA?

MIRLA

Persistent Duct Arteriosus.

EB

I thought that was handled with medication?

MIRLA

We knew eventually the body would adjust. We just thought it would have been much earlier. Honestly, we lost track. He's 24. We didn't think...(She finally breaks down)

EB grabs her and looks through the window, sees Elliot, sitting beside Mycroft's bed.

EB

What's the doctor say?

MIRLA

He wants to try the surgery. I asked if age was a factor.

EB

What type of surgery?

MIRLA

One of two. Either shrinking the duct or...(Long Pause)Transcatheter.

Mirra shakes her head and covers her mouth.

EB

How much of a factor is age?

MIRLA

He could die. He could die on the table.

EB

Or, he could get better, yes?

MIRLA

I don't know if I could get through this.

EB

Of course you could. You're the strongest person in the family.
(MORE)

EB (CONT'D)

Plus...Elliot is a pretty strong guy too. I know, he's my brother.

DOCTOR ELIAS(60) walks up. He's an old hippie and has the beard and the long hair. He has on Chuck Taylors and his coat is pretty worn.

ELIAS

Hey, you're the uncle, right?

EB

Yeah. And I gather you're not the stereotype.

ELIAS

Right. So, I'm sure Mrs. Misner told you the options. For what it's worth, I like the transcatheter option. What that is, we take a coil or an Amplatzer duct occluder to close the patent ductus arteriosus.

EB

How much does his age play into it?

ELIAS

A little. But, it is considered a minimal invasive procedure.

EB

And with Mycroft being 24 and not married, he needs a Power of Attorney.

ELIAS

Is that you or his father?

EB

His father.

ELIAS

Hmm. His father didn't like the idea of a catheter. I tried to explain it, but he's under the impression we have to open the chest.

EB

You don't?

ELIAS

No. It's minimal invasive alternative.

(MORE)

ELIAS (CONT'D)

We enter through the groin or the chest. There is an incision, but no opening of the chest.

EB

He just heard incision.

ELIAS

I think so too. Talk it over.

EB

Thanks Doctor.

They Doctor walks away.

MIRLA

I'm scared.

EB

I know. Let's go in.

INT. MYCROFT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Elliot hasn't moved.

EB

Ellie...Time to take a break.

Elliot jumps up and hugs his brother.

ELLIOT

What am I gonna do? He's the best part of me, the best part of us. Him, Zelda, Mirla...That's my world.

EB

Hey...Look at me. LOOK AT ME. Step by step. Just what Pop used to say. The first thing that has to happen is taking that first step.

ELLIOT

They're gonna cut him.

EB

Yeah, they are. And he's gonna get better and you guys will continue to do those ridiculous interviews as he rolls his eyes on national television. You have an incredible wife, an incredible daughter and one hell of a strong son.

(MORE)

EB (CONT'D)

Be a wimp all you need...They're
strong enough to carry you.

Elliot reaches for composure. Margret and Zelda come in and
Margret hands EB his coffee.

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Next Day Mycroft has been in a LONG surgery and is
recovering. Through a window, his parents and sister are
staring at him. EB walks up.

EB

Any news?

MIRLA

Nothing yet. We told you the doctor
said it was successful, right?

EB

Have you guys been home at all?

MIRLA

Not yet.

ELLIOT

Why would we leave?

EB

Well, for starters, you stink. Not
you ladies. Take this man home.
Better yet, Zelda, here are my
keys. I'll have Margret pick you
guys up some clothes and meet you
at the apartment. Take showers,
relax, use the service for some
food. I'll be here waiting. When
Mycroft wakes up, I'll call
you...If you're not back already.

MIRLA

When did you become a big brother?

EB

Get going.

Doctor Elias walks up.

ELIAS

Hey folks. He's gonna be out for a
while, if you wanted to take a
break.

(MORE)

ELIAS (CONT'D)

We'll probably move him to his room
in a bit and keep an eye on him.

EB

They're heading out. I'm gonna
stick around.

ELIAS

Fair enough. Seriously, you folks
get some rest.

Doctor Elias walks off.

EB

Now, go. Get out of here.

Mirla hugs EB. The family turns and walks out.

INT. MYCROFT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Mycroft is asleep. We see a pair of hands with a wedding band
and nails tucking his blanket. We hear behind her, an
ORDERLY(35) open the door.

ORDERLY

Ma'am, did you need a blanket.

We never see ALEX's(53) face, but hear her voice.

ALEX

I did. Thank you for being so
quick.

ORDERLY

We're a little slow for a change
tonight ma'am. Do you need anything
else?

ALEX

No. Thank you for your kindness.

We see Eben sitting in a chair sleeping and Alex's hands
placing the blanket on him. *Maybe we catch a glimpse of her
face through her hair*

ALEX (CONT'D)

Take care of my buddy, my love.

She kisses his head.

INT. MYCROFT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Elliot and Mirla come in and EB is still sleeping. Mycroft is awake, smiling at his uncle.

ELLIOT
Hey, Snow White, spit out the
apple.

EB wakes up and looks at them.

EB
Why'd you come back so soon?

ELLIOT
So soon? The surgery was yesterday.
This one woke up around 11 last
night. But did you call and tell
us, NO!

EB
What time is it?

MIRLA
10am. We got you a biscuit.

Mirla hands him a package and a coffee.

EB
I was sleep for 12 hours?

MIRLA
Sixteen. When was the last time you
slept.

MYCROFT
He's a superhero. He doesn't need
sleep. Hey, can we go to Zebars?

ELLIOT
Easy buddy. You need rest.

EB
Yeah, but I'll make it happen, pal.

