

RANDOM ACTS

a play in two acts

by

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RANDOM ACTS - Michael Perlmutter

CHARACTERS

- THEODORE 'Teddy' STAVOS -
Forty-two years old, blue collar in appearance; non-descript: could pass for thirty to sixty on any given day.
- JUNE CESSARIO -
Early to mid thirties. A young psychologist. Married, no children.
- STAFF -
NANCY PARKINS - Staff secretary.
Dr. 1 / EDWARD HAMMERSTONE
Dr. 2 / SAMUEL BRIGHTON
Dr. 3 / MAVIS BEAUCHAMP
working in the same medical group with June.
- JASON CESSARIO -
June's husband, a career social worker, in his mid thirties.
- THERESA STAVOS-MILLER -
Teddy's sister, 38

SETTING

The stage is basically an empty box. The actors sit in eight chairs lining the edges of the scene. Upstage, far left and far right. The cast sit in shadows. The center of the stage (we will call the playing area or arena) is defined by a 8" rise and is generally well lit. At the back of the arena is a contemporary desk (flat / slab in definition.)
Down left of the arena is a small round table which may be moved onto the playing area to create a restaurant or bistro as needed.)

TIME

The present; reflecting on moments from July 2009 thru August 2011

"The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once."
-- Albert Einstein

ACT 1

(At rise:

The stage is basically an empty box. The actors sit in chairs lining the edges of the scene. Upstage, far left and far right. The cast sit in shadows. The center of the stage (we will call the playing area or arena) is defined by a 8" rise and focused light. On it are a contemporary styled desk, with a chair that sit somewhere upstage and two chairs positioned elsewhere in the arena.

As the lights come up we find THEODORE 'Teddy' STAVOS, a man of indeterminable age but presumably in his late thirties/early forties, dressed in jeans, sneakers, shirt and members only style jacket, sits carefully on the playing area, center stage. TEDDY holds a colored rabbit's foot keychain which he rubs between his fingers therapeutically. Another set of chairs also sit to the side, presenting an office area.

Downstage JUNE CESSARIO, a career woman, dressed in casual business attire, addresses the audience.)

JUNE

Most good stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. Usually in that order. Usually. I'm going to try to keep this in perspective but I can't offer exact results. I *will* do my best to follow my own timeline wherever I can but occasionally I may have to rely on his. Instead of trying to explain . . . let me just . . . start with our first--

(Corrects herself:)

my first encounter with Theodore.

(JUNE steps back into the scene onstage, crossing to the edge of the playing area and entering into the room.)

JUNE

(Continues to cross over to her desk.)

Excuse me? Do we have an appointment?

TEDDY

Eleven thirty. Every Tuesday and Thursday.

JUNE
(Not sitting.)

Since . . . ?

TEDDY

Ever.

JUNE
Alright then. I think you'll need to check with my secretary, Mrs. Parkins. She's just outs--

TEDDY
Oh shit. What's today's date?
(No reply.)
You don't have your calendar out yet. Today? Is this July 21st?
(No reply.)
2009?

JUNE
(Standing at her desk--waiting for Teddy to leave her office.)
Wrong by a day.

TEDDY
Damn. I always thought it was the 21st. So . . . this isn't Tuesday?

JUNE
I'm afraid you're going to have to go.

TEDDY
To when?

JUNE
Make an appointment with Mrs. Parkins on your way out and give her your insurance information.

TEDDY
I don't have insurance.

JUNE
And I don't do charity.

TEDDY
I can pay you. In cash.
(He pulls a large roll of bills out of his pocket prepared to count off what she needs.)

JUNE

I'm not impressed.

(JUNE crosses to the door [stage right center on the playing arena] and waves her arm towards offstage: "inviting him" to exit through it. TEDDY stays glued to his chair.)

TEDDY

(Reciting . . . growing nervous:)

June Cessario. Graduated from a hole in the wall university in Lincoln, Nebraska that must not be named. You got your credentials through an online course from the Phoenix Institute. Married. One child . . .

(Corrects himself:)

On the way. A girl. But you were hoping for a boy--that's why you chose the name Sam--you'll *choose* the name Sam.

JUNE

I think you should leave now.

TEDDY

(Starting to panic:)

You're afraid your husband, Jason, is seeing somebody else but he's not. You wore blue at your own wedding because you thought it brings out your eyes. And--and--and--and your dog's name is Heathcliff because you wanted a cat. And you limp when it rains. . . . Check the tapes . . .

(Slight pause.)

JUNE

I'm going to call security.

(No reply.)

Either you leave and make an appointment or we're done here.

(No reply. TEDDY stays firmly attached to his seat.
JUNE crosses out the door:)

JUNE

(As she goes:)

Ms. Parkins?

TEDDY

(As she goes:)

Don't leave-- . . .

(But she is gone. There is a beat. TEDDY resigns himself to her absence.)

TEDDY

(Drops his head into his hands.)

. . . dammit . . .

(There is a slight pause. TEDDY lifts his head back up, opening his eyes as if for the first time, he looks around quietly, clearly unaware of his surroundings. He lets go his grip on the chair and studies his own hands a moment. He takes in his situation then sheepishly rises and exits the arena. JUNE watches him leave then turns to the audience:)

JUNE

From what I can gather from this last part that was Theodore's first encounter with me as well.

(As JUNE continues and places a scarf over her attire TEDDY re-enters the playing arena and reclaims his chair.)

JUNE (Continued:)

(Placing on a scarf, she moves around the arena, crossing by NANCY PARKINS, her secretary, who hands her a coffee as she passes:)

The next day I remember I got in late. Nothing memorable happened that morning worth recalling but I do recall we had a summer rain that carried over through lunch I think.

NANCY

Black, half a Sweet'n'Low.

JUNE

(To Nancy as she heads back to her office:)

None of that raspberry this time?

NANCY

That man's in your office again--he says he has an appointment--

JUNE

Call Security.

