

SHOULDER DREAMING

By

STEPHEN KARNAGHAN

23 DEVONSHIRE STREET,
CROYDON, NSW 2132
skarnaghan@outlook.com

FADE IN:

ACT ONE

1. INT. BARRY DREAMING. EARLY MORNING

Barry felt the head of his lover resting on his shoulder. Her soft hair seemed to form a cushion, an avenue for the love to regenerate his body. His love for her sending back colors to obliterate the sameness of life. As love swealed within his heart, he turned to look at the face. The mist of hope and happiness started to clear to nothing.

CUT TO:

2. INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM. LATER

Living room/kitchen/Barry's bedroom. Room cluttered with paintings, paint, clothes and furniture. Barry is in a sofa bed, he is agitated, kicking off his quilt angrily.

BARRY

It's that damn dream again. I never see the face (Dreamily)- brown hair with a touch of red. Her soft hair, allowing love to dart between us like ... I must make a note of that.

Quickly he dashed to his draft paper. Grabbing pencils, he started to create a plan with electricity darting between "something." Two lovers expressed as swirling colors.

BARRY

Like mist mingling to create life - linked by
soft brown and red hair. I can't see in this
place!

He screams rushing to open curtains only to be faced with
trees and branches, leaves and weeds fighting their way
through.

Close up of the paper and art plan being drawn. It is rough
and quick but colorful.

BARRY (OS)

The background could be trees and branches,
branches reaching out with strands of hair
cascading off-center leading the eyes in from the
left corner to sparks of electricity zapping
between pink mist, with traces of purple and light
blue mist with traces of purple to show connection
- to show there is hope and happiness. There must
be hope and happiness.

We cut to a wide shot of Barry folding his bed sheets and
quilts he put them away returning the room back to family
room.

Follow into the kitchen area where he takes out fruit juice, water and thickener he glanced at the time. There is next to nothing in the fridge it looks a little dirty.

There is a thud sound coming from his father's bedroom.

BARRY

Dad!

3. INT. FATHER'S BEDROOM. LATER

Rushing into his father's bedroom he found him floundering on the floor. Barry tries to calm him down and make him comfortable on the floor. The room is small with a lot of photos and boxes piled one on top of another.

BARRY

(Touch of panic.)

It's OK Dad. I'm here. Just relax on the floor.

You have had a bad fall.

Barry's father is still floundering on the floor trying to get up. Finally, he relaxes on the floor thanks to Barry's urging.

BARRY'S FATHER

(Feeling a little stupid)

You've had an idea for a painting. I wanted to see it. I'm just a silly old man Barry, just fit for a Nursing Home. You're wasting your time looking after me.

BARRY

(Trying to sound convincing)

Don't talk Dad. I'll just get you a drink. You don't realize Dad. I am satisfied with my life. I feel satisfied looking after you. Just rest.

4. LIVING ROOM. LATER

Barry grabs his phone, powers it up, dials emergency.

BARRY

Ambulance please ... (pause)... yes, my father has had a fall ... yes, I have made him comfortable on the floor ... yes, yes, thank you.

He heats up his father's drink in the microwave turning on the power before using and then turns it off again when heated. Taking the drink into his father's room, smiling.

5. BARRY'S FATHER'S ROOM. LATER

Barry's father looks very unwell, he seems to be drifting

into sleep. When he hears Barry, he wakes and acts well.

BARRY

You'll be OK Dad. I've just rung for an Ambulance
just in case.

Barry props his father up against the bed attentively.

Feeding him his drink carefully.

BARRY'S FATHER

You better tidy up a bit and get dressed Barry.
If people are coming ... you know?

BARRY

Yes, you are right, just finish off this drink
and then I'll ...

BARRY'S FATHER

I'll be happier if you got ready first.

BARRY

OK you are right; I'll get onto it right now.

Making his father comfortable with a pillow and covering
him. His father just looked at him as if he was someone
strange. Barry rushes back to the living room.

6. LIVING ROOM. LATER

Quickly he moved his paintings aside and stuffed things in cupboards. Dressing quickly, he started to worry about his father's future.

FADE OUT

7. MEDICS TAKE BARRY'S FATHER TO HOSPITAL. LATER

The medics knocking on the door. Barry opened the door to find a man and woman dressed as medics ready for anything.

BARRY

Oh, thank you for coming so promptly. My father has had a fall, he is through here.

8. BARRY'S FATHER'S ROOM. LATER

Barry led them into his father's bedroom to find him trying desperately to stand up.

BARRY'S FATHER

I'm OK, I'm OK. I don't need ...

The paramedic caught him as he started to fall. Efficiently they checked him over and put him on the stretcher. They wheel him into the main room nearly knocking over a painting. One medic is taking down details in a tablet, the

other looking at the painting.

MEDIC

We'll have to take him to the hospital for a check-up. How old is he?"

BARRY

Eighty-three.

MEDIC

And you look after him by yourself?

BARRY

Yes carer, son, cook and cleaner. I do everything. He is not that much trouble.

MEDIC 2

What about this magnificent painting?

BARRY

I just do a bit in my spare time.

MEDIC 2

You have definitely got something - very emotional.

BARRY

Thank you. I have packed a little bag.

MEDIC

OK, let's go.

FADE OUT

9. ARRIVING AT NURSHING HOME. LATE AFTERNOON

Barry follows the paramedics into the Nursing Home. A lady met them, beaming a smile that hoped would welcome them. Although overcast Barry kept his sunglasses on, unable to look her in the face. He worried about what she would think of him, unshaven and dressed rather shabbily in one of his old work suites. The Nursing Home Manager spoke to his father professionally, while his father just looked sadly at Barry.

