

MORNING

"Pilot"

by

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21 INT. GARY AND IRENE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

21

The spouses are cuddling under the covers.

IRENE

She's not going to wake up.

Gary reacts.

GARY

Well, her brain's still active.
We've seen the scans. Technically,
she's still with us. She just needs
to take that one step.

IRENE

She won't.

Gary is quiet.

IRENE (CONT'D)

It makes more sense to accept that
fact when it comes to our plans now.

GARY

Irene, is this about Brad going to
college? Don't you want him close
by?

IRENE

Of course, but it's not fair to make
our son's life plans all about us--

GARY

(overlapping)

I haven't been doing that--

IRENE

--or all about his sister who will
probably never wake up.

Piqued, Gary loosens his embrace and sits up.

GARY

I'm just--
(beat)

The doctors say she can tell when we
support her. Otherwise what good to
her are our visits and talks? Maybe
tomorrow will be the day.

IRENE

Or maybe you're afraid that admitting
she won't wake up will make that
come true. But it's already true.

GARY

No.

IRENE

It's been 11 years! And how many times have I had to increase that number during this same kind of talk? It was a probably, then a maybe, now a most likely not. This family can't stake its future on something that keeps not happening.

GARY

(feeble)

You don't know any more than I do.

Irene lays back, exhausted.

IRENE

I don't. Not in my head. But deep down...I know our daughter's gone. And so do you. We have to move on.

Gary glares off but then relents. He has no argument. He settles back down and squeezes Irene tightly, desperately.

22 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- MORNING

22

A NURSE hums her way through a routine check-up on Hilary.

HILARY

(weak)

Pretty song.

Startled, the nurse stares at her.

NURSE

It's Norah Jones.

HILARY

Hi.

A confused frown flickers across her face.

HILARY (CONT'D)

(testing her voice)

Hi. Hi. Hi.

The nurse melts into excitement.

23 INT. SCIENCE MUSEUM STAIRCASE -- MOMENTS LATER

23

Irene carries a box of brochures upstairs past VISITORS young and old. Her cell phone RINGS in her pants pocket. With her free hand, she takes it out, squints at the caller ID and answers.

IRENE
 (uneasy)
 Hello?

She listens. She freezes in shock on the landing. Visitors politely file past her.

24 INT. GARY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER 24

Gary, post-meeting, returns to his desk. On it are framed photos of Irene, teenage Brad and 11-year-old Hilary.

Noting his phone's flashing light, he punches in his voicemail code and listens on speaker phone.

IRENE (V.O./FILTER)
 It's me. It's Hilary.

He instantly turns off the speaker and grabs the receiver.

25 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 25

Before staring CLASSMATES, Brad approaches his TEACHER's desk, limply holding his cell phone.

TEACHER
 Hand it over.

BRAD
 May I be excused?

The teacher frowns curiously.

26 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- LATER 26

The Walshes, alongside mild-mannered DR. SEGAL, have reunited by Hilary's bed. Gary, in tears, can't stop hugging her, albeit carefully through the tubes. Irene's emotions play out across her dripping eyes as she holds Hilary's hand. Brad simply beams "wow" from his face.

Hilary stares in wonder--and a little fear--at the drama and especially her parents' aged faces. She flicks her eyes toward Brad. He smiles. She doesn't.

GARY
 You're back. You're back. You're back, you're back, you're back....

IRENE
 (to Hilary)
 How do you feel?

GARY
 Do you remember us? Can you talk?

IRENE
 (to Dr. Segal)
 You said she can talk?

DR. SEGAL
 There might be some effort on her
 part, but yes.

GARY
 (to Hilary)
 Do you remember us?

They wait expectantly. Hilary, still distracted, almost
 forgets to speak.

HILARY
 Yes.
 (looking at Brad)
 No. Who's that?

The adults chuckle. Brad plays along.

IRENE
 It's your brother, honey. He's all
 grown up now. Like you.

She clutches Hilary's hand tightly with both of her own.

IRENE (CONT'D)
 Say hi to your brother Brad.

Hilary frowns, then lights up.

HILARY
 DumBrad!

Brad gives an uncomfortable smile. Irene notices. She
 crosses behind Gary to pat her son's shoulder.

27 INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY -- MOMENTS LATER

27

Dr. Segal talks to the Walshes.

DR. SEGAL
 It'll take time for her to adjust.
 She was just a little girl the last
 time she was awake.

GARY
 (snippy)
 We know, Dr. Segal. We were there.

Dr. Segal takes his tone in stride. Gary sighs
 apologetically.

GARY (CONT'D)
 How do we get her back to normal?

DR. SEGAL

This is her normal now. She's an adult who's suffered head trauma, so she'll have to relearn basic motor skills and catch up with everyone her age intellectually and behaviorally.

GARY

How do we do that, then?

DR. SEGAL

She'll need intense physical and cognitive therapy at a rehab center. There's a good one we can recommend for patients like her.

IRENE

How long before she can come home?

DR. SEGAL

She can visit. You can take her anywhere. But it'll be up to her.

IRENE

But how long before she finishes the rehab?

DR. SEGAL

A few months to a year. We'll have to wait and see.

GARY

Sounds familiar.

Absorbing everything, the Walshes look at Hilary through her window.

28 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

28

Hilary sees her family watching from the lobby. She smiles. It feels weird--too many teeth. She tries again. Still weird. Again. Still.

Oh well. At least everyone looks happy because she does.

END OF EXCERPT