(Thinks a moment better on it--turns back:)

Just put them on alert.

(JUNE continues stride to the playing area--she stops at the sight of TEDDY.)

JUNE
Good morning.

TEDDY
Morning?

JUNE
You're back.

TEDDY
Did you leave me?

JUNE
You didn't have an appointment.

TEDDY
You don't have a calendar up.

JUNE
You don't know what today is?

TEDDY
Do you?

JUNE
What was yesterday?
(No reply. Changes course of action:)
What is your name?

TEDDY
Teddy. Stavos. S-T-A-V-O-S. Theodore.

JUNE
I don't seem to have a file.

TEDDY
I don't think I have a lot of time.

JUNE
Nancy, when is my next appointment?

NANCY
Ten fifteen. Barbara Matthers cancelled.

JUNE
You could have mentioned that when you gave me my coffee--

NANCY

I tried to--

JUNE

Next time lead with a cancellation.

NANCY

I lead with there's a man in your office.

JUNE

(Debates here options a few moments:)

You have my attention.

TEDDY

Actually she lead with your coffee.

JUNE

True enough. So tell me about yourself, Theodore.

TEDDY

You can call me Teddy.

JUNE

Teddy is a boy's name, isn't it?

TEDDY

It's safer.

JUNE

"Safer"?

TEDDY

(Taking out a paper from his back pocket to read it to her--
as not to get anything wrong:)

I have a condition of acute time displacement.

JUNE

I never heard of this.

TEDDY

ATD; You coined the phrase.

(Looks for her reaction but continues on before she shuts
him out:)

I am living in a body that continues linearly while my conscious self jumps from
date to date.

JUNE

I don't follow.

TEDDY

You wrote this.

JUNE

Explain it to me.

TEDDY

(Thinks a moment then . . .)

Ok . . . um . . . you know that when you go to sleep tonight that you will wake up sometime tomorrow; you're sure of that, right? Because that's the normal order of things: time flows consistently--consecutively--linearly. Well, I don't experience that. I could wake up three years from now or two days ago.

(No reply.)

It's like--When you drive in your car and you're alone, just listening to the music, and: no one else is there? And a song comes on from ten years ago and for all you know when you get out of the car it will be ten years ago. Or ten years forward. Or two hours. Or . . . another day? Another time?

JUNE

So: what; you're a time traveler?

TEDDY

No. Yes. But . . . just in here:

(Points to his head then the rest of his body:)

Just in me. I was born and someday I'll die but everything in between just bounces around.

JUNE

Is it like the movie Ground Hog's Day? You find yourself reliving the same day over and over again?

TEDDY

No. No, I never relive the same day--or the same time of the same day. I live every moment once . . . but not consecutively.

JUNE

You have gaps.

TEDDY

No. . . . Yes . . . from your point of view but . . . only in days, or hours, because I haven't lived in them yet. My body, at this point, has been through them, but my . . . soul hasn't.

JUNE

You have a soul?

(Lights come up on JASON, seated, watching on. JUNE's attention is directed to him as the scene between she and TEDDY continues:)

TEDDY

Everybody has a soul.

JUNE

But your soul is not tied to your body? You ever wake up as somebody else?

TEDDY

No. I'm always me. I'm me. I'm not Sybil or three faces of Eve. It's always me. I can't believe I still have to go over this every time.

JUNE

(Her attention diverts totally back to Teddy:)

Every time? How many times do you think you've been here?

(While JUNE's attention has returned to the patient on hand, JASON's light fades out again.)

TEDDY

Forty. Fifty maybe.

JUNE

(Turning back to see not Jason but only the darkness of where he was--then as smoothly--in the same move--returning her full focus to Teddy:)

And we have the same conversation?

TEDDY

A bit. This is the worst though. This is obviously the first. What is today?

JUNE

July 21st, 2009.

TEDDY

I knew it.

JUNE

The date means something to you?

(No reply.)

How old are you?

TEDDY

I don't know. Maybe we can slice me open and count the rings.

JUNE

You were born . . . when?

TEDDY

My body is forty-two years old.

JUNE

And out of those forty-two years, how many years have you experienced so far?

TEDDY

Well put. I don't know. If you didn't have a way to track that; how old do you think you would be? I don't know how old my soul is.

JUNE

And again you refer to yourself as your "soul".

TEDDY

And? God gave us souls. We have souls. We are our souls.

JUNE

God gave you a soul . . . So, you believe in God?

TEDDY

Yes.

JUNE

A Christian God? A Jewish God . . . ?

TEDDY

There's one God.

JUNE

Which book did he write?

TEDDY

All of them.

JUNE

So, tell me, why would God have your soul live differently than everybody else?

TEDDY

I don't know, ask Him. I think it's kind of like, "what if you put a puppy in with a litter of kittens?" just to see what would happen.

JUNE

You're an experiment?

TEDDY

Maybe.

JUNE

And how does that make you feel? Being God's experiment?

(No reply.)

Why are you here?

TEDDY

You invited me.

JUNE

No. That I'm pretty sure I didn't.

TEDDY

You will. But that is months between us here. I just need to set the ground work so we can move forward.

JUNE

You said you don't think you have a lot of time, what did you mean by that?

TEDDY

I don't remember 2012.

JUNE

None of us do. It hasn't happened yet.

TEDDY

I don't remember August 2011. I don't remember anything after July.

JUNE

2011?

TEDDY

Yes.

JUNE

Why is that?

TEDDY

Because I think I die.

(Pause. JUNE stands as do three colleagues [STAFF] who remain at their own chairs outside the playing arena.)

JUNE

I'm taking the case.

DOCTOR 1

I advise against it.

JUNE

Well, this is my choice, isn't it?

DOCTOR 1

As long as he can pay, yes. But are you the right doctor for him?

JUNE

Why wouldn't I be?

DOCTOR 2

It doesn't say Stanford on your sheepskin.

DOCTOR 3

He may need medication. And we need you to focus on court litigations, not long term therapies.