BARRY'S FATHER

This is right for me, son. Looks a very nice place.

BARRY

Yes Dad, you should be able to make friends here.

MANAGER

Of course, he will. It is a very friendly, happy place. Now follow me I will show you to your room. It is very nice.

Barry followed behind his father, hoping that something would change his luck so he could take him home.

We view bodies of half alive aged residents scattered around dribbling, gazing at the procession with pity in their eyes.

Staff dashed around hoping to handle all the residents in their care, while it was obvious that they were fighting a losing battle. There is a scream in agony from afar, the Manager tried to smile away the issue.

10. INT. BARRY'S FATHER NURSING HOME ROOM. LATER

The room was for two occupants, both beds were empty.

MANAGER

Which bed do you want your father to take?

BARRY

This one has sun; I would rather he take this one. It is a nice room, isn't Dad?

FRANK

Very nice, who is in the other bed?

MANAGER

A gentleman who will be arriving shortly, he is University educated just like you Mr. Smith.

FRANK

Just call me Frank, I don't feel like a mister, if you know what I mean.

MANAGER

OK Frank, now if the medicos can just put you in bed, the physio will come later to work on you.
OK?

BARRY

Thank you for your help. You do everything so efficiently and easily.

A Nurse came in and put his father's name above his bed. She fussed him making him beam with pleasure. On hearing a commotion outside Barry poked his head out of the door.

11. INT. MAIN NURSING HOME AREA. LATER

Jennifer is following her father being wheeled through. She looks like a goddess. Her brown hair flowing with dazzling

streaks of red. This causes all residents and staff alike to stop and watch.

View from behind Barry. Her red dress seemed to flash bolts of lightning into Barry's soul. He could not believe that such beauty could exist.

Cut to Barry's face showing signs of love.

Close up of Jennifer. The purple buttons down the front of her dress grabbed his eyes, she was slender, lanky and tall. Having a frail look about her as she worried after her father. The purple chunky necklace around her pale soft looking neck bounced around.

12. INT. BARRY'S FATHER'S NURSING HOME ROOM.

Barry's heart began to skip a beat as the medicos headed towards his father's room. It was as if his dreams were coming true, the party was being brought to his father's room. Stepping back Barry smiled at her. Shyly she acknowledged him without speaking, looking around the room. The Manager took over, arranging for the old man to be put in bed, she tried her best to brighten up the atmosphere as the two old men tried to grasp the situation.

FRANK

My name is Frank, I just arrived.

STAN

I'm Stan. I had a fall; I feel really stupid.

FRANK

Me too. Never wanted to be a bother.

BARRY

You are never a bother.

Barry turns to the ravishing beauty.

I'm Barry. (Holding out his hand)

JENNIFER

Jennifer.

She shook Barry's hand looking at him. Suddenly she turns back to her father.

Dad, I will bring you some books for you so you won't be bored.

STAN

You can bring me that book about the Romantics, I have always wanted to read that.

FRANK

Barry, you can bring me mind as well, so Stan and I can talk.

STAN

What did you do?

FRANK

I taught Art History at the performance school.

STAN

I was a curator at the Art Gallery, mostly did paper work. It was the shock of my life after all the study to get the job to end up doing paper work.

BARRY

(To Jennifer)

Oh, I am so happy that they can talk about something, it worried me.

JENNIFER

Yes, I felt so guilty when my father fell, I should have anticipated that.

BARRY

I know how you feel, I was Dad's carer and look at him, stuck in a Nursing Home needing constant physio care.

JENNIFER

I am sure it wasn't your fault. I think I will go and get them some tea. The staff look very busy.

BARRY

I will look after them both. It is the same bed as yours at home, Dad. Do you want your head up?

FRANK

Yes please.

BARRY

How about you Stan?

STAN

Great, thanks.

Jennifer returned, her pale, frail face, broke into a smile at Barry,

JENNIFER

They will bring in lunch so we can see what type of food they get, does your father need blended?

BARRY

Yes, blended meals, with thickener in the drink.

I tried to make the meals interesting, but ..."

A staff member entered with the meals putting them down on the bedsides. Barry took off the lid and had a look,

BARRY

Smells OK Dad. I will feed you.

Jennifer fussed her father, who wanted to eat by himself, but wasn't able to.

JENNIFER

I am such a lousy cook, my mum was so good, I should have taken more notice, I was young and too busy.

BARRY

Same here. Dad, now open wide, I will feed you.

JENNIFER

My father sucks when he should eat and eat when

he should suck. If you know what I mean.

BARRY

Yes, yes, sometimes I get so frustrated and then feel guilty as hell.

JENNIFER

Do you look after him full time?

BARRY

Yes, I am hoping that he only needs to stay here a couple of weeks. If he has to stay longer, I will have to get a job. It's OK Dad I will be here every day. How about you Jennifer?

JENNIFER

I am able to work a couple of hours every day. Oh, I hope he doesn't have to stay here too long.

FRANK

Barry is an artist. Brilliant, should be in the Art Gallery. I have stopped him from being famous, he should have put me in here years ago.

BARRY

Come on Dad, don't exaggerate, it is just a hobby. Now eat up, does it taste good?

FRANK

I've had enough Barry, you have the rest, have you eaten today?

BARRY

I had something before going to the hospital.
(Turning to Jennifer.) The hospital was so busy; we definitely have an aging population problem.

JENNIFER

Yes, I took him to the private and even that was over flowing, something has to be done.

