

UNSTRUNG  
"Pilot"

by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. CAFE RESTAURANT/ BARCELONA - PRESENT DAY

LUKE HOLT, 20, sits in a restaurant. Currently the world's fifth best tennis player and only getting better. He's proof that God isn't fair: a once in a generation tennis talent, he also has the kind of face that gives girls that "Elvis meets the Beatles" look.

He sits next to his sister ELLIE HOLT, a 19 year old spunky beauty with great talent and not so great discipline. Currently, she's number 50-- but should be much higher.

ELLIE  
(to Luke)  
You're ridiculous.

LUKE  
What?

ELLIE  
We've eaten here every day of the tournament.

LUKE  
It's delicious.

Luke leans back in his chair. PAN UP to reveal a six story high Nike ad featuring Luke serving a tennis ball. The slogan reads: "The Machine is on."

ELLIE  
The Machine? That's a lame nickname.

LUKE  
Sure. I mean, it's not as rad as yours. Oh, wait, you're 50th in the world, you don't get a nickname.

PHIL HOLT, 49, their father and coach, sporting a John Newcombe mustache, enters and overhears this.

PHIL  
(sitting down, to Ellie)  
If you focus, you could get one.

LUKE  
Then maybe you could get a building.

A waiter approaches with plates of food.

WAITER

Egg whites?

Luke raises his hand and the waiter puts the plate down.

WAITER (CONT'D)

French toast?

Ellie nods and the waiter puts the plate down.

PHIL

(re: Ellie's breakfast)

Are you kidding me?

ELLIE

Dad, don't start. It's early.

Ellie pours syrup on her French toast.

LUKE

Eating that maple syrup is like  
pouring sand into your engine.

ELLIE

You do realize you're not an actual  
machine?

The waiter puts the plates on the table and exits.

PHIL

(to Luke)

Costa is gonna play slow-- he's  
gonna try to throw you off your  
rhythm.

LUKE

I know.

PHIL

He might even take some injury time  
outs. Just remember if you play  
within yourself, they can't touch  
us.

ELLIE

Dad, he knows.

PHIL

Well, you didn't listen, did you?  
Lost in straight sets and then  
mouthed off in the interview.

ELLIE

It was a stupid question!

PHIL

You're not protecting the brand,  
Ellie. You're a Holt. That means  
you give a thousand percent on the  
court, you thank the sponsors, and  
you stay on message with the press.

ELLIE

My bad, coach. Sometimes I forget  
I'm a brand, not a person.

She playfully takes a giant bite of French toast. Luke looks over as a waiter pushes up a sun umbrella.

*EXT. CEMETERY - FLASHBACK - TEN YEARS AGO*

*A mourner opens an umbrella. Pan over to a younger Phil, dressed for a funeral. He puts his arms around a younger Luke and Ellie as they walk with other mourners from a just completed burial service.*

*EXT. BARCELONA TENNIS STADIUM - CENTER COURT - LATER*

The crowd goes nuts as Luke lifts the trophy into the air. Luke points up at Phil and Ellie. As Ellie cheers, Phil points back. A look of pure pride.

PHIL'S POV: Luke walks off the court, carrying his trophy.

*EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - FLASHBACK - TWELVE YEARS EARLIER*

*A nine year old Luke, carrying a trophy, runs up the front walkway of his house. A younger Phil follows behind him. Reveal Grace tending roses. She turns, sees her son, and beams.*

GRACE

You won?

PHIL

Of course he won. He's a machine.

*She cuts a rose, hands it to Luke, and gives him a big hug.*

*EXT. BARCELONA HOTEL - THAT NIGHT*

A sleek Mercedes sedan pulls up to the entrance of a hip hotel. Paparazzi are waiting. The doors of the car open-- cameras flash as Luke, Ellie, and Phil emerge.

*EXT. BARCELONA HOTEL ROOFTOP - A BIT LATER*

A rooftop terrace, surrounded by the lights of Barcelona-- tennis people-- players, publicity, sponsors, ATP reps, etc.

mingle with models, beautiful people, Pedro Almodovar-- a party you'd want to be at especially if you just won the tournament. PAN over to REVEAL Luke talking to ANDY RODDICK.

ANDY RODDICK  
You were crushing it today,  
Machine.

LUKE  
I just go out there and grind.

ANDY RODDICK  
You going to Miami?  
(off Luke's nod)  
I got the jet. You want to fly Air  
Andy?

LUKE  
Definitely. Can Ellie and my dad  
come?

ANDY RODDICK  
Totally. Wheels up-- eleven a.m.  
(noticing a woman)  
Oh, crap, it's that chick from  
Madrid.

Andy quickly exits. Phil approaches Luke, carrying a plate of food.

PHIL  
You forgot to thank the sponsor.

LUKE  
Come on, Dad, I just won the  
tournament.

PHIL  
Okay, you're right. Enjoy.  
(can't let it go)  
But still... Bernard is floating  
around here somewhere. Make sure  
you thank him.

LUKE  
Andy invited us to fly back to  
Miami on his jet.

PHIL  
No.

LUKE  
I already told him yes.

PHIL

He's not your friend. He's just trying to get in your head.

LUKE

It's not like that. He's a good guy.

PHIL

It's always like that.

Phil notices that Luke's hand is SHAKING.

PHIL (CONT'D)

What's wrong with your hand?

LUKE

Nothing. I think it's just adrenaline.

PHIL

You seen your sister?

LUKE

Nope.

ANGLE ON: Ellie, off in the corner, behind some potted trees, with a drink. She's in the arms of LIVINGSTON, a dashing black, British doubles specialist.

LIVINGSTON

You know we're staying in the same hotel...

ELLIE

So?

LIVINGSTON

So, I was thinking, after Berlin...

ELLIE

I was hammered in Berlin.

LIVINGSTON

No, you weren't.

ELLIE

Fine, I have a weird Denzel Washington slash James Bond jones and you sorta fit the bill. That night.

LIVINGSTON

You know I really like you, right?

ELLIE

(playfully)

You know I really don't care,  
right?

ANGLE ON: BRETT MILLER, a journeyman player. If Luke is knocking on the door of number one, 201 just hit Brett in the ass. He's about as out of shape as you can be and still be a professional athlete. Currently, he stands in front of a carving station as a chef carves from a very large ham.

