

# The Way Out

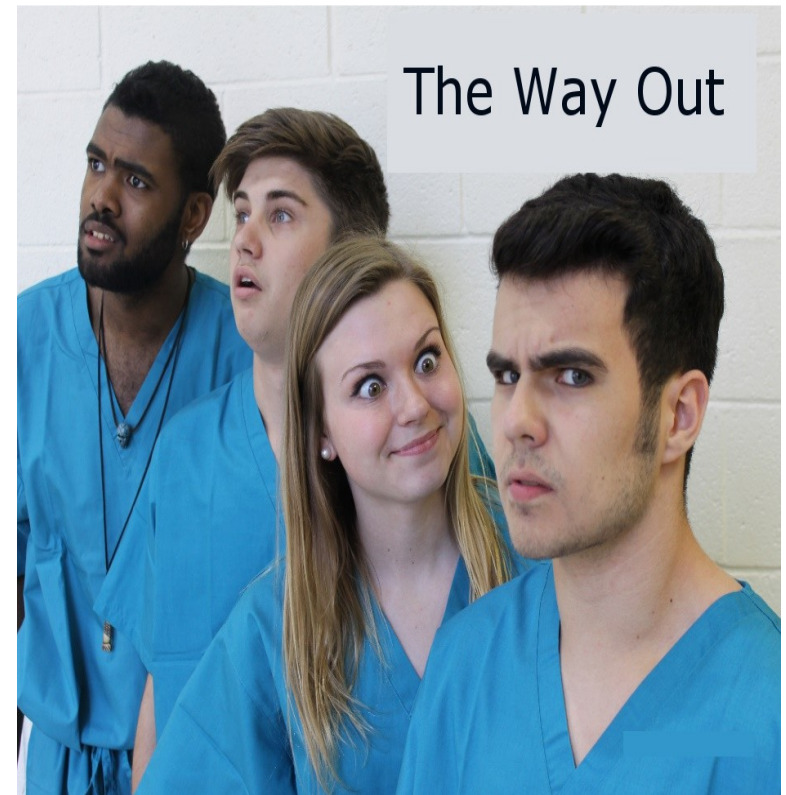
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**Cast List:**

**Steve:** Late Twenties/Early Thirties- Hero of the story, survivor of a massive brain injury, wrongly institutionalized.

**Aaron:** Thirties... a normal guy who wants to stay “in”

**Gavin:** Thinks he can speak to Salamanders and used to be a super hero. (was he?)

**Zeke:** A guy from the deep south who thinks he was abducted by aliens.

**Emily:** A truly psychotic (but friendly) heavily medicated and excessively violent patient.

**Bethany:** Multiple personality disorder.

**Jen:** The emo girl who is in because her family thinks she is suicidal.

**Genia:** Steve’s wife who is stealing his fortune.

**James:** Steve’s best friend, who is having an affair with Genia

**Dr. Goss:** The therapist at Westview, in on the plan to keep Steve institutionalized.

**Lauren Peters:** Nurse at Westview, also in on the conspiracy.

**Guard 1:** (Leslie) a militant all business security guard, who is in on the conspiracy.

**Guard 2:** (George) Also in... but also in love with Jen.

**Joe Cody:** Steve’s attorney and good friend.

**Christy:** Steve’s younger sister, A teenager.

**Carla:** Genia’s sister and former administrator at Westview.

**Dr. Brenda Petersen:** Carla’s less malevolent replacement.

Small roles include: Jennings, Judge, Cop, and waiter that can be doubled up, or not.

*This show was produced for a three night run at E.A. Laney High School in April of 2014. The original cast is as follows:*

**Steve:** Daniel Stinson

**Aaron:** Sam Weaver

**Zeke:** Austin Soles

**Gavin:** Zavier Taylor

**Jen:** Windy Daniels

**Bethany:** Sarah Dillon

**Emily:** Laura Broadley

**Genia:** Erin Bergmann

**James:** Roger Manypenny

**Dr. Goss:** Abby Brinks

**Lauren:** Constance Leedham

**Guard 1:** Makayla Jackson

**Guard 2:** Sean Perkins

**Carla:** Allie Simmons

**Brenda:** Phebe Crawshaw

**Cody:** J.T. Davis

**Christy:** Danielle Harris

**Judge:** Allie Simmons

**Jennings:** Danielle Harris

**Cop/Waiter:** Austin Wilson

**Author's note:** There are several “flashback scenes” in this piece that help explain the story. In our theater we had one area of the stage that where the flashbacks always took place and we had a sign that the actor’s changed that would tell you when that scene actually took place.

### **ACT ONE**

*(as the scene opens we are in a court room. At one desk is Steve and his attorney Joseph Cody and at the other is his wife Genia and her attorney Edward Jennings)*

**Judge:** And what are you seeking in the area of child support, Mrs. Jennings?

**Jennings:** Nothing your honor, but as testimony shows, the accounts of Mr. and Mrs. Fonvielle were emptied on May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

**Judge:** *(peering at his records)* And this happened during the time that fell between Mr. Fonvielle’s release from Tyler Memorial and his commitment to the Westview Residence?

**Jennings:** Yes, your honor.

**Judge:** *(deadpan)* I see. And what is it you are requesting of me, counsellor?

**Jennings:** *(with confidence)* My client is asking that Mr. Fonvielle be compelled to divulge the whereabouts of the couples shared savings.

**Steve:** *(obviously drugged...laughs)* Hahahahaha.....

**Judge:** Mr. Fonvielle, I have warned you about that.

**Jennings:** *(annoyed)* Two days before my client successfully committed Mr. Fonvielle to Westview, their account at Times and Masterson Holdings was emptied.

**Cody:** *(standing)* My client is not ready to divulge this information as he feels that the 1.6 million dollars left in their joint account is sufficient considering the position my client has been put in by his spouse.

**Genia:** *(erupting)* He is crazy! He can’t take care of himself and he’s... dangerous!!

**Steve:** *(again)* hahahaha....

**Judge:** *(curtly)* Mr. and Mrs. Fonvielle, as previously instructed you will allow your counsel to speak for you.

**Genia:** *(not satisfied)* But... your honor!

**Judge:** Mrs. Fonvielle!

*(she quiets)*

**Cody:** My client is appealing the statement of the therapists at Westview.

**Judge:** *(interrupting)* Mr. Cody... your client is already in contempt, and as he has absconded with more than 86 million dollars of the marital assets...

**Cody:** Most of which was earned by my client before he met Mrs. Fonvielle.

**Judge:** That is not the point. Since Mr. Fonvielle has been found to be mentally incapable of maintaining a residence, the marital assets automatically become the responsibility of his spouse.

**Steve:** *(mumbling)* That's mighty convenient...

**Judge:** *(obviously at his limit)* Do you have something you would like to say to me Mr. Fonvielle?

**Steve:** *(a mixture of haziness and anger)* This whole hearing has been a steaming pile of dog...

**Cody:** *(exasperated)* Steve...

**Judge:** Mr. Fonvielle, I have been patient with you, but if you use profanity in my courtroom one more time, you will spend the night in jail.

**Steve:** Ooooooohhhhh... I don't know if I could survive it!  
*(sarcastic)* I would hate to miss American idol tonight at Westview

and we are having green jello tonight...that's the best. *(with venom)*  
You know how much I freaking love green jello??

**Judge:** Mr. Fonvielle!

**Steve:** Just get it over with. You have already given her everything she wants... my daughter, my house, my life! You were the one that sent me to that god forsaken hell hole in the first place. You signed the papers...