Barry tried to feed his father more, but he didn't want it, turning his face from side to side avoiding the spoon. Slightly depressed Barry thought about Jennifer taking her father to the private hospital, there was a huge gap in income between them. He keeps looking at Jennifer and his own clothes.

Barry spooned the remaining food into his mouth. His father's eyes were closing.

BARRY

Dad always falls asleep after a meal.

JENNIFER

Yes, it is time they both slept. I am starving,
how about we go out for something to eat. My
treat, we have been through so much?

BARRY

Oh, that would be nice but ...

JENNIFER

No buts about it, I want to know all about your
art. I run an art gallery; it is my passion.
Can't paint for peanuts myself, but love it.

BARRY

OK, that would be nice.

FADE OUT

13. INT. RESTAURANT. NIGHT

Jennifer waltzed him to a Restaurant in the next suburb.
They knew her and looked at Barry with interest. The room
was covered in abstract paintings, with sculptures hanging
down from the ceiling and faces looming out of walls, all
with broad smiles.

RESTAURANT OWNER

Jennifer, darling. So lovely to see you, a table for two.

JENNIFER

A table for two, please. Barry, I love this place.

Barry was transfixed by a small painting hidden on a corner.

BARRY

Oh! Jennifer, who painted this, it is magnificent, so vibrant and passionate.

RESTAURANT OWNER

Ah! You are an artist. I purchased that from Jennifer's gallery last month, it is my favorite. You have taste sir. Come this way, you two will have the table near the painting.

JENNIFER

It is by an old lady that used to live down the street from me. When she died her son didn't know

what to do with her paintings so I sold them all.
Sold them all in a week. So happy.

Barry didn't know what to do, the owner sat them down.

JENNIFER

Are you a vegan or anything?

BARRY

No, I eat anything. This is so wonderful, such an
atmosphere.

JENNIFER

It is. I love it here. I will order for you.

People started to flood in. Many people looked at him as he
was with Jennifer whom they all seemed to know. All the
patrons were dressed immaculately whilst he stood out
dressed in an old battered suite that he used to wear to
the office. Jennifer noticed his unease and held his hand.

JENNIFER

Don't worry, Barry. Everyone that comes here is
an art person. Now tell me about your painting.

BARRY

I tend to paint emotions stemming from life. You know something happens or a dream or something and I use that as a starting point. They are like collages but painted. I have to start throwing some out, my place is too full. I can't paint over them, sort of destroying the past. Dad always says that I paint a bit like Pop Art put through a symbolist blender. To me style does not matter too much, it is just the expression of the emotion.

Eating they talked masters, styles and current painters. He was fascinated by this beauty.

JENNIFER

... the owner just retired, suddenly. We were setting up an exhibition and he said, 'I've had enough, I'm going to retire. So, I bought it from him. I only open when Dad has his carer in.

BARRY

It must be hard knowing what to put in, you have to sell them after all.

JENNIFER

You get to know what people want. I have a few regulars who like to rotate their paintings. Some like happy, some like abstract, all different. But I get to know what people like. Now we must have a desert.

BARRY

Are you married or anything like that?

JENNIFER

No, I am a complex person, I feel deeply about things and have been far too busy looking after my father. He gave me everything when I was little, picked me up from school, delivered me here there and everywhere, he is my life.

(Pausing) I have not missed having a relationship. I just realized that, I am quite happy working and looking after him. But if he stays in the Nursing Home, what happens then?

BARRY

That's what I have been thinking. My whole life's routine has been in his needs. I still go and feed him; I can't see the staff having time.

JENNIFER

I always dreamed of making a difference, you know, making the world a better place.

BARRY

Now you can do it. Oh, well, I didn't mean that he won't get out.

JENNIFER

Barry, we have to be realistic. Our fathers are old. They might not get out.

BARRY

Yes, you are right.

His mind was swirling, dangerous thoughts of love and happiness were clouding his logic, she was far too good for him.

I better be going. This has been a wonderful dinner.

JENNIFER

Yes, it has, I usually blurt out ravings about how money is destroying art. Art can save the world from destruction, if only society lets it.

BARRY

So true.

Barry was fishing for his wallet, which he knew was empty.

JENNIFER

Don't worry, my treat. Barry, this has been wonderful.

BARRY

I will go early in the morning to make sure they are OK. I can't sleep or anything like that until I know that they are OK.

JENNIFER

Wonderful, I have a few things to do first thing then I will go."

Jennifer's phone rang, reluctantly she answered,

yes?

LILLY

Jennifer, it's me Lilly. How is your father?

JENNIFER

Lilly, he's in the Nursing Home for a while being

well looked after.

LILLY

That's good, you need a break. Will he be there long?

JENNIFER

I would think a couple of months, he had a fall and was unconscious for a while.

LILLY

You know what that means, don't you?

JENNIFER

I will have to go every day to feed him.

LILLY

Jennifer, Jennifer, you promised me.

JENNIFER

I did?

LILLY

Our European holiday.

There was a silence from Jennifer,

Jennifer are you still there, say something.

JENNIFER

Lilly, I am here. It's just that I can't ...

LILLY

You promised. Now you said that we will go on a holiday so you can have a break from your father and I can get over my divorce from shit head.

JENNIFER

But he has just got in the nursing home and ...

LILLY

Jennifer, you promised you would help me. Now I am not taking no for an answer. I will research it and ...

JENNIFER

I will be home in about an hour, let's talk then.

LILLY

OK. But you promised.

Jennifer hung up the phone and stared into the table before gazing up at Barry.

JENNIFER

OK, how are you getting home?

BARRY

Walking.

JENNIFER

No, I will drive you. Oh, my friend ... never mind,
let's go.