JUNE

He chose me.

DOCTOR 2

He probably chose to eat Fruit loops this morning too or maybe Apple Jacks but I wouldn't recommend a daily diet of sugared cereal, would you?

JUNE

Well, this is my choice--

DOCTOR 3

Is it your choice or is it his? I'm confused.

JUNE

(Realizing:)

You want the case. I'm right--This is . . . This is getting published material, so you want the case.

DOCTOR 2

We want to help the patient.

JUNE

Well, this is my case. And his name is Theodore. This is my case.

DOCTOR 1

And you are still under review.

JUNE

Of course: I will continue to report everything to you. Let me run everything by you. But this is my case. Let me have this case I deserve it.

DOCTOR 3

No one "deserves" a case.

JUNE

Wrong word: shoot me. You know what I mean. If he needs medication--I'll ask for a consult. Let me have this.

(There is a silence amongst the group--which would be generally considered a condoning of June's intentions. So it's agreed.)

JUNE

(Light heatedly to alleviate the tension:)

And it wouldn't hurt to get published.

DOCTOR 2

No, it wouldn't indeed.

(The STAFF sit back down. JUNE again addresses the audience.)

JUNE

I didn't see Theodore again for three months. And then Tuesday--three days before Halloween--there he was.

TEDDY

No calendar.

JUNE

Where've you been?

TEDDY

You mean when. When've I been?

JUNE

Both.

TEDDY

What's today?

JUNE

Tuesday, October 27th.

(No reply. She searches in her desk to find a file.)

2009.

TEDDY

You really need to get a calendar.

JUNE

I'll do that.

(A beat; locating the file she opens it on her desk.)

So, what brings you here today?

TEDDY

My feet.

JUNE

This is a good day?

TEDDY

Shouldn't it be?

(Realizes:)

Congratulations. You're pregnant.

JUNE

We're not trying but thank you for playing along.

(A beat.)

How old is your soul now?

TEDDY

What?

JUNE

(Takes this in . . .)

How many times have we met now do you think?

TEDDY

. . . a handful; five or six maybe. How many times is this for you?

JUNE

Our third.

TEDDY

So we're both . . . relatively virgins at this.

JUNE

But you "know I'm pregnant".

TEDDY

Ahh, yes, very good. You can't exactly be virgin and be pregnant at the same time. Unless you're the mother Mary.

JUNE

I was reviewing your case the other day--cause I had nothing else to do--

TEDDY

I have a file.

JUNE

You have a file--and tapes. We tape every session

TEDDY

Why?

JUNE

Security. Insurance: that sort of thing. Nothing to be concerned about--

TEDDY

Can I see them?

JUNE

What?

TEDDY

The tapes.

JUNE

No. Nothing personal.

TEDDY

Of course it's personal--why wouldn't it be personal? Everything's--

JUNE

(Continues with her initial question:)

--So, are you still traveling thru time in and out of your own body?

TEDDY

(Chooses to follow suit:)

Always in my body but still travelling.

(JUNE makes a note in the file. There is a slightly awkward pause.)

TEDDY

You made a note.

JUNE

I made a note--yes--Do you know how to read and write?

TEDDY

Yes.

JUNE

Then: how did you learn how to read? Wouldn't that take time? Focused attention?

TEDDY

Have I always been like this? Yes. Writing and reading are more or less a matter of motor skills, it involves a different part of the brain.

JUNE

You remember your childhood?

TEDDY

Parts of it. Parts of it haven't happened yet. I am functional.

JUNE

How do you get by? Do you have a job?

TEDDY

No.

JUNE

Where do you get your money from?

TEDDY

Lottery tickets.

JUNE

You just visit the future pick the winning number, go back a few days and you're set for life?

TEDDY

Yes and no. I can't control what days I move from and to and I have to keep my limit within the boundaries that a drug store or gas station can pay off. I don't have time to wait for clarifications that can take weeks.

JUNE

Sounds complicated.

TEDDY

It beats the alternative.

JUNE

Which is?

(No reply.)

Wha'd you wanna be when you grew up?

TEDDY

It doesn't work that way.

JUNE

Why not?

TEDDY

Cuz half the time I am grown up and half the time I'm not. So I just deal with what I have.

JUNE

Play the cards you're dealt with.

TEDDY

More or less.

JUNE

You never had any dreams or aspirations?

(No reply.)

Ever want to fall in love? Raise a family? Walk on the moon?

TEDDY

First two: sometimes. Last one not so much.

JUNE

So why are you here?

TEDDY

First two.

JUNE

How do you see that happening with you jumping from time to time?

TEDDY

She'd have to be real understanding.

JUNE

So your love interest would be a "she"?

TEDDY

I'm not gay. I know it's the condition of the month to be gay but it doesn't play so well back thirty years ago which for all I know could be this afternoon.

JUNE

So you're saying being gay's a choice?

TEDDY

Everything's a choice.

JUNE

So why not choose when to be?

TEDDY

Some conditions just are. But you choose--as I see it--how you respond. You choose your actions. Someone gay can't choose who they're attracted to but they choose how they act on it.

(No reply.)

I'm not gay: sorry to disappoint; I got enough problems on my plate already.

JUNE

You think being gay's a problem?

TEDDY

No. It's just a more difficult lifestyle: I know that. Why are you putting words into my mouth--?

JUNE

Was anybody in your family gay?

TEDDY

What?: "Was I molested as a child?" No. Nobody I know is . . . You know, maybe you're just the wrong person for this.

JUNE

For what? I'm sorry: Tell me: why *are* you here--exactly?

TEDDY

I don't know; I have an appointment.

JUNE

(Makes a note in the file:)

Where do you live?

TEDDY

I don't know.

JUNE

I see. So, where did you wake up this morning?

(TEDDY shrugs. JUNE makes another note in the file.)