**Judge:** That's it. Bailiff, remove Mr. Fonvielle from my courtroom. Maybe a night in jail will remind him of his manners.

*(The bailiff goes to remove Steve)*

**Steve:** *(shouting)* But I can tell you this... I will never, ever tell you where the money is! Even if I die in that roach infested...

**Judge:** Bailiff!

*(Bailiff forcibly removes Steve)*

**Steve:** *(Getting louder)* Someone call Westview and have them put my jello back in the fridge! If Jessica gets voted off tonight and I miss it you're gonna pay judge! *(gaining his composure, somewhat)* Joe... get me the hell out of here!

*(Steve is escorted out, Cody goes out with him)*

**Judge:** *(back to business)* The estate will be split, 70/30 as requested and all accounts will be unfrozen immediately.

**Jennings:** Thank you, your honor. About Custody....

**Judge:** His most recent evaluation does not show improvement. Since he is not up for re-evaluation for another six months, I am awarding full custody to Mrs. Fonvielle. This can be revisited if there comes a time when Mr. Fonvielle is re-introduced back into society.

**Genia:** (*angrily*) But what about the money?

**Judge:** Mrs. Fonvielle... exactly what would you have me do? It looks to me as if you are going to be the one that has to find out where your “mentally incompetent” husband stashed your assets. There is simply nothing else I can do.

*(Black Out)*

*(when the lights come back, we are in the office of Dr. Nancy Goss, lead therapist at Westview Residence)*

**Dr. Goss:** (*continuing the conversation*) Go ahead... I would like you to tell me about the accident again.

**Steve:** (*resigned*) Sure, doc. Well... it’s like I’ve told you. I never saw it coming. Apparently the kid ran the red light and I was blindsided. I woke up in the hospital more than a month later and even that is mostly hazy.

**Dr. Goss:** (*encouraging*) What are your first clear memories?

**Steve:** I dunno... probably my birthday. I remember James, Genia, Joe... Genia brought Adley with her, which was nice. Kristen was there, so was my dad.

**Dr. Goss:** Do you remember rehab?

**Steve:** Some of it. Apparently that’s normal. Every step was like a miracle to them. I was never supposed to talk, or walk, or be able to live on my own. (*angrily*) I *can* live on my own.

**Dr. Goss:** (*placating*) Of course Steve...

**Steve:** (*ticked*) Don’t “Of course Steve” me. I was fine once I left the hospital. Genia put me in here. She made that stuff up and I never should have...

**Dr. Goss:** (*interrupting*) No need to get riled up...

**Steve:** (*continuing*) That’s easy for you to say! You get to go home tonight! You don’t have to sit in that stupid room with that group of total...

**Dr. Goss:** (*patiently*) Steve, you have suffered a traumatic brain injury and the state has placed you...

**Steve:** Judge Corsen! Don’t get me started.

*(there is a knock at the door. Lauren, a staff nurse peeks her head in the door)*

**Lauren:** Excuse me Dr. Goss, it's just about lunch time and I need to give Mr. Fonvielle his meds beforehand. Are you going to be much longer?

**Steve:** *(Sarcastically)* Hours. Dr. Feelgood thinks she needs to put in overtime with me.

**Dr. Goss:** *(pleasantly)* No... that can be all for now. *(To Steve)* We will talk tomorrow, try and relax this evening.

**Steve:** Up yours. *(Steve exits)*

**Dr. Goss:** *(to Steve, who has left)* And be positive!

*(Steve's arm comes back into the room revealing an obscene gesture. Lauren rolls her eyes.)*

**Lauren:** *(waits a moment)* When you get a minute, I need to talk with you.

**Dr. Goss:** What is it?

**Lauren:** Come see me up front in about 10 minutes. We need to talk.

*(black out)*

*(The next scene starts in the Westview Residence common area, which has a television, sofa, chairs and other amenities. Steve is playing chess with Aaron Blackwell. Also in the common area are Zeke Patterson and Bethany Davis.)*

**Aaron:** *(making his move)* So, how did it go?

**Steve:** *(non-committal)* About the same. I feel like she's digging for something.

**Aaron:** Could be the money...

**Steve:** *(contemplating)* You think? Isn't she supposed to be a professional? Isn't there a law about that or something?

**Aaron:** Maybe. *(moves)* Check.

**Steve:** *(surprised)* What? Where? *(sees it)* Never mind... I see it.

**Aaron:** It would fit your theory wouldn't it?

**Steve:** My theory?

**Aaron:** Sure... your story is that your wife has set you up to get you here, and Carla helps to keep you in here because she is her sister.

*(Zeke has been walking by, hears this and interjects. Zeke is from the deep south.)*

**Zeke:** Whoa... did I just hear that right?

**Steve:** Hear what right?

**Zeke:** Did the Faker here just say that Carla Brinson is your freaking sister-in-law?

**Steve:** Yeah...

**Zeke:** So... let me get this straight... You don't think you should be here, but your effing sister-in-law is part of the reason you are in. Carla "Stick up her rump" Brinson is your sister in law. *(he laughs)*

**Steve:** *(agitated)* Could you be a little quieter?

**Zeke:** Why?? The only other person in here is Bethany and she ain't hearing anything.

**Bethany:** *(Doesn't even look at them...her angry persona)* I just heard everything.

**Zeke:** Yeah, but five minutes from now you're gonna be someone else and not remember any of this.

**Bethany:** Eat me.

**Zeke:** Yeah, yeah. *(to Steve)* So, you had an afternoon with Dr. Feelgood?

**Aaron:** You know that name is starting to stick.

**Steve:** *(remembering)* I called her that today.

**Zeke:** *(pleased)* Hell yeah. She's the type that would let something like that get her. How long were you in there for?

**Steve:** More than two hours?

**Zeke:** *(Impressed)* Dang son... what did you do?

**Steve:** Nothing. Trying to prove my case is all.

*(Zeke Laughs)*

**Steve:** What?

**Zeke:** You guys are too funny. I love you Steve, but you are as crazy as anyone in, and you think you belong out.

**Steve:** *(offended)* Screw you.

**Zeke:** No offense amigo... and Aaron you are the most sane person I have ever known and you spend all of your time convincing them to keep you in here.

**Aaron:** *(deadpan)* Watch it man... I'm disturbed. *(he gives a crazy look as Zeke chuckles and walks back to the sofa.)*

*(Nurse Lauren escorts a patient restrained with a straight jacket into the room and places her in a comfortable chair. She then goes about distributing medication. The patient is Emily Dale)*

**Aaron:** *(noticing Emily)* Hey look who's back!

**Emily:** *(Cheerily)* Hello gang!

**Steve:** What's up Emily, congrats on the freedom.

**Emily:** They can't legally keep me locked down to my bed forever!

**Lauren:** Is this really appropriate conversation?

*(The reaction from the room makes it obvious that Nurse Lauren is loathed by the residents)*

**Lauren:** *(handing pills to Emily)* Here take this.

**Emily:** I hate these... they make me tired. I don't want them.

**Lauren:** Do you want to go back to your room now?

**Emily:** *(pouty)* No.

**Lauren:** Open. *(Emily opens her mouth and Lauren pops pills in.)*

**Emily:** You wouldn't have to put them in my mouth if you'd take this jacket off.

**Lauren:** Last time you didn't have this jacket on, you knocked out the night watch guard and had to be tazed half a dozen times.