Elliot and Mirla have surprised looks.

EB (CONT'D)
Oh, thanks for the blanket.

MIRLA
Yeah, that wasn't me.

EB

I guess it could have been a nurse.
But she had jeans on, I think.
Yeah, You told me to take care of
"Your buddy".

Mirla looks at Elliot as Mycroft laughs.

EB (CONT'D)

I know it was real. Here's the
blanket.

ELLIOT

It was your wife.

EB

I...I don't have a wife.

MIRLA

Ex-wife. She wanted to check on
her...Buddy. How'd she look?

EB

Where's Margret?

ELLIOT

She's out tour guiding. She's on
the Staton Island Ferry or a
helicopter. I can't remember.

EB

With your daughter, I take it?

ELLIOT

And her husband, Clarence. He took
the day off too.

EB

With my credit card...So, basically
I'm broke.

ELLIOT

Well...Not yet. It is just 10 in
the morning.

EB

I'm going home. (To Mycroft) How
are you feeling?

MYCROFT

I'm a little soar but I feel good.
You snore.

EB
Keep it up and no Zabars.

MYCROFT
No! I like the fish nuts.

EB
Balls, buddy. Fish balls. (He
pauses, Looks at Mirla).

EB heads out.

EXT. ALLEYWAY BESIDE EB'S BUILDING - DAY

As EB is walking up to his building, he notices a bundle tin the alleyway. He walks down and notices a body.

EB
Sterling? STERLING?

EB grabs his phone.

EB (CONT'D)
Yes, I need an ambulance at 927
Fifth Avenue. Hurry!

ET. STREET OUTSIDE EB'S BUILDING - DAY

The EMT's are loading Sterling on to the ambulance. A cop is speaking with EB.

COP
Anything else?

EB
No. I just know he's homeless and
stays outside of my building.

AMBULANCE DRIVER
We can take him to the ER. Without
insurance, I don't know how long
they'll keep him. He is alive.

EB pulls out a card and gives it to the Driver.

EB
Here's my card. Go to
Administration and have them call
my office. Treat him. I mean it.
I'll pay for it.

The cop and the EMT's leave. EB watches and notices the time.

EB (CONT'D)
Damn it. The funeral.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE - DAY

EB jumps out of a cab and notices the young man from the couple he sent to The Back Fence. The young man is sitting on a bench with a TEENAGE BOY(15). They are laughing and eating hotdogs.

EB
Hello.

MAN
Oh, hey! How are you?

EB
I'm good. Who's your pal?

MAN
This is my nephew. He just flew in from Tulsa. I didn't get to visit him in the hospital last month, so...He came to visit me.

The teenage looks up and you can tell, the teenager isn't willing to engage with EB.

MAN (CONT'D)
Wilson, can you say hello?

The boy shakes his head and keeps his head down.

EB
It's ok. I wouldn't say hello to a stranger either.

The boy looks up really quick, smiles and bows his head again. He is autistic.

EB (CONT'D)
(To the man) Brave guy. Got on a plane by himself?

MAN
Well, to be honest, my brother had a meeting in DC. I drove down and picked him up.

EB
Well...Welcome to the city, Wilson. I hope you have a good time.

MAN

I'm hoping my girlfriend comes back so we can make it for Christmas next week. I think I over reacted. Ever over react with your wife?

EB thinks a moment.

EB

Um, I'm not married. Any more (Under his breath). I ran in to your girlfriend on her way to Brooklyn. I need to get to going. If I don't see you...

MAN

You know, sometimes time slips away too fast. And sometimes that time comes back around. Merry Christmas.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

EB comes into the office. Margret is waiting for him with a Black suit in her hand.

EB

I thought you were out sightseeing.

MARGRET

This morning, yes. Have you taken a shower?

EB

No. I lost track of time.

MARGRET

Yep. Use the Bat Shower, Mr. Wayne.

EB

Cute, Alfred. How long do I have?

MARGRET

You know, I just bought this dress. Clarence loved it.

EB

I'm sorry. I'm pretty damn hazy right now. I haven't been sleeping too much.

MARGRET

I heard that's all you did. Don't worry about it. Take a shower.

(MORE)

MARGRET (CONT'D)

Nick is sending up some breakfast.
You have time.

EB

Do you think I could be a kind
person.

MARGRET

I think you are a kind person. The
only person you're really hard
on...Is you.

EB

What do you mean?

MARGRET

Shower...NOW.

INT. EXECUTIVE BATHROOM - DAY

EB is getting himself together. He's working on his tie. He
has another flash back.

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM. - DAY

Flashback EB is finishing his tie and Alexandra walks in.

ALEX

Come here. Say you're a farmer
without saying you're a
farmer...Tie a necktie.

She fixes his tie.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Everyone is ready. We have to get
to the church.

EB

I feel so damned rushed. They
should have told me he was in the
hospital.

ALEX

I know.

EB

He was my father. I deserved to
know.

ALEX

They thought they were protecting you.

EB

Stupid. Insipid, Selfish.

ALEX

Calm down.

EB

Don't tell me to CALM DOWN! My father is dead and damn it, I didn't do anything to help him...To help them.

ALEX

I know how...

EB

How I'm feeling? How? Your father is still alive.

ALEX

Baby, please.

EB

It's like I can't trust anyone. Elliot leaves the business for some ridiculous charity, Jasper takes on mobsters...Hell, even you give away my money. It seems I'm the only responsible one in the damn bunch!

Silence.

EB (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I don't know what's happening to me.

ALEX

I'll go wait downstairs.