TEDDY

I wake up where I wake up. I live . . . where--ever I find myself. I live in the now. and I'm . . . tired. I see the rest of the world planning and building for futures and I just make it through the day. Don't get me wrong: there's a liberation in that but it's exhaustive. And as I said, if I don't do anything to change it I think it'll get the best of me.

JUNE

So, would you agree that you're here to merge yourself? To integrate your body and your soul to live--to exist simultaneously together?

TEDDY

Like the rest of the world?

JUNE

Yes, like the rest of us.

TEDDY

. . . I suppose. It sounds---

JUNE

That's the game plan: if I'm the right person for you that's what we're going to be aiming for: integration.

(There is a long pause as TEDDY considers her offer.)

TEDDY

I'll think about it.

JUNE

I need you to decide today.

TEDDY

Why?

JUNE

Because we've both already agreed we're early in our relationship here. Who knows when we'll meet again like this so . . . we have to agree today. Like you're buying a Lottery ticket--you have to cash it in the day you buy the numbers.

(As he considers this.)

I'll keep a calendar and I'll mark on it how many times you've been here and you can mark on it how many times you think we've met as well. By the end we'll have both have the same number. Consider it a game.

TEDDY

I . . . don't know.

JUNE

You can agree to it now and then down the road, if it's not working for you: you can always change your mind.

TEDDY

No, I can't.

JUNE

Why don't you think you can change your mind? Who told you you can't change your mind?

(No reply.)

Theodore?

(There is a long pause as TEDDY struggles.)

TEDDY

I've . . . I've only . . . been here . . . six times. You're asking too much.

JUNE

And for me this our third. So, the math says you have to come back. So you obviously come back. You have to agree because you've already agreed; am I getting this right?

(No reply.)

Do you want to agree?

TEDDY

I don't have much choice here, now do I?

(JUNE steps down away from the arena crossing in front of a man, JASON, seated downstage. JUNE picks up a drug store bag and carries it with her as she goes--)

JUNE

It's fascinating: that's what I love about it--of course, he's obviously delusional. But I've never read anything about it. We didn't study anything like this--
(--She continues her stride offstage.)

JASON

(Continuing to talk to her all the same:)

Whaddo you want for dinner?

JUNE (offstage)

--I don't know if there's ever been a case like this before. And, did I tell you, that they wanted to take it away from me.

JASON

Italian or Seafood?

JUNE (offstage)

No seafood. I couldn't handle seafood tonight.

JASON

Shrimp in Linguini with a pesto sauce? We can have it all.

JUNE (offstage)

You choose but nowhere that smells like the docks. Were you listening to what I was saying to you? Have you ever had a case where one of your clients couldn't tell one day from another like this?

JASON

I deal with behavioral problems in little kids, hon, not damaged psyche.

JUNE (offstage)

Still you have to admit it's fascinating. Everyone'll find it fascinating.

JASON

Are you wanting to help this boy or are you just on a treasure hunt?

JUNE (offstage)

Both. Why can't I have both? It's a great change from the normal stuff arou . . .

(Silence.)

JASON

June?

(A beat.)

June?

(No reply.)

JASON (Continued:)

Everything alright in there?

(No reply.)

You want to open the door or do you need me to-- . . .

(But JUNE steps out from the wings, holding a plastic stick in her hand. She is a little in shock, a little thrilled and a little scared. A beat.)

JUNE

I'm pregnant.

(A beat. They both just stare at each other.)

JASON

Olive Garden it is.

(JUNE crosses back into the arena to address TEDDY.)

JUNE

How long's it been now? Two weeks?

TEDDY

I just saw you yesterday.

JUNE

(She pulls out a file and a calendar from her desk. Pointing out the days since they're last appointment circled in red and numbered.)

My calendar's in order. If there's not a date circled: you weren't here.

TEDDY

I don't know what to say.

JUNE

You're responsible--

TEDDY

I'm not responsible for what already happened before I ever met you.

JUNE

(Pointing out the missing Tuesdays and Thursdays.)

Just account for your whereabouts on these dates.

TEDDY

I can't.

JUNE

Well, that seems a little convenient.

TEDDY

Are you pregnant?

JUNE

I'm newly married and sexually active. The odds are you'd eventually be right.

TEDDY

Congratulations.

(No reply.)

Do you want to know the due date.

JUNE

I have the due date, thank you very much. I think we'll just let nature take its course.

TEDDY

It could be therapeutic for me if I'm wrong.

JUNE

I don't see my patients once in a blue moon. You either be here and work the program or we won't be continuing.

(No reply.)

But you have to show up here at least two more times so I think we've already settled that matter. Or what was it you said our first meeting

(Checks her notes in his file.)

Back on Tuesday the 21st of July,

(Adding for his benefit:)

2009. "How many times do you think we've met?" "Forty of fifty maybe."

(Closes his file:)

You're here for the long haul, sir. So let's get to it.

(Marking the calendar:)

This is my fourth, how many times is this for you?

DOCTOR 2

You can't keep antagonizing him if you want him to open up.

JUNE

I need him to commit to showing up.

DOCTOR 2

Using his delusion to force his hand is only going to make him more defensive.

JUNE

Well, all I know is now he's keeping his appointments.

DOCTOR 3

He hasn't missed any?

JUNE

Not for three weeks.

DOCTOR 3

And his progress?

JUNE

This is going to take time; you know that.

DOCTOR 2

Which he says he doesn't have.

DOCTOR 3

And you? What is it you're going to do when you're out on maternity leave?
Have you thought that far ahead?

JUNE

I will bring one of you in at that point.

DOCTOR 1

I think one of us needs to be in now.

JUNE

He's not dangerous.

DOCTOR 2

He's a schizophrenic. They're all dangerous.

DOCTOR 3

You honestly don't know what his potential for danger is, do you?

JUNE

. . . He's shown no signs of violence in any manner.

DOCTOR 1

We need you to make three copies of his file--

JUNE

You can't take this case away from me.

DOCTOR 1

No one's taking anything *from* you. This is the practice's patient and the practice will decide how to move forward. Three copies of his file for us each to review separately.