BRETT

(holding out the plate)

Bury me in jamon, my man.

The chef piles a mound of ham on Brett's plate as Phil looks on, appalled.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Perfect. One more. Wrap it up in a  
tinfoil swan. I'll take it  
stateside tomorrow.

James Blake approaches.

JAMES BLAKE

(re: plate of ham)

How's the new training regimen  
going for you?

BRETT

I firmly believe in the carrot, not  
the stick.

PHIL

(exiting)

Unless it's a stick of ham.

BRETT

Oh, a shot from the 'stache.

(then to Blake)

Saw you're playing Miami.  
Interested in a little doubts?

JAMES BLAKE

What are you, like 200th in the  
world? I don't think so.

BRETT

If I don't get a solid doubles  
partner for Miami, I won't get into  
the draw. Then I have to go play  
Riga. That's Latvia, bro. They  
threw batteries at me last time.



ANGLE ON: NINOTCHKA ANDROPOV, 20, beautiful, diva, number three in the world, number one attraction in the women's game. Next to her is her boyfriend and manager, NICOLAI GORP, early 30s, the son of notorious Russian gangster/oligarch Mordecai Gorp. A PHOTOGRAPHER approaches them.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Can I get a picture?

NICOLAI

(putting his arm around  
Ninotchka)

Sure.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Oh, not you. I want the two  
champions.

Just then, Luke approaches and stands next to Ninotchka.

NICOLAI

Oh, right. Sure.

Luke puts his arm around Ninotchka. Nicolai clocks this and seethes with rage.

NICOLAI (CONT'D)

No one said touch her.

As the photographer starts snapping, Ninotchka, doing her sponsor proud, makes sure her Rolex watch gets in the photo.

LUKE

You're good - getting the watch in  
there. Wait, let me get mine in  
there too. We'll both be whores.

She laughs at this. They both put their watches out as the photographer snaps more photos.

ANGLE ON: Phil watching Luke being photographed. He's clearly proud. BRAD GILBERT, Andre Agassi's former coach, sidles up next to him.

GILBERT

You've done good with that kid.

PHIL

It's really starting to come  
together.

GILBERT

Big difference between number five  
and number one, though.

(MORE)

GILBERT (CONT'D)  
Plus, after a year on the tour,  
everyone starts to figure you out.

PHIL  
Not interested, Gilbert.

GILBERT  
Why don't you bring me in, Phil?  
You've taken him as far as you can.

PHIL  
I've been hearing that since he won  
14's at Kalamazoo. I'm taking him  
all the way.

Phil walks off. Gilbert calls after him.

GILBERT  
Call me when you don't.

ANGLE BACK ON: Luke and Ninotchka.

NINOTCHKA  
You gonna be in Miami?

LUKE  
Of course.

NINOTCHKA  
Maybe we'll both win again and we  
can pimp out some other product.

LUKE  
I look forward to that.

They shake hands for a length of time that borders on a hand-  
hold. Nicolai approaches menacingly, but Ellie sweeps in.

ELLIE  
(to Ninotchka)  
Could you excuse us?

Ellie leads Luke away.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Are you nuts?! Her boyfriend's full  
Russian mob. And he's psycho. I  
heard he ate Roddick's cat.

LUKE  
He ate Roddick's cat? Why?

ELLIE

Does it really matter? I mean, is there a scenario where the cat had it coming?

LUKE

Dad's looking for you. And get a mint-- you smell like cigarettes.

ELLIE

Some guy in the elevator. They smoke everywhere here.

LUKE

Keep practicing that lie. It may sound natural by the time you talk to Dad.

INT. AIRPLANE/FIRST CLASS - THE NEXT MORNING

Phil sits across from Luke. There's an empty seat next to Luke.

PHIL

Where is your sister?

LUKE

I don't know.

PHIL

Why can't she get with the program?

LUKE

I don't know. She could top ten.

PHIL

She could be number one.

INT. BARCELONA HOTEL ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Ellie wakes up and looks at the alarm clock. It reads 11 A.M.

ELLIE

Crap.

She hurries out of bed wearing a men's shirt. Livingston walks out of the bathroom, just showered.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I missed my flight. Again.

LIVINGSTON

You know what? Come with me to Riga.

ELLIE

Are you crazy?! I have a match in Miami.

LIVINGSTON

Blow it off. I'm sure we can get you a wild card in Latvia.

She looks at him a beat, then:

ELLIE

I don't like you.

INT. AIRPLANE/FIRST CLASS - LATER

The plane is now darkened. Everybody's asleep except for Luke and Phil who, illuminated by the glow of a DVD player, review match tapes.

LUKE

Pause it. I have to hit the restroom.

Luke gets up and heads to the restroom. It's occupied. He heads toward coach.

INT. AIRPLANE/COACH - CONTINUOUS

Brett reads the palm of a STEWARDESS with a few extra miles on her. On his tray are several empty mini-bottles of Malibu Rum as well as the decimated remains of the tin-foil ham swan from the party. He runs his finger across her palm.

BRETT

And this is your intelligence line. You're very, very bright. But do you have a problem thinking spatially?

Luke walks down the aisle. He catches Brett's eye, who hoists his mini-Malibu in acknowledgment.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Hey, Machine. Congrats.

LUKE

Thanks, man.

BRETT

(re: flight attendant)  
This is Carla. Iberia Air's finest.

Luke reaches to shake her hand. Brett notices that Luke's hand is shaking.

BRETT (CONT'D)

What's up with your hand, bro?

Luke notices that his hand is trembling again.

LUKE

I don't know. It's been doing that all day.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

DR. BARRET, mid-fifties, kindly-- the guy you'd want to tell your problems to-- sits with Luke in his office. He's examining Luke's hand and forearm.

DR. BARRET

Looks like tendonitis, feels like tendonitis. I'm sure it's tendonitis.

LUKE

Okay. I can deal with tendonitis.

DR. BARRET

But given your mother's medical history... I want to be absolutely sure.

LUKE

What medical history?

DR. BARRET

Well, her disease was hereditary.

LUKE

Yeah, I know, but what would depression have to do with my hand?

DR. BARRET

I'm not talking about her depression, Luke, I'm--  
(catching himself)  
How much has your dad shared with you?

LUKE

My mom took a bottle of pills. I was ten years old-- they don't exactly share a lot of details with you.