She leaves.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

EB comes out. Margret is at her desk paying a delivery boy.

MARGRET

Damn, Eben. Come here. Say your farm boy without saying you're a farm boy. Tie a damn tie.

EB
What did you say?

MARGRET
I was just joking.

EB
No, I get it. That was last thing
Alex said before...It was the day
of my father's funeral.

MARGRET
Are you ok?

EB
Not sure. Elliot swears Alex was at
the hospital.

MARGRET
Eat something. You're scaring me a
bit.

EB
She left the farmhouse during the
reception. When I got to the
apartment...

INT. NEW YORK APT - DAY

Flashback EB comes in and the apartment is missing a number
of things. EB walks around the apartment. He sees missing
photos and looks at an empty closet. He looks out a window at
a busy street. A photo to EB and Alex is on the window sill.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

EB is caught in a trance. Margret breaks it.

MARGRET
Hey...Are you ok?

EB
What? Yeah, sorry. What time is
this thing again?

MARGRET
Right now. The car is waiting for
us.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The crowd is huge and there are few seats. A man walks up to EB and Margret as they enter.

STANFORD
Excuse me, you are Eben and
Margret?

MARGRET
Yes.

STANFORD
I'm Stanford Halligan. Jasper was
my grandfather. We have seats for
you up front.

EB
Linda has a child?

STANFORD
We're full of secrets. Please,
follow me.

They walk toward the front.

MARGRET
I shouldn't be sitting up here. I
hardly knew Jas....

EB
You're staying with me.

STANFORD
As my grandfather wanted it.

As they walk to their seats, they pass Ismael Baruch. He does a finger gun thing as EB looks at him. EB pays no mind. They reach their seats. The priest walks in to start the service.

EB
And here's where my hypocrisy is
tested.

MARGRET
Amen.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Linda and the rest of the family are in a receiving line. Mourners are passing and shaking hands. A elderly woman grabs Linda.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Your father was such a wonderful man.

LINDA

No he wasn't. He took a lot of money from the mob, he cheated on my mother every chance he got and he gave his company to what I perceived as a person I never got along with...Until recently, (Looks at EB)I hope.

The woman looks at Linda as does the family. Behind the elderly woman is EB and Margret. Linda turns to EB.

LINDA (CONT'D)

And I mean that. (EB and Margret reach her). Don't speak. I meant it. Thank you for trying to actually practice law and not loopholes.

EB

Linda..

LINDA

You don't listen. Shut up.

MARGRET

Yeah, shut up.

LINDA

However I can help, call me. The company might have a chance at a legacy now.

EB

You're head of the board of directors, right?

LINDA

Yeah.

EB

Two quick things. Is the apartment on the Lower East Side still empty?

LINDA

Yeah, you thinking Of moving?

EB

No, but I do want the utilities put in my name. A pal has hit a rough patch. I wanna give him a hand.

LINDA

Ok. And the second?

EB

If I were to propose a new partner, would you say yes?

LINDA

(Looking at Margret) Yes.

MARGRET

No, no...We've had...

EB

I'll see you at the next meeting with a proposal.

MARGRET

Wait...

EB

It's my company. So...Take your own advice, shut up. (Pause) Linda.

EXT. STREET - DAY

EB and Margret are walking.

MARGRET

Why?

EB

Cause I'm the boss and I said so.

MARGRET

What if I quit.

EB

Your current position, you're gonna have to. Can't double dip.

MARGRET

Who's this pal of yours.

EB

A friend of yours, (She stares at him) Who's in the hospital.

MARGRET

Stirling?! Oh Eben! Thank you!

She grabs EB and hugs him. A car appears, swerves and a gun comes out of the back window. EB forces her to the ground. Shots go off and the car speeds away. EB and Margret start to get up.

EB

Are you ok?

MARGRET

What the hell was that?

EB

Baruch. Are you ok?

MARGRET

I'm fine, I'm...you're not. You're bleeding.

EB

Where?

There is blood coming from EB's side. He loses his legs and falls. An older ALLISON CANZANO(47), holding her phone, is on the street and comes running. Margret bends down and grabs

EB.

MARGRET

Eben...EBEN! Hold on...

ALLISON

I saw the whole thing. Oh my god, Eben?

MARGRET

(To Allison) Call 911.

ALLISON

I did.

MARGRET

Thank you.

ALLISON

Here, take my coat for his head. My name is Allison Canzano.

MARGRET

How the...

ALLISON

Got the check, huh? I got my life together, Mr. Misner.

EB

That's great. I'm really happy for you.

ALLISON

I've spent the last 2 years at the shelter with Alex. She's been an angel.

EB

Always was. I was the mistake.

ALLISON

Seeing you again was my last act of repentance.

EB

I'd stand up, but...

MARGRET

Shut up, fool. 911 is on its way.

EB

Think they have good coffee at the hospital?

MARGRET

No. We just had it yesterday.

EB

I think I'm fading a bit. Probably need a nap.

MARGRET

You're not leaving.

We hear sirens in the background as EB closes his eyes.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The ambulance gets there and The Couple are the EMT's. EB is passed out. Margret is surprised.

WOMAN

Get a bag on him. I'll check his vitals. Get the stretch.

MAN

Bag on. Stretch ready. 3,2,1.

They lift EB on to the stretcher and lift him into the ambulance. Margret is in shock, more at seeing the woman.

WOMAN

MARGRET! Miracles happen everyday.
I need you to ride with us for the
latest one. We need to talk. Do you
understand me?

Margret shakes her head.

ALLISON

I saw the whole thing.

WOMAN

We're going to Columbia Medical. Do
you know where that is?

