

SHRINK

Pilot

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Story by

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TEASER

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

DAVID TRACY, 30, sits in a small waiting room. An OFFICE CLERK, 30's, African American, approaches David. Her name tag reads, BERNADETTE.

BERNADETTE

Hi. Mister Tracy.

DAVID

Doctor. Doctor Tracy.

BERNADETTE

Right. Doctor. I was going over your intake form and the section where we ask for your income, you put zero.

DAVID

Oh yeah, that's right.

BERNADETTE

You're a doctor, right?

DAVID

Yes, I just graduated from medical school.

BERNADETTE

Ok, so then you're not a doctor.

DAVID

No, technically I am a doctor. Basically, I'm doing an internship now where I administer free sessions for patients.

BERNADETTE

Free sessions? You know what that sounds like? That sounds like a freak. That sounds like some freak going off, touching people.

DAVID

I'm not touching people. Look, I make zero dollars--

BERNADETTE

The homeless man down the street comes in here and pays something.

(MORE)

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

I said, "What did you make last year?" He said, "Hob hob dobler." I took that to mean he made fifty dollars, so he paid a dollar.

DAVID

Hob dob dobler? That's not...

BERNADETTE

That's what he said. Hob dob dobler, I understand that, but I don't understand ZERO.

DAVID

Well, I don't have any money.

BERNADETTE

I got your address.

DAVID

I don't live in a castle made of money.

Behind Bernadette, a phone starts RINGING. David perks up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You have to get that, don't you?

Bernadette stares him down.

BERNADETTE

This isn't over.

DAVID

Sure seems like it is.

Bernadette exits.

Across from David, a MAN IN A SUIT, 50's, has been listening to the entire conversation. He gives David a thumbs-up. David gives him thumbs-up in response. The man then flips David the middle finger. David, unsure of what's happening, slowly and reluctantly returns the middle finger.

MAN

Yes! Yes!

The man lets out a huge weird laugh and David realizes he is probably, actually crazy.

TITLE CARD: **SHRINK**

ACT I

INT. GARAGE - DAY

DR. DAVID TRACY presses record on an old Panasonic tape recorder and begins to read off a note card. He's in a garage, surrounded by storage boxes, he sits in an old wooden chair. As he speaks, we cycle through his regulars: KENDRA, WOMAN #1, YOURG, MAN #1, DANIEL and SANDY, REBECCA, and DOUG.

DAVID

Pursuant to the requirements set out by Illinois Statute 225 ILCS 107, I am required to inform you that I am not a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, or a registered therapist, but that these therapy sessions are being tape recorded to provide a record of the 1,920 supervised clinical hours needed to acquire such a license.

We watch as this news lands with each patient. It seems to take some of them off guard. We finally land on REBECCA, mid-30's. She is seated across from David in an old lawn chair.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So, I have your permission to save the recording of this session as evidence of hours performed?

REBECCA

Sure. Yeah. You're gonna be a doctor one day, right?

DAVID

Yes, that's my intention.

INT. GARAGE - YOURG - DAY

A man, 30's, blonde, balding but confident, sits across from him.

YOURG

I'm learning to swallow what I need to swallow and *symbolically* vomit what I need to vomit.

DAVID

Well, that's less to clean up.

YOURG

What I love is that cranberry sauce
in the can.

DAVID

With berries?

David writes "Cranberry Sauce" on his notepad. It briefly appears on the lower third of the screen in his hand writing (a la Harry Potter disappearing ink) and slowly fades away.

This will be referred to as our: HARRY POTTER EFFECT.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Or the floppy gelatin?

YOURG

The floppy. The kind that jiggles
when you shake it. It has a tannic
mouth-feel. Goes down easy.

DAVID

Sure.

YOURG

And it liquefies in the stomach.
So, it's real smooth coming back
up.

David is clearly disgusted then catches himself and nods.

DAVID

Yeah...I love Thanksgiving.

INT. GARAGE - RACHEL - DAY

Rachel, attractive, late 20's. The sexual tension is unmistakable.

DAVID

With a text? So lame. I don't know
why anyone would want to break up
with you.

RACHEL

Right?

