

<This human body>

by

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SCENE 1 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 1)

DAVID enters the room with iPad in hand, crosses and sits himself on the couch. He loosens his tie and jabs at the iPad, trying to get it to work. Arty shots of his hands, feet etc.

Tracking shot of David entering and passing the graphic (in a photoframe)

Shot of him loosening tie

Close up of hands on iPad (tactile)

See feet cracking toes (in socks)

Searching for right app

Furrowed brow

Finger pressing record button

Then to iPad view

DAVID

So then (clears throat). Just a test to see if this works. I've had it for ages and never really used it! And now...

FADE TO:

SCENE 2 INT BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 2)

David is clicking his keyboard, getting frustrated.

DAVID

Look! Press the button! I can't hear you, and your camera is off!
[Types on keyboard] I'll ring back!

He cancels the skype call and tries again. Can hear the dial and ringing tone. This time the we can see and hear the other side. It is WENDY, David's estranged wife.

WENDY

(A bit put out and grumpy. It is evening where she is)
Can you hear me now? We can see you. Jess is here, too

JESSICA

Daddy! I'm in my PJs and I won at bingo!

DAVID

Jessyboo! Did you play bingo?

JESSICA

Yes and I won!

WENDY

Apparently she did. Have you done your teeth yet?

JESSICA

Yes...well, nearly! Want to see my bingo?

DAVID

Yes - go and do your teeth and show me your bingo.

Jessica leaves

WENDY

So. Why the call?

DAVID

No reason. I mean, I wanted to see Jess. And you.

[Pause]

WENDY

Is that right?

DAVID

Well, I do want to see how she is. But...there is something

JESSICA

(Barges back into shot) Yay I'm back and I've got my bingo! (Holds up drawing showing 18 and 63 and covers camera)

FADE TO:

SCENE 3 INT. BEDROOM INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 3)

David is at his desk again, on skype with JOSH, a friend who does geeky stuff with him, like go to Conventions and meetups. Josh is excited about his newest costume.

JOSH

Oh my god this is amazing - can you see it properly? [Holds up an amazing giant stone golem costume] This will be totally sick when we go to the Con! The chicks really dig rock hard abs! [Laughs hilariously at own joke]

DAVID

(Underwhelmed or overwhelmed. Some kind of whelmed at the costume) That is...something, all right! You'll definitely be noticed!

JOSH

Did you come up with something yet? You're not going in a kilt again, are you? You need to branch out, man!

DAVID

I haven't really thought about it. Actually...

JOSH

You had better not be backing out! We've been planning this for MONTHS! The beer, the chicks, the gamer girls, the beer...!!!

DAVID

(Strained smile) I know, it's just that...

FADE TO:

SCENE 4 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (SEGMENT 5)

David is lying on his side in bed, dressed and on top of the covers. His iPad is propped up in front of him. He is talking into it.

Tie gone, waistcoat gone, buttons undone. Red wine on night stand

Close up shot of glass of wine being poured (two cameras)

Track shot out from close up at headboard to end of bed as wine is sipped and iPad is activated

DAVID

(iPad view) Thought I might try this lying down, makes it easier. The only one watching will be me, and maybe them. If they ever want to. (Comes back to himself and looks directly at camera) I mean you, of course. This is all for you.

FADE TO:

SCENE 5 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 2)

Back to the skype call with Wendy. Jessica is bouncing around singing and generally being a kid (pain). Wendy is in a really bad mood

WENDY

I've been waiting for this. I knew it would happen. Surprised you ring me yourself.

DAVID

Er....what? Really? No..I'm confused.

WENDY

Confused? You're always confused! Didn't you think I'd work

it out? People don't just move to the other side of the world for a job! I'm not stupid!

DAVID
(Getting angrier) I never said you were stupid!

JESSICA
Don't shout, Daddy! Mummy - you need to use your inside voice!

Both parents are chastened by their child

DAVID
I'm sorry, Jess. Daddy is sorry. Now, read me a bedtime story.

JESSICA
Oh Daddy - you're supposed to read to me!

DAVID
Not any more - you read better than I do!

WENDY
You can read to me in a minute, Jess. Daddy is just going.

DAVID & JESSICA

(BOTH PROTESTING) But..No!