ALLISON

I do.

WOMAN

You can speak with the cops.

MAN

We gotta go. I'm guessing his blood
is down 25%.

Margret is still frozen with shock.

WOMAN

MARGRET! Get in the ambulance. (To
Allison) Ma'am, meet us at
Columbia.

ALLISON

I'm on my way.

The woman grabs Margret and gently forces her into the ambulance.

EXT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

The ambulance pulls up and the Man and Woman jump out and open the door. While grabbing the gurney with EB on it,

Margret follows out of the ambulance. As she hits the ground, She sees Alex walking into the hospital. Their eyes meet. Margret catches the moment and rushes into the ER entrance. Alex is left standing near the Hospital Entrance.

INT. DAY. WAITING ROOM.

CLARENCE(45-50), Margret's husband comes running in. EB is being wheeled in a room, 4 or five medical professionals go in. Over Clarence's shoulder we see Allison speaking with police.

CLARENCE
Hey...How is he?

MARGRET
There's blood all over lower
Broadway.

CLARENCE
Baby, I think you're in shock. You
should sit down.

MARGRET
DON'T TELL ME! I froze! I couldn't
speak! Damn it, I let him down.(She
meets her husband's eyes) Oh,
Clarence, he's an ass, but he's my
best friend. (She looks at
Clarence) I mean behind...

CLARENCE
I know what you mean. I'll tell you
a secret, I love him too. Ass that
he is.

Elliot, Mirla and Zelda come running from the elevator.

MIRLA
Margret, what happened?

CLARENCE
Eben was shot. Margret's in a bit
of shock.

MARGRET
Dumbass was protecting me from
Baruch.

ELLIOT
The mob guy? What did you do to
Ismael Baruch?

MARGRET
Nothing. But Eben baited him into
firing him.

ZELDA
Why would he shoot at you?

CLARENCE
I believe he was shooting at Eben.

MARGRET
I broke my heel. These are only a couple months old.

A NURSE(30) comes over to Margret with Allison.

NURSE
You rode with Mr. Misner?

MARGRET
Yes. I did.

CLARENCE
She's in a bit of shock.

NURSE
Ok. He's on his way surgery. What I can tell you is the wound is a through and through, so the bullet is out of him.

CLARENCE
Is that good?

NURSE
It does cut down on the searching. However, he lost a lot of blood and the bullet did hit his spleen and clipped the left lobe of his liver.

MIRLA
Oh my god.

NURSE
Let's not worry just yet.

CLARENCE
We're gonna probably stick around.

NURSE
Ok. Looks like Mr. Misner has a great support group.

As the nurse walks away, Allison walks up.

ALLISON
Ok...Hey Mirla, Elliot. Look...

MIRLA
Hey Allie, what are you doing here?

ALLISON

I saw the whole thing. I was going to a victim's group and as I crossed the street. (To Margret)Margret, was it? I told the cops what I saw and gave them my information. Do you still have that envelope?

MARGRET

It's on my desk.

ALLISON

Ok, the funds are in there. Unless you guys ask for mental damages.

MARGRET

I think we've had enough damage.

ALLISON

I understand. He's a good man.

MARGRET

Yep.

ALLISON

Haven't seen him in a while. But Alex talks about him, well...

MIRLA

She's upstairs right now with Mycroft.

ALLISON

I got get to that meeting. I'm the speaker. Margret, I'm at Alex's ranch. I live there, so, if you need me or if he needs me...I owe him. A lot.

MARGRET

Congratulations on your recovery.

ALLISON

Only cost \$10,000. (She winks)

Allison walks away.

MIRLA

Clarence, would you mind running to your house?

CLARENCE

I'm not gonna leave my wife.

MIRLA

She may wanna change.

Clarence looks and sees Margrets dress is covered in blood.

ZELDA

I could ride with you, Mr. Whisnut.
Keep you company?

CLARENCE

Thanks, Zelda. Yeah, sure. (To
Margret) I'll bring back a
bag...Anything in particular?

MARGRET

Something comfortable.

ZELDA

I'll take care of that.

Clarence and Zelda leave.

MARGRET

Why don't you guys get back to
Mycroft? If something happens down
here, I'll let you know.

MIRLA

Are you sure? I was gonna grab us a
sandwich or something.

MARGRET

I couldn't eat. Go. He's probably
worried about his uncle.

ELLIOT

Ok. If you hear something, let us
know.

MARGRET

You bet.

Elliot and Mirla walk off. Margret melts into the couch.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

EB is on the table and he is surrounded by doctors and
nurses.

INT. EB'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Margret and Clarence haven't gone in. Elliot and Zelda walk up. DOCTOR MANN(55) is EB's surgeon.

ELLIOT

Hey guys.

MARGRET

They just rolled him in. First time I've seen him look peaceful in years.

Doctor Mann walks up.

DOCTOR MANN

I'm Doctor Mann. Are you folks the family?

MARGRET

Yes. How is he?

DOCTOR MANN

Well, as you know, he was shot. We got everything cleaned and he's stable. His brain function look good, but he did lose a lot of blood. The prognosis is a full recovery, but, because of the loss of blood, we wanna make sure his brain is functioning the way it was before the incident.

ELLIOT

Why on earth would you want that?

ZELDA

Dad?!

ELLIOT

I'm kidding. I'm sorry. He's my big brother and...Anyway.

DOCTOR MANN

You guys can go in, just be really quiet.

CLARENCE

Any idea how long he'll be out?

As the doctor speaks, we see EB sleeping.

DOCTOR MANN

It's gonna be a while. He just
needs rest. Hopefully, he'll be up
and walking really soon.