They laugh.

DAVID

That was not part of the session,
by the way. Probably inappropriate.

RACHEL
I didn't mind hearing it.

They share a nice smile.

DAVID
We should get back to a regular session. You know, doctor-ish.

RACHEL
So, you're like a half doctor now, right?

DAVID
No, no there's no such thing as half a doctor. You're either a doctor or you're not a doctor.

RACHEL
So, am I a patient, or half a patient?

DAVID
No, you're a full patient. You're a...woman. You're a beautiful woman.

RACHEL
Oh, wow.

DAVID
That's...probably unprofessional -- not that you're not. You know. You're just a...beautiful...human being.

David shifts nervously in his chair and the tape recorder slips out of his lap and clatters to the floor. They both reach for it. She picks it up and hands it to David. Their hands touch for a moment.

There's a definite connection.

INT. PARENT'S HOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David enters from the garage carrying his tape recorder to find his Mother, RENETTA, early 50's, chipper and blindly positive when it comes to David. Renetta is topping off a carton of juice from the faucet.

RENETTA
How did your little chat go?

DAVID

Mom, it's not a "chat." They're called sessions. What are you doing to the Five Alive?

RENETTA

Just making it go further, honey.

DAVID

Well, now I guess it's Three Alive.

Renetta laughs way too much at this.

RENETTA

Oh, David. It's so great to have you back home. You always make me laugh.

DAVID

Great, eight years of college really paid off. I'm hilarious!

RENETTA

You always said laughter is the best medicine.

DAVID

I've never said that. Medicine is the best medicine. That's why I went to medical school.

Renetta laughs again.

RENETTA

Oh, that is just great.

DAVID

I know this is a lot, me moving back in. I hope it won't be too much of a strain.

RENETTA

Are you kidding? It's no strain. We're gonna get along just fine.

She pours him a glass of juice. It's barely any color at all.

Rollie, David's step-dad, 50's, doughy, clearly a second husband, enters from the hallway. Rollie is wearing a security guard uniform.

DAVID

Hi Rollie, what's with the uniform? I thought you retired.

ROLLIE

Is that what they call it when they force you out?

ROLLIE (CONT'D)

We don't use the 'R' word. Traffic Authority privatized and fired all the good union people.

DAVID

Pretty sure the 'R' word stands for something else.

ROLLIE

Not in this house... Now they're having all sorts of problems down there and I am loving it. Got a bunch of snot nosed kids down there, barely know how to use a whistle.

Renetta hands him a thermos and Rollie gives her a peck on the cheek.

ROLLIE (CONT'D)

Thanks honey. That school coffee is un-drinkable.

David leans in and reads the patch on his shirt.

DAVID

Oh wow, you're at McPherson?

RENETTA

David loved his junior high years. He ran for seventh grade class secretary. He was this close.

DAVID

Best years of my life.

Renetta laughs.

ROLLIE

It's only part time. And, I like to have a little extra bowling money.

DAVID

I didn't know you bowled.

Renetta mouths behind Rollie's back "He doesn't."

ROLLIE

It's good to have you back, David.
It's just like when I first met
your mom. We're all under the same
roof.

RENETTA

It's so nice to have the house full
again.

DAVID

Thanks guys. It really means a lot
to me. Obviously this is kind of a
tough time, it's comforting to be
in such a loving and supportive
environment.

They all smile. This is truly a nice moment.

ROLLIE

You see, David? Sometimes failure
isn't such a bad thing.

Rollie exits. David and Renetta are left standing holding
their colored water.

RENETTA

He meant that in a good way.

DAVID

Yeah, sounded good. Real positive.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

David enters his childhood room which is littered with moving
boxes. He notices a rolled up poster laying on his bed and
pulls a post-it note off a corner that reads, "Welcome home
David!"

He unrolls the poster. It's the iconic Peanuts cartoon of
Lucy sitting behind her "window" and below the sign reads,
"Psychiatric Help 5 Cents. The Doctor is IN"

David opens his laptop to CRAIGSLIST. He quickly re-posts the
ad he has been using to get clients. The headline reads: FREE
THERAPY SESSIONS with a (future) PROFESSIONAL.