*(Lauren walks to Steve)*

**Lauren:** Here.

**Steve:** What's this blue one? I haven't taken this before.

**Lauren:** Don't worry about it.

**Steve:** *(adamant)* No...seriously, what's this blue one.?

**Zeke:** *(from the couch)* It's Viagra.

**Lauren:** It's not Viagra.

**Zeke:** *(taunting)* I bet it is!

**Lauren:** It's just a change in the prescription. It's nothing to worry about.

*(He takes his pills and she moves to Zeke)*

**Zeke:** Hey! I have a blue one too!

**Lauren:** *(angrily)* Just take your pills.

**Bethany:** *(straight faced)* If it lasts more than four hours you need to see a Doctor.

**Zeke:** *(playing along)* You hear that Nurse Goodbody? If it lasts for more than four hours, I'm gonna need somebody to come in and play "Doctor."

**Lauren:** The Doctor on duty right now is Dr. Goss.

**Zeke:** Dr. Feelgood? *(disgusted)* No thanks. If it lasts for four hours, I'll take a cold shower.

*(Lauren moves to Aaron who deftly dumps his pills in the trash can. Steve shakes his head. Her job finished, Lauren prepares to leave)*

**Aaron:** You know, if you have to be told that four hours is too long, you should probably be residing here at Westview.

**Steve:** No doubt.

*(Lauren leaves the room. As soon as she does Emily spits out her pills.)*



**Emily:** Bleh. I thought she would never leave.

**Steve:** You've had those in your mouth the whole time?

**Emily:** Yes. Nasty. I'm not taking those things though...they make me feel tired.

*(Zeke walks his pills to the trash can and dumps them in.)*

**Steve:** You too?

**Zeke:** Duh! I don't need to be walking around this place all excited. Especially if Feelgood is the call Doctor.

*(Two more patients, Gavin and Jen walk in. Jen has on dark make up. Gavin looks conspiratorial.)*

**Gavin:** Is she gone?

**Zeke:** Goodbody? Yeah she's gone. Why?

**Gavin:** Sometimes if she checks your room after giving pills out here, you can kinda slip through the cracks. I'm not in the mood for meds today.

**Jen:** *(she is usually fighting depression, obviously)* Mine make me happy... or try to. It doesn't work. I don't need more disappointment in my life.

**Steve:** Am I the only one here who actually takes their medication?

**Bethany:** *(all of the sudden she is energetic and "in your face")* Maybe you are the only crazy person here!

**Zeke:** Oh God... it's the touchy-feely chick. I hate this one.

*(during this, Bethany is hugging up on Gavin, who is in obvious distress.)*

**Bethany:** *(Seductive)* What's my big...manly...super hero up to today?

**Gavin:** Back off baby... last time we did this, it wasn't pretty.

*(They all look at him confused)*

**Gavin:** Ever make out with a split personality before?

**Aaron:** Uh... no...

**Gavin:** Everything was going pretty slick and then bang... she pops into that Nazi like woman and almost bites my lip off.

*(They all look horrified)*

**Bethany:** *(still trying to convince him)* But what are the odds of that happening again?

*(Lauren re-enters)*

**Lauren:** Ten minutes until the common room closes. *(She sees Gavin)* Oh there you are Gavin. Here take these.

**Gavin:** *(caught)* Crap. *(he looks at the pills)* What's this blue one?

**Bethany:** *(making lusty eye contact)* It's Viagra.

**Gavin:** *(To Lauren, handing back the pills)* No thanks.

**Lauren:** Take them.

**Gavin:** Fine. *(he acts like he takes them, but obviously puts them in his pocket.)*

**Lauren:** And you too, Jen. *(she hands pills to Jen)*

**Jen:** Sure thing, boss. *(She walks off with her pills)*

**Lauren:** You need to take those.

**Jen:** You know I need water for that. *(she exits)*

**Lauren:** Ok people, it's about time to clear out. *(The men walk out one hall, except for Bethany who follows Gavin, while Emily follows Jen. A few seconds pass and Gavin reappears with Bethany in tow, he passes her off to Lauren who leads her to the appropriate hall.)*

*(a few moments pass and Dr. Nancy Goss walks in)*

**Dr. Goss:** Sorry I took so long... what is it?

**Lauren:** *(Seriously)* Carla is out.

**Dr. Goss:** What do you mean Carla is out?

**Lauren:** I got a phone call an hour ago. Someone at corporate decided that her skills were needed at another residence in Cleveland. Her last day is tomorrow.

**Dr. Goss:** Does Genia know?

**Lauren:** I am sure she does by now... they are sisters you know.

**Dr. Goss:** *(looking around)* I wonder how much this is going to change things?

**Lauren:** I have no idea, but this can't be good. I can't afford to get caught.

**Dr. Goss:** Neither can I... at least until we get paid off. Have they named a replacement?

**Lauren:** A transfer... Carla didn't know from where yet.

**Dr. Goss:** I need to give her a call... I have to find out what is going on.

**Lauren:** If you find out anything new, let me know.

*(black out)*

*(This is the first of the "Flashback scenes" of this show. The placard reads "8 months ago" Genia meets her older sister Carla for lunch)*

**Genia:** *(Sitting down)* Sorry I am late. You know how it is...

**Carla:** *(sympathetic)* No...no...no... not at all. I can only imagine what you are still going through. How's Steve?

**Genia:** *(sheepishly)* He's good. The doctors are more and more amazed every day.

**Carla:** It really is a miracle isn't it.

**Genia:** *(not as happy as she should be)* Yes. Yes it is.

**Carla:** You ok, sis?

**Genia:** Yes... I'm fine.

*(the waiter walks in)*

**Waiter:** Can I take your order ma'am?

**Carla:** I'll take a crab cake sandwich, no dressing.

**Waiter:** What side?

**Carla:** A salad? No eggs, and lite ranch.

**Waiter:** Yes ma'am. *(To Genia)* and for you?

**Genia:** Is your bar open?

**Waiter:** I'm sorry... not until noon.

*(Carla shoots her a look)*

**Genia:** Then just bring me a blue moon.

**Waiter:** Yes ma'am. One blue moon. Would you like anything else?

**Genia:** No.

*(The waiter leaves)*

**Carla:** Genia... what's wrong?

**Genia:** It's nothing.

**Carla:** Please... you can talk to me.

**Genia:** *(hesitating)* It's just... it's Steve.

**Carla:** *(instantly concerned)* Oh my god... what's happened?

**Genia:** Oh...nothing bad. *(thinking)* Or nothing bad for him...

**Carla:** What do you mean?

**Genia:** Oh Carla... they think he is making a full recovery... they plan to release him at the end of the month! *(she starts crying)*

**Carla:** *(confused)* But...that's great, isn't it?

**Genia:** No!

**Carla:** Genia baby... I am a bit confused here. What's going on?

**Genia:** *(still crying)* I don't know where to start.

**Carla:** From the beginning...start from there.

**Genia:** Well... after the wreck, we were all so sure that Steve was going to die...

**Carla:** We were so scared.

**Genia:** I know! And then he beat it and then he was never supposed to wake up...or talk... or get out of bed.

**Carla:** All miracles.

**Genia:** And even then he was never supposed to be able to fully function as an adult again.

**Carla:** And he is beating that too...so why are you crying?

**Genia:** I don't want him back! I don't want him to come home!

**Carla:** But why?

**Genia:** *(really pouring it on)* Because I don't love him any more! I can't stand him. Even before the wreck... and now... there's Adley *(and she has an idea)* and... he hits me!

