

**HINDSIGHT  
IS  
TWENTY/TWENTY** ©

by  
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FIRST DRAFT / WGAE  
DECEMBER 5TH, 1997  
serial #D091316-00-120597001  
Copywrite 1997

Seven Newton blvd. ste. 108  
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Establishing Shot:- Flashback - Int. Emergency Room.

It's an ominous sight as potential patients are sprinkled across the room. Sickness seems to be looming. Dissipating like the onset of the night fog in the cold mist that can be seen only on the grimacing faces waiting for their names to be called. Suddenly the double doors crash through the unfamiliar silence. Opening to a fast moving gurney, a patients screams, and the paramedics directions.

PARAMEDIC

On your jobs dam'it, we got a bad one! (addressing the nurse on duty)  
Where to?

NURSE

(hastily pointing to  
an operating room)  
Over here! Hurry!

As they race the gurney down the corridor, screams of agony seems to vibrate throughout the hospital.

PATIENT

(terrified)  
Oh God, My, my, eeeeeyes!

Screams Fade.

Flash: Operating Room - moments later. A team of well trained medical professionals spring into action like clockwork. The patient is on the operating table. He hears voices but sees no faces. He strains to see blurred images that turn into a white light, that slowly fades into darkness.

NURSE

He's lost a lot of blood.

Doctor He's gonna lose a lot more than that if we don't treat these injuries.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Well let's get to work.

DOCTOR

What the hell Happened?

NURSE

Paramedics said car accident.

DOCTOR

(sniffing)  
Smells like he was in a pretty compromising position.

NURSE

They said he was thrown through the front window shield.

DOCTOR

Damned. Where'd they find him.

NURSE

About fifty yards away, and get this, he's holding a gas tank.

DOCTOR

I guess that explains the compromising position. What's with the gas tank?

NURSE

No clue. Probably what saved his life.

DOCTOR

No, we're gonna be what saves his life tonight.

NURSE

And his sight... Will we be able to save that?

DOCTOR

Whatever it takes to help me make it happen. So let's get it right, Okay.

Flash: Back in the Emergency Room.

A woman staggers in assisted by another medic.

MEDIC

She's gonna need help too.

NURSE

What happened?

VAL

Accident.... really bad.

NURSE

How, Where?

VAL

We were arguing... everything just got out of control, I tried to, he, we...(sobbing)

The Nurse shoulders the lady, sits her down, and tries to comfort her.

NURSE

We understand ma'am, Mrs. um...

VAL

Val, Valery Gottabi.

NURSE

And the man inside...

VAL

He's my hus... ex, we're, in the process of...

NURSE

I understand. Let's get you fixed up.

VAL

It wasn't my fault, it wasn't... I didn't see... if he hadn't... oh my God, If I hadn't...

NURSE

If you hadn't what Mrs. Gottabi?

VAL

(defensive)

No... Don't! You're not gonna... You wanna blame me, don't you?

NURSE

Calm down Mrs. Gottabi we...

VAL

Listen to me! (gulp) I refuse to, take... It wasn't my fault! (screaming down the corridor) Do you hear me Steven, you bastard! It wasn't my fault! (sobbing)

SCREAMS FADE:

Establishing: Int. Hospital - Morning - six weeks later.

We see the doctor as he enters the room to greet an over anxious Steve.

DOCTOR

Good morning Steven.

STEVE

Yeah doc C'mon, let's get these bandages off so I can get outta here, hun.

DOCTOR

Steven, we need to talk.

STEVE

As soon as we get these bandages off. It's been to long already doc, ya know.

DOCTOR

Steve. I need to say a few things to you before we do this.

STEVE

Can't it wait doc sheeeeeez. I'm dying to get these things off and put a face with that voice of yours.

DOCTOR

Unfortunately, it can't. I have to do this now.

STEVE

Alright... I've been blind folded for six weeks now. I can wait a few more minutes. Speak.

DOCTOR

Steve, you suffered some serious damage in the accident...

STEVE

Yeah I know, but you fixed me up good as new and I'm grateful for that doc.

DOCTOR

Not exactly, good as new.

STEVE

I get the feeling you're trying to tell me something Doc... What? I'm not gonna have 20/20 anymore?

DOCTOR

Steven, There's no easy way to say...

STEVE

Then cut to the chase. Say what you came to say.

DOCTOR

We did everything we could Steven. Your eyes. They were... The gasoline and glass caused irreparable damage. We...

STEVE

(denial)  
Oh come on doc.

DOCTOR

We were hoping in the weeks to come  
you would have regained at least a  
portion of your vision...

STEVE

But I'm fine.

beat.

DOCTOR

(somberly)

How I wish to God you were.

STEVE

I feel fine. My eyes feel fine. Just  
(reaching for his bandages) take off  
these...

DOCTOR

Steven.

STEVE

No! Take off the bandages, now!

DOCTOR

O'kay.

The Doctor begins to remove the bandages slowly revealing  
layer after layer until we see Steven's face.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Alright Steven, I want you to open  
your eyes, very slowly. If you see  
anything, anything at all, no matter  
how difficult it is to make out, let  
me know.

Steven opens his eyes very slowly blinking once or twice and  
squinting as to focus on something.

STEVE

Alright doc, I think I see... Can  
you open the blinds or something so  
I can get a better look.

As Steven attempts to survey his surroundings, we see the  
shades pulled completely back on a bright sunny day.

DOCTOR

The blinds are back.