INT. CLINIC WAITING ROOM - DAY

We pick up from the TEASER. Bernadette comes around the
corner.

BERNADETTE

She can see you now. For *free*.

DAVID

Ok. Good.

BERNADETTE

(under her breath)

Ignorant.

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

****From this point, David's session with Sue is a continuous flashback.**

David is in a therapist's office, talking to SUE, 40's. She is measured, calm, and focused.

DAVID

So, you remember me?

SUE

Of course. Your mother brought you to see me after your father passed away. I hoped I helped you through that.

DAVID

Yes, you were very helpful. This must be like that movie 'Boyhood' for you. I mean, just the beginning and the end, and if it took like 18 years to make instead of just 12.

SUE

I haven't seen that movie.

DAVID

Oh. It's ok. This kid grows up. That's all that really happens.

SUE

So what can I do for you today?

DAVID

Well, I've decided I want to do what you're doing.

SUE

And what is it you think I do?

DAVID

You know, you're, like, a therapist.

SUE

I'm a Licensed Clinical Therapist.

DAVID

Exactly. I want to be that.

SUE

Well, it's a lengthy process. What has led you to this idea?

DAVID

I have decided I really want to help people. You know, for money.

Sue is a bit bothered by the money part.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I mean...as a profession.

SUE

Well, the requirements for the state of Illinois for something like this are 2 years of full-time supervision and 1,920 hours of face-to-face patient sessions.

DAVID

Yeah, I know that. I'm all in.

SUE

David, let's back up a second. There are also a lot of educational requirements involved.

DAVID

Well, here's the good news, I just completed medical school.

SUE

Oh, Congratulations. Shouldn't you be applying for a residency at a hospital?

DAVID

I did. I applied to six residency programs for neurosurgery, and I got accepted into my last choice.

SUE

Then, I don't understand...

DAVID

(seething)

Yeah. Yeah. That makes two of us.

INT. HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE - DAY

David in a lab coat with a brand new backpack slung over his shoulder is very excited. He is pacing back and forth in front of the hospital administrator, distinguished, mid-50's, seated at a big oak desk. A name plate on his desk reads, PHIL REAVES.

DAVID

I was so happy to hear this slot opened up. I was about to spend five years in Mississippi. Normally you have to commit a crime to do that, right?

PHIL

Yeah, there's been some changes with the slot. We have to talk about that.

DAVID

This is great. I am ready to go. Do I get a locker first? Is there a tour?

PHIL

David, please have a seat.

DAVID

Sure. I'm just pumped.

David plops down hard and can't stop both of his knees from bouncing up and down.

PHIL

I'm afraid I have some unpleasant news.

DAVID

Oh, you're out of lockers? That's no problem. I can just put my stuff in the corner. I mean, who's gonna steal it? We're all doctors here, right? I do have my own padlock just in case--

David reaches for his backpack.

PHIL

David, this isn't about the lockers. Our surgery program has lost funding. We've had to eliminate all of our slots except one.

DAVID

Oh, those poor people have to really scramble. Well, dems da breaks. On the bright side, I guess I don't have to share a locker now.

PHIL

You're not getting a locker. The slot is going to someone else. I'm afraid we have to withdraw our offer of residency.

DAVID

What? You can't do that.

David is getting emotional. His eyes well up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

But, I turned down the only program I was accepted to because I was told this slot was mine.

PHIL

It's not. The only spot available was created by a private donor and it's going to his son.

DAVID

What kind of hospital is this? Some rich fuck's kid gets my spot?

PHIL

(offended)

That rich fuck is my brother.

DAVID

Oh, well that clears up the math on that. Fuck your nephew. And your brother. And fuck you for that matter--

PHIL

Welcome to the world, Mr. Tracy.

DAVID

Doctor. It's Dr. Tracy.

PHIL

Well, not here it isn't.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

David storms down the hall with his backpack slung over his shoulder.

He spots a ROW OF LOCKERS.

DAVID
They do have fucking lockers!

END OF ACT I

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

David, now a bit nervous, tries to explain what he's been doing.