Jennifer paid with a flurry of her phone. She glided out of the restaurant with every one being dazzled by her dress, her beauty and her way of gliding. Barry could only feel sad that on meeting someone she will be whisked away from him. He thinks 'She is too rich for me. I have to stop thinking about her.'

14.INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM. LATE

Barry felt the head of his lover resting on his shoulder. Her soft hair seemed to form a cushion, an avenue for the love to regenerate his body. His love for her sending back colors to obliterate the sameness of life. As love swealed within his heart, he turned to look at the face. The mist of hope and happiness started to clear to nothing.

BARRY

Why can't I dream of something else? The
impossible dream.

Getting up he felt strange, his father's room empty, Barry
heard the mail come - dreading the outcome he went to
collect the three warning letters - pay or else.

FADE IN

14. EXT. SHOPPING CENTRE. MORNING

As he walked through the front doors of the Shopping
Centre, he saw Jennifer and Lilly talking. Well Lilly was
talking and Jennifer was sitting listening. They were
sitting in the most expensive, most exclusive and elegant
restaurant in the whole area. Barry looked at himself in
disgust and ran home to change.

15. INT. BARRY'S HOME. LATER

Dressed in smart casual, he was shaved and looked as decent
as he could. He picks up the warning letters and switches
off the electricity at the mains.

16. INT. NURSING HOME. LATER

When he reached the nursing home, the men had not been fed,
they were dirty and untidy. Barry happily set about solving
the issue.

BARRY

I'm glad that they let me in to help you. I feel much better if I know you are all right. Stan I'll do my father first then you. OK?

STAN

Thank you, Barry, I really appreciate it. The staff here are just flat out all the time. I don't know how they do it. Last night so many patients were just walking up and down looking for kids or cats or something.

BARRY

It is so sad, isn't it?

CUT TO JENNIFER ENTERING NURSING HOME

JENNIFER

Dad. You are shaven and look very smart.

STAN

Yes, Barry shaved me, dressed me and fed me.

JENNIFER

Barry, thank you, I am a bit late, Lilly wanted

to talk with me desperately.

BARRY

No problem, they were both very good, no complaining. They really need more staff here, although I don't mind doing it.

JENNIFER

These old people are not completely useless; all their experience and knowledge are going to waste. Society should not just lock them up. I will be taking Dad home as soon as I can.

BARRY

Same here, all their living experience is going to waste.

JENNIFER

How about we put them in the lounge with the others, it will be a bit more exciting than this room. I asked the nurse and she said it would be good for them.

BARRY

OK, I'll get some wheel chairs.

Barry waited until he saw his father chatting happily, Jennifer tended to fuss and annoy her father with too many clothes. Picking up the washing he had collected from them both he went to Jennifer.

I am taking their washing home. They use industrial washes here and it will damage the clothes.

JENNIFER

I'll drive you. Yes, I didn't think of that. Dad is very fussy about what he wears.

17. EXT. IN JENNIFER'S CAR. LATER

They drove home to his place. Jennifer wanted to change the world. She was infectious in her passion. Barry was very uneasy in the luxury car, it made him feel as if he was a failure. He talked and smiled because on the other hand he enjoyed being seen with her.

Arriving Barry started to worry about her reaction to his tiny apartment which once was a garage. Opening the door, he switched on the lights.

18. INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM. LATER

BARRY

Come in, come in.

He stood back and let her enter. Not thinking he headed for the laundry only to hurry to switch on the electricity.

Barry is very nervous nearly tripping over furniture.

Jennifer pretends not to notice but immediately searched for and found one of Barry's paintings.

JENNIFER

Is this one of your paintings?

BARRY

Yes, it is a bit dark in here, but the colors are ...

JENNIFER

Barry, this is amazing. Who do you show them to?

BARRY

Nobody, I have a problem I am running out of space.

JENNIFER

Can I take it outside to look at it in the light?

BARRY

Of course, do you want coffee?

JENNIFER

Yes, please just white, no sugar.

BARRY

Coming up.

Barry excitedly went off to make the coffee, he had dreamt of someone liking his paintings. She had leaned the painting on fence next door and was standing back looking at it. Taking out her phone she took a photo of it before bringing it back inside.

JENNIFER

(Very enthusiastic)

Barry, I can't believe that you hide your paintings away, can I see more.

BARRY

Sure, they are all piled up beside the cupboard there.

Taking their coffee to the table he opened the curtains which didn't alter the light much but looked a little better.

JENNIFER

My God! Barry that is your father ... you have captured his personality.

BARRY

I find portraits harder than my dreamscapes. I need to block out my feelings and absorb theirs or something. People do it as a living, it would be too stressful for me.

Sitting down at the table she looked at him.

JENNIFER

I am shocked, I am a professional, you could sell some of these.

BARRY

Thank you, thank you, I ...

Barry's heart sank as her phone rang loudly, mocking him.

JENNIFER

Yes, (sheepishly) Lilly yes.

LILLY

Jennifer, you will never guess what has happened.

I got a call from the travel agents, we are on our way to Paris, someone cancelled and I purchased them straight away. Isn't that wonderful (long pause) ... Jennifer are you there. Say something.

JENNIFER

Lilly, that is wonderful, a holiday, that is just what I need.

Her face told a different story.

LILLY

Don't sound so enthusiastic. Your father will be fine.

JENNIFER

Yes, you are right. Everything will be fine.

She sipped her coffee waiting.

LILLY

Jennifer, you don't understand, we are going the day after tomorrow at seven o'clock in the morning. I have done your visa, your ticket, now you will have to go and pack. Now Jennifer, I

know some very special people in Paris, very special so you will have to take some gowns suitable for a high-class ball ...