A beat as Dr. Barret considers, then:

DR. BARRET

Your mom had Huntington's disease.

LUKE

I don't know what that is.

DR. BARRET

It's a neurological condition that leads to increasing physical and mental deterioration. It usually onsets in a person's forties.

Luke sits back, in shock. Thinks a beat, then;

LUKE

Do you think that's why my mom killed herself?

DR. BARRET

Well, it's a really brutal disease, Luke. It's fatal. And, like I said, it's hereditary.

The enormity of this registers on Luke.

LUKE

So my hand? Do you think I have it too?

DR. BARRET

No, I think the hand is tendonitis. It's very unlikely that you'd be showing symptoms this early. But, that being said, tremors are an early indicator...

Luke shakes his head.

LUKE

I can't believe this.

DR. BARRET

Look, there is a genetic test to determine if you have the disease. We could schedule one.

LUKE

If it's hereditary, what about Ellie?

DR. BARRET

She could have it too.

LUKE

What are the odds?

DR. BARRET

Well, each child of a Huntington's carrier has a fifty percent chance of developing the disease.

As Luke processes this, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. TENNIS ACADEMY/EXT. PHIL HOLT'S CONDO - LATER THAT DAY

A giant tennis academy-- courts, locker rooms, condos, houses. One of the condos belongs to the Phil Holt, and Ellie who still lives with him. It has an elaborate rose garden. Phil, wearing gardening gloves and holding clippers, talks to Luke and Ellie.

ELLIE

You told us Mom killed herself because she suffered from manic depression.

PHIL

She did.

LUKE

She also had a death sentence hanging over her head which, by the way, both Ellie and I may have!

PHIL

You don't have it. I know it.

ELLIE

How could you know that?

PHIL

It's not possible.

LUKE

Why?! Because you're in denial?

ELLIE

Well, I don't want to live in denial. I'm getting tested.

PHIL

The test is what killed your mother. Knowing she had this disease hanging over her was like torture. I never wanted that for you guys.

LUKE

That wasn't your decision. You should have told us what was going on.

PHIL

You were ten.



LUKE

We're not ten anymore.

EXT. RODEO RING - SIMULTANEOUS

Ninotchka stands next to a COWBOY. She's wearing a bikini. Why? This is a photo shoot for a magazine. Nicolai is over on the side of the ring, talking on his cell phone. He stands next to a bull in its pen.

NICOLAI

(into phone)

Ten thousand on Miami Heat. Twenty thousand on the Pacers...

Nicolai looks over at the bull. Nicolai cocks his head to look more intently-- there's an odd moment of connection.

NICOLAI (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Does Chicago play tonight? Good. A hundred grand on the Bulls.

ANGLE ON: Ninotchka and the Cowboy.

NINOTCHKA

(re: bull)

These animals are treated humanely, right?

COWBOY

Absolutely.

NINOTCHKA

Good. Because animal rights are very important to me. I want to start a dog rescue.

COWBOY

That's hot.

NINOTCHKA

I know, right?

(then)

I knew I wanted a charity but it was tough because I don't really know anyone who died of any diseases and you should have a personal connection or it's weird, right? But then I read that they euthanize five thousand dogs a month in southern Florida.

(MORE)

NINOTCHKA (CONT'D)

Anyway, it's something my boyfriend  
and I can do together. He's amazing  
with animals.

ANGLE ON: Nicolai, who scratches the back of the bull's ear.  
The bull coos.

INT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - SIMULTANEOUS

Brett sits across a table from the TOUR DIRECTOR.

BRETT

How we looking on the doubts?

TOUR DIRECTOR

Nobody's cancelled so it doesn't  
look good.

BRETT

Oh, come on, man, I'm from Miami.

TOUR DIRECTOR

You're from Arizona.

BRETT

Ah, you've read the bio. I'm  
touched. I am indeed a Sun Devil.

TOUR DIRECTOR

Look, Brett, you know I like you...

BRETT

And I like you too, Carl.

TOUR DIRECTOR

But as I told you, unless you pair  
up with one of the top five  
players, you're not gonna make it.

BRETT

I love this game but it does not  
love me.

INT. HOSPITAL/NEUROLOGIST'S OFFICE WAITING AREA - LATER

Phil and Ellie sit waiting for Luke to come out with his  
results. Phil puts his arm around Ellie.

PHIL

He doesn't have it. Neither of you  
have it.

Phil looks up to see Luke walk down the long hall toward  
them.

*INT. HOSPITAL - FLASHBACK - FIFTEEN YEARS AGO*

*Phil watches his wife walk down another long hall toward him.*

*INT. HOSPITAL - BACK TO PRESENT*

Luke approaches.

LUKE

I don't have it.

Ellie and Phil hug him. He's relieved but sensitive to the fact that Ellie still hasn't found out.

ELLIE

God, now I don't even know if I want to know.

LUKE

It's easy. You walk in. You sit down across from the doctor, he tells you the test results, you find out you don't have it, and we go home.

Luke squeezes Ellie's hand and she goes in.

*INT. RESTAURANT - SIMULTANEOUS*

Nicolai and Ninotchka eat lunch. Nicolai sneaks peeks at a TV screen behind the bar.

NINOTCHKA

Are you having lunch with me or the basketball game?

NICOLAI

God damn Bulls.

NINOTCHKA

Did you bet on this game?

NICOLAI

I told you I don't do that anymore.  
(then, re. TV, frustrated)  
Ahhh. You miss that shot at the buzzer in Moscow, they throw you into the Volga.

*EXT. MINI MALL - PARKING LOT - A LITTLE LATER*

Nicolai and Ninotchka walk across the parking lot. Nicolai stops, noticing a Basset Hound locked up in a station wagon, panting from the heat. A LADY walks by.

NICOLAI  
(to the Lady)  
Is this your dog?

LADY  
No.

NICOLAI  
Who leaves a dog in a car like  
this? It's a thousand degrees--  
it's cooking his brain.

The lady walks away, a little freaked out.

NINOTCHKA  
Take it easy. We'll call Animal  
Control.

NICOLAI  
We should liberate it.

NINOTCHKA  
No.

NICOLAI  
I thought you wanted to start a pet  
rescue.

NINOTCHKA  
Yeah, but not by stealing other  
people's dogs.