DAVID
I've already got a bunch of hours for you to sign off on. I'm kind of a self-starter.

SUE
You're already seeing patients? What clinic are you affiliated with, are you doing this through a practice?

DAVID
No, it's independently. I do it in my garage. Well it's not my garage. It's my parents. I had to move back home. So.

SUE
David. Are you seriously doing this in a garage currently?

INT. GARAGE - DANIEL AND SANDY - DAY

A young married couple, DANIEL and SANDY, 30's, sit across from David.

SANDY
I just hate the sounds that come out of him.

DAVID
The words? You mean what he says?

SANDY
No. Chewing. Walking around the house. Breathing. Hear that?

David leans in. Daniel pensively exhales.

HARRY POTTER EFFECT: David writes "Woman is monster."

DAVID
I can't really hear him breathing.

DANIEL
See? It's her. She's got sonar --
she's like a bat!

DAVID
Or a dolphin. People like dolphins.

INT. GARAGE - KENDRA - DAY

David is in mid-session with KENDRA, Doug's younger sister.

DAVID
I'm just saying be suspicious of a
guy with a bandanna, he might be a
bandito. I jumped in really fast
with Amanda, remember her?

KENDRA
Yeah I know.

DAVID
I got there, and -

KENDRA
I just saw her the other day.

DAVID
You did?

KENDRA
Yeah.

DAVID
Did you talk to her? What did she
say?

KENDRA
She just said she was doing an art
project for, I don't know, some
kids or something.

DAVID
How did she...did she look good?

KENDRA
Yeah, she looked great. She seemed
happy.

DAVID
Is she seeing somebody?

KENDRA
I didn't ask. But she was with a
guy.

This catches David's attention.

INT. GARAGE - DANIEL AND SANDY - DAY

David is scrolling through his smart phone.

DAVID
Are there other noises that cause
this response? Because it could
be...

David scrolls a to the bottom of the page.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Miss-o-phon--i-a.

SANDY
It could be that he's just an
asshole.

DANIEL
There's your dolphin.

INT. GARAGE - KENDRA - DAY

DAVID
Yeah, what guy? What did he look
like?

KENDRA
He had a little beard.

DAVID
A little beard?

KENDRA
Just a little one on his chin.

DAVID
Fucking idiot, fucking stupid
little beard.

KENDRA
...ok, she makes you mad.

INT. GARAGE - DANIEL AND SANDY - DAY

DAVID

This could all be coming from another place. Is intimacy a problem?

SANDY

Everything is a problem. Literally everything is a problem.

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

SUE

How many people are you seeing?

DAVID

At least 20. But I've lost track at this point. Some people come in and then they don't come back.

SUE

Do you take any notes?

DAVID

Yeah, Yes.

He starts to open his bag to get them.

SUE

I don't need to see them. I was just curious about how you keep patients separate from one another.

DAVID

Yeah, I take notes, I write down the time. I have like a nickname system.

SUE

You have nicknames for your patients?

DAVID

Well yeah, just as a tool to remember them. Mini golf guy, paper mache head guy. Who else? Justin Laver. That's not a nickname, that's his name.

SUE

You cannot use his name. That is in direct violation of HIPAA.

DAVID
I thought that was just for real
doctors.

SUE
I am a real doctor.

DAVID
I thought you were a clinical
therapist.

SUE
I am, but I have a PHD.

DAVID
Sure. Right. I'm sorry. I'm so
sorry. Yeah.

SUE
No information at all can be
shared.

DAVID
Ok, alright, that guy is
marshmallow hands.

SUE
Including names.

DAVID
He's got short, stubby fingers.

SUE
Don't describe him anymore.

DAVID
You won't know him. I googled him,
he's not on google.

SUE
You shouldn't be googling him.

DAVID
He was one of the first ones, I
wanted to make sure he wasn't a
serial killer.

SUE
I understand.

DAVID
Oh, and I'm seeing my best friend,
Doug.

SUE
You're seeing your friend Doug?

INT. GARAGE - DOUG - DAY

David is in the garage with David's best friend since childhood, DOUG, 30, a lanky Swede so tall his knees seem to reach his face sitting in the tiny lawn chair.