**Carla:** *(confused)* He hits you?

**Genia:** Yes! And I never want him to walk out of that hospital...

**Carla:** But Genia... I had no clue. I can't imagine Steve ever being violent in that way...

**Genia:** But he is!

**Carla:** Why don't you leave? Why don't you divorce him?

**Genia:** I would, but since he made most of his money before he met me and we have only been married two years I wouldn't get much of what he has.

**Carla:** So...this is about money.

**Genia:** Of course it is! Carla... I can't go back to being a waitress! And what about Adley? I couldn't afford to keep either of her two nannies on if I were single. Ms. Jennings told me that I would be lucky to get two million out of the divorce.

**Carla:** That's a lot of money.

**Genia:** But you can't live forever on that...not really live!

**Carla:** Genia...this sounds horrible...

**Genia:** I know... I know... I'm a horrible person. But I don't want Steve any more, but I don't want to be poor any more either. I got my hopes up that he really would never recover...that he would die, or need permanent care and that I would get to keep everything. *(she starts to cry again. Carla is at a loss)*

**Carla:** Genia...

**Genia:** That's why I need you.

*(The waiter brings their drinks in)*

**Waiter:** Here you go. Anything else?

**Carla:** No thanks.

**Waiter:** Your food will be out in just a minute.

*(he leaves)*

**Genia:** I need you sis.

**Carla:** Need me? For what?

**Genia:** How can I get him into Westview?

**Carla:** (*shocked*) Westview? You want him at Westview Residence?

**Genia:** Do you think I could?

**Carla:** He's not deranged... or mentally ill. You said his doctors are going to clear him soon.

**Genia:** But could I prove that he belongs in Westview?

**Carla:** I don't see how...

**Genia:** With your help I could...

**Carla:** Genia... No... I've been the Administrator there for the last four years... I need my job. You can't just put normal people in Westview.

**Genia:** But what if I could prove he's sick? That he needs Westview?

**Carla:** I don't see how that would be possible.... You would need other people to prove that. Nurses, therapists... If he's not sick I don't see how it could be done.

**Genia:** I do.

**Carla:** How?

**Genia:** (*confidently*) Money.

**Carla:** Genia...

**Genia:** No... hear me out. We have almost 90 million in our account right now...what if I could pay off the right people?

**Carla:** (*shocked*) This isn't right... you can't...

**Genia:** But I can! With your help I could find the right people... I could testify that Steve is abusive, or crazy or whatever I need to get him put away... that's why I need your help.

**Carla:** I...I... Can't do that.

**Genia:** I know how much you make. Sis... I could make it to where you could quit working there forever.

**Carla:** You want to buy me off as well?

**Genia:** (*unashamed*) Yes.

**Carla:** If we get caught...

**Genia:** We won't get caught!

**Carla:** I'm going to have to think about it... Genia, I could lose everything.

**Genia:** No... you could gain everything.

**Carla:** You would need nurses, a qualified therapist, you may even have to pay off a judge if that is possible.

**Genia:** Find the people Carla. I can pay. Just find me the right people.

*(Black out)*

*(Back in the common room, two guards are setting up for a meeting)*

**Guard 1:** What time will she be here in Northwing?

**Guard 2:** The email said 7:30.

**Guard 1:** What did you think about the staff meeting this morning?

*(Guard 2 shoots a look)*

**Guard 1:** Yeah... that's pretty much what I thought.

**Guard 2:** If it weren't for our current situation, I would be looking for a new job.

**Guard 1:** Yeah... me too.

*(Dr. Goss enters)*

**Guard 1:** *(congenially)* How ya' doing Nancy?

**Dr. Goss:** *(coldly)* It's Dr. Goss.

*(Dr. Goss walks over and sits in a chair, away from the guards)*

**Guard 2:** *(To guard 1)* that always gets me...

**Guard 1:** *(understanding)* I know...

**Guard 2:** Like she is above us... she's no better than we are, she went right along with...

**Guard 1:** Shhhhhh....

*(at this point Lauren enters with Emily and Bethany. Emily is still in her straight jacket.)*

**Bethany:** *(angry personality)* I don't want to go to a meeting.

**Lauren:** *(losing patience)* Everyone has to be here. All of North wing.

**Bethany:** Why? Why do I give a flying fart about who's in charge? I don't need to meet this prick.

**Emily:** *(still cheery)* It's gonna be kinda tough to set the impression I want to make in this jacket.

**Guard 1:** *(still remembering the last time)* Too bad.

**Emily:** Oh hi Leslie! You're not still sore about last week are you?

*(Guard 1 rolls up his sleeve to show that it is still bandaged)*

**Emily:** *(to herself)* Oops... guess she is.

*(Steve and Aaron enter)*

**Emily:** Hey guys!

**Dr. Goss:** Have a seat somewhere gentlemen.

**Steve:** *(continuing a conversation)* Anyways... if I can just get five minutes with this lady.

**Aaron:** You think she will hear you out?

**Steve:** She has to! Now that Carla is out of here, I have to be able to get another hearing!

**Aaron:** Here's to hoping...

*(Gavin, Jen and Zeke enter)*

**Emily:** The gang's all here!

*(Gavin goes to sit next to Bethany)*

**Bethany:** *(with venom)* Don't sit next to me!

**Gavin:** *(surprised)* Whoa... sorry. *(he gets up)*

**Bethany:** You are touching me. *(creepily)* No one touches me.

**Gavin:** *(looks at Zeke)* You see?

**Zeke:** Point taken.

*(Guard 2 walks over to Jen, he is obviously flirting)*

**Guard 2:** Hey Jen, how's your night going?

**Jen:** It sucks.

**Guard 2:** Sorry to hear that sweetie.

**Jen:** *(looks at him like he is an alien)* Don't call me sweetie.

**Guard 2:** Sorry. *(still trying)* You know... I have the late shift tonight here in North wing...

**Jen:** So?

**Guard 2:** I mean... I could keep the common room open late... at least for you I could... if you wanted to watch T.V. late or anything.

**Jen:** *(deadpan)* I would, but I have other things to do.

**Guard 2:** Maybe I can help.

**Jen:** I haven't thought them up yet, so , uh... no thanks.

*(Westview's new administrator, Brenda Peterson enters)*

**Brenda:** Hello everyone! Dr. Goss, are all of the patients here?

**Dr. Goss:** Yes ma'am. There are seven residents in North wing right now, with a maximum of twelve.

**Brenda:** *(looking at Emily who smiles back at her)* Why is this patient in a jacket?

**Lauren:** Well, Dr. Peterson, you see, every time we take it off recently...

**Guard 1:** She goes buck wild.

**Brenda:** (*piercing*) So we are having a hard time controlling our patients here in North wing?

**Guard 1:** No ma'am, but it's just she is...

**Guard 2:** (*completing her sentence*) resistant.

**Brenda:** Resistant?

(*Emily smiles*)

**Guard 1:** Yes. She gets it in her mind that she needs to leave.

**Emily:** Sometimes I just have things I want to do!

**Guard 1:** And when we try to stop her...

**Guard 2:** It really is hard to explain. She can't be stopped.

**Guard 1:** Tazers, pepper spray...none of it works.

**Brenda:** Mrs. Jackson?

**Lauren:** It is as they say. Our little Bethany is a handful.

**Brenda:** Well, things are going to have to change. Mrs. Jackson, please take the jacket off of... Emily is it?

**Emily:** Yes ma'am.

**Brenda:** If we take the jacket off of you for this meeting, you won't do anything extreme will you?

**Emily:** (*happily*) Of course not!

(*guard 1 carefully takes the jacket off of Emily*)

**Brenda:** It is nice to meet you Emily. So... as you know, my name is Dr. Brenda Peterson and I am replacing Carla Brinson as chief administrator of this facility. I am familiar with each of your files, but I would love for each of you to introduce yourselves if you don't mind.