MARGRET

Thanks, Doctor.

The group all goes in.

EXT. STREET OF NEW YORK PASSING THE FREEDOM TOWER - DAY

Dream Sequence/All One Day

EB, a few years older, passes the Freedom Tower and stares at
an office building just off the plaza. He walks toward it.

INT. ELLIOT'S OFFICE - DAY

EB walks in to his brother's office. Elliot, behind his desk,
looks even older than EB.

ELLIOT

I hope you don't mind me not
getting up.

EB

No. You look old.

ELLIOT

Yeah, well...Being a one man band
and all.

EB

Where's your staff?

ELLIOT

Budget cuts.

EB

Where's Mycroft?

ELLIOT

Who knows? You know as well as I
do.

EB

Ever thought of talking to him?

ELLIOT

"Oh, I have a disability. I don't know the daily workings of a company." The surgery gave him a new lease on life. He's out living it.

EB

Living on borrowed time?

ELLIOT

Living...According to him.

EB

You could walk away.

ELLIOT

Like you?

EB

How do you mean? You left the business.

ELLIOT

Did I? I still live in White Plains. I wasn't in New York City.

EB

Dad had to run it by himself.

ELLIOT

No he didn't. That's something you came up with to ease YOUR guilt...For leaving.

There's a long pause.

EB

Wanna grab some lunch?

ELLIOT

Nah. I got things to do. You remember things to do, right?

EB

Should I maybe not have come in here?

ELLIOT

I guess we weren't as prepared to be off the farm as you were.

EB

Something wrong with being driven?

ELLIOT
No. Something wrong with pushing
away your family.

EB
I'm gonna go. Give Mirla my best.

ELLIOT
Yeah.

EB turns to walk out and looks at his little brother.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

EB walks in thought. Notices the CHICAGO sign coming down
from a marquee. He watches a bit. Suddenly, the WOMAN walks
up.

WOMAN
Sad, right?

EB
I'm sorry?

WOMAN
Such a long run. You know, I never
saw it.

EB
Me neither. Hey...How are you?

WOMAN
I'm good Mr. Misner. You know,
you've had a great run. Now you're
at the end of it.

EB
I've...I don't understand.

WOMAN
You've been a great lawyer. You get
shot and suddenly, you get soft.
Think people haven't noticed you've
lost your fight?

EB
Not sure I've noticed. How do you
mean?

WOMAN
Why did you go to your brother's
office today?

EB

How did you...

WOMAN

Loneliness can be a delicious dish...Unless it's sprinkled with regret.

EB

I don't regret...

WOMAN

You shouldn't let a gun shot define you after a life spent fighting...Good or bad.

EB

I...We defended animals.

WOMAN

We know. We've mirrored your life. We just keep fighting.

EB

Who's we?

They walk and turn the corner. Standing on the sidewalk is Baruch with a couple of his thugs.

BARUCH

Look who it is. Didn't I have you shot?

EB

What the hell is this?

WOMAN

No idea. (To Baruch) What's a dirtbag like you doing downtown?

BARUCH

You got a mouth on you, young lady. You this guy's new body guard?

WOMAN

You know, it's time to finish your reign.

BARUCH

Oh yeah? How's that happen, Little Lady?

WOMAN

Like this.

The woman pushes EB against the building. As she does, From nowhere, the MAN runs up and pushes Baruch into traffic, just as a bus is driving by. Baruch hits the bus and the bus runs over him and stops. The thugs rush to Baruch as the woman and the man grab EB and pull him away. They escape down the street.

MAN

How are you, Mr. Misner?

EB

What the hell just happened?

MAN

We ended one of your problems. I'll ask again, are you doing alright?

EB

Who are you people.

WOMAN

We don't exist. Now, my husband asked you a question.

EB

I'm...I'm fine. I'm confused, but I'm fine.

MAN

Mr. Misner, we have been your mirror into your soul.

EB

What?

MAN

Your life passed by, Mr. Misner. On the way, you became bitter and forgot to live. You made calculations instead of memories.

WOMAN

You can fix that. It's only too late if you allow it.

MAN

Circle back. We shall be watching and if things are becoming difficult, just stop and take a breath. Thank you for the direction to the bar, Mr. Misner.

EB is silent.

MAN (CONT'D)
Good bye, Mr. Misner.

WOMAN
Good bye, Dear Man.

The man and woman turn and walk away. They disappear almost in to thin air. EB watches.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

The office has changed and EB doesn't recognize it. A young man, RUPERT(22) is behind the reception desk.

RUPERT
Happy Holidays, Sir. Do you have an appointment?

EB
Um...Good Morning. I'm sorry, have we met?

RUPERT
I'm Rupert. Office manager. Have you been here before?

EB
Is Margret here?

RUPERT
Margret? Oh, Mrs. Whisnut. She is out, Sir. With Mr. Whisnut's death, she's decided to ease her schedule.

EB
Clarence died? When did he die?

RUPERT
September 14th, sir. Did you know, Mr. Whisnut?

EB
He...Um, yeah.

RUPERT
What is your name sir. I'll call Mrs. Whisnut at home and tell her you came by.

He grabs the phone.

EB
Eben, um, EB. Misner.

Rupert slowly lowers the phone.

RUPERT
Senior Partner, EB Misner?

EB
What? ...Oh, yeah.

RUPERT
Excuse me. (He dials) Good Morning,
Ma'am. Yes, um...Mr. Misner is
here...Yes, Ma'am. (Hit's speaker)

MARGRET
EB?

EB
Margret? I just heard about
Clarence.