The tape recorder is rolling.

DAVID
Thanks again for doing this, Doug.
Oh crap.

David turns off the tape recorder.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Thanks again for doing this, Doug.

DOUG
Sure.

David turns on the tape recorder.

DOUG (CONT'D)
I might not be able to stay for a
whole hour.

David turns off the tape recorder.

DAVID
Doug. It's an hour, I need to tape
record for an hour.

DOUG
I've been here for two hours
though, before this.

DAVID
Yeah, but we were hanging out. I
wanted you to just come over and do
this for an hour and then leave. I
made you a baloney sandwich then
you and my Mom watched Kathy Lee
and Hoda.

A beat. Doug did do that.

DAVID (CONT'D)
An hour. You got an hour?

DOUG
Yeah, I got an hour.

DAVID
What are you going to do right now?

DOUG
I was going to go back to my car.

DAVID
Ok, you've got an hour.

David presses record.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Now. Mister Harnz. Is there
anything bothering you this time?
Anything at all?

DOUG
Nope.

DAVID
Come on, Doug. Everyone has
problems.

DOUG
Can't think of one.

They sit in silence for a long beat.

DOUG (CONT'D)
My clothes keep shrinking in the
dryer.

DAVID
That's not...you're leaving them in
there too long.

DOUG
That's helpful. This is a good
session.

DAVID
Come on, there has to be something
you want that you don't already
have.

DOUG
You mean like stuff?

DAVID
No, I mean like in life. Don't you
have any ambition for something? Or
is the whole point to be Zen.

DOUG

I don't know what that is... Hey, I have good news. That guy died.

DAVID

What? How?

DOUG

I don't know from that infection he had. Anyway, I might be able to get you that job.

DAVID

Wow, that's great. It'd be nights, right? I gotta keep my days free for patients. I can't have people come here at night. That would be way too unprofessional.

The door to the house pops open. Renetta pokes her head in.

RENETTA

I made some dip! Do you boys want some dip?

DOUG

Yeah. Definitely.
(to David)
Can I go now?

DAVID

No. Mom, I'm working.
Professionally. But thanks.

RENETTA

Well, it'll be in the fridge.

Renetta shuts the door.

DOUG

So, I can't go?

DAVID

Doug, it's been like two minutes.

They just sit and stare at each other. The tape recorder rolls on.

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

DAVID

They're harmless people. I wouldn't be able to harm these people, their problems are varied and sundry.

SUE

So let's talk first about what motivated you to do this... experiment. Which is the only word I can think to call it. You have a lot of debt.

INT. GARAGE - REBECCA - DAY

REBECCA

I've got to save money, you know?

DAVID

Right, yeah, I understand that.

HARRY POTTER EFFECT: David appears to be writing, but it's just circles.

REBECCA

Got a lot of credit card debt to pay off because of my cat--

DAVID

Credit cards? I'm at the foot of a mountain of debt.

REBECCA

Yeah. My cat got real sick, she--

DAVID

You would need to have 51 cats getting sick constantly, and one of them would have to have committed a Class-A felony to compete with the debt that-- I am \$586,000 in debt. Ok? Your cat...

Rebecca is stunned.

REBECCA

Oh my god.

DAVID

I don't know what kind of problems a cat would need to have to accumulate that kind of debt.

REBECCA

Yeah, I don't know.

DAVID

It would have to be the Kobe Bryant in Colorado of cats.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

He'd have to owe a lot of money to a family for something very bad.

REBECCA

Right. How did it get that high?

DAVID

73,000 dollars in tuition for eight years.

REBECCA

That's over half a million dollars.

DAVID

I know that. I know that.

REBECCA

How do you sleep?

DAVID

I sleep on my stomach, like I've been hit with a hammer and I fell.

INT. BANK - DAY

David is sitting at a small desk across from BARRY, early 20's, slightly chubby. Barry is wearing an ill-fitting dress shirt, magnetic diamond studs in his ears and a bad tie as he scrolls down on an EXTENDED PAYMENT CALCULATOR for David's student loans.

BARRY

And you've seen your extended repayment calculator, right?

