

Chemo Dreams: A Duologue

Written by
Jonathan Light

Copyright (c) 2017

jon@fivefour.media
917-302-8435

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

As the light pushes through a break in the curtains, REGULAR JON - pale and skinny with a crew cut and a tube in his arm - opens his eyes.

His phone dings with an alert - he sits up and grabs it:

CU: "LAST DAY OF CHEMO!"

After a beat of realization, Regular Jon sits back in contemplation...

EXT. A LARGE, EMPTY CLEARING IN THE WOODS

...and instantly enters a dream.

Nothing but trees, grass and the sound of the wind...except for a SMALL TABLE at which TWO MEN sit. He moves closer.

Both men are him.

CHILL-STOIC-COLLECTED-JON (CSCJ) and NEUROTIC-WIMPY-UNHINGED-JON (NWUJ) sit across from each other.

As Regular Jon approaches, CSCJ starts up:

CSCJ
(collected and chill)
Well, this is it. We made it. Our last day of treatment.

NWUJ
(unhinged and neurotic)
Whoawhoawhoa...we don't know that for sure. It might not have worked! We won't know until the PET scan..

CSCJ
Yeah, but come on. The odds are in our favor. And Dr. G is completely confident, so that's a great sign.

NWUJ
Yeah, how does *HE* know? He's got so many patients, he's probably not even paying attention to us. Even HE said he's not thinking about us when he goes home at night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CSCJ

That's a *good* thing! It means he's not WORRIED. I mean, come on - it's been tough, but hasn't been *terrible*.

NWUJ

NOT TERRIBLE?? Dry heaving for 10 days every two weeks is not terrible? Having everything taste like vomit? Losing our hair?? Both big toenails falling off? I mean, even on the GOOD days we couldn't walk up a flight of stairs without feeling like we were climbing at altitude.

CSCJ

Look, yeah, if you dwell on all that minor shit, of course it's tough. But look at those other patients - look at what they're going through! We've had it really easy compared to most.

NWUJ

Well what about our FAMILY? It's been really hard on them. Poor Isaac is always clinging to us, and we can't even pick him up because these clots in our arms make picking him up feel like trying to move a dresser. Rachel has to do *everything*!

CSCJ

Isaac is friggin' two years old - even if he realizes what's going on he's instantly forgotten it because Pigmund Freud needs to be thrown into the crib. And Rachel has been a rock star this whole time. You can't presume to know how she's feeling.

NWUJ

Oh I know how she's feeling. She hates us and wishes we would just get the fuck *better* already so she can live a normal life.

CSCJ

She does not think that. And we are getting better. The end is here and we can start focusing on recovery, now that we won't have this poison being pumped into us every two weeks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NWUJ

But that's my *point!!* We won't know until the PET scan. And even if it's clear now...WHAT IF THIS SHIT COMES BACK?? Two months, a year, five years...what happens if it comes back THEN?? We now have the rest of our lives to think that that every twinge of back pain means we have cancer again. Congratulations!!

CSCJ

We can't think like that. We have to take it in chunks of time...remember? That's how we got through this. Just focus on getting through the next treatment, the next obstacle, then regroup and repeat. That's the way these things are handled. Like Joe Simpson, remember?

NWUJ

Yeah, yeah he crawled from rock to rock down a glacier on a broken leg. Good for him.

CSCJ

But that's how you do it. Don't think about what could happen down the road because ANYTHING could happen down the road. Just focus on the now, plan as best you can for what's in front of you, and take things as they come.

NWUJ lets this settle, unsatisfied. CSCJ sits back, content that he's won.

Then:

NWUJ

Well we BOTH know Dr. G is a Trump supporter.

CSCJ

Oh for fu--Come on.. Don't start that again. All he said was that people are overreacting, and his Trump support is more of a like, anti-Obamacare thing than anything. He's just conservative...it doesn't make him evil.

NWUJ

Of course it does! If you support Trump, you're evil! End of story!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CSCJ

He's not like that.

NWUJ

And what if Trump *does* change the laws and the insurance companies can deny us coverage and then we just die? What THEN??

CSCJ

Did you not just hear me? Yeah, Trump sucks but let's just *take things as they come* and fight what we can. He's already failed in most things he's tried, so...

NWUJ

Well what if he *succeeds*??

CSCJ

Dude. Our grandfather busted out of a concentration camp during the god-damn *Holocaust* for fuck's sake... Would you please keep things in perspective??

NWUJ

No, YOU keep things in perspective, OK? Not of all of us can be all chill, stoic and collected in the face of fucking cancer and Donald Trump. I'm scared shitless.

CSCJ

Well I'm scared too, but remember: there's nothing in life that it can't be made worse by something else, and there's nothing we're going through that hasn't already been experienced by someone else. That's the only thing you need to think about.

NWUJ

Whatever - you're really annoying, you know?

CSCJ

Well so are you. I'm just going to head over to that nice rock and try to be productive or something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

NWUJ

Fine. I'm going to crawl into this dark lair in my mind and let these negative thoughts overtake me until I'm an undulating ball of anxiety and depression.

CSCJ

Fine, you do that.

CSCJ walks past regular Jon, heading away from NWUJ.

Regular Jon looks from NWUJ's sunken, miserable eyes over to CSCJ's calm, peaceful ones and makes his move: He follows CSCJ.

For now, he's at peace and ready for whatever.

NWUJ

(receding in the
distance)

YOU'LL SEE!!! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!!

NWUJ's tirade fades away as Regular Jon and CSCJ walk further away.

INT.