He picks up a metal garbage can.

NINOTCHKA (CONT'D)  
Nicolai, don't.

He slams the garbage can through the station wagon's window.  
The car alarm blares. He opens the door and picks up the dog.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - A LITTLE LATER

Phil and Luke get bottles of water from a soda machine. A FAN  
approaches.

FAN  
Hey, Luke Holt, right? The Machine.

LUKE  
Yeah, yeah.

FAN  
Wow. I saw you at the US Open. Can  
I get a picture?

LUKE

Actually, it's not a good time.

FAN

Come on. My wife loves you. She'll freak.

LUKE

I've got some stuff going on right now.

FAN

It doesn't look like you've got anything going on.

PHIL

(to the fan, placating)  
Just a quick one, okay, buddy?  
(taking camera)  
I'll take it.

The fan puts his arm around Luke as Phil snaps a photo.

FAN

Thanks.

The fan walks off.

LUKE

Dad, I really wasn't in the head to do that.

PHIL

I know. But a guy like that-- next thing you know he's calling into ESPN radio talking smack and you don't need that.

LUKE

Dad, tell me you're seriously not thinking about the brand right now.

PHIL

Of course not.

LUKE

'Cause Ellie's in there.

PHIL

She's gonna be fine.

LUKE

I feel like our priorities are all screwed up.

PHIL  
(putting hand on Luke's  
shoulder)  
It's gonna be okay.

Ellie comes out.

ELLIE  
Here you are. God, I come out,  
nobody's there--

LUKE  
Ellie.

Ellie smiles.

ELLIE  
I don't have it.

Luke and Phil surround her in a hug.

INT. MIAMI PLAYERS' LOUNGE - LATER

Roger Federer plays "Wii Tennis" with another player on a  
monitor. Brett approaches.

BRETT  
Awesome shot, Roger.  
(beat)  
It's good to mix it up. Whether it  
be video tennis... or doubles.

ROGER  
Not gonna happen.

INT. MIAMI PLAYERS' LOUNGE - LATER

Andy Roddick is on the computer. Brett hovers over him.

BRETT  
September 20, 2003.

ANDY  
What?

BRETT  
Last time you played doubs. Can't  
tell me you're not getting the itch  
again.

ANDY  
No, Brett.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - PRACTICE COURTS - LATER

TIGHT ON: Rafael Nadal. He does crunches on the practice court. PULL BACK TO REVEAL: Brett, standing above him, eating chocolate frozen yogurt.

BRETT

I don't know, man. I think we'd have some laughs...

Brett accidentally spills some yogurt on Nadal's capri pants.

RAFAEL

You got chocolate on me.

BRETT

Just fro-yo. She don't stain.

EXT. TENNIS ACADEMY PRACTICE COURTS - THE NEXT DAY

Phil is at the net, feeding Ellie balls, which she crushes.

PHIL

Everything is upside down today. You're early. Your brother is late.

Luke approaches.

PHIL (CONT'D)

There he is. You ready to hit some balls?

LUKE

Actually, I was wondering if I could talk to you. I've been doing a lot of thinking.

ELLIE

(walks up)

Uh-oh. He's thinking.

LUKE

Ellie, could you give us a few minutes.

ELLIE

Everything cool?

LUKE

Yeah.

ELLIE

Alright, I need to get a piece of fruit anyway. I'm about to pass out.

Ellie exits.

LUKE

(to Phil)

I'm still having trouble with the fact that you didn't tell us.

PHIL

Luke, I explained that...

LUKE

I don't know, Dad. My whole life-- you've controlled everything. When I play. What I eat. Who I hang out with. Christ, you even choose my sponsors-- you pick the clothes I wear. I'm twenty-one.

PHIL

We've done it together. We're on the verge.

LUKE

You so controlled things you didn't even tell me that I might have a disease that could kill me.

PHIL

I knew you didn't have it, Luke.

LUKE

No, you didn't! When I was in that doctor's office, waiting for the results, I started thinking that all I ever do in my life is tennis or something to do with tennis. I grew up in Florida and I've never been water skiing. I've had seven pieces of pizza in my life. I didn't do any of these things because everything has been about being number one.

PHIL

Don't you want to be number one?

LUKE

Yeah, I guess. I think so.



PHIL

No one ever gets to be number one  
if they think they want to be  
number one.

LUKE

Well, I know my life is full of  
choices and I want to be the one  
who makes them.

PHIL

What are you saying?

LUKE

I don't want you to be my coach  
anymore.

On Phil's shocked reaction, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS STADIUM - FOOD COURT - THE NEXT DAY

On the tournament grounds are food vendors and various corporate sponsor booths. Luke mills around, eating a slice of pizza. Ellie approaches him.

ELLIE

So this is the big rebellion?  
(re: Luke's food)  
Please tell me you didn't dump dad  
so that you could eat pizza.

LUKE

Pizza is just the tip of the  
iceberg. I've been going off.

ELLIE

Really? Terri saw you at the movies  
last night by yourself.

LUKE

(fronting)  
That's where I started.

ELLIE

What are you doing?

LUKE

I figured if anyone would  
understand, it would be you.

ELLIE

Dad wants you to come back.

LUKE

He didn't say that.

ELLIE

No. But his light was on all night.  
He's in hell. He's worried about  
you.

LUKE

He's worried about the brand.

Brett crosses by.

BRETT

There they are. The family von  
Holt.

ELLIE

We're kind of in the middle of something.

BRETT

Me too.

(turns to Luke)

Noticed that your first match is tomorrow. I have a proposition. Doubles. You and I play a match or two. I pocket twelve hundred, you pocket the knowledge that you cut a solid to a good man who maybe sometimes can't get out of his own way.

Ellie notices Luke considering this.

ELLIE

You know what dad says about doubles.

LUKE

I do.

(then, to Brett)

I'd love to play.

BRETT

Really? Wow. Alright.

(walking away)

Court 37. Catch the shuttle. It's a bit of a hoof.

He crosses off.

ELLIE

Really? You're gonna play doubles with that guy? He smells like rum.

LUKE

I told you. I'm going off.

ELLIE

Okay, granted, Dad can be a pain in the ass. But he just wants us to get paid, so we can have some security, so we don't have to go through what he did.

LUKE

Jesus, you really drank the Kool-Aid. You sound just like me.