DAVID

Well, they sent it to me, but I couldn't bring myself to click on the link.

BARRY

I printed it out.

Barry hands him a piece of paper. We see flashes of numbers: loan amount \$586,000, 6.8% Interest, 25 years...

DAVID

Yikes.

BARRY

That's page one. Here's the rest of it.

Barry hands him a stack. David slowly spreads out each page on the desk.

DAVID

Oh my god. This is insane.

BARRY

There's two more pages, I ran out of paper.

DAVID

I'll never be able to do this.

BARRY

On the bright side, the payments can be deferred like you thought, if this therapy thing works out.

DAVID

At least that's something.

BARRY

According to this, the only way to really get out of the debt entirely is by (reading screen) permanent disability or death.

DAVID

So, I have options.

BARRY

Let me know if you need help with either.

DAVID

That's so nice of you.

BARRY

That's what step-brothers do, right? Hey maybe you can ask your girlfriend for money, oh wait, she's your EX-girlfriend. I keep forgetting you blew it. Her parents are LOADED.

Barry takes off his MAGNETIC DIAMOND STUD earrings and leans into the computer screen.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Wait. Why is Mom's name on this loan? Did she co-sign for all these?

DAVID

Of course. I was going into college. I didn't have any credit. Hey, speaking of that, can you get me a credit card? Maybe with the Cubs logo?

BARRY

Do you realize that even if I do kill you, which I think about a lot now that I'm back in the basement, Mom and Dad are still on the hook for these loans?

DAVID

What? Really? I hadn't even considered that.

This sinks in hard for David.

BARRY

There's a lot you didn't consider isn't there. Mister big shot leaving Chicago to go off and be a doctor. I had your room. I had a window!

People around the bank look over at Barry. He settles down.

BARRY (CONT'D)

(whispering intensely)
I had a window.

DAVID

Look, Barry, if you want to switch, we can. I can be in the basement.

Barry leans back and smiles.

BARRY

Oh no. I won't give you the satisfaction of helping me out. I'm not one of your fake nut-jobs.

DAVID

Those nut-jobs are not fake. They're real nut-jobs. So, you just want to hold this over my head.

BARRY

Under. Remember? I live under you.

Barry is enjoying this. David looks out the window behind Barry and sees a tow truck backing up to a car.

DAVID
Hey, that's my car! What the hell?

BARRY
(not looking, gathering the pages)
Must be a repo guy. Gotta make
those payments.

DAVID
How did they find me...here.

David realizes this is Barry's work. Barry chuckles to himself as David runs out the door.

EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

As the repo guy attaches the car to the tow truck, David sinks down and slowly gets in. The repo guy walks toward the front of the tow truck and David starts his car.

REPO GUY
Hey! I already hooked it up. Too
late loser!

David throws it in reverse and the car lurches backward ripping off the front bumper. David peels out and is gone.

Through the window we see Barry smiling and sipping his Diet Mountain Dew.

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

Sue digs deeper into David's motivations.

SUE
So you are very clear that what you
wanted to be was a doctor, and of
the myriad of options to pay down
your debt, you defaulted to
performing therapy on people.

DAVID
Yeah, but the default is fine. It's
like if I had wanted to be in the
NBA, and someone was like sorry,
you're going to be a soccer player.
I would have said well, there isn't
as much cache in that, you know,
but I'm in the MLS? Ok, I'll take
it because it's still a pro
athlete. I still get to run around
and use my body to make money. Not
like a whore, but at least--

SUE

Is that a profession that occurred to you? In paying down this debt?

DAVID

Being a whore? No.

SUE

I'm just curious where that thought came from.

DAVID

Online. It came from online. I don't want to be a whore. I mean if someone paid me, if someone I was super attracted to, and I had a one night stand with them, and they were like, that was awesome, here's two grand. I'd be like yeah, ok. And then if they said, would you do this again? Yes, yeah, sure. But I'd have limits. I would be like...no choking...

SUE

So you did do some research.

DAVID

No, I didn't say, how to be a whore. I didn't go to you know ask.com, and say like 'how to be a whore' or like 'is it a good idea to be a whore?'