(JUNE does not reply.)

DOCTOR 1

And I think one of us will be sitting in with you on his next appointment. You have other cases that are all yours. This case is unique and the practice will do what is best for the patient.

(Taking it down a beat:)

Obviously something happened in this man's past that he wants to deny. Probably in early childhood and in order to cope--in order to effectively deny it ever happening he just decided he wasn't there and that it hasn't happened yet.

JUNE

I'm aware something traumatic must have taken place.

DOCTOR 1

And when you get close to that: when he has to encounter what he knows has already happened or, god forbid, when he allows himself to live through it, as if it were really his yesterday--or tomorrow--or right in front of you--how dangerous do you know he's not going to be then?

JUNE

. . . There is no way to know how the patient will respond when--

DOCTOR 1

Exactly. Three copies. Have Nancy put them together this afternoon.

(No reply.)

Moving on then.

(Lights down on the STAFF. JUNE returns to TEDDY.)

JUNE

Theodore, I would like to introduce you to Mave.

(DOCTOR 3 [aka MAVIS BEAUCHAMP] file in hand, steps up and takes a seat in the arena.)

JUNE

Mavis Beauchamp this is Theodore Stavos.

TEDDY

I do something wrong?

JUNE

No. Mavis is watching me. You've done nothing wrong.

TEDDY

Wha'd you do?

DOCTOR 3 / MAVIS

Theodore, do you kn--

TEDDY

Call me Teddy.

MAVIS

Teddy. Teddy, do you know anyone else who lives like you do?

TEDDY

Acute time displacement?

MAVIS

Yes. With acute time displacement?

TEDDY

In acute time displacement. ATD.

MAVIS

Do you?

TEDDY

No. Do you?

MAVIS

No: that's why I'm here. I've never met anyone like you before either. I'm just here to observe.

TEDDY

(To June:)

You musta pissed somebody off.

JUNE

I'm going to be going on a leave--

TEDDY

(Hiding the panic:)

When?

JUNE

(Staying calm:)

I've already been and gone. You know this. To have my baby.

(TEDDY looks to the calendar.)

JUNE

Miss Beauchamp will be--may be sitting in for me while I'm out. You know this; it's already happened.

TEDDY

I'll take a vacation too.

MAVIS

Teddy, it doesn't work like that--

TEDDY

It already has.

(To Mavis:)

You can sit your ass there and make all the notes you want but I won't be meeting with you again.

JUNE

Theodore.

TEDDY

Are we done for today?

JUNE

We haven't even started--

TEDDY

I think we're done. Yeah, we're done.

(Gets up to leave:)

You don't pass me around like a fuckin' whore from bitch to bitch, no sir. I'm not your fucking novelty act. I'm not some freak of science for you to probe around and have your way with. I'll be back when . . . I damned well feel like it.

(He storms off.)

(A beat.)

MAVIS

Well that went well.

JASON

What did you expect?

JUNE

(Crosses to sit with JASON at a small table set for dinner.)
And she just sat there with that smug look on her face.

JASON

If you don't like them so much why don't you quit? Hang up your own shingle.

JUNE

We can't afford that. I'm not established. And they're right. Theodore is --

JASON

No names.

JUNE

Really?

JASON

Really.

JUNE

"The patient" is a patient of the practice.

JASON

I'm sure he'll follow you.

JUNE

I had to sign a non competitive clause. He couldn't follow me for six months. And anyways, how would he know where to meet me if I moved?

JASON

(Stops eating and looks at her briefly before continuing:)
You're not serious, are you? As if he's really from the future?

JUNE

Of . . . course not. But he believes it. If I tell him I'm moving he'll panic. And anyways I can't. I'm gonna be gone for three months as it is. Maybe I should keep it to six weeks.

JASON

Who's going to come first? Your family? Or your patients?

(No reply.)

It starts with the decisions you make now.

(JASON goes back to eating while JUNE stops eating and pulls slightly away from the table--still seated.)

JASON

(Expecting an adult response back--to confirm she's not responding like a child:)

Did I say something to upset you?

JUNE

No.

(Feeling nauseous:)

I think I'm . . . Where's the bathroom in this place?

(JASON, his mouth full of food, points offstage. JUNE ducks out quickly.)

(TEDDY steps up quietly to NANCY.)

TEDDY

Is she in today?

NANCY

No, she called in sick. Dr. Hammerstone is taking over for a-- . .

(But TEDDY has walked away.)

NANCY

(Looking off the way after him:)

Are you cancelling then? I still need to bill . . . someone.

(TEDDY crosses down from of the playing arena and sits on the front lip, as if it were a sidewalk edge. He sits alone a few moments watching the movements on the street before him. DOCTOR 2, [aka SAMUEL BRIGHTON] crosses from one end of the arena behind Teddy to the other and exits offstage. SAMUEL then continues back, with two hot dogs from a street vendor, in his hand.)

DOCTOR 2 / SAMUEL

(Addressing Teddy:)

Mr. . . . Stavos? Teddy Stavos?

TEDDY

Who wants to know?

SAMUEL

(Offering a hand:)

Sam. Sam Brighton. I work with Dr. Cessario.

TEDDY
(Shakes his hand.)

June?

SAMUEL
June, yes, June. How are you?

TEDDY
I'm OK. You?

SAMUEL
I'm OK too. Have you eaten?

(He offers Teddy a hot dog. TEDDY debates a moment then accepts the lunch. SAMUEL sits beside him. They both eat.)

TEDDY
You've heard a lot about me, hunh?

SAMUEL
No. Just seen you in the building. I know a little about your . . . but not everything. Just what I've heard in meetings.

TEDDY
You think I'm a nut?

SAMUEL
Why; do you think you're a nut?
(Keeping it light:)
I think we're here to help you. But you've missed several appointments.

TEDDY
No, I haven't. Has June come back?

SAMUEL
Not yet.