ELLIE

And you sound like me.

Luke shrugs.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Fine. Be an idiot. But don't play doubles.

INT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - PLAYERS' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Nicolai, petting the Basset Hound, watches the TV. Ninotchka comes in looking a little green.

NICOLAI

Baby, you don't look so good.

NINOTCHKA

(looking around, then quietly)

Yeah, I have a stomach thing.

(then noticing)

I thought you were gonna return the dog.

NICOLAI

No, I will not return Vladimir to his torturer.

NINOTCHKA

(frustrated)

Nicolai...

She sits down, a little wobbly.

NICOLAI

I'm worried about you, baby. Do you think you should play?

NINOTCHKA

I can't default. I can't say I'm injured-- that would freak out the sponsors. I can't say I'm sick because everybody knows that when you say you're sick, you have diarrhea and I'm a sex symbol-- I can't have diarrhea.

INT. HOLT CONDO - LATER

Phil is watching film of Ellie's previous matches. Ellie enters.

ELLIE  
Doubles, dad! He's playing doubles.

PHIL  
Yeah, so?

ELLIE  
During the tournament!

Phil shrugs-- not disturbed.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
It's one of your cardinal sins.  
Growing up I was more scared about  
getting caught playing doubles than  
having sex with a boy!  
(off his suspicious look)  
Dad, I swear: I never played  
doubles.

PHIL  
Look, I'm not your brother's coach.  
He made that very clear.

ELLIE  
Luke's going through some stuff. It  
was heavy.

PHIL  
Well, you went through it too and  
you decided to re-focus.

ELLIE  
He's just a little lost right now.  
It's no big deal. All he's doing is  
wandering around the food court.  
He'll come around. But you're gonna  
have to be the one to take the  
first step.

PHIL  
(re. Video)  
See what you're doing with your hip  
there?

ELLIE  
Dad...

PHIL  
You're opening up too early.

Ellie rolls her eyes and looks at the videotape.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - COURT 37 - SIMULTANEOUS

Luke and Brett sit on the bench, getting ready for their match.

BRETT

I'm not even gonna pretend that this is business as usual.

Brett points to the crowd-- it's jam-packed and loaded with women.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Thank you.

LUKE

(noticing someone in the crowd)

Oh crap-- there's that chick who started that website about me.

BRETT

Yeah, I checked that out, dude. I dug that suit you wore to the Espies.

(ties his head band)

Let's do this.

Luke and Brett walk out unto the court to face their opponents: two GUYS from India.

BRETT (CONT'D)

(calling out to opponent)

Patel.

(re: Luke)

Brought a gun to a knife fight, my friend.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - CENTER COURT - SIMULATANEOUS

Ninotchka, at the net, gets passed by her opponent, THE CANADIAN. Her opponent throws up her arms in victory.

JOHN MCENROE

Wow. This is a huge upset. I don't know what was wrong with Andropov today but she played like someone who could not wait to get off the court.

They shake hands.

JOHN MCENROE (CONT'D)

Alberta native, Amy Cloud-- a player known more for her "please's" and "thank you's" than her game-- the winner in straight sets today over a less than stellar Ninotchka Andropov.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - COURT 37 - LATER

Brett, drenched in sweat, puts away a volley to win the match. He thrusts his arms into the air in victory, hi-fives Luke, and points to the crowd.

LUKE

Easy, dude, this isn't the Davis Cup.

BRETT

It is for me.

Brett takes off his sweaty shirt and whips it as a souvenir into the crowd.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Let the Ebay bidding begin.

The wet shirt lands with a thwack as people back away.

LUKE

(re: Brett's belly)

Wow. That's not good for the sport.

BRETT

Come on, baby, don't leave me hanging here. Throw the shirt.

Luke smiles as he considers this for a short beat, then whips his shirt into the crowd. A frenzy of admirers fight for it.

A beat as Brett studies Luke's sculpted physique, then:

BRETT (CONT'D)

Dude, you need a beer.

INT. NINOTCHKA & NICOLAI'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER

A penthouse apartment in Miami. Floor to ceiling windows, with a view of Biscayne Bay on one side and the city of Miami on the other. Nicolai paces. Ninotchka emerges from the bedroom and heads toward the kitchen.

NICOLAI

How are you feeling, babe?

NINOTCHKA

It's weird. Now I feel fine.

NICOLAI

Maybe you got food poisoning.

NINOTCHKA

If the match were tonight, I  
would've kicked that Canuck's ass.

A beat as Nicolai pets Vladimir, then:

NICOLAI

I'm racked with guilt.

NINOTCHKA

I told you to return the dog.

Nicolai takes a beat, lets out a sigh, and girds himself for  
a confession.

NICOLAI

I bet against you in the match  
after I knew you were sick. I made  
a lot of money.

NINOTCHKA

What?!

NICOLAI

I have a problem and I'm ready to  
admit that now.

NINOTCHKA

(standing up)

If I'm connected with gambling in  
any way, I could be banned from  
tennis. For life!

NICOLAI

No, you can't. You didn't know  
anything about it.

NINOTCHKA

Now I do!

She starts pacing, her mind reeling at the possible  
consequences.

NICOLAI

Baby, I am so out of control.



NINOTCHKA

I can't take it anymore. The  
gambling, the jealousy, the anger--

NICOLAI

I'm gonna start going to meetings.

She points to a smashed TV on the ground.

NINOTCHKA

Look what you did to the Plasma.

NICOLAI

I just don't understand why that  
cowboy sent you flowers.

NINOTCHKA

Your answer to everything is  
violence.

NICOLAI

You know how I was raised. That's  
all I learned.

NINOTCHKA

It was exciting when I was a  
teenager in Odessa. But now I'm  
over it.

NICOLAI

What are you saying?

NINOTCHKA

I'm saying I don't want you to go  
to Indian Wells with me.

She walks out the door.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As Ninotchka walks away, she hears the loud crash of a thrown  
appliance.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - LATER

Luke and Brett down shots at the bar.

LUKE

(to bartender)

Another round.

BRETT

Partner, I am officially half-way  
to lit.

LUKE

We are going off!

BRETT

You really like to say that, don't you?

A FEMALE FAN approaches.

FAN

Luke, can I get a picture with you?

LUKE

Absolutely. But you've got to do a shot first.

