

PILLS

Written by

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Log line: A serial killer finds connection with a planned victim when he has to take her to the hospital.

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INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

JASON, 27, kneels at his bathtub. One hand holds something at the bottom of the tub; the other saws away at that thing. He reads his phone on the edge of the tub while he works.

Jason's phone RINGS. He lifts his hands from the tub -- they are both covered in blood. He panics, looking for somewhere to wipe them, before answering the phone. A woman's VOICE is on the other end.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Hey, Jason, sorry, I just got here.

JASON

Oh, all right. I'll be late.

She waits, but he doesn't say anything.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Okay.

JASON

Yes. Okay, yeah. First date. Woo.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Jason and CARLY, 27, walk in awkward silence. Carly looks pale and sweaty. Jason hides a huge knife behind his back.

JASON

That was some good food. Oh, boy.

CARLY

Yep.

Jason points to a building in front of them.

JASON

This is me.

CARLY

Good night, then.

JASON

You should come up.

CARLY

No, no. I'm good.

JASON

You look terrible. You should sit down.

CARLY
What? No, I'm fine; I'm just --

Carly coughs, hard. Pretty soon she's on the ground. Jason watches, enrapt, until a MAN races up to them, phone out.

MAN
Don't worry! I'm calling nine-one-one!

JASON
Oh, yeah. Oh no!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Carly lies in a hospital bed, eyes closed, IV in her arm. Jason sits next to her, turning a scalpel in his hand. Carly blinks her eyes open and coughs. Jason hides the scalpel.

JASON
Hey.

CARLY
(weakly)
Oh. Hi.

Carly looks around her.

CARLY (CONT'D)
I must have had a peanut or something.

Carly tries to lift her arms. They go about an inch before flopping back down. Jason smirks.

JASON
They said the medicine thing would do that.

Carly sighs and closes her eyes, exhausted.

CARLY
You can go. I'm up now, so I'm all good.

Jason takes the scalpel back out and stands up.

JASON
I'll be gone soon.

He raises the scalpel over her. Carly's eyes stay closed.

CARLY

No, really. I don't know you, and I don't mean to say I didn't have a good time or anything, but I'm just not really sure--

The door opens. In walks a NURSE, 63, kind and chatty, with a tray of pills and cups of water.

NURSE

Howdy, people!

Carly opens her eyes. Jason jumps and pulls the scalpel back, but the Nurse sees it.

NURSE (CONT'D)

You found it!

She takes it from his hand.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Those kids in surgery would lose their heads if they weren't screwed on.

Jason pines for the scalpel as the Nurse pockets it.

NURSE (CONT'D)

You're sure lucky you've got a friend here, missy, because these pills aren't going to take themselves!

She hands the tray to Jason.

NURSE (CONT'D)

She's going to need two every half hour until they run out. One at a time; water with each one. Check that she swallows. Starting now. Got that, handsome?

Jason smiles shyly at "handsome."

NURSE (CONT'D)

All righty, then. Call me if you need anything.

The Nurse leaves the room. Jason and Carly are silent. Carly is annoyed. Jason looks at the tray of pills.

JASON

Do I, like, give these to you?

CARLY

I guess.

He holds a pill by her mouth. After a moment, she takes it.

JASON

Should -- Do you want water?

CARLY

I'm fine.

JASON

Did you swallow?

CARLY

Yes, I swallowed.

Silence. Jason looks around the room, impatient, like a kid.

JASON

Nothing sharp in here. You know?

CARLY

What?

JASON

Sharp. Like, pointy.

CARLY

I know what it means.

JASON

Yeah. No, of course. Uh... Do you read or anything?

CARLY

What?

JASON

What's your favorite book? Mine is *Atomic Habits*. But I like *Harry Potter* too.

CARLY

Okay.

JASON

What's yours?

CARLY

I don't know.

JASON
 Sorry, that was maybe a dumb
 question.

Carly looks over at him and relents a little.

CARLY
 Maybe *Mrs. Dalloway*.

JASON
 Oh. I don't think I've read that.

CARLY
 It's good.

JASON
 I bet I can download it on my
 phone. I read a lot in my spare
 time.

Jason pulls his phone out of his pocket. It is streaked with
 blood. He wipes it on his pants covertly and types. He clears
 his throat.

JASON (CONT'D)
 "Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy
 the flowers herself." Is this it?

CARLY
 Yeah.

JASON
 "For Lucy had her work cut out for
 her..."

SERIES OF SHOTS - TIME CUTS

- Jason reads off of his phone. Carly listens.
- Jason feeds Carly a pill, not stopping his reading.
- Jason reads some more. He stumbles over the words, and
 Carly laughs at him. He looks over and laughs a little at
 himself.
- Jason gives Carly another pill as he reads. There are very
 few pills left on the tray.

END SERIES OF SHOTS.

There are no pills left on the tray. Jason sniffles a little
 as he reads. Carly listens solemnly.

JASON (CONT'D)

"It is Clarissa, he said. For there she was."

Jason turns his phone off and wipes mist from his eyes. Carly pats him on the back, and he takes her hand.

CARLY

I cried too.

JASON

I'm not crying. It's just--

The door opens, and the Nurse walks in.

NURSE

How are we doing on pills?

Jason and Carly look at her, then at Carly's arm.

NURSE (CONT'D)

I see you've regained your feeling.
That's wonderful.

(to Jason)

Good job, honey.

CARLY

Is that it?

NURSE

We're going to want to keep you until the morning, just in case. Visitation hours are over for the night, so handsome's got to come with me.

JASON

Oh.

The Nurse takes the pill tray and accidentally drops a nail clipper on the table.

NURSE

You can come back first thing tomorrow. Pick her up if everything looks good.

The Nurse leaves. Jason picks up the clipper and flicks out the sharp file inside. He stares at it.

JASON

I should probably go. That's good about your arms and stuff.

CARLY
I know. Phew.

Jason stands up and walks towards the door. He turns around and looks past the clipper to Carly. He smiles. It's not creepy -- it's sincere. She smiles back.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Can you pick me up tomorrow?

His smile fades.

JASON
I don't think that's a good idea.

CARLY
Oh. Okay.

JASON
I, um... Never mind. Personal stuff. It was nice to meet you.

CARLY
Yeah. You too.

Jason places the nail clipper on a table by the door. The sharp part has been folded back in.

JASON
I think she dropped this.

CARLY
I'll tell her.

Jason leaves. Carly sighs and adjusts herself in the bed.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jason sits on the edge of his bathtub. The saw is folded up in paper towels next to him, and in front of him is an extremely full trash bag.

In his hands is a paper copy of *Mrs. Dalloway*. He reads intently.

After awhile, he looks up from the book to the bag. He smiles at it and goes back to reading.

FADE OUT.

THE END.