(*Zeke stands up*)

**Zeke:** Well sure... I am Zeke Patterson and I am here only because they (*emphasizes "they"*) won't leave me alone.

**Brenda:** Ah, yes. Mr. Patterson. And the "They" you speak of are aliens correct?

**Zeke:** Correct. (*seriously*) They did horrible things to me. Unnatural things.

(*Guard 2 laughs*)

**Zeke:** Yeah, go ahead and laugh it up George. The stuff they found out from me... they are going to use that...they're coming back!

**Bethany:** (*pleasant*) My name is Bethany and I don't have any clue why I am here.

(*Dr. Goss whispers something to Brenda*)



**Brenda:** *(told who she was)* Nice to meet you Bethany.

**Bethany:** Nice to meet you to!

**Brenda:** *(looking at Gavin)* And you are?

**Gavin:** Gavin Henry and I shouldn't be here.

**Dr. Goss:** Gavin still believes he's a super hero.

**Gavin:** Dr. Feelgood here thinks she's a therapist, but I can do things no one else can do.

**Brenda:** *(playing along)* such as?

**Gavin:** I can talk to salamanders.

*(several of the staff and patients laugh)*

**Gavin:** Yeah, yeah. So damn funny isn't it.

**Zeke:** Why don't they talk back Gav? *(chuckles)*

**Gavin:** *(sullenly)* This is my life now... ridiculed by a man that claims he was butt diddled by aliens.

**Zeke:** Hey!

**Brenda:** Enough! *(to Steve)* And you?

**Steve:** I know this is going to sound redundant after the last two, but I shouldn't be here.

**Brenda:** You're Steve right? The Right side TBI from the car crash?

**Steve:** Yes, and I would really like to talk to you privately.

**Brenda:** There will be time for that later.

**Steve:** I would really like to... *(he starts to move towards her but is cut off by Guard 2)*

**Guard 2:** *(all business)* Sit down now, Steve.

*(Aaron goes to sit Steve back down, Guard 2 looks at him sternly)*

**Aaron:** Don't taze me bro.

**Brenda:** *(not noticing what is going on with Steve)* You're Jen Carter right?

**Jen:** Yes.

**Brenda:** Nothing else to say?

**Jen:** *(deadpan)* Nothing else to say.

**Brenda:** Ok then. And finally

**Aaron:** I'm Aaron.

**Brenda:** Ahhh...yes. Aaron Blackwell. I look forward to talking to you soon.

**Aaron:** You do? *(defensive)* Why?

**Brenda:** Oh, nothing. Just some conflicting reports in your file. You are due for another assessment.

*(Aaron just starts staring vacantly)*

**Brenda:** Mr. Blackwell?

*(Aaron just grunts, everyone has their attention on him)*

**Jen:** Ew. What's that smell?

**Zeke:** *(sitting next to Aaron...smells him and jumps up)* What the??

**Aaron:** *(relieved)* Ahhhhhh.....

**Lauren:** You've got to be kidding me.

**Aaron:** *(looking spaced out)* When you gotta go, you gotta go.

**Emily:** Preach on brother!

*(everyone is now giving Aaron plenty of space)*

**Brenda:** Wow. Ok, then... well it was nice meeting you all. Mrs. Jackson, please get Mr. Blackwell cleaned up.

*(Steve has his hand up)*

**Brenda:** You have a question Steve?

**Steve:** Will we get a chance to speak with you privately?

**Brenda:** Yes, you can set up an appointment with Mrs. Nichols downstairs. I will be happy to speak with each of you.

**Steve:** Well, if I could have just a second now...

**Dr. Goss:** *(interjecting herself)* That's enough Steve. Dr. Peterson has to make her rounds to the east wing now.

**Steve:** But...

*(the guards cut Steve off as Brenda leaves)*

**Guard 1:** Enough.

**Zeke:** Dang son... Crapped himself to make a point. That's dedication.

**Jen:** Disgusting.

*(Dr. Goss is escorting Bethany and Emily out)*

**Emily:** Can we go out for Ice Cream?

**Dr. Goss:** No.

**Emily:** I think we should go out for ice cream.

**Bethany:** Good idea!

**Emily:** Isn't it though? *(whispers)* If they forget to put my jacket back on, I'll bust us out of here after lights out.

*(Dr. Goss gives a signal to guard 1, who follows her out with the jacket.)*

*(Black out)*

*(the next day in the common room, Steve and Aaron are playing chess)*

**Aaron:** Check.

**Steve:** *(he moves)* There are many ways I should be able to prove that I don't belong here.

**Aaron:** *(moves)* Uh huh.

**Steve:** Seriously though. Hey pay attention!

**Aaron:** *(looks up from the board)* What?

**Steve:** This is my life here... I need you to focus.

*(Lauren starts to enter, sees them talking and backs up to listen, just out of visual range)*

**Aaron:** I'm with you pal. By the way they caught Emily again.

**Steve:** Yeah, I heard them dragging her down the hall. She was giving as good as she was getting though...if not, better.

**Aaron:** I heard she made it to the south court yard before they caught up to her.

**Steve:** Yeah... so anyway. I want to talk about my appointment with the new admin. I only have a day to prepare.

**Aaron:** *(Moves)* Check.

**Steve:** What? *(annoyed)* Forget the game for a sec. My appointment is right after dinner tomorrow. What should I say?

**Aaron:** What can you say that you haven't already said?

**Steve:** But that was to Carla... deaf ears man! I can convince this new lady.

**Aaron:** Just be yourself Steve. You can over plan these things.

**Steve:** I know, I know. I'm just fired up.

*(Lauren enters)*

**Lauren:** Time for lunch guys.

**Aaron:** *(he moves)* And... mate. Game over amigo. That makes three in a row, you are losing your touch.

**Steve:** This one hardly counts. I was distracted. *(they both go to leave)*

*(once they are gone, Lauren checks to make sure they are clear and pulls out her phone.)*

**Lauren:** Yes... Genia? This is Lauren Jackson at Westview. *(pause)* Yeah.. we have an issue. *(pause)* He already set up a face to face

with Dr. Peterson. *(Pause)* Tomorrow evening it seems. What can we do? *(pause)* Wow, I hadn't thought about that. Valium would work perfectly. *(pause)* yes, I can get some... we have two patients that take it in small doses. *(pause)* Yes... I can make sure it works, it's a really good idea Genia. Ok... I'll call as soon as I am off tonight. *(she hangs up)*

*(Blackout)*

*(Steve is in the common room with his best friends on the outside, James and Joe)*

**Cody:** I spoke to Judge Corsen yesterday in chambers and she is not budging on your timeless for another hearing.

**Steve:** *(depressed)* Six more months... and what about Adley?

**Cody:** She's not budging on that either. Genia is holding all the cards.

**James:** She's brought her by though right?

**Steve:** Once, for about half an hour.

**Cody:** Wow man, that sucks. Do you need me there for the meeting with the new admin?

**Steve:** No. I don't think having my lawyer there will help me look any more sane.

**James:** Yeah man, having Joe there would be a bad idea.

**Cody:** *(To Steve)* You sure amigo?

**Steve:** Yeah. It's good.

**Cody:** *(looking at his watch)* Ok then. Well, I have to be back at the courthouse in about an hour. Will you be able to call me after the meeting tonight?

