



**SUBMISSION**

By Japheth Gordon

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

CAMERON (15) sitting in a hospital bed surrounded by flowers, cards, and an elaborate vital-sign monitoring system. Clearly, this kid has been in this room a while. Right now Cameron is removing the batteries from the TV remote.

ASHLEY (14) enters, suspiciously checking Cameron out.

ASHLEY  
What's going on?

CAMERON  
Sometimes the volume in this thing doesn't work. There's like a trick to it.

ASHLEY  
No, I mean, what's going on with you. Why are mom and dad acting so crazy?

CAMERON  
It's mom and dad; they're always crazy.

Cameron is still trying to make the TV work, but Ashley isn't satisfied with that answer.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
Will you stop giving me that look?

ASHLEY  
Will you tell me what's going on?

BEAT.

CAMERON  
It's progressed.

ASHLEY  
How bad?

CAMERON  
Stage four.

ASHLEY  
What?!

CAMERON  
See, this is why I didn't  
want to tell you. I knew  
you'd freak out and make a  
scene.

ASHLEY  
You get a diagnosis like  
that and you weren't going  
to tell me? That's beyond  
messed up. It's cruel!

THEY SETTLE INTO A SILENT BEAT.

CAMERON  
I'm sorry.

ASHLEY  
No, I'm sorry. (THEN) When did you  
find out?

CAMERON  
The results came in late last  
night.

ASHLEY  
That's terrible. You had to sleep  
here all alone knowing that you --

THIS NEXT QUESTION IS HARD TO ASK:

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
Is it... terminal?

CAMERON  
They don't know. Oncologist gives  
me a few months tops but there's a  
brain specialist guy, he's got some  
experimental treatment and they say  
there's a ten percent chance the  
tumor goes away.

ASHLEY  
Well that's good news, right?  
(BEAT)  
Right?

CAMERON  
I don't know Ashley.

ASHLEY  
What do you mean 'you don't know'?!  
It's a chance.

CAMERON  
Only ten percent.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
I'd have to do three more  
rounds of treatments, go  
through all that horrible  
pain and ruin the time I  
have left. For what?!

ASHLEY  
That's still a chance! What  
are you talking about?  
You're acting like you're  
giving up when there's a way  
to get better!

ASHLEY  
For you to have more time.

CAMERON  
Maybe god is trying to tell me  
something...

Ashley's emotions are taking over.

ASHLEY  
No. This isn't fair.

CAMERON  
It's okay. Everyone dies.

ASHLEY  
Not like this.

BEAT.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)  
Why are you so calm?

CAMERON  
There's nothing I can do.

BEAT.

ASHLEY  
I know it's totally selfish but all  
I can think about is how lost I'm  
going to be. I learn so much from  
you, and you always take care of  
me, and I -- I need you to stay.

Ashley hugs Cameron.

CAMERON  
Don't worry. While you're growing  
up and living life, I'll be  
watching.

ASHLEY  
Promise?

CAMERON  
Yes.