

13. INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Shots outside a building in a nice NYC neighborhood. Shots around the room. Brad sits nervously in leather chair. Dr. Frye (female, 40's) sits opposite. Brad looks nervously around the room.

BRAD

(noticing a diploma on the wall)

Wow! Columbia, huh? That's impressive. You do your undergrad there too?

DR. FRYE

No. I got my bachelors and masters from the University of Kentucky. I grew up in a small town near there.

BRAD

Louisville? I've been to the derby.

DR. FRYE

(smiling)

Ummm. Smaller than that. Maysville; it's on the Ohio River closer to Cincinnati.

BRAD

(keeps looking around)

DR. FRYE

So what brings you in today?

BRAD

Um. I don't know. Just going through some changes. Lots of new stuff, I guess. Retired recently. Started a new hobby that might turn into something more. Getting re-married in the fall.

DR. FRYE

(pointedly)

So your fiancé is making you come in?

BRAD

(laughs)

Actually, no. She doesn't even know I'm here. This isn't about her at all. I had a friend tell me it might be helpful.

DR. FRYE

A friend?

BRAD

Yeah. I told you I started a new hobby. It's stand up comedy. It's a lot of fun and people are actually starting to pay me to perform and be a part of projects. So Jason.. another comic... thought this might help keep my head on straight.

DR. FRYE

Do you feel like your head isn't on straight?

BRAD

I don't know. I feel ok; it's just new feelings I've not experienced before. I guess it's the jokes. The more I try to come up with funny stuff, the crazier I'm thinking. You look at stuff a little darker. I feel weird sometimes.

DR. FRYE

That's understandable.

BRAD

So what do I do?

DR. FRYE

What do you mean?

BRAD

I mean can you help me?

DR. FRYE

I'm sure we can accomplish a lot if you work at it.

(writes in her notebook)

You said your fiancé doesn't know you're here? Do you feel like she should know you're here?

BRAD

(looks stunned)

Why? Why would I tell her that? This doesn't have anything to do with her, does it?

DR. FRYE

I'm not sure. Does it have anything to do with her?

BRAD

No. I love her. We get along great. We have a great time together. I love her. There are no problems there.

DR. FRYE

Ok. That's fair.

(shifting gears)

Tell me about yourself more. Let's go back farther. Tell me about your childhood.

BRAD

It was fine. I grew up Upstate; out in the country near Woodstock. High school was amazing. I was first in my class; played a lot of sports. Went to college at Ithaca. It's a smaller college but I was able to play basketball there.

DR. FRYE

Your parents? How was that relationship?

BRAD

It was good. Nothing bad. Dad worked a lot. He's a big outdoors guy. Worked as a foreman at a mill. Mom didn't work when I was younger so that was ok. She started working when I was in high school.

DR. FRYE

So those relationships were good?

BRAD

Yeah. No issues.

DR. FRYE

Are they still together?

BRAD

No. They divorced when I was in college.

DR. FRYE

How did that affect you?

BRAD

What do you mean?

DR. FRYE

Were you sad? Did you withdraw? Did you change your behaviors; like did you drink or do drugs or have unhealthy relationships?

BRAD

(defiantly)

No! It was fine. They had just grown apart. There wasn't anything abnormal. They got a divorce; I was in college, already an adult; on my own. So it was fine.

(sternly)

Why does this even matter? I want to talk about the things I'm thinking now. I'm not carrying any ill feelings towards my mom and dad.

DR. FRYE

It's ok. We don't have to talk about it. We can explore other areas. Remember though, sometimes what we are dealing with in the immediate has its roots far in the past.

Brad stares out the window.

DR. FRYE (CONT'D)

Well, that's our time for today. It's good to get to know a little about you. Should we set our next session?

BRAD

Sure. That's fine.
(stares back out the window)

14. EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE - LATER

Brad sits at a table in with the same look as he had at the therapists. Lara walks up. Brad stands, kisses Lara. They sit.

LARA

Hey angel. How was your day?