TEDDY
Then I haven't missed any appointments, have I?
(Pulls out money.)
But I guess I still owe you for the engagements I haven't been to, hunh?

SAMUEL
No. No, that's not why I'm . . . You do know it's not safe to walk around with that amount of money on your person?

TEDDY

(Shoving it back into his pocket:)

Not much choice. It was here when I woke up this morning.

SAMUEL

Tell me something.

TEDDY

Shoot.

SAMUEL

How old do you think you are? What's your earliest childhood memory?

TEDDY

I don't know. Climbing on a counter and stealing cookies from a jar. Maybe not in that order.

SAMUEL

(Takes this in quietly . . . debating his next question.)

I should've gotten something to drink. You want something to drink?

TEDDY

No, I'm fine.

SAMUEL

Can I ask you--

TEDDY

Am I paying for this visit?

SAMUEL

No, I told you.

TEDDY

Well, you did buy me a hot dog. Ask away: you wanna know who wins the Superbowl or the Academy Awards?

SAMUEL

Between the two: I'll take the Superbowl--but seriously: why're you here? Why here? Why her?

TEDDY

Excuse me?

SAMUEL

From what I understand your . . . condition is more or less a manufacturing problem. So why're you not seeing a nuerosurgeon or the like? Wha'do you want from therapy?

TEDDY

I want to be normal. Isn't that enough?

SAMUEL

In my experience there's no such thing.

TEDDY

I just wanna wake up in the morning and know it's the morning. I'm sorry if I don't wanna cure cancer or write the great American novel or any of a hundred other different things with my life. I've already done different. I am different. It's not all it's cracked up to be. So what's wrong if I just want to go to bed at night and know tomorrow will be tomorrow. Isn't that enough of a goal? Do I have to want to impact the world too?

SAMUEL

So why go to a novice doctor? Why not seek out someone with more of a track record?

TEDDY

Are you trying to poach me, Doctor?

SAMUEL

Not at all. You see, I have a theory.

TEDDY

Who doesn't?

SAMUEL

I think that somewhere--in your mind--you already know that you're already normal. That you are choosing to believe you're different because normal is boring and as much as you want to be normal you don't want to be boring. And you're seeing a young doctor who doesn't know any better to get her to agree with you. But it's just a theory.

TEDDY

What year is this?

SAMUEL

Year? When do you think it is?

TEDDY

Well, by looks of your suit I'd say one of the George Administrations--could be Clinton--but that car over there is clearly Barak Obama--and the tags are due in March 2010 as are most of tags on the block so I would venture to say we're looking at 2010 now--it's clearly winter but there're no Christmas Decorations up anywhere and so I'd say it's safe to say I wouldn't put my money on the North if I were you.

(TEDDY sets whatever is left of his hot dog down between them, stands up and takes his money out again, he peels off a bill and drops it next to SAMUEL:)

TEDDY

Katrina strikes back.

(And with that he walks off.)

(NANCY hands JUNE a folder as she (June) crosses past her along the outlying base of the arena.)

NANCY

These arrived while you were out.

JUNE

(Taking the folder.)

Much better, thank you for asking--What are these?

NANCY

School transcripts.

JUNE

(Scanning them briefly:)

You made copies for everyone?

NANCY

Not yet.

(The two women share a look.)

JUNE

Thank you very much.

(JUNE enters the arena where TEDDY is already seated.)

TEDDY

How're you feeling?

JUNE

(As she crosses to the desk and sets out the calendar, while still perusing the file Nancy gave her.)

Very well, thank you. And yourself?

TEDDY

I've had better.

JUNE

Oh, so tell me about your day.

TEDDY

What about you? The baby okay?

JUNE

(Very professionally:)

The baby's fine. I just need to keep to myself at an even pace. But . . . we are here about you.

TEDDY

And?

JUNE

And . . .

(Indicates the files in her hand:)

I received your grade school transcripts here.

TEDDY

Can I see them?

JUNE

No, you may not.

TEDDY

Anything sealed by the courts?

JUNE

Should there be?

TEDDY

I don't know. I haven't . . .

(He doesn't finish the sentence but just lets it trail off.)

JUNE

(At her desk.)

What do you recall that I might find interesting in here?

TEDDY

(Measuring his answer:)

Sporadic 'can't think of the word . . . uh . . . I guess fluctuating (but that's not it either--but that'll have to do) attendance, performance; bit of a loner; unpredictable at best.

JUNE

Grades?

TEDDY

Cs, Ds; As, Bs. Don't recall flunking anything but haven't gone through it all yet.

JUNE

Let's focus on what you *do* recall, shall we?

TEDDY

Read it out loud. I'd like to hear it too.

JUNE

I'll read it later.

(She puts the file away into the desk.)

Let's focus on your relationships, today. How'd you get along with the kids at school?

(No reply.)

How'd you get along with your family?--Just what you remember.

(No reply.)

(There is a long pause. June is willing to wait. TEDDY doesn't respond. JUNE takes the transcripts file from her desk and moves it into her purse. The pause continues. JUNE takes out a prewritten form from her desk and begins filling out generic paperwork. TEDDY sits quietly: two can play this game. JUNE takes her time the checking off boxes and making notes in response to the questions prethought out before her. Eventually she comes across a question she has to ask Teddy in order to complete her response.)

JUNE

Girlfriends?

TEDDY

Please.

JUNE

Do you like girls?

TEDDY

Yes. Haven't we already been through that?

JUNE

Have we been through that?

TEDDY

We've been through that; but it's kind of hard to keep a romance going when you don't know when you'll be tomorrow.

JUNE

Have you ever had sex?

TEDDY

Is that really one of your questions?

JUNE

That's really one of my questions.

TEDDY

Yes.

JUNE

Do you care to elaborate?

TEDDY

No.

(A beat.)

Why don't you get to something more interesting; such as: have you and I had sex?

JUNE

Have we?

TEDDY

You tell me.

JUNE

No.

TEDDY

(Thinks on it.)

Then no.