The fan and Luke do a shot. Brett snaps a picture. She kisses Luke on the cheek. Then kisses Brett on the cheek as well. She crosses off.

BRETT

Got to tell you, bro. I like trolling in your jetwash.

Luke turns to see Ninotchka enter with a friend, SAFINA.

LUKE

(noticing)

Dude. Ninotchka's here. She's so smokin'.

BRETT

I love the instinct and I don't want to throw cold water on this "new Luke" thing but I've met the boyfriend-- not a stable element.

LUKE

There's a friend for you.

BRETT

Fair enough. Let's get some of that Russian sugar.

Ninotchka and the girls approach.

NINOTCHKA

Hey!

She gives Luke a big hug and three kisses.

LUKE

I played doubles today, I'm drunk,  
and I've wanted to kiss you since  
Montreal.

NINOTCHKA

Then I guess we're gonna have to  
get a table.

BRETT

(extending his hand to  
Safina)

Brett Meyers. Recent inductee into  
the Tempe Union High School Hall of  
Fame.

EXT. PRACTICE COURT/INT. SUSHI BAR - MONTAGE

-Ellie serves.

-Luke slams a shot.

-Ellie sprints to the net, hits her racket on it, and pedals  
backwards.

-Luke slams a shot.

-Ellie tosses her rackets into her bag.

-Luke pushes the rest room door open while he makes out with  
Ninotchka.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - SIMULTANEOUS

Brett sits with Safina. He's reading her palm.

BRETT

(re: hand)  
Intelligent. Passionate.  
(examining closer)  
And incredibly low standards.

SAFINA

You're not like other guys on the  
tour.

BRETT

I'm not like other guys period.

Nicolai enters and approaches them.

NICOLAI

Safina, where is Ninotchka?

SAFINA

What do you care?

NICOLAI

I cannot sleep. She holds half my beating heart.

SAFINA

I haven't seen her.

NICOLAI

No, that's a lie. You're having a girl's night out and you met a couple of guys. I bet it's that Luke Holt. I've seen her look at him.

BRETT

Luke? No, he can't. He's Mormon. He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, wears the crazy magic white underwear.

NICOLAI

I have to find her. I have to apologize.

BRETT

(calming him)

Okay, you're upset. I get it. Why don't you sit down? Tell Safina all about it while I go get us some vodka-- if that's not a cliché.

Nicolai sits down and Brett walks off.

INT. BAR BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brett bursts into the bathroom to find Luke and Ninotchka going at it.

BRETT

Stop! Nicolai's here.

LUKE

So what?

BRETT

Drop the bravado, bro. He ate Roddick's cat.

NINOTCHKA

That's not true. He loves animals.

LUKE

See? He loves animals.

NINOTCHKA

What happened was he bit Roddick's brother and the cat ran into the street.

BRETT

Out the window! Go. Go. Safina and I'll stall him.

Ninotchka and Luke start to climb out the window.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Wait. I need forty more bucks. We ended up getting apps.

EXT. TENNIS ACADEMY - PRACTICE COURTS - SIMULTANEOUS

Ellie is hitting serves under the lights.

INT. BAR - LATER

Brett and Nicolai are now quite drunk. Safina has left.

BRETT

Yeah, family. What are you gonna do? I have the same deal. I mean, my uncle wasn't in a Gulag per se, but he was under house arrest in his condo. So I guess that's technically condo arrest, but he's never been the same either.

NICOLAI

(beat, then)

I think I may have really lost her this time.

BRETT

Hey, hey. She'll be back.  
(then to the waitress)  
Two more 'Bu's.

NICOLAI

(yelling to the heavens)

Where are you?!!

INT. LUKE'S CONDO/BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Luke cuddles with Ninotchka in bed. They awake to a tap, tap, tap on the window. Luke looks up to see Brett through the glass. Luke opens the window.

BRETT

Bro, bro. You've got to get out of here. Nicolai's coming.

LUKE

What?

BRETT

(rapid and freaked)

I tried. I stayed out with him all night drinking. I thought we were bonding. Then it got really scary. Look what he did to my warm up jacket.

Brett holds up the burned remains of a warm-up jacket.

BRETT (CONT'D)

He's gonna kill you.

LUKE

What?

Brett looks to his left, then quickly bolts. Luke looks at Ninotchka for a beat then a vodka bottle smashes through the window.

NINOTCHKA

Run! I'll talk to him.

LUKE

You sure?

NINOTCHKA

He saw me holding hands with a guy in Moscow. He cut off the man's hands.

LUKE

I can only imagine what he'd cut off me.

Luke flies out the door wearing only his underwear.

EXT. TENNIS ACADEMY/CONDO COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

Luke runs through the backyards of several condos.

EXT. TENNIS ACADEMY/PRACTICE COURTS - MOMENTS LATER

Junior girls are practicing on the courts. Luke runs by the courts. The girls swoon.

EXT. TENNIS ACADEMY - CONTINUOUS

Luke continues on to a road that runs through the complex. Ellie pulls up along side of him for a beat. He's in a full sprint now. Ellie rolls down the passenger window.

ELLIE

You're going twelve miles an hour.

LUKE

Feels faster.

(then, stepping gingerly)

Ow! Gravel.

She slows the car down. He gets in. Ellie looks at him a beat, then:

ELLIE

Enjoying your freedom?

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. ELLIE'S CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ellie drives. Luke is in the passenger seat.

ELLIE  
Ninotchka? Really?

LUKE  
What?

ELLIE  
Yuck.

LUKE  
She's one of People's sexiest women  
alive.

ELLIE  
It's just so played. The short  
shorts and the accent...

LUKE  
She's Russian! And by the way,  
she's got a lot more going on than  
you think.

ELLIE  
Oh yeah, she's super complex. I  
read her blog. She hates when  
people mistreat animals.

LUKE  
She beat you like a dirty rug in  
Barcelona.

ELLIE  
Only because I was hung over.

LUKE  
(re: his own condition)  
How do you play with a hangover?

She looks at him-- he's disheveled and banged up.

ELLIE  
I'm worried about you.

LUKE  
Well, don't be.



ELLIE

You know Dad's not gonna be at your match?

LUKE

Yeah, I don't want him there.

ELLIE

Really? Because he's never missed one of your matches.

LUKE

It's about time then.

ELLIE

He's really not gonna be there.