Hearing those words, the harsh realization smashes Steven's  
mind like a sucker punch.

STEVE

What?.. I'm um...

DOCTOR  
I'm sorry Steven.

Several Days Later - Steven's Room - Day.

We hear a commotion of metal objects crashing the walls from the room within, several nurses shrieking, and the faint sounds of a man swearing. Suddenly we see two men rushing into the blows of flying bedpans, metal trays and any other objects being flung. After a brief scuffle they manage to subdue a man in a robe with bandages over his eyes, Steven.

STEVE  
Get off me!

ORDERLY #1  
It's for your own good Mr. Gottabi.

STEVE  
You bastards!

As the orderlies restrain Steve he realizes it is useless to resist.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
(sobbing)  
Why me, why?

ORDERLY #2  
Please, calm down Mr. Gottabi.

STEVE  
Help me.... I can't take this,  
darkness. (despair) I can't take it  
anymore.

ORDERLY #1  
I know it's hard sir, but...

STEVE  
You couldn't possibly phantom, this,  
not in your darkest dreams.

ORDERLY #2  
Mr. Gottabi...

STEVE  
Remember how it felt as a kid, the  
first time you experienced the dark,  
alone. That realization that something  
was... Wrong.

ORDERLY #1  
It was just that feeling of  
uncertainty that made the situation  
appear that way.

STEVE

Think about having to live with  
Knowing that, uncertainty, will  
forever be your destiny.

ORDERLY #2

That holds true for every man walking  
the face of this earth. No one knows  
the future or their destiny, no one.

STEVE

And I'm prepared to except that.  
What I can't except is now, that  
uncertainty, has the upper hand.

ORDERLY #1

It is a tragedy, what happened to  
you but you can't give up like this.

STEVE

What am I suppose to do?

ORDERLY #2

Pick yourself up, and live.

STEVE

Come out swinging hun. I can't even  
see what I'm swinging at.

ORDERLY #1

Life deals us all a bad hand every  
now and then.

STEVE

What the hell do you know about a  
bad hand? Hun! You still got your  
sight. You can still see.

The bed sheet is tossed. As it descends we see the orderly's  
Prosthesis hand as he prepares Steven's bed.

ORDERLY #2

I'm sorry. Truly I am...

STEVE

You don't know what sorry is. You  
have no idea.

The orderlies leave after they have secured Steve to the  
bed. As they walk down the hall his cries can be heard clearly  
in the distance. They approach the Nurse's Station. A chief  
doctor is reviewing the Gottabi file as they walk up.

DOCTOR

(curious)

What's the story with the Gottabi  
case Nurse?

The Orderly Interjects.

ORDERLY #1  
He's not gonna make it, Gottabi I  
mean, no way...

The Doctor stares momentarily at the orderly creating an awkward and uncomfortable situation.

ORDERLY #1 (CONT'D)  
(con't)  
I was... I um, overheard you,  
talking...

DOCTOR  
Next time I need an expert opinion,  
I'll be sure and see you, O'kay, now  
leave.

The Orderlies walk away in frustration.

ORDERLY #2  
What an a\*s hole.

ORDERLY #1  
See, you're missing the big picture  
here. I don't see an a\*s hole. I see  
a whole a\*s.

Cu-back: to Nurse's Station.

DOCTOR  
As I was saying Nurse...

NURSE  
(chafed)  
You know they're right. I've gone  
through at least ten nurses with  
this guy. He's on edge.

DOCTOR  
Have you tried crises management?

NURSE  
Listen, I'm not trying to tell you  
how to do your job...

DOCTOR  
Then don't.

NURSE  
O'kay, but don't say you didn't see  
it coming.

DOCTOR  
I need people to work with me not  
against me.

NURSE

We all have our cross to bare.

DOCTOR

I just wish mine wasn't so damned heavy.

NURSE

It wouldn't be if you'd stop trying to play God.

DOCTOR

Touche'. Remember, who runs this ward.

NURSE

You may run it, but you damned sure don't work it.

DOCTOR

I suggest you start following orders instead of trying to give them. Am I making myself clear?

NURSE

As Crystal.

DOCTOR

Good. Now about the Gottabi case. Has he had any visitors, relatives, anyone come to see him.

NURSE

Since the accident, no.

DOCTOR

Says here, there were two victims.

NURSE

Yes, him and his wife or soon to be ex. wife or something like that.

DOCTOR

What's going on there?

NURSE

Apparently it was drivers side air bag, only. She was treated for a few cuts and bruises then released that night.

DOCTOR

I don't believe this. You find and get her back here.

NURSE  
(uncertain)  
I'm not sure if we can.

DOCTOR  
What?

NURSE  
When she came in she was mumbling something about they were in the process of a divorce. From what I could tell it was a bitter one, at that.

DOCTOR  
Has she been back since.

NURSE  
Not that I know of.

DOCTOR  
Listen, I don't care if she's getting outta this marriage with a pass from God himself. You get her back here, understand!

NURSE  
I'll do my best.

DOCTOR  
No, you better than that. This situation depends on that woman and what she can tell us.

NURSE  
I'm not sure she has much to say.

DOCTOR  
I'm sure she'll have plenty to talk about. In the meantime, get another nurse in that room.

NURSE  
Another nurse, from where? Who would be foolish enough?

DOCTOR  
What the hell do you mean?

NURSE  
What I mean is, none of the nurses I know, that work for this hospital minored in wrestling in college.

DOCTOR  
Your suppose to be trained professionals.