JUNE

(Makes a note.)

You have any brothers or sisters?

TEDDY

You have the transcripts.

JUNE

I thought I might hear something from you.

(A beat.)

TEDDY

Thought wrong.

(Pause.)

JUNE

Why are you here?

TEDDY

Why are you?

(A beat.)

JUNE

What's it like? What's it feel like--shifting in time? Does it only happen when you go to sleep? These questions aren't on the form.

TEDDY

(Debates whether to answer--then relinquishes to her:)

It feels like plunging in water.

JUNE

Hot water? Cold water?

TEDDY

Just water.

JUNE

So it can happen when you're awake.

TEDDY

(Offers her this:)

When I'm alone.

JUNE

You have to be alone?

TEDDY

So far.

JUNE

Why is that?

TEDDY

Whaddo you mean "why is that?"; it just is. Why are your eyes blue? They just are.

(Changes the subject:)

Your baby bump is starting to show too.

JUNE

Let's keep the focus on you.

TEDDY

The focus is on what I'm focusing on which makes the focus on me no matter what we talk about. It was just a baby bump.

JUNE

You shouldn't be looking at me in that way.

TEDDY

In what "way"? I mentioned your body's going through changes--I didn't say anything about your boobs getting bigger.

JUNE

That's entirely inappropriate.

TEDDY

They are by the way.

JUNE

Enough.

DOCTOR 1 / EDWARD HAMMERSTONE

I don't hear of any progress here. You have to stop coddling him and make him face his past.

MAVIS

Agreed. Where are you on your game plan?

JUNE

I'm still in investigations. There are still . . . trust issues, I'll admit.

MAVIS

You don't earn respect: you command it. You can't ask him to respect you or he never will.

SAMUEL

What if he's lying?

JUNE

He's not.

SAMUEL

Well, he's not traveling through time.

JUNE

Because the Saints beat the Colts?

SAMUEL

Lucky guess. It was hardly a definitive test. I think we've got a maligner here.

JUNE

What could he want to gain from--

SAMUEL

Attention.

EDWARD

Good point. Keep your eye out for it.

JUNE

Yes sir.

MAVIS

We're on your side here.

JASON

Why don't you just take the time off and relax.

JUNE

I can't. I'm close: I can feel it.

JASON

Your blood pressure is heading off the chart. A glass of wine.

JUNE

I can't have wine.

JASON

You need to get to bed, lie down and get your blood pressure back down.

JUNE

I'll be fine.

EDWARD

We need to see some real progress by the end of next month or we have to look at other options for this patient.

JUNE

If you put a match to him you'll scare him off again.

MAVIS

Then don't show him the match.

(Our last seated player, a WOMAN in her late thirties, approaching forty, confronts Nancy as she fills out the log book at the receptionist's desk:)

WOMAN

Theresa. With an H.

NANCY

Hello Theresa with an H. What can I do for you?

WOMAN / THERESA

You have my brother.

NANCY

Excuse me?

THERESA

You asked for his records. I live in the same small town we grew up in. I have friends in the school district. Where is he?

NANCY

This isn't an in-patient facility.

THERESA

You have an address on him? Contact information?

NANCY

Nothing I can share.

(Into her phone:)

Dr. Cessario?

EDWARD

(Stepping in:)

What's going on?

NANCY

Nothing, sir. I've got this under control.

(She looks to June as she too enters the scene.)

JUNE

Nancy?

(For the benefit of the others:)

Mrs. Parkins?

NANCY

(Making introductions:)

Theresa . . .

THERESA

Stavos. Stavos-Miller.

NANCY

Is here to see you.

JUNE

I've got this.

(To Theresa, offering to lead her away:)

Ms. Stavos?

THERESA

Stavos-Miller.

JUNE

Right this way.

(JUNE leads THERESA into the arena--as TEDDY steps off to take a vacant chair.)

JUNE

I've been meaning to meet with you for some time now. I've been working with Theodore since last summer.

THERESA

(Looking around as she takes a seat:)

Where is he?

JUNE

I can't honestly say. What can you tell me about Theodore?

THERESA

"Theodore"? Is that what he's calling himself now?

JUNE

How do you know him?

THERESA

Teddy. He's always been Teddy.

JUNE

What can you tell me about Teddy?

THERESA

(Stops her from going further with this line of thought:)

This isn't a social call. I've had no contact with him for three years and I'm not looking to reunite him with his childhood.

JUNE

Has he always been troubled?

THERESA

You buy his act?

JUNE

You think it's an act?

THERESA

I know it's an act.

SAMUEL

I told you.

EDWARD

You're not the first to fall for something like this.

TEDDY

She's wrong.

JASON

June?

THERESA

He convinced my husband that Netgro was the next big thing. It was going to be huge.

TEDDY

It still is.

THERESA

Enormous dividends. Because he saw it in the future. Netgro tanked. Fell off the map. We lost everything.

TEDDY

It's coming back.

JUNE

And Teddy? What did he lose?

EDWARD

Time to cut bait. You have other cases.

THERESA

Nothing. He invested nothing.

TEDDY

I had nothing to invest.

JASON

Breathe.

THERESA

(Continued:)

He lost nothing. For all I know he pocketed our money and that's what he's living off of.

TEDDY

You believe me, right?

JUNE

Where does he live?

THERESA

I don't know. I came here to find out.

TEDDY

"Split wood, I am there. Lift up a rock, you will find me there."

JUNE

Your parents? You do have the same parents?

TEDDY

They're both dead.

JUNE

How'd it happen?

TEDDY

They got old.

THERESA

I'm not here for this.

(Rises to leave.)

When you see him you tell him he is not welcome.

JUNE

What happened in second grade?

THERESA

He's not worth it.

JUNE

He's your brother.

(But THERESA is gone--continuing off stage and out of our site.)

EDWARD

The case is closed.

JUNE

We're not done. We're just getting to something.

EDWARD

You've been had. We've been had. It happens.