SUE

Did you go to ask.com to find out how to be a therapist?

Dr. David doesn't want to answer this.

SUE (CONT'D)

You did.

DAVID

Yeah. Yes.

SUE

Ok. Thank you for being honest with me. I think you need to do some serious research to make sure this is what you really want to do with your life.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - NIGHT

Various psychiatry textbooks are scattered around David's desk next to open notebooks. David is wearing headphones and staring intently at his laptop. The camera PANS around and over his shoulder we see he's watching a therapy scene from THE SOPRANOS.

INT. PARENT'S HOUSE DINING ROOM - EVENING

David, Barry, and Rollie are seated at the dining table. There is a bucket of KFC in the middle and everyone has a glass of the weakened juice. Renetta enters with a dish.

RENETTA

In honor of David's return...
I made your favorite. Mac and
trees!

She sets down the casserole dish that contains macaroni and cheese with broccoli bushes planted to look like willows.

DAVID

Oh, that's so nice Mom.

They all fill their plates.

BARRY

Yeah, you should really be
'indebted' to Mom for that, right?

David shoots Barry a suspicious glance.

ROLLIE

You all settled back in your old
room, David?

DAVID

Pretty much. I remember the
furniture being bigger. Weird.

RENETTA

You must love being back in there.
You used to sit at your little desk
and stare out that window for
hours.

BARRY

I do the same thing downstairs, but
it's just bricks, mostly.

DAVID

Barry, give it a rest.

BARRY

You mean, like a break? Like a
deferment?

David glares at Barry.

ROLLIE

Barry, this is all just temporary
until David can get his real
practice going. Right, David?

David nods.

BARRY

I'm just teasing Dad. I know we're
all just *loaning* David's room to
him for now.

David can't take it.

DAVID

Maybe if you'd gone to more than a
semester and a half of community
college you'd be making more money
and you'd be able to afford your
own apartment. An all glass
apartment with glass furniture and
glass pillows made of...glass.

RENETTA

Boys, let's just enjoy dinner,
okay? Who's ready for another tree?

Barry gets up and heads down the hallway. David is relieved
that Barry has given up.

DAVID

I'd love one.

As Renetta serves David. Barry returns with a stack of
papers.

BARRY

Guess what everybody? We're ALL
going to have to squeeze into an
apartment because I found out today
that Mom's name is on these loans
and we're gonna have to sell the
house and everything we own and I
don't think even *that* will quite
come to what David owes--

Barry SLAMS down the Extended Payment Calculator pages from the bank scene in between Rollie and Renetta. They start leafing through the pages.

BARRY (CONT'D)

--the loan amount of 586,000 dollars, plus 25 years at 6.8 percent interest, bringing us up to a grand total of just over... 1.2 MILLION dollars.

This lands like a bomb. Smoke and everything. Rollie and Renetta are stunned.

END OF ACT II

INT. PARENT'S HOUSE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rollie has the Extended Payment Calendar pages and is looking them over.

ROLLIE

Well, I have to be honest with you David. I never thought I'd see numbers this big involving this family. This is, uh... this is a lot.

DAVID

Look, I know 1.2 million dollars sounds like a big number.

ROLLIE

I was hoping when you became a doctor the numbers would start going the opposite way.

Rollie turns the pages upside down.

ROLLIE (CONT'D)

More like this.

RENETTA

I can always come out of retirement and work for another twenty years. I have no problem with that.

DAVID

Mom, that's crazy. You won't need to un-retire.

RENETTA

Well, we could always sell the house and die. You can't sue a corpse.

BARRY

You sure?

DAVID

It's not going to come to that. Nobody's dying.

RENETTA

We'll make it work. Rollie has the job at the school now.

BARRY

Well there's your million.

ROLLIE

Barry. Look, let's be realistic. David has us in a real bind here. Real bad. Worst I've seen.

DAVID

Ok...

ROLLIE

But here's the thing, I've always said, sometimes if you're lost in the woods -- no matter who got you there --

BARRY

Oh, we know who got us there.

RENETTA

Barry! That's enough! We have a situation here and you are not being helpful. The least you could do is clam up your PIE HOLE!