JENNIFER

Lilly, you know I am not very ...

LILLY

No more complaints, you promised to give me the best holiday ever, so now is your chance to honor your promise.

JENNIFER

Yes, I will Lilly. You have been through so much. I will give you the holiday you promised.

LILLY

So, when you have packed tell me and I will come over and check. OK?

JENNIFER

That will be good Lilly, I really never know what to pack. I will call you.

Jennifer hung up and put the phone in her bag. Took a sip of her coffee.

I am sorry Barry; I have to go and pack. I promised my friend that I would go on holiday with her - I will have to go and pack.

BARRY

Don't worry about your father, I will look after him. I am so happy that Dad has someone that he can talk to.

JENNIFER

Thank you, Barry, thank you. Yes, it is good they can talk. (Her eyes were dragged to the floor.) I will have to go and pack.

Barry tried to lighten up the situation.

BARRY

Be happy, I am sure your father will want you to have a holiday. It is a great idea.

JENNIFER

I suppose you are right.

BARRY

Just imagine the art in Paris.

JENNIFER

Oh! Maybe I will have to research what galleries are open.

BARRY

You can send me some snaps so I know what is going on.

JENNIFER

I will.

FADE OUT

Not knowing how long he stood behind the closed door, he finally went off to do the washing. His mind blank, emptied of all hope.

BARRY

Let's hope it doesn't rain.

He commented to the washing machine.

I don't think that there is any chance that ...

Not able to finish the sentence he waited for the washing to finish; each minute seemed like an hour - he had no enthusiasm for anything. He is nearly crying.

FADE IN

19. INT. NURSING HOME. LATER

It was obvious that both men knew that Jennifer had gone on holiday.

FRANK

Barry, you should go out, go to the Art Gallery or something, we are being looked after here.

BARRY

Dad, have you been fed, I see the food out there on the trays?

FRANK

Well, no, but they ...

BARRY

Don't worry, I will feed you both. Have you had a wash today?

Both men were silent. Barry busied himself, got them both washed, dressed and fed. There was an eerie silence amongst the men. The day was difficult.

CUT TO

20. INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM. LATER

Barry felt guilty at home.

BARRY

I have upset my father and Stan. Tomorrow I will go back to normal, so stupid dreaming of love. Stupid! I should follow my fate and look after the men.

He folds all the washing and puts in a bag. Suddenly as if remembering he switches off the electricity and uses an old Christmas candle.

FADE OUT

21. INT. NURSING HOME. MORNING

Barry beamed into the Nursing Home, earlier than normal. Dressed in smart casual he made sure to wish everyone a 'good morning'. Both men were happy to see his beaming smile. He washed, dressed and fed them making sure to take them a wheel around them around the building in their wheel chairs. Stan then got a video call from Jennifer.

JENNIFER

Dad, I am in Paris, oh! It is as wonderful as I dreamed. How are you, have you had enough to eat?

STAN

Jennifer, I am fine, have been washed, dressed and fed, we are now sitting looking at the garden, wonderful. Barry has worked very hard. I'll put him on.

BARRY

Jennifer, how is your holiday?

JENNIFER

Barry it is wonderful, thank you so much for what you are doing for my father.

BARRY

It is a pleasure, I tell you their minds are still great, it is such a waste.

JENNIFER

I feel guilty for being here.

BARRY

Jennifer, you deserve a holiday, you have worked so hard on a career and looking after your father. Not many people could have juggled that sort of work load. I'll put you father back on,

be happy - have fun.

The call brightened up Stan and in turn his happiness rubbed off on Barry and his father. Both men ate all their meals. Barry walked home satisfied that his father was as happy as he could be under the circumstances.

22. EXT.WALKING. LATER

Barry looks like a mad old man muttering to himself. When looking at passes by he seems lost in a dream world.

BARRY

That is my role.

He shouted at a stray cat looking at him hungrily.

I'm not going to think of her, I'm not. My father has given me every opportunity and looked after me so well. He is my priority.

23. SHOPPING CENTRE. LATER

Barry walks around the food court looking at food and the prices. He counts the small change in his pocket and buys a bread roll. Sitting down he looks at all the people. An old man comes over to Barry's table.

MAN

Is someone sitting here?

BARRY

Sorry I am waiting for my wife.

FADE OUT

24. INT. BARRY'S MAIN ROOM. NIGHT

Groping about in the dark, Barry collapsed in bed. But he could not sleep. Getting up he got his torch and shone it on the paper clipped to his easel. From the small photo Stan had lent him, Barry painted a portrait of Jennifer's mother. It was not his normal art - painting in miniature was difficult but very satisfying. It was as if he was releasing Jennifer from his mind, ridding himself of the love that was impossible. He finished just in time. The batteries ran out for his torch. He slept uneasily.

FADE OUT

25. INT. NURSING HOME. MORNING

Bursting into his father's room, Barry tried his best to be happy. Both men were a little sad, again they had not been dressed or fed.

BARRY

Dad, don't worry, be happy. We will get you home before you know it. Have I a surprise for you Stan?

Barry gave Stan the painting in a frame that he had done the night before. Stan was overwhelmed by the painting. Frank was proud of his son.

STAN

Fantastic, beautiful, you certainly have talent. I had my doubts, but this is perfect.

FRANK

I always told him to do more portraits. He has something to make the people seem alive.

BARRY

I am glad you like it. Now I have a few things to do today so I have to go.