**Steve:** *(sips his drink)* I should be able to, yes.

**Cody:** Ok. Talk to you then.

*(Cody leaves)*

**James:** So, you think you are going to be able to convince this chick?

**Steve:** God I hope so.

**James:** *(encouraging)* You can do it man. Look, I know you aren't crazy... I think ten minutes with any clear thinking person would prove that.

**Steve:** *(sincerely)* I appreciate that James. I'm getting butterflies thinking about it.

**James:** Dude, you got this. I have been your best friend for what... 12 years now? You survived the wreck and you will beat this.

**Steve:** *(finishing off his drink)* Thanks buddy, I needed to hear that. I just figured that as long as Carla was in the office I was permanently screwed... her transfer out of here was fate.

*(at this point the action on stage freezes and James gets up and walks down to the flashback stage. The placard reads "1 year ago". Gina is at her home when James comes by. James walks in)*

**James:** Knock knock...

**Genia:** I'm here James. Come on in.

**James:** Is everything okay? It sounded urgent on the phone.

**Genia:** *(calming)* No, no, no.... everything is fine. I just... needed to see you.

**James:** Is Steve ok?

**Genia:** Yeah, he's fine... I just wanted to see *(with meaning)* you.

**James:** Sure thing, what can I do for ya?

**Genia:** *(she goes up to him, putting her arms around him)* I think you know what I want...

*(she and James kiss)*

**James:** Now? I was about to go by the hospital...

**Genia:** *(seductive)* Steve can wait... I can't...

*(They kiss again)*

**James:** *(smiling at her)* Well... I guess I can spare half an hour or so.

**Genia:** *(teasing)* I thought you might.

**James:** Where's Adley?

**Genia:** With a sitter... now come here. We have things to do...

**James:** I like the sound of that...

**Genia:** Plus we need to start making plans...

**James:** Plans?

**Genia:** *(laughing)* for our future! Even if Steve wakes up he won't ever be the same, it's perfect!

**James:** It was meant to be babe *(he kisses her)* It's fate.

*(the flashback ends and James rejoins Steve in the common room)*

**James:** Well, I have to head back to work. What do you have on tap for the afternoon?

**Steve:** I'll probably check with Aaron for some last minute strategy.

**James:** He seems like a bright guy.

**Steve:** *(contemplative)* One of the smartest I have ever met... it's so weird that he wants to be in here.

**James:** To each his own pal. I'll talk to you tonight and probably come by tomorrow.

**Steve:** Ok.... Oh and James?

**James:** Yeah?

**Steve:** Thanks for everything.

**James:** Don't mention it.

*(Steve leaves, but James lingers. After a few seconds, Lauren comes in)*

**Lauren:** *(quickly)* did he drink it all?

**James:** *(looks in the cup)* Yeah... what did I just give him?

**Lauren:** It's just valium, but a pretty big dose. I plan to give him another about an hour before his meeting.

**James:** What's it going to do to him?

**Lauren:** Just make him very compliant and pretty incoherent... at least in the dosage he'll have in him.

**James:** This won't kill him though right?

**Lauren:** No, but it will make his meeting go like we need it to go.

**James:** Gotcha. Well, I need to get out of here.

**Lauren:** Tell Genia she owes me more for this one. This would cost me my job if I were caught.

**James:** We're making it worth your while.

**Lauren:** Yeah...if she can find where he put the money.

**James:** Just leave that to me.

*(black out)*

*(in the office of the administrator)*

**Lauren:** *(entering, leading an oddly staggering Steve into the room)*  
Knock knock!

**Brenda:** *(pleasantly)* Come in Nurse, this is Mr. Fonvielle correct?

**Steve:** *(having difficulty speaking)* Steve! My friends call me Steve. And you really need to be my friend.

**Lauren:** *(acting patient)* Have a seat here Steve *(indicates a chair)*

**Steve:** I don't want you calling me Steve. You're a dog turd. Everyone here hates you, including me.

**Brenda:** *(pulling Lauren aside)* The last time I spoke to Mr. Fonvielle he seemed a lot more...

**Lauren:** Coherent?

**Brenda:** Yes! What's wrong with him?

**Lauren:** *(the planned response)* We don't entirely know Dr. Petersen. His condition changes dramatically from day to day... sometimes from hour to hour.

**Steve:** *(from his seat)* That's a damn lie...

**Lauren:** Now Steve...

**Steve:** I hate you. *(to Brenda)* Now you, you are ok. Jeez, you have to be better than this cow. Anyways... I feel weird tonight.

**Lauren:** You feel weird a lot.

**Steve:** *(confused)* I do?

**Lauren:** Yes, you do..

**Steve:** *(pretty certain)* No... I'm pretty sure I don't.

**Brenda:** Nurse, you can leave us now.

**Lauren:** Are you sure you don't need me to stay?

**Brenda:** Thank you, but no. I prefer to do this alone.

**Lauren:** Yes ma'am.

**Brenda:** Please return to collect Mr. Fonvielle in 15 minutes.

*(black out)*

*(back in the common room, Steve and Aaron are in mid conversation. Zeke, Jen and Gavin are in the common room as well.)*

**Aaron:** You don't remember anything?

**Steve:** Nothing! I remember laying down on my bed for a few minutes... I was tired...

**Gavin:** They definitely came and picked you up. Nurse Goodbody was leading you down the hall.

**Steve:** Did I look alright?

**Gavin:** No man... you looked rough. All zombie-ish. Like her. *(indicates Jen)*

**Jen:** *(pissy)* Stick and stones, superman.

**Gavin:** Anyways... I said "Good luck Steve" and you mumbled something about Doritos.

**Steve:** Doritos?

**Gavin:** Yeah man. You weren't you.

**Aaron:** *(mysteriously)* The plot thickens.

**Zeke:** *(suddenly)* I have a thought.

**Aaron:** What's that?

**Zeke:** What if they drugged him?

**Gavin:** Who?

**Zeke:** Nurse Goodbody!

**Aaron:** Why would she do that?

**Steve:** *(skeptical)* That doesn't make sense.

**Zeke:** Could have been anybody!

**Steve:** Why would nurse Goodbody care?

**Zeke:** I don't know. Now don't you go and start laughing but when they (*he indicates the sky*) picked me up they drugged me up so I would talk.

**Jen:** Talk about what?

**Zeke:** I can't remember and (*very seriously*) that's what scares me.

(*Dr. Goss brings Emily, in her jacket to the common room.*)

**Dr. Goss:** (*exhausted*) I need a break. I'm parking your friend here.

(*Dr. Goss leaves*)

**Emily:** (*cheerily*) Hi guys!

**Zeke:** Hey Emily!

**Emily:** Whatcha talking about?

**Gavin:** Oh...nothing. Apparently the nurse drugged up Steve for his meeting with Carla.

**Jen:** Carla's gone.

**Gavin:** Oh, right... the new lady.

**Zeke:** Anyways, he can't remember it.

**Emily:** Because he was drugged? That's pretty awesome. They drug me all the time!

**Steve:** I wasn't drugged!

**Emily:** Did you see things?

**Steve:** I wasn't drugged!

**Aaron:** (*devil's advocate*) Are you sure about that?

**Steve:** No. But I doubt I was drugged.

**Jen:** (*matter of factly*) You don't remember it. You were drugged.

**Gavin:** You definitely went to the meeting.

**Steve:** This is too weird.

**Zeke:** (*seriously*) You don't know weird.

**Emily:** (*happily*) Oooooohhh! More alien stories!

**Aaron:** Ugh. No. (*to Steve*) So pal, what's next?

**Steve:** (*unsure*) I don't know. I need to think about this for a bit.

(*back in Genia's home, she and James are in bed*)

**James:** (*wistfully*) What would we ever do with that much money... more than 90 million dollars.

**Genia:** I want to travel. Steve hardly ever wanted to go anywhere. When we find it I am selling this house and leaving Tyler City.