LUKE

I got it!

ELLIE

Okay.

They drive on in silence for a beat, then:

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Do you think it's safe to go back to the condo or are we gonna have to get you a fake beard and an eye patch?

He laughs a little.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - CENTER COURT - LATER

Luke lunges for a volley. He doesn't reach it.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Holt looks a step slow.

MARIA CARILLO

I'll say-- down a set to British qualifier Dave Hemingson who's previous claim to fame is being a third cousin of the Queen.

JOHN MCENROE

He looks really lost out there.

Luke double faults. He then looks up into the crowd.

*EXT. ORANGE BOWL TOURNAMENT - FLASHBACK - TEN YEARS AGO*

*A ten year old Luke faults on a serve and looks up into the crowd where his father sits. Phil nods to Luke as if to say "relax, you can do it."*

*EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - COURT 1 - BACK TO PRESENT.*

Luke looks up to where his father used to sit. There's an empty seat.

MAN IN CROWD

Looking for your daddy, Holt? He's not here. It's just you.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

I don't know what that fan has against The Machine but he's been riding him all day.

Luke tries to shake it off. He takes a breath, then nets another serve.

MAN IN CROWD

That's your tenth double fault today!

Luke faults again.

MAN IN CROWD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Oh my God, I want my money back.

Luke mouths "fuck you" to the man. It's caught on camera.

The UMPIRE calls Luke over. He crosses to him.

JOHN MCENROE (V.O.)

Oooh. I'm fairly familiar with how this is gonna play out. Yeah, he's gonna get fined for that one.

LUKE

(to Umpire)

Okay. Whatever. I just want that guy out of here.

ANGLE ON: Security approaches the heckling man in the stands. People start to boo. Luke smiles, triumphantly.

The man slowly gets up, reaching down, he pulls out two crutches-- he's crippled. The crowd turns against Luke as the crippled man hobbles his way up the stairs.

Luke sinks his head.

INT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - PLAYERS' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Brett is watching the match on the TV. He winces. Brad Gilbert walks up.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS

Luke steps to the service line and bounces the ball, trying to shake off the scattered boos-- but the boos grow louder. He tosses the ball but stops when an object hits him in the back. He reaches down and picks it up. It's a...

INT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - PLAYERS' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

BRAD GILBERT

Is that a battery?

BRETT

Yeah, bro, it's Riga all over again.

(then)

He's having a rough one *sans* Pops.

BRAD GILBERT

Yeah, he needs to give me a call.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - COURT 2 - A LITTLE LATER

Phil watches as Ellie plays with a determination that he's never seen before. Maria Sharapova walks by.

MARIA SHARAPOVA

She's killing it out there. I'm glad we're in different brackets.

PHIL

(smiling)

Just delaying the inevitable.

She chuckles.

INT. NINOTCHKA & NICOLAI'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUS

Ninotchka is packing her stuff. Nicolai follows her around.

NINOTCHKA

I'm gonna go stay in a hotel.

NICOLAI

Okay, I know I overreacted. I should have never chased him in my car. Do you want me to apologize to him? Because I will.

(then, getting mad)

(MORE)

NICOLAI (CONT'D)

I will apologize to the man who  
slept with my girlfriend!

NINOTCHKA

I can't live like this.

NICOLAI

I know. I can't live like this  
either. I'm so miserable.

He sits down on the bed. She sees him in pain.

NINOTCHKA

You just need to get some help.

NICOLAI

I know. But I also know I won't be  
able to get better without you. I'm  
not strong enough.

NINOTCHKA

You can do it.

NICOLAI

No, I can't. If you go, I'll lose  
it. I know. I already bet on you,  
baby. Who knows what I'll do next.

She takes a beat, knowing he has the power to ruin her  
career.

NINOTCHKA

If I stay, you promise to start  
going to meetings again?

NICOLAI

Yuri has already agreed to be my  
sponsor.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - CENTER COURT - A LITTLE LATER

After missing a shot, Luke throws his racket.

JOHN MCENROE

Luke Holt is in the throes of a  
world-class meltdown here. He's now  
lost ten straight games and is  
facing triple match point. The  
Machine looks broken.

MARY CARILLO

I imagine he's rethinking that  
coaching switch right now.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

THE FOLLOWING TWO SCENES ARE EDITED LIKE A SEGMENT ON SPORTS CENTER:

Ellie sits behind a mic at a press conference. PETE, the player rep, sits next to her. BRANDON MOGLEN, a reporter with the Tennis Channel, raises his hand.

BRANDON

Biggest win of your career today, Ellie. How's it feel?

ELLIE

Fantastic. Feels like things are finally coming together.

BRANDON

You were playing with a fire we haven't seen before. What do you attribute that to?

She ponders this a beat, wondering how much to reveal, then:

ELLIE

I'm finally realizing how lucky I am to have been given the talent that I have and I'm just trying to make my family proud. And I have to say it feels really good to be back here at the Sunkist Miami Invitational. They really host a top-flight tournament.

PETE

Guys, that's a lot of questions. Why don't we let Ellie go?

ELLIE

I'm happy to stay, Pete. I really don't mind.

Phil smiles proudly at Ellie's new attitude.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Luke sits at the press conference table, sullen. A baseball cap pulled low over his face-- not the usual Machine.

BRANDON

What happened out there?

LUKE

Well, I was playing like crap. Then I let some dick fan get in my head, then it turned out that dick fan was handicapped and that really got in my head, and then I started sucking and then I started not caring and then I just wanted to get off the court and here we are.

BRANDON

Are you saying you tanked the match?

LUKE

(sarcastic)

No. No. The Machine doesn't tank matches.

(like a robot)

I will always give one hundred and ten percent. Just do it.

(then)

But I will tell you what I am gonna tank. This interview.

(then, turning)

What's the fine for cutting a press conference short?

PETE

Two grand.

Luke gets up and pulls off his mic.

LUKE

Check's in the mail.

Luke walks off the make-shift stage toward the player's lounge. Ellie tries to stop him.

ELLIE

Luke, wait...

Luke blows by her.

INT. GAS STATION/MINI MART - LATER THAT NIGHT

Phil waits in line to pay. The customer in front of him plops down a Dr. Pepper and a pouch of Red Man chewing tobacco.