MARGRET
What are you talking about?

EB
This young man told me he passed
away.

MARGRET
He did. You sat with me at the
funeral. I couldn't have made it
through with out you...Are you ok?

EB
I was...I'm confused.

MARGRET
Rupert, get a Turkish coffee and a
lox from Tony downstairs. Stick Mr.
Misner in my office. I'll be there
in an hour.

RUPERT
Yes, Ma'am.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Elevator door's open and Margret walks out.

MARGRET
How is he?

RUPERT
He's behind you.

EB is sitting in a chair, holding a cup of coffee and a bagel.

RUPERT (CONT'D)
(Whispering) Does he have...?

MARGRET
Dementia? No. He's fine. Hey EB.
Wanna take a walk?

EB
Oh. You're here. I'm sorry to bring
you all the way down here.

MARGRET
It got me out of the house. Besides
this place NEEDS the two of us.
Rupert, I'll be in my office.

RUPERT
Yes Ma'am.

INT. MARGRET'S OFFICE - DAY

EB is on the couch and Margret is sitting in a chair. The coffee and bagel are on the table.

EB
I like what you've done with the
place.

MARGRET
New carpet, new furniture, same
boring feel.

EB
It's a law office. It's supposed to
be boring.

MARGRET
Having trouble with your memory?

EB
I didn't think so...Til this
morning.

MARGRET
Kinda scaring me, old friend.

EB
You should sit over here.

MARGRET
What's the last thing you remember?

EB
(Long pause) Honestly?

MARGRET
Probably best.

EB
Laying on Wall Street and Broadway.
You holding me up and hearing
sirens.

MARGRET
That was 7 years ago.

EB
How do I lose 7 years in a morning?

MARGRET
Maybe you should call Clifton.

EB
Maybe. Who's Clifton?

MARGRET
Now you're really scaring me.

EB
I'm serious. Who's Clifton?

MARGRET
He's your doctor.

EB
Doctor or shrink?

MARGRET
Shrink. 7 years isn't a black out,
Eben. That's something else.

Margret gets up and goes to her desk.

MARGRET (CONT'D)
Rupert, call Clifton Schwestein.
See if he can see Mr. Misner.

RUPERT(SPEAKER)
Yes ma'am.

MARGRET
You don't remember coming out of
the hospital?

EB

It seemed I was asleep for a long time.

MARGRET

You became a little...Less...Aloof. Your worry turned to Mycroft. Took him everywhere. So much so, he got bored. He claims he's normal and doesn't need pampering.

EB

Doesn't sound like him.

MARGRET

You weren't what he remembered.

EB

Know what I saw this morning?

MARGRET

No, but...Can't be weirder than this.

EB

Saw Baruch killed in mid-town. Pushed in front of a bus.

MARGRET

You're serious?

EB

I believe so. Hell, I don't what's up or down right now.

MARGRET

Baruch walked in front of a bus 4 years ago.

EB

What?

MARGRET

You were near by and questioned. You were let go though.

EB

So, I could have pushed him?

MARGRET

Would it make you feel better?

EB

Well, he did shoot me.

MARGRET

Had you shot. Semantics. You don't remember the cops finding the shooter dead in the East River?

EB

I lost 4 years from the street to your office. What do you think?

RUPERT(SPEAKER)

Mrs. Whisnut, Dr. Schwestien can see Mr. Misner at 3 this afternoon.

MARGRET

Thank you, Rupert. (To EB) Got a few hours, wanna stick around and I'll drive you?

EB

I'll walk.

MARGRET

To 112th?

EB

Obviously, it's been a while since I smelled the city. I'll be fine.

MARGRET

What's the cross street?

EB

Amsterdam.

MARGRET

Was that guess?

EB

Nah.

MARGRET

Do you have your phone?

EB

I...I don't.

MARGRET

Will you at least take my phone?

EB

Sure.

MARGRET

The lock is 6449 and the office
number is under office.

EB

Ok...Thanks, Margret. I'll be fine.

EXT. STREET - DAY

EB comes out of the building. He turns to walk and there's
Alexandra with a man. (We never clearly see the man's face).

ALEX

Eben? Look at you! When did you
start coming back in the office?

EB

Hey...HEY! How are you?

EB notices the ring on her finger.

ALEX

I'm good. You remember Scott?

EB

Who? (Faking it) Scott, yes. Great
seeing you again. You guys in town
for the day?

ALEX

Silly. We are headed back downtown.
I'm meeting with one of the
producers and I'm dragging Scott
along.

EB

Right...What show are you working
on?

ALEX

Ragtime...Eben are you feeling
alright?

EB

Just curious what show you're
working on.

ALEX

I'm working on the one you
financed, remember?

EB

Back to before...Love that song.
Marin Mazie. Now I remember. You
know, it's been a hell of a day
and...Anyway, great seeing you
guys. I gotta get uptown for a
meeting.

ALEX

Oh yeah? A new project?

EB

A shrink. I'll see ya.

EB walks away quickly.

EXT. THE PARK - DAY

EB makes to Central Park. He finds a bench and sits down.

From behind him, we hear a voice.

MYCROFT

My favorite uncle.

EB

Your only uncle.

MYCROFT

That's true. Mom only has a sister.

EB

Your father's worried about you.

MYCROFT

No...He's worried about the money.

EB

Don't say that.

MYCROFT

My whole life, I never respected my
father. He worked too hard.

EB

He wanted a good life.

MYCROFT

He wanted to impress you.

EB

Me?

MYCROFT

Columbia Law...Big Time New York
Law Firm...Broadway Dancer wife. He
wanted to show you he was of the
same ilk.