**James:** Why not? You now have full custody of Adley, so he can't stop you.



**Genia:** Us.

**James:** Right...us.

**Genia:** But you know, I've been thinking.

**James:** (*joking*) uh oh.

**Genia:** No, seriously... Eventually Steve is going to convince someone... I don't know if we can actually keep him in there forever, especially since Carla got transferred upstate.

**James:** I Guess so. Good thing we will be gone by then.

**Genia:** Yeah... but if he gets out, then most of the money would be his. That would put a serious hitch in things.

**James:** (*nonchalantly*) We can cross that bridge when we get there.

**Genia:** (*angrily*) That's the type of attitude that gets you caught. I didn't put this all in motion to just cavalierly hope that things work out.

**James:** Jeez... calm down baby.

**Genia:** (*getting a head of steam*) No! You know the score. If he gets well the money is his... if he found out about us I... we.. would be back on the street. We can't let that happen.

**James:** (*half joking*) Wow Genia... what do you want me to do? Kill him?

**Genia:** (*seriously*) Do you think we could get away with it?

**James:** (*shocked*) No! I was joking! You aren't really thinking about killing him are you?

**Genia:** (*placatingly*) No... of course not. That would be stupid... we haven't found out where the money is yet.

**James:** He may never tell. He won't tell me.

**Genia:** Dr. Goss will get it out of him... but even if she doesn't the P.I. we hired will find it.

**James:** With as much as you are paying him, he better.

(*The doorbell rings. James gets up and immediately starts putting on his clothes*)

**James:** You expecting anyone?

**Genia:** (*putting on her robe*) No.

**James:** Well, I have to go by my building anyways, so I'll slip out the back.

(*they kiss*)

**Genia:** Ok babe... coming back later?

**James:** Sure thing. And babe... (*he grins*) Don't go and kill him before I get back)

**Genia:** (*laughing*) You suck all the fun out of things...

*(He leaves. Genia goes to answer the door and finds Christy Fonvielle, Steve's 16 year old sister at the door)*

**Genia:** *(warmly)* Oh hi, Christy!

**Christy:** *(brisk)* Hi Genia. Steve asked me to come by and get a couple of his books. He said you would know which ones.

**Genia:** *(Grabbing 2 books of the counter)* yes... here they are. How is he today?

**Christy:** *(disgusted)* You haven't seen him? Well... he's good enough I guess.

**Genia:** How did his meeting go?

**Christy:** He didn't say. Dad's supposed to go by tonight.

**Genia:** *(fake)* that's right! I will try to make it out as soon as I get done with my errands.

**Christy:** *(not caring)* Yeah... sure. Well... I got what I came for so I guess...

**Genia:** *(less friendly)* I'll see you later Christy.

**Christy:** Sure thing.

*(She leaves)*

*(black out)*

*(Flashback scene to the Home of Steve and Genia. Placard reads 4 months ago Steve and Christy are talking at the dining room table.)*

**Steve:** *(in mid conversation)* I'm glad that dad is easing up on you some, so your grades are really that good huh?

**Christy:** *(proudly)* 4<sup>th</sup> in my class now.

**Steve:** Out of how many?

**Christy:** 412... or somewhere around that. Depending on who's dropped out this week.

**Steve:** That's really great Chris.

**Christy:** *(Sensing something is wrong)* Something's bothering you.

**Steve:** That obvious huh?

**Christy:** *(playfully)* I've only known you my whole life...

**Steve:** Well... I asked you to drive over here for a reason.

**Christy:** *(seriously)* What's the matter?

**Steve:** I don't know... something's not right.

**Christy:** Is it your injury? Have you seen Dr. Moore?

**Steve:** No, no, no... It's not me. Something is not right here, at home.

**Christy:** With Genia?

**Steve:** Not just with her, but yeah...with her especially.

**Christy:** What do you mean?

**Steve:** I don't know... recently she has been acting like... it's hard to explain. But basically... Ok. This first. Do you think I am crazy?

**Christy:** (*confused*) No....

**Steve:** Or brain damaged? I mean... any more than I should be at this point I guess...

**Christy:** No.. the Doctors are all amazed...it's a full recovery right?

**Steve:** I thought so too... but recently Genia's been telling me that I'm doing things and acting in ways that I can't remember. James said some things too.

**Christy:** and you can't remember doing any of them?

**Steve:** No. Have you seen anything like that from me at all?

**Christy:** No! and I'm around you as much as James... almost as much as Genia.

**Steve:** (*relieved*) I know Chris. That's what I needed to hear. I am glad I haven't made a mistake.

**Christy:** A mistake?

**Steve:** (*with gravity*) I need you to listen carefully. I hope I am totally wrong but I have a feeling that something is about to happen to me.

**Christy:** (*nervous*) Steve!

**Steve:** Just listen! Maybe I'm totally blowing this out of proportion, but Genia says I'm not taking care of Adley...that I forget things...it's like she's angling for something. She keeps saying that I can't follow simple steps any more.

**Christy:** But that's a lie!

**Steve:** But she has James and Carla totally watching me like a hawk. Also... I checked her cell records and I think she's hired a lawyer.

**Christy:** A lawyer? For what?

**Steve:** I'm not sure yet.

**Christy:** What are you going to do?

**Steve:** Nothing yet. But I want you to take this. (*he hands her an envelope.*)

**Christy:** What is it?

**Steve:** Promise me that if something happens to me...

**Christy:** Like what??

**Steve:** Promise me that you will immediately take this to this to Joe. It's notarized and he will know what to do with it. Also (*he hands her another piece of paper*) I need you to keep this safe.

**Christy:** And what's this?

**Steve:** It's a numeric password, for an account in Grand Cayman.

**Christy:** For what?

**Steve:** If things go wrong I need you to keep that number safe. If the worst happens to me, I want you to go the West Isle bank as soon as you turn 18 and never come back here.

**Christy:** Steve... you're totally freaking me out.

**Steve:** Maybe it's all for nothing...but I just have this feeling. Promise me Chris.

**Christy:** I promise.

END OF ACT 1

## ACT II

*(in the common room, Joe and Steve discuss legal strategy. The other patients are doing various things around the room.)*

**Steve:** (*with finality*) So that's it...

**Cody:** I was in Judge Corsen's chambers for more than half an hour and she is just not going to give an inch.

**Steve:** And there is nothing left for us to do?

**Cody:** We can re-petition in six months...but really our best hope is that she loses re-election in November.

**Steve:** Is there any hope of that?

**Cody:** Not a lot. I can't remember the last time a sitting judge lost an election in this county.

**Steve:** This isn't justice. This isn't the way it's supposed to work.

**Cody:** I know, I know. I have never seen anything like it. I'm not just busting my butt on this one because you're my friend. I honestly know that you've been given a bad deal here.

**Steve:** At least she can't get the money.

**Cody:** (*laughing*) I shouldn't laugh about that. It's made Corsen a monster to deal with, but it was genius.

**Steve:** You know, you're just about the only one who hasn't asked me where the money is?

**Cody:** That's because I don't want to know! The less I know, the better off I'll be. The way I see it, it's your money and you had the right to do what you did with it.

**Steve:** Thanks Joe.

**Cody:** (*still amused*) Every time the money is brought up in court Genia gets as red as a tomato. I have a hard time keeping a straight

face. I don't know how you knew to dump it all when you did, but it was brilliant. You know what gets me though?