DAVID
Can you ring me later? Please?

WENDY
(Stony faced) I'll see

JESSICA
Night Daddy! I love you! Don't let the bed bugs bite! (She kisses the camera as the call is ended from their side)

David slumps into his chair.

FADE TO:

SCENE 6 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (SEGMENT 5)

David is on his bed still, talking into the iPad

Glass of wine is empty, so is bottle. Is slumped lower in bed. He reaches over, but glass is empty.

Some other arty stuff different to last arty stuff

DAVID

(iPad view) You see, me and
mum...it's complicated. But we
both still love you, and...yes.

FADE TO:

SCENE 7 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 3)

Josh is remonstrating with David about not going to the
Con.

JOSH

You know these tickets sold out
MONTHS ago! EVERYONE is going to
be there!

DAVID

I haven't made up my mind
completely yet. It's just that
there's a possibility I might not
be going.

JOSH

(Suddenly still and attentive)
What do you mean. What's going on,
David?

FADE TO:

SCENE 8 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (SEGMENT 5)

David is on his bed, talking into the iPad

DAVID

So. [Beat] I went to the doctor today. Got some test results back. I didn't say anything before because....well, was was the point?

FADE TO:

SCENE 9 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 4)

Skype call with Wendy again. It is dark where she is now (passage of time) and both of them are subdued.

DAVID

Thanks for calling back. Did she get to sleep ok?

WENDY

Yes. The usual round of questions about when her dad is coming home. You know..

DAVID

Sorry. Must be draining.

PAUSE

WENDY

So then. Might as well hear it. What did you have to tell me?

DAVID & JESSICA/BOO/JESSICA

(Deep breath) So. I went to the doctor today...

SCENE 10 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (SEGMENT 5)

David is on his bed, talking into the iPad

DAVID

I have cancer. In my brain. Yeah (hollow laugh) they actually found one on the scan. A brain. And some

tumours. Glioblastsomething or other. There's...he said...there's not much they can do. Maybe some treatment? But really, not much time.

FADE TO:

SCENE 11 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 3)

Josh is open-mouthed and staring

JOSH

What do you mean? How can you have
.....that? You exercise!
You're...you're...!

DAVID

I don't know why, but that's what
it is.

JOSH

But...I mean - no! It can't
be...(trails off)...dude...

DAVID

(Comforting Josh) Hey, it's not
the end of the world, yet! Maybe
I'll make it to the Con after all!
Wheelchairs are hip, right?

JOSH

(Weak smile) Yeah! Chicks dig
wheelcha...(breaks off, stifles a
sob)

FADE TO:

SCENE 12 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (SEGMENT 5)

David is on his bed, talking into the iPad

DAVID

...and so he said - maybe three
months? That's...not long. And...I
had stuff to do. And...I am really

sorry....

FADE TO:

SCENE 13 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 4)

Skype call with Wendy again. It is dark where she is.

WENDY

What...what do you mean? What did the doctor say exactly? Is there any....?

DAVID

I have three months, they can give me some treatment that might make that longer, but there are side effects and...there are no guarantees.

WENDY

But you'll do it? You'll at least try? You can't just give up! David, this is your..

DAVID (INTERRUPTS)

..yes, I know. But there are things to consider.

WENDY

(Getting more worked up again)
What is there to consider? You have to give it a try!

DAVID

What if it makes me worse? What if it means that I can't...

WENDY

What? What is more important than this?

DAVID

What if the treatment means I can't come and see you? Or if it means I can't hold Jessica if you come here? And then I...go.. anyway, without even....

WENDY

I...

FADE TO:

SCENE 14 INT. BEDROOM - DAY (SEGMENT 1)

DAVID is sitting at his desk, fiddling with camera (POV is from camera and framing is off). He smooths his hair then starts to talk.

DAVID

..so I'll be recording the next few weeks and hopefully one day you'll see it and understand that I always loved you. And that I am incredibly, heartbreakingly sorry. In the words of the great, late, MCA: "I give thanks for this world as a place to learn and for this human body that I'm glad to have earned." Pity it had to teach me that I love you by killing me. The price we pay, baby.

Throws faux gangsta sign at camera

DAVID (CONT'D)

Now I have to ring everyone with the news. Wish me luck.

FADE TO BLACK.

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