*INT. BASEBALL MANAGER'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK - TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

*A young Phil, in a minor league baseball uniform, sits across from the manager, who puts in a chew of tobacco and then drops the pouch on the desk. It's Red Man tobacco.*

*PHIL*

*I don't get it. I have the second best record on the staff.*

*MANAGER*

*But this is Double A and you're twenty-five. Phil, you're crafty as hell, but you just don't have a big league arm. You've gone as far as your talent will take you.*

*EXT. GAS STATION - BACK TO PRESENT*

*Phil gets into the car. Ellie is in the passenger's seat.*

*ELLIE*

*I was thinking we could stop by Luke's on the way home.*

*PHIL*

*I don't think so.*

*Phil starts up the car and drives out of the station.*

*ELLIE*

*Are you just gonna not talk to him?*

*PHIL*

*He's the one who left. He's the one who has to talk to me.*

*ELLIE*

*Seriously, Dad? You're acting like he stole your Teen Vogue or something.*

*PHIL*

*Attributing female characteristics to a man. Nice. You might have a future in coaching.*

*ELLIE*

*Dad, what have you always told us since Mom died?*

*Phil doesn't respond.*

ELLIE (CONT'D)

"We can't be stopped if we stick together." It's a lame slogan but it's kinda dead on. There's nothing more important than family, Dad.

They drive on in silence as Phil takes this in.

EXT. LUKE'S CONDO - THE NEXT MORNING

Phil knocks on the door.

INT. LUKE'S CONDO - CONTINUOUS

Luke opens the door for Phil, who enters and notices that the place is more than a little disheveled.

PHIL

(re: mess)

Jesus...

LUKE

Don't cross a Russian.

PHIL

How you holding up?

LUKE

Nike said they might drop my shoe.

PHIL

Yeah, I heard that.

Luke sits down. Phil sits next to him.

LUKE

I totally melted down.

PHIL

(puts arm around him)

You're under a lot of pressure. And part of that's on me. I probably ride you too hard.

Luke chuckles.

PHIL (CONT'D)

But there's just such a limited window of time and you have to capitalize. Everything is going good for you right now but things can turn bad in an instant and then they just throw you away, Luke.



LUKE

Dad, you've done an amazing job with us. I don't know if I ever told you that. And not just as a coach-- but as a dad.

PHIL

Thank you.

LUKE

And that's what I really need right now.

PHIL

Well, we'll take the next tournament off.

LUKE

Dad, that's not what I'm talking about. I'm gonna give Gilbert a try.

PHIL

Gilbert?! Are you kidding me?

Phil gets up.

PHIL (CONT'D)

What?! You think he's gonna take you to the next level?

LUKE

No, it's not about that. I think this'll be good. It'll give us a chance to be just father and son without all the pressure of the game.

PHIL

(wounded)  
Gilbert?

LUKE

Come on, Dad. I love you.

PHIL

I can't believe you're doing this to me.

Luke watches Phil walk out.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - CENTER COURT - LATER

Having just won the quarterfinals, Ellie hits a series of balls into a cheering crowd.

INT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - PLAYERS' LOUNGE - LATER

Ellie enters the lounge to applause. Livingston is there.

LIVINGSTON

Hey.

ELLIE

I thought you were in Riga?

LIVINGSTON

I was. I lost in the first round and I thought I'd come and surprise you. Are you surprised?

ELLIE

Yeah. That was sweet.

LIVINGSTON

You're having a hell of a tournament.

ELLIE

About time, huh?

LIVINGSTON

Let's grab some dinner. Celebrate.

ELLIE

I can't. I have to play in the morning.

LIVINGSTON

How about I give you a ride back to your condo?

ELLIE

I got my car.

LIVINGSTON

How about you cut me some slack? I just flew in from Latvia.

She laughs.

LIVINGSTON (CONT'D)

Seriously. I'm not sure those planes are FAA approved.

ELLIE

Livingston, you're wasting your time with me.

LIVINGSTON

I don't think so. I think you're into me.

ELLIE

You're pretty cocky for a guy who just lost in the first round.

LIVINGSTON

I think there is something here and I think we should check it out.

He moves closer and grabs her hand.

LIVINGSTON (CONT'D)

Tell me there's nothing here.

ELLIE

Okay, maybe there is. But I can't do it. I don't know -- I just sort of woke up and realized that not a lot of people in the world can do what I do and I've been wasting it.

LIVINGSTON

You're only nineteen. You have plenty of time.

ELLIE

You never have as much time as you think.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Dr. Barret talks to a patient-- but we do not see who the patient is.

DR. BARRET

I get it, you're a professional athlete, you don't want the media to know you have Huntington's. But I don't understand why you won't at least share it with your family.

Pause. No response.

DR. BARRET (CONT'D)

Well, at least you came back in. You need someone you can talk to.

(then)

(MORE)

DR. BARRET (CONT'D)  
I've seen a lot of different reactions to this disease. I've seen people throw caution to the wind, live for every moment, almost get self-destructive.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Luke and Ninotchka make out furiously.

LUKE  
I thought we weren't gonna do this anymore.

NINOTCHKA  
Do you want to stop?

LUKE  
God, no.

NINOTCHKA  
We're fine as long as Nicolai doesn't know.

INT. TUNNEL - SIMULTANEOUS

Nicolai walks down the tunnel with the Basset Hound, looking for Ninotchka.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - RESUMING

DR. BARRET  
And I've seen people become obsessed with achievement, like they have to leave their mark before they go.

EXT. MIAMI TENNIS COMPLEX - CENTER COURT - ANOTHER DAY

Ellie holds up a trophy-- she's won the tournament. Phil beams.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - RESUMING

DR. BARRET (V.O.)  
But underneath both reactions is a realization...

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FLASHBACK - TWELVE YEARS EARLIER

*A picnic is in progress near a rose garden. Phil is asleep on a blanket. Ellie and Luke mischievously lean over Phil. Luke, with a magic marker, quickly draws a mustache on Phil, as their Mom looks on, laughing. Phil wakes up and wrestles Luke and Ellie into a bundle and starts tickling them.*

*They all start giggling. CLOSE ON: Their mom. She's laughing and laughing, PAN OVER: to the roses.*

DR. BARRET (V.O)  
...that we're not here forever.

EXT. HOLT CONDO - BACK TO PRESENT

Phil tends the roses.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW