

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.