EB

I don't believe that.

MYCROFT

Of course not. You're not affected
by that sort of stuff.

EB

How do mean?

MYCROFT

I, unlike my father, never wanted
to impress you. I wanted to be you.
Rich, Successful.

EB

Is that what I am?

MYCROFT

It always hurt me, growing up, the
second you walked into a room with
us, you were ready to leave. Until
I got sick. Then you got weak.

EB

Is that right?

MYCROFT

When I got sick, I remember
thinking, I'll never get to be him.
Then I saw you laying in that
chair, driven with worry. Why?

EB

I wanted you to get better.

MYCROFT

Didn't think leopards could change
their spots.

EB

Cold?

MYCROFT

Aloof, dear uncle.

EB

And yet, you always wanted to hug me.

MYCROFT

I thought you would rub off on me. But, it was never me that was missing from you. Was it?

EB

You too, huh?

MYCROFT

Not everyone gets to meet that "One".

EB

Stop.

MYCROFT

Ever miss someone so much, you do everything you can to erase them... to erase her.

EB

Alex had issues.

MYCROFT

Yea. But we see you don't. She's always right there. Right at arms length and you just won't reach out.

EB

(Self reflecting) She deserves the best.

MYCROFT

And that's not you?

EB

I'm not worth it.

MYCROFT

Poor pitiful you. You got your money back. A powerful lawyer should be satisfied with that, right...But that was a BIG RING on her finger, huh?

Margret appears.

MARGRET

You're gonna miss the doctor.

Mirla appears.

MIRLA

The doctor isn't what he needs.

Elliot appears

ELLIOT

My brother, with all his success
could never make the right choice
with Alex.

MARGRET

He has to heal.

MIRLA

He has to choose to heal.

ELLIOT

He'll chose wrong...Again.

The 3 improve an argument. Mycroft is smiling. EB hears a
whisper.

ALEX

Good bye, my love.

Dream Sequence Ends

INT. EB'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

EB jumps awake. Mycroft is siting by his bed. Mirla and
Margret are standing.

MIRLA

Hey! He's back...

MYCROFT

Uncle! I didn't think you would
ever wake up! You had everyone
scared. Well, not me. I knew
nothing could...(He tears up)

MIRLA

Hey, Mycroft...Ok, He's ok,
sweetie.

EB

How did I...I'm fine buddy.
(Catches Margret's eye) What day is
it?

MARGRET
Christmas Eve. Did I get a bonus.

EB
I've been out for a week?

MARGRET
Kinda in and out the last few days.
You lost a lot of blood. You have
the holes to prove it. And don't
gloss over that bonus question.

EB
Sure. Yeah. Have I been asleep the
whole time?

MIRLA
You were induced for a day. We
thought...Well. The doctor said it
would, could slow damage to the
brain stem.

MARGRET
I wondered how we'd know.

Mycroft laughs.

MIRLA
And you kinda woke out of the coma
yourself.

MARGRET
Then, right back to sleep. It
became a watch and wait.

EB
Where's Elliot?

MIRLA
Chapel.

EB
Why?

MARGRET
His faith is none of your business.

Doctor Mann comes in.

DOCTOR MANN
Well...Look who decided to wake up.
You know the room is paid for til
the end of the month.

EB
I'm not Jewish. Margret stop
writing jokes for the doctor.

DOCTOR MANN
What's the last thing you remember?

EB
Hearing sirens. Thinking I was
gonna die on Broadway. Ironical
considering my ex-wife.

DOCTOR MANN
Why's that?

MIRLA
She was a dancer on Broadway.

DOCTOR MANN
The blond that...

Mirla and Margret give the doctor a "shut up" look.

EB
Wait...Alex was here?

MIRLA
Mmmm Hmmm....

EB
When was she here?

MARGRET
You mean, the last time? She's been
here everyday. She just left not
long ago.

EB tries to get up.

DOCTOR MANN
Whoa, hang on stud. You're not
leaving. Your chart says you've
been shot.

EB
I need to talk to her.

DOCTOR MANN
No, you need to rest and gain your
strength. I got some other folks to
see, but you stay here.

EB
Alright...Damn.

MARGRET
What is it?

EB
I didn't buy Christmas presents.

MARGRET
You never do. I always buy the...

Margret catches EB's eye.

DOCTOR MANN
We have a lovely gift shop. We'll
find you a wheel chair and maybe
get you down there, LATER. MUCH
LATER. Strap him in, ladies, if he
tries to leave.

The Doctor leaves. Mirla and Margret look at EB.

INT. EB'S APT - EVENING

Mycroft and Zelda watch as Elliot is in a loud discussion
with Mirla and Margret.

ELLIOT
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR DAMN MINDS?!

MIRLA
He's a grown man.

ELLIOT
HE'S BEEN SHOT!

MARGRET
Yeah, but that was a week ago.

ELLIOT
I don't even know what planet I'm
on right now. This isn't breaking
out Butch Cassidy from the county
jail.

MIRLA
Elliot...

ELLIOT
Don't Elliot me. This is my
brother. In case you didn't
hear...HE'S BEEN SHOT!

MIRLA
You're being irrational.

ELLIOT

I don't believe I heard you correctly. You want to break a gun shot patient out of the hospital and I'm being irrational?

MARGRET

Look, it's only for a day. We'll bring him right back.

There is a long pause.

ELLIOT

Why can't we bring him here?

MARGRET

Elliot, he got a message in his dream. She was there! It's time, it's Christmas. It's romantic. It's...It's movie stuff.