After cleaning them, feeding them and sitting them looking out at the garden. Jennifer called her father. Barry waited to hear Stan beaming with happiness to Jennifer before walking home.

FADE OUT

26. INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM. LATER

Barry collapsed in bed and immediately had his dream, this time when looking at the face of his lover, Jennifer's face

beamed happiness back to him. Shaking the dream from his mind Barry got up, switched on the lights and went to his painting.

BARRY

(Ringing Nursing Home)

This is Barry Smith. My father is in bed 4a. I just wanted to inform you that I will not be able to come to look after him tomorrow as I am not feeling well. Would you please ensure that someone looks after my father, Frank and his friend Stan? Could you make sure that they are fed, washed and dressed. Thank you.

After ringing the nursing home, he powered down his phone. Needing music, he put on his experimental jazz on his reel to reel and prepares to paint. Instead of experimental jazz he hears what he thinks is a Paris night club.

JENNIFER (OS)

(Laughing happily)

I have never been so happy in all my life. This music is making me feel ... oh! So excited. It is wonderful and as for you sir...

FRENCH MALE VOICE (OS)

Oh Jennifer, you are so, how can I say, exciting
and your body ...

Barry applies background paint, instead of Paris he hears
his favorite jazz. When he stops to think Paris returns.

JENNIFER (OS)

I am very much single. My father is happily in a
Nursing Home and I am free to enjoy the world.

Barry painted a yellow pillow.

BARRY

Yellow pillow representing my dream of a
beautiful woman that I love ...

Barry stops in shock at admitting to himself of his love.

Of a beautiful woman that I love but who is out
of reach. I will paint the yellow pillow crying
red blood down ...

He stops and stares into space. Paris returns.

FRENCH MALE VOICE (OS)

We could sail the Mediterranean together on my

yacht and watch the moon - our stepping stone to
happiness.

Barry starts to paint purple steps. His jazz returns.

BARRY

Blood falling down purple steps. Red and Purple
just like her dress. She looked so stunning when
she glided into the room. Like some goddess. A
goddess out of reach. Reach, I will paint the
branches reaching out, but unable ...

Barry suddenly has to steady himself as the room starts to
spin. He steadies himself and paints the branches reaching
in unable to reach their quest.

JENNIFER (OS)

I am going to live here forever ...

Barry is desperately trying to finish his painting. The
room is spinning he hears Jennifer's laugh as he starts to
faint. Barry tries desperately to get up but cannot.

ACT TWO

FADE IN

27. INT. PARIS HOTEL ROOM. MORNING

Jennifer hung up the call. The concern on her father's face told her a story she didn't want to hear. Jennifer looked at her phone not knowing what to do. She searched her phone to find Barry's number and rang him. The phone was disconnected or switched off. Pacing around her hotel room she gazed out at the exciting city of Paris which now left her cold. The room's luxury also just reminded her of her father in a small, dark room in a nursing home that had no color or brightness at all. The fake gold phone rang, she knew it was Lilly, sadly she picked it up.

JENNIFER

Lilly I can't get through to Barry. I am so worried.

LILLY

Why on earth do you want to speak to Barry for, he is a loser Jennifer, ignore him.

JENNIFER

But Dad is worried about something and he won't

say what it is.

LILLY

Ring the nursing home, silly.

JENNIFER

Oh, yes. I will, I will meet you later.

In a panic she suddenly did not know where her phone was. Stopping she picked up her phone from her bedside table and phoned the nursing home.

JENNIFER

Hello, this is Jennifer, I am calling from Paris, I am so worried about my father, Stan in bed 4B. He was so worried about something but wouldn't say. Oh, I am so worried.

NURSING HOME MANAGER

Your father is very happy, they were concerned that Barry could not come today, but we put them both in the canteen with the others and they are now playing cards with some ladies. Don't worry, all is well.

Lilly comes to her room.

LILLY

Jennifer, I am so angry with you. With all the wonderful men I have chosen for you at home and now you have fallen in love with a downbeat looser called Barry.

JENNIFER

I am not in love ...

LILLY

Of course, you are. I know you. You have been my only real friend for most of my life and to see you in this state has broken my heart. Now I am going to help you. I have fixed up a date with a multi-millionaire art collector who is best friends with a Duke who is so dishy, oh he is so me.

JENNIFER

I am not in love, oh! Oh! Lilly, I have to go for a walk, my head is full of confusing colors.

LILLY

Don't be too long, you will forget Barry once you start talking with Reg who talks art non-stop.

28. EXT. PARIS. LATER

Walking in Paris would normally have sent her into raptures. Today all she could think of was the reality of her love for Barry. She missed him, she knew that he was the man for her - or was he? Stopping she gazed at an Art Gallery that was urging her to enter. Walking in the art filled her mind, smoothed down all her worries. Her heart leaped at the sight of a painting highlighted by a spot light. A voice came up to her as she studied the painting. Not understanding his fast French, she sadly commented "English". Sadly, the man spoke in English.

ART GALLERY

This painting shows that you know good art when you see it. This is by one of our up-and-coming artists. Shows deep emotion, doesn't it?

JENNIFER

It does. Yes, it does, it is nearly at the standard of my ...

She couldn't finish the sentence. Barry's painting was

world standard and she knew just how to handle the situation.

LILLY

Jennifer, where are you?

JENNIFER

I'm on cloud nine.

LILLY

You been drinking, listen Jennifer I have fixed up a date with your Reg and my Milton. Now I need you back at the hotel so that we can get you ready.

JENNIFER

You sound like my mother wanting me to go to those horrible parties.

LILLY

Jennifer, are you lost?

JENNIFER

Er, may be.

LILLY

Get a taxi back to our hotel, and when you get there, I will meet you in the café to have a coffee and a talk. You got that?

JENNIFER

Yes, yes, I need a coffee and a cake. See you soon.

29. INT. HOTEL CAFE. LATER

The café overflowed with tourists trying to be French. Jennifer could only sadly search out for Lilly regretting coming on holiday at all. Finding her she tried to act happy.

JENNIFER

I found a wonderful art gallery, very interesting new style ...

LILLY

What are you going to wear on the date tonight?

JENNIFER

Oh, I don't know. This new style ...

LILLY

You will not wear your usual black pants suite.

JENNIFER

It is very comfortable and ...

LILLY

No. I think that you should wear your red gown.

JENNIFER

But that shows a little ...

LILLY

Jennifer, do this for me. I really like this man, not just because he is a Duke but because he is so dishy. He doesn't act like a playboy or anything like that. He is not even handsome. He is very intellectual looking. A very rich intellectual.

Jennifer saw her friend was very serious.

JENNIFER

Lilly I will do everything to make the night a success for you.

LILLY

For us.

JENNIFER

Yes, for us. Yes, this is what I need to sort out my mind.

LILLY

That's the girl.

30. INT. LILLY'S HOTEL ROOM. LATER

Jennifer didn't like dressing up in gowns, she didn't like to spend hours putting on make-up and doing her hair. But she did for her best friend Lilly, who had stuck by her for years and years. Lilly had protected her from the school bullies, stopped her from believing the lies of those just wanting her on their arms. Finally, dressed she went to Lilly's room.

LILLY

Jennifer, wrong shoes, wrong shoes dear...

JENNIFER

Oh Lilly, you look wonderful.

LILLY

Ready for a Duke?

JENNIFER

Definitely.

LILLY

Now let's get you in the right shoes.

31. INT. LUXURY RESTAURANT. NIGHT

The restaurant was magnificent. Jennifer stood just behind Lilly as the two dates came towards them beaming smiles.

DUKE

Lilly, you look ravishing. (He kissed her hand.)

Lilly this is Reg.

Reg stepped forward gazing at Lilly and Jennifer.

REG

How do you do? (His accent was northern England and he tried to make it sound posh.) Jennifer, nice to meet you.

Holding out his hand Jennifer shook his hand politely. She felt totally out of place with these people. Lilly giggled them to their table while Reg tried to be seen with

Jennifer whose beauty lit up the room. He held out the chair for her and Jennifer sat down awkwardly. Reg and Milton tried their best to put the ladies at ease. Looking at her friend, Jennifer knew that Lilly was in love. She had only been in love once before, to her ex-husband. "I have to make this a success for her." She thought to herself.

JENNIFER

Reg, tell me about yourself.

Jennifer smiled making Lilly happy. She listened, he liked talking, she liked listening, all was going well. Although his greed shocked her. Even with his millions he still only talked about making more money from art.

I went to art gallery today.

She gave him their card.

There is a painting there that is supposed to be in the new style. You should go and have a look.

I am sure that the emotion in the painting will be the new thing.

Immediately she knew that she had made a mistake. Barry loomed large in her mind which drifted away from Reg who

was speaking endlessly about making money. But shaking herself out of Barry she knew that Lilly had indeed meet someone who was perfect for her. He was far from handsome, but was kind, gentle and had the manners to put anyone at ease.

The food comes and they eat listening to Lilly enjoy herself.

LILLY

Oh, I so love Paris, I can feel the culture and history oozing from the air. Just like this room, the interior design is wonderful. The service is also wonderful, they really know how to make you feel at ease.

DUKE

So glad you like it. I keep thinking about the people who have eaten here over the past century. Just imagine the history, what these walls could tell us about times gone by. Although I can take you to a place tomorrow where the artists and composers used to meet.

REG

What about it, Jennifer?

JENNIFER

The food is magnificent isn't it. I just love the atmosphere.

LILLY

Are you enjoying yourself?

JENNIFER

Of course, although I would love to go and look at that painting.

LILLY

Reg, Jennifer wants to go and see that painting.

REG

She's got real taste. My God with her picking the art we could make a fortune.

He took her to the painting.

You know this is a great painting, wait, it is by the same bloke as is on the back of this card. It is different isn't it.

JENNIFER

It is the sad emotion blocked off by the happy colors.

REG

Wow, I see what you mean. I see what you mean, I like this enough to actually keep it and hang it up in my study.

Jennifer looked at him.

JENNIFER

That really is a compliment for the painter. I am sure that although he wants it to sell, he wants people to want to hang it in their rooms.

They returned to their seats; Jennifer noted that Lilly was now lost to the world. She had always thought that Lilly fell in love, literally. Jennifer sadly thought about her life and the greed ogling her as if a piece of meat.

We might choose desert. I need something special to remember this night.

Reg signaled the waiter. Lilly looked at her frowning.

REG

Yes, a very special night.

LILLY

I would like to go dancing. After desert of course.

REG

Yes, yes that would be wonderful. I heard music when we come in. Oh, it should be very special.

Lilly was looking at her, Jennifer tried to smile, indeed did smile fleetingly for the desert being delivered to the next table looked fabulous. When depressed Jennifer ate deserts, a whole carton of ice cream could be emptied in one sitting.

JENNIFER

Reg, I'll have one of those.

REG

Coming up.

Jennifer dared not look at Lilly, who would know that a deep depression was being blown in destroying any hope for dear Reg.

LILLY

We need to go to the ladies. (Wanting to save her

night.)

JENNIFER

OK.

LILLY

We won't be long.

JENNIFER

I can't walk fast in these shoes.

32. INT. LADIES POWDER ROOM. LATER

Jennifer and Lilly burst into the room. And start to look at themselves in the mirror.

LILLY

You won't be able to walk at all if you ruin my night.

JENNIFER

I have tried my best. You can't say that I haven't tried.

LILLY

Yes, I have noticed. But when you ordered that desert, I knew that you were pinning for that

horrible, poverty-stricken lay about.

JENNIFER

I think Milton is perfect for you. I will dance with groper and smile and do everything to make your night a success. Now let us go back. All I need is a little desert.

LILLY

You think he is perfect for me.

JENNIFER

I have never met anyone that is more suited. He is not pretentious, he is not a playboy, he is just a very decent man who I am sure will make the perfect partner for you.

LILLY

Partner?

JENNIFER

Partner. Why tie yourself down to a dream. Have fun with him, travel, holiday take silly selfies and then send them to me. I was not thinking about Barry, I was thinking of my father. He is

my responsibility, I am ...

LILLY

You are a terrible liar, Jennifer.

JENNIFER

I know that Reg is a very nice man. I am sure that normally I would have great fun with him in art galleries. But let us just concentrate on you. Let's go back so they don't get grabbed by the falsies sitting at the next table.

LILLY

Jennifer, I will owe you.

JENNIFER

A picture of you in your yellow bikini.

LILLY

On a magnificent island paradise.

FADE OUT

33. INT. BALLROOM. LATER.

Jennifer and Lilly are dancing with their men. Lilly is melting into Milton whereas Jennifer is dancing with Reg

very awkwardly. The music is beautiful for dancing and romance, the lighting is dimmed. Reg recognizes that Jennifer is thinking something else.

REG

Now Jennifer what have you waiting for you at home.

JENNIFER

I have closed my gallery while I am on holidays. Having sold everything, I have to look for something new to show. Also, my father is in a Nursing Home, I usually look after him.

Jennifer stumbles a little, Reg catches her, laughing a little.

REG

You're not a socialite are you. I like that. You love your Art. What is the most exciting Art you have seen recently?

The music stopped; couples started to sit down.

JENNIFER

Can we sit down.

Reg led her to their table. Lilly and Duke were were still on the dance floor.

The most exciting art I have seen is this new style, emotional hidden by color. One artist described it as painted collage through a symbolistic ringer. Something like that. It is new, from my customers I only have three or four that would venture into anything new.

REG

Is it anything like that painting we saw in the restaurant?

JENNIFER

Very much so. Although you can see in the painting in the restaurant a little reluctance to go too far.

REG

I don't like to say this, but they have to make a living out of it while they are alive. The world is very expensive. You used to care for your father at home before he went into the Nursing Home?

JENNIFER

Yes, I paid someone to look after him while I worked but only for a couple of hours a day. My father thought he could do more than he was able. That what's worrying me about the Nursing Home. I cannot leave him there, I just can't.

REG

You are a wonderful person, Jennifer. Whatever happens I want to keep in touch. I want to be a friend. The only people I know just want some of my money, you don't seem to care about money at all. Although I would like your advice on paintings. You have a real gift. You have a customer for life.

JENNIFER

Thank you, Reg.

FADE OUT

34. INT. FLIGHT. MORNING

The plane stank of that 'the holiday is over' feeling. Children grumpy, annoying and loud. Jennifer texted to Lilly.

JENNIFER

Lilly, I am so happy that you and your Duke are a couple. Thank you for being so understanding with my decision to return home. You have to keep me up to date with everything and I mean everything you get up to. Reg and I are friends and he and I have promised to keep in touch. Once you get rid of his business side, he is quite nice. I will keep you up to date when I get home.

FADE OUT

35. INT.NURSING HOME. MORNING

Dashing into the nursing home she found her father playing cards with some old ladies. He was unshaven, dirty, was wearing clothes that obviously he had slept in, but was happy to see her.

STAN

Jennifer, you're back, why so early?

JENNIFER

Oh, I am not very good on holidays and ...

STAN

Barry is not here. Haven't seen him in days.
Frank is very worried about him. I think you
should go and check on him. We are fine, aren't
we Frank?

FRANK

Yes, we are fine. I am just worried about Barry.

JENNIFER

OK, I will go and check.

FADE OUT

36. EXT. BARRY'S UNIT. LATER

Worried she drove to his house, parking she thought about what to say if he is just having a day off. Knocking on his door several times caused her to look through the window. All she saw was a reel-to-reel tape recorder with the tape finished. Then she saw feet, Barry's feet. Opening the window, she fell through the window head first.

Barry lay on the floor next to his painting. She knelt beside him and found him alive. Ringing the ambulance, she had to go out and check the address. The electricity was off, she found masses of unpaid bills on the table. Paying

them she didn't know what to do for Barry.

His picture was incredible, even the line of paint as he fell gave it emotion. Having an idea, she ran off to get him some water, the empty fridge stank, there was no food in the cupboards - he mustn't have eaten for days.

JENNIFER

Barry, Barry, it is OK, I am here now to look after you.

Lifting his head she gave him water, his eyes fluttered open he looked at her and smiled.

FADE OUT

37. INT. BRIGHT NEW UNIT. MORNING

Barry felt the head of his lover resting on his shoulder. Her soft hair seemed to form a cushion, an avenue for the love to regenerate his body. His love for her sending back colors to obliterate the sameness of life. As love swealed within his heart, he turned to look at the face. Jennifer smiled at him.

JENNIFER

Good morning husband.

FADE OUT:

THE END