Renetta picks up the dish with what's left of the mac and trees and heads to the kitchen.

The guys are frozen and silent at this extremely rare outburst from Renetta. Then, finally...

ROLLIE

As I was saying, the best idea, once you're lost, is to pick a direction and just keep going.

DAVID

Rollie, I appreciate what you're saying, but I think that would just get you lost even deeper in the woods.

Rollie chuckles a bit.

ROLLIE

You might just be right, David. The important thing is, this is a family. And we're all in this together.

BARRY

(with a mouthful)

Not me. I got a brand new used Camry and I don't owe squat!

Barry laughs a little too hard and macaroni flies everywhere.

BARRY (CONT'D)

It has the best re-sale value of any foreign car!

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

SUE

David, you've got so many options. You could work in a lab. You could go the research route. You could become a life coach. Have you considered that?

DAVID

I can't be a life coach. Anyone with a fucking whistle can be a life coach.

SUE

Life coaches don't actually coach with a whistle. Or a gym uniform.

DAVID

I know that. I'm sorry if my intentions were not as pure as yours or therapist Dan down the block who's like, "ever since I was 6, I wanted to be a therapist." I'm not that guy. Look, I know this is last minute. I only have ten days before my temporary medical license expires.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
And to be honest I am actually
making real progress with a few of
them.

INT. GARAGE - REBECCA - DAY

They are in the middle of a new session.

DAVID
So, you're feeling less stress.
That's good.

REBECCA
Yeah, after finding out that you're
in so much more debt than me. I
have been feeling a lot better.

DAVID
Oh, I see. But, you're realizing
it's not good to spend money on
things you don't need.

REBECCA
I felt completely helpless before,
but you've really helped me out
here.

For the first time, David feels like a doctor.

DAVID
Wow.
(touched)
I really appreciate hearing that.

REBECCA
Yeah, I think I'm gonna be ok.

DAVID
That is excellent.

REBECCA
But *you* are *really* fucked.

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

DAVID
I'm actually helping some of these
people. That feeling I always
wanted to have being a brain
surgeon, I can still have that
doing this.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

I can't cut open their skulls and physically touch their brains, but I can still get in their heads and do some good. That's all I really wanted.

SUE

David, that's really good to hear.

DAVID

I know I can do this. I'm trying my best, I just can't do it on my own. I need your help. Please. I don't know what else to do.

Sue looks at David and sees the same scared little boy who she helped after his father passed away.

SUE

You know, I actually ran into your Mom a few years ago and she told me you were in medical school. I was happy to hear you were doing so well.

DAVID

She didn't tell me that. I guess I'm not doing as well as you thought.

SUE

David. I can help you. Ok? I can. I believe that you want to help these people but David it is imperative that nobody find out about this. And, the only reason that I'm saying yes to this is because I cannot know that this is going on in your garage without doing what I can to help these people. And you.

DAVID

You're saying yes to this.

SUE

Yes, I am saying yes to this.

David has never been more relieved in his life.

DAVID

Thank you so much.

SUE

David, but on a very limited basis with some very clear parameters.

DAVID

Absolutely. Super clear. Clear city.

SUE

I do need to listen to these tapes and we're going to need to get together once a week.

DAVID

I can come more.

SUE

And you're going to have to take some suggestions moving forward.

He starts to get the tapes.

DAVID

Ok. I'll give you some of the best ones. Where people are getting some really good stuff out there, and I'm giving some good advice.

SUE

I'm going to need you to agree to a couple of points. Number one: you can't get involved in your patient's personal lives. And number two: under no circumstances will you engage in any sexual contact with any patient.

DAVID

Yeah, duh. That's not gonna happen.

INT. GARAGE - RACHEL - DAY

We pick up from their session at the opening...

DAVID

You're just a...beautiful...human being.

The tape recorder falls. David and Rachel move to pick it up and touch hands. They both stand, eyes locked.

David starts to lean in, but stops.

RACHEL

It's ok.

They kiss.

INT. SUE'S OFFICE - DAY

David is leaving. He turns to Sue.

DAVID

So, these rules start now, right?

END OF SHOW