**Steve:** What?

**Cody:** You were put in here on the court order because you are supposedly not able to function in the real world... it specifically says that due to the accident that you are not able to put the steps together to solve basic problems... yet you saw all of this coming and took care of your finances. Isn't that a contradiction?

**Steve:** Yeah... I guess it is. *(a pause)* So what's next?

**Cody:** I have a couple of petitions to file, but I don't expect them to stick. I hate to say it, but we're really going to need a miracle. *(he gets up)*

**Steve:** *(sincerely)* Thanks for everything Joe.

**Cody:** *(They shake hands)* I wish I could do more. I feel like I've totally failed here.

**Steve:** The cards have been stacked against us. *(reassuringly)* We'll figure out something.

*(Cody leaves. There is a several second pause to make sure he is gone and then all of the other inhabitants, except for Bethany immediately get up and gather around Steve.)*

**Aaron:** *(happily)* So, we are on then?

**Steve:** *(looking around)* Everyone? I thought we agreed that I only needed Zeke and Emily?

**Aaron:** Hear me out. I think the others here could be useful. Plus, they all really want to help.

**Steve:** *(on the verge of panic)* But I didn't want... I don't know if I can...

**Zeke:** Breathe partner.

**Steve:** *(trying to explain)* Look guys, I appreciate this I really do... but if we get caught you will all get in trouble and I just don't know if in this case, more is better... you know?

**Gavin:** *(smiling)* Steve... you need us.

**Steve:** No I don't... I've thought this through and I know who I need.

**Jen:** What's so great about Zeke and Emily?

**Steve:** Zeke's a locksmith... The courtyard gate and the gate to the nature trail both have locks that he can pick for me.

**Zeke:** No sweat.

**Aaron:** And Emily knows every inch of this place.

**Emily:** *(happy to be a part of things)* And I don't mind being tazed, sprayed or baton'd. Been there, done that. *(dramatically)* This time, we make the city.

**Gavin:** The rest of us want in!

**Aaron:** Think about it... Jen here...

**Jen:** That creep has the hots for me.

**Steve:** What?

**Jen:** George. You know, the guard.

**Steve:** *(putting it together)* Ooohhhh... You're right. That could be useful.

**Aaron:** And even better, Jen's like me. She doesn't want to leave, so she can help me cover you.

**Jen:** *(shivering)* It's scary out there.

**Aaron:** We're pretty unified here Steve...

**Emily:** We are totally going to break you out of here.

*(Up until this point, Bethany has appeared as if she hasn't been paying attention... and then...)*

**Bethany:** Guards! Guards! Somebody come now! They are going to escape!

**Emily:** Hey!

**Zeke:** Shut up woman!

**Bethany:** Guards! Nurse! Anyone!

**Aaron:** *(rushing to get to her)* Gavin, help me get her..

**Gavin:** Oh god, I'm gonna get bit again.

**Aaron:** Quickly!

*(as they get to her, Aaron grabs one of her hands and slaps it between his hands smartly. She immediately snaps into a new personality... this one is like a five year old. Dr. Goss and both guards rush in.)*

**Dr. Goss:** *(breathless)* What's going on?

**Guard 1:** Who was yelling?

**Aaron:** *(calming)* It's nothing... Bethany had a spell and just started shouting.

**Dr. Goss:** is she okay? Bethany, come here please.

*(Bethany complies)*

**Dr. Goss:** (to Bethany) Is everything alright?

**Bethany:** *(airily)* You're pretty.

**Dr. Goss:** (to the guards) The child. The voice that shouted out a second ago was the militant.

**Guard 1:** The militant?

**Dr. Goss:** That's what I call the angry personality. You know it.

**Gavin:** The biter.

**Guard 2:** Ooohhhh... the biter.

**Dr. Goss:** What just happened?

**Steve:** I don't know... she just started shouting for you guys and just like that she snapped into this... *(he gestures to her)*

**Dr. Goss:** Well, we're not going to know what she was thinking unless she falls back into it again...even then there's no guarantee. I'm heading back to my office.

**Guard 1:** *(leaving as well)* You guys be cool. No more shouting.

**Zeke:** Sure thing boss.

**Guard 1:** *(to Emily)* Do you need your jacket?

**Emily:** *(indignant)* I didn't do anything!

**Guard 1:** I'm watching you. One more peep out of this room and you'll be back in it for a week.

*(Guard 1 leaves)*

**Emily:** *(angrily)* Butthole.

*(guard 2 approaches Jen)*

**Guard 2:** *(flirting)* How's it going?

**Jen:** *(disgusted)* It's not.

*(Aaron and Steve shoot her a look)*

**Jen:** *(changing tone)* I mean... uh... hi.

**Guard 2:** Hi yourself. *(he smiles)*

**Jen:** So, um... you on late tonight?

**Guard 2:** Here until 8. I'm doing the midshift today.

**Jen:** *(staring into his eyes)* That is so interesting.

**Guard 2:** *(flustered)* Uh, yeah... Um, they had a couple of green jellos left over after lunch... would you like to go down to the cafeteria and share a couple with me?

*(Jen looks desperately at the rest and they are all nodding and shaking their heads vigorously)*

**Jen:** *(despondently)* Yes. Yes I would.

**Guard 2:** *(Putting out his arm in escort)* This way please.

*(Jen and guard 2 leave, Jen is not happy)*

**Jen:** *(reenters)* I hate you all.

**Aaron:** That was close.

**Gavin:** *(thinking about the hand slap)* What in the hell did you just do?

**Aaron:** Who me?

**Gavin:** Yes you. The hand clap thing... what was that??

**Aaron:** Oh... that. That's something I figured out a few months ago.  
(to Bethany) Bethany? Come here dearie.

*(Bethany wanders over. Aaron repeats the hand process from before, each time she switches personality)*

**Bethany:** *(deep voice)* 'Sup. I need a smoke.

*(he does it again)*

**Bethany:** *(frantic)* You're going to escape!

**Aaron:** Oops... not that one. *(he does it again)*

**Zeke:** That one sucks!

**Bethany:** *(in espanol)* Hola muchachos, me llamo es Luisa y' yo tengo una...

*(He does it again. This time Bethany just glowers at him)*

**Gavin:** *(pushing his way in)* Let me try that. That could be damn useful.

**Bethany:** *(growling)* Don't touch me.

*(Gavin does the same thing Aaron did, but instead of changing personality Bethany uses her other hand to slap him.)*

**Gavin:** Ow. *(he grabs her again. Zeke laughs.)*

**Bethany:** Let go of me.

*(he does it again with the same result of being slapped. Aaron walks over and does what appears to be the same exact thing.)*

**Bethany:** *(quite pleasant and normal)* Hey guys... *(seeing Steve)* I'm totally on board Steve... we can do this.

**Gavin:** How did you...

**Aaron:** *(gesturing)* It's in the touch...

**Steve:** Ok then. Well guys, it looks like we have some plans to make.

**Aaron:** Excellent!

**Steve:** Let's start with what we're going to do about those guards...

*(They all concur as the lights go out.)*

*(Lights rise in the home of Genia and Steve Fonvielle. Lauren and Dr. Goss are present.)*

**Dr. Goss:** I can't imagine anything else to try. Simply put I have come at him a thousand different ways and he is simply not going to tell me anything about the money. I would try hypnotism but when I even broached it and how it could help his condition he was extremely dubious... and people who don't want to be hypnotized are extremely difficult subjects.

**James:** But you could try right?