SAMUEL

He wasn't real.

JUNE

Wasn't real? Really? Is that why you tried to steal my patient--

What; who told you that? SAMUEL

He did. JUNE

Samuel-- MAVIS

When? SAMUEL

Yesterday. JUNE

Sam? EDWARD

June? What is it? JASON

No. Oh, my god, that was months ago and no, it was a misunderstanding on his part. I would never-- SAMUEL

Really? JUNE

Really: I was trying to protect you. SAMUEL

By stealing my client? JUNE

Alright: enough. June? It's time to move on. That's the firm's consensus. EDWARD

Do I get a vote? This isn't fair. JUNE

No it isn't. It's business. EDWARD

June? June? JASON

JUNE

I'm afraid this will be our last session.

TEDDY

No, it's not.

JUNE

I'm afraid so.

TEDDY

What did I do wrong?

JUNE

It's been decided that you're not really cooperating in your treatment.

EDWARD

Essentially sir, you just show up. There's been no progress. I'm sorry but that is the firm's finding. You might want to look into county.

TEDDY

I need this.

EDWARD

That's our standing.

JASON

June?

TEDDY

June?

JASON

June?

JUNE

I'm sorry, Theodore.

TEDDY

Sorry? Sorry? You almost lost your baby but you didn't, did you? You know why you didn't? You didn't because I told you you wouldn't. You knew--

EDWARD

Sir, I'm going to call security.

TEDDY

You can't do this to me. You can't.

EDWARD

You can save us all an ordeal--

TEDDY

Call 'em! What the hell do I care? But you know I'm right. You knew because I told you and that's why I need this because it may not look like it to you but I have made milestones here. Breakthroughs you wouldn't understand.

JUNE

Mrs. Parkins?

NANCY

Doctor?

TEDDY

One session. One session. One session . . . pleasssse.

EDWARD

We've made our decision.

JASON

June?

JUNE

I'm sorry, Theodore.

TEDDY

(Inward now:)

What will happen to me? Where will I go? When will I . . . ?

JUNE

I'm sorry.

(TEDDY pulls out his roll of money.)

EDWARD

Put your money away, sir.

(TEDDY looks to June, lost, empty. No reply. He walks away quietly. EDWARD lets the immediate moment pass before confiding:)

EDWARD

No one said it was going to be easy. John Mortimer. Third year of my residency. He had me convinced that for him the "world was flat" and we were bound to set sail off its edge at any moment. Turned out he had a bet going with his college buddies on just how long he could string me along. You're going to be okay.

JUNE

Yes, sir. Thank you sir.

JASON

Honey, are you alright?

TEDDY

(At the foot of the arena: writing a note on the back of a lottery ticket:)

When I was twelve . . . by your standards: I had a pet rabbit. I kept him with me twenty-four hours a day. I found that if I kept in contact with him, with anyone, I could keep from moving away. I could stay constant. You helped me stay constant. For a while at least. Thank you. Theodore.

(He places the note on the back of JUNE's chair, as if placing the note on a windshield wiper. He then walks off.)

JASON

Get home. Get your feet up. It's going to be alright. I'll be right there.

(Through Jason's line JUNE crosses to her chair, where she finds the note left by Teddy. She reads it and weighs its contents a moment.)

(TEDDY moves to set at a table with a Starbucks [or other chain store] coffee. JUNE enters to the scene.)

JUNE

(Starting it light:)

Say "hi" why don't you?

TEDDY

Hello?

JUNE

Th-- . . . Teddy?

TEDDY

I'm sorry. I'm not good with names.

JUNE

(Holding out the note:)

The address. This is where you buy your lottery tickets?

TEDDY

Do I know you?

JUNE

How old are you now?

(No reply.)

I know. It's okay. I know.

JASON

June? Why aren't you answering? Pick up your phone.

JUNE

May I sit down?

TEDDY

It's a free country.

(JUNE carefully moves to sit down with him.)

TEDDY

Are you alright?

JUNE

It's nothing. Rain coming. I always limp when it rains.

(Looks at his coffee:)

What're we having? I have to stick to tea.

(No reply. She offers her hand:)

June. June Cessario.

TEDDY

We know each other?

JUNE

We will.

(No reply.)

Tell me about . . . Tell me about yourself.

TEDDY

(Looking around:)

Did somebody put you up to this?

JUNE

Teddy Stavos. You grew up in Statesville, Oregon. Graduated in 1985. May I call you Theodore?

TEDDY

Alright, that's enough--you're starting to make me nervous.

JASON

June, dammit, where are you?

JUNE

(Digs into her purse and pulls out her card, writing her phone number on the back:)

This is my personal cell. I want you to have this with you. I want to . . .

TEDDY

(Continued:)

And you're obviously not in any condition to be out like this. I think you should leave.

(But JUNE has stopped listening. She is instead clutching the table. TEDDY watches here warily. The moment passes. JUNE breathes, looking back at TEDDY appreciatively but then the pain hits again.)

TEDDY

Lady? Are you alright?

JUNE

Oh my . . .

JASON

June?

TEDDY

Lady?

(All move swiftly, as TEDDY watches on: The cafe table is removed and JUNE is led back towards her desk which is transformed with sidebars and IV lines into a hospital bed. JASON at her side, JUNE is placed in a hospital gown and lain down on the bed, finally a hospital blanket lain over her. All step back to reveal JASON and JUNE.)

JASON
(Holding her hand.)

Get some sleep.

JUNE
I . . . wasn't supposed to lose her . . .

JASON
I know. It's not your fault.
(Not knowing what else to say.)
You need to sleep.

(Silence. JUNE closes her eyes. Pause. Slowly JASON lets go of her hand. After a moment JASON quietly steps away. Lights slightly dim as JUNE drifts off. TEDDY softly steps up to the sleeping JUNE. He moves in gently and brushes her cheek with the back of his hand comfortingly.)

TEDDY
(Quietly as he strokes her hair.)
I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

END ACT 1