ELLIOT

My brother is going to die in an undisclosed white van, kidnapped from a hospital where he was recovering from a gun shot wound. Rolling.

MIRLA

Sounds simple enough.

ZELDA

(To Mycroft) I think this is the point where we accept the fact, we may be on our own from now on.

MYCROFT

Mmm Hmmm.

INT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The group, including Zelda and Mycroft come in. Walking through the hall, they see the Doctor Mann.

DOCTOR MANN

Hiya gang.

MARGRET

Hello, Dr. Mann. You're here late.

DOCTOR MANN

Funny. I was gonna say the same thing.

MIRLA
We can still visit, right?

DOCTOR MANN
Yeah. But, remember...He's gonna
need to be comfortable. No bumping
or swerving.

MIRLA
What?

Doctor walks away.

MARGRET
Alright. Let's go make him
comfortable.

INT. EB'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The group comes in and EB is dozing.

EB
Who died?

MARGRET
What? We came break you out.

EB
Break me out? Who am I, Butch
Cassidy?

ELLIOT
I said the same thing.

The doctor comes in with nurse and a wheelchair.

DOCTOR MANN
Hey again, gang...Here's the wheel
chair I promised. Let's get him in
it and show him where the gift shop
is.

EB
Thanks, Doc.

DOCTOR MANN
Nurse, would you grab his brother
and his right side. Brother...

ELLIOT
Elliot.

EB'S DOCTOR
Elliot, we're gonna show you how to
lift him, safely.

INT. HOSPITAL STAFF ELEVATORS - DAY

The doctor is pushing EB. The "Gang" is following. They
arrive at the staff elevator.

MIRLA
Um...Doctor Mann, is this ok for
us?

DOCTOR MANN
Sure. I know the people who work
here. It's quicker this way. We'll
get where we're going faster.

EXT. HOSPITAL LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

An ambulance is waiting for them. The doctor turns to
Margret.

DOCTOR MANN
He will be back in this hospital at
9am in 2 days. You now have a list
of instruction on how to move him
around, how to care for him and you
will stick to it.

MARGRET
How...

EB'S DOCTOR
I spent a little time with him.
He's stubborn.

MARGRET
Don't I know it.

EB'S DOCTOR
Says you're worse. Anyway. He also
says trust you. All of you. I like
that. (Pause) Go back and get the
van or whatever it was gonna be.
Margret, you'll ride with
him...Keep him company. (To the
front of the ambulance) Manfred,
Uta...drive safe. See you in a
while. (To Margret) 2 days, young
lady...2 days.

MARGRET

Yes sir.

INT. BACK OF AN AMBULANCE - DAWN

EB is in and out. Margret is trying, impatiently, to let him sleep.

MARGRET

Are you asleep?

EB

I was kinda close.

MARGRET

Not nervous?

EB

Would it help?

MARGRET

Smart ass. Look, since I'm taking over this new role, I'm gonna hire an assistant.

EB

I thought you had one.

MARGRET

We have an office assistant. I need one myself to catch up on cases we have and how to expand efficiently.

EB

Sounds great. Not sure I have much say in it right now. I'm sure Elliot told you, more than once, I've been shot.

MARGRET

I heard. I have an interview set up for January 3rd, if you wanna sit in.

EB

What's his name, Rupert?

MARGRET

How the hell did you know that?

EB

Um...A guess. (To himself)Weird.

MARGRET

Oh, you've been asleep. You haven't heard the news about Baruch.

EB

Is he dead?

MARGRET

He stepped in front of a bus. Some think he was pushed.

EB

I saw it. He was.

MARGRET

What?

EB

It's been a long week. My mind wandered.

MARGRET

I guess.

EB

You know...I love my family.

MARGRET

I know.

EB

You're my best friend, Margret. I never knew what best friend was until I was shot.(Chokes a bit) I'm really glad it was you with me.

The ambulance is silent for a bit.

MARGRET

Wish I had some scotch.

EB

We both hate scotch.

MARGRET

I know. It would keep us from drinking.

EB

Well put.

Silence.

EXT. DRIVEWAY TO A HUGE RANCH HOUSE - MORNING

The morning has broken. The ambulance is pulling up backward into the driveway. Alex comes on to the front porch. The EMT's get out as Elliot pulls up with the rest of the group in a van. The EMT's get EB out of the ambulance. EB notices it's the MAN and the WOMAN from the street meetings. The Man, rolling EB forward a bit, makes eye contact with EB and winks. The man and woman get back in the van. Alex jogs up to EB and stops a few feet from the wheelchair.

EB

I'd get up but my doctor says I may
pass out.

Alex walks in and kneels in front of EB.

EB (CONT'D)

Can I start by saying I'm sorry?

ALEX

Nope.

EB

I've missed you. I just never
wanted to accept it.

MARGRET

(Quietly to Mirla) Got a tissue?

MIRLA

You too?

MARGRET

It's for your husband.

Elliot is fighting tears.

EB

My father said it was ok if I
stared at you.

ALEX

Oh yeah...How long ya plan on doing
that.

EB

As long as you let me.

ALEX

When ya gonna start?

EB

Right now.

ALEX

And here I thought you didn't give
out Christmas presents.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

The Ambulance pulls away.

MAN

Ah, Christmas Romance...

WOMAN

You're such a softy. And I think we
did good.

MAN

I think Eben did good.

WOMAN

Me too.

MAN

So...What's next?

WOMAN

Another story?

MAN

I love our stories.

WOMAN

Any place special?

MAN

Never spent Christmas in the Key
West.

WOMAN

Oooo, Palm trees... a Green
Christmas. Sounds fun!

Fade Out.