

I KNOW THIS MUCH IS TRUE

Season One, Episode 2

Dominick & Dr. Patel

INT. DR. PATEL'S OFFICE

DR. PATEL and DOMINICK enter.

DR. PATEL
Take a seat, please.

He does.

DR. PATEL (CONT'D)
I was going to put on a pot of tea
before we started. Would you like
to join me?

DOMINICK
Yeah, sure.

She goes to the kitchenette to prepare their tea.

DR. PATEL
Are you getting enough sleep, Mr.
Birdsey?

DOMINICK
Uh, it's just been a long day. You
can understand.

DR. PATEL
Well, I can offer you chamomile,
peppermint, and wildberry spice.

DOMINICK
Hmm? Whatever.

DR. PATEL
Ah, whatever. The favorite word of
ambivalent American men. It's
passive-aggressive, don't you
think?

DOMINICK
I'll have the spice, thanks.

Beat.

DOMINICK (CONT'D)
So what's going on with my brother?
Have you seen him?

DR. PATEL
Yeah, just today, actually.
There... there was an incident.

DOMINICK

An incident.

DR. PATEL

Your brother seems to have a preoccupation with the surveillance cameras. And this afternoon, at lunch, he began shouting and throwing food at the camera on the wall in the dining room. And then, when an aide attempted to contain him, the table overturned.

DOMINICK

Thomas turned the table?

DR. PATEL

And from what I understand, several of the other patients' meals landed on the floor and something of a melee followed. But the guards were called, and the situation was quickly brought under control, but your brother had to be restrained.

DOMINICK

Are you kidding? Is he, is he still like that?

DR. PATEL

No, no, he was back in his room by 4:00. I didn't tell you this to alarm you. It's not abnormal for patients with paranoia to act out occasionally. I'm telling you this because you had mentioned to Lisa Sheffer that you wanted to be kept informed.

DOMINICK

How is he now?

DR. PATEL

He's withdrawn, sullen. I spoke to his psychiatrist, Dr. Chase, and, well, he's considering as one of his options to increase your brother's dosage of Haldol.

DOMINICK

Jesus Christ, here we go. You know, you take off the restraints and then you throw him in a straitjacket of his medication.

(MORE)

DOMINICK (CONT'D)

The last time his doctors upped his medication after an episode, it was literally like someone had plugged him into a frickin' light socket. He was walking around like a fuckin' piece of bacon.

DR. PATEL

Well, Mr. Birdsey, you know, neuroleptic medications are very effective in lessening delusions and hallucinations, but, unfortunately, they also enhance the negative symptoms.

DOMINICK

I know, I know all about it. I know all about the Prolixin and the Stelazine, and all that other stuff, all right? You don't... You can't have a brother who's been in and out of the state hospital for 20 years and not know all of their chemical voodoo. He hates the Haldol. It makes him feel like shit. And I don't give you guys permission to turn him into a zombie just because he freaked out and he turned over a table just because it happens to be, um, convenient for the staff, all right? It's unacceptable to me.

DR. PATEL

And it's unacceptable to me, too, Mr. Birdsey. Please give me credit for some professional ethics. I'm an advocate for your brother. I'm not an enemy. I'm not a mad scientist. I spoke to Dr. Chase, and I told him that, in my opinion, increasing your brother's dosage of Haldol was probably ill-advised and most certainly premature. And I would be more than happy to relay your concerns to the doctor as well.

DOMINICK

Which would count for what? One of the divine gods of psychiatry doing what?

(MORE)

DOMINICK (CONT'D)

Just listening politely and then going forward and doing whatever the hell they wanted to anyway? I mean, come on. I've been here.

DR. PATEL

You're very tired, aren't you, Mr. Birdsey?

DOMINICK

Yeah, I am. I am. It's been a long 40 years, lady.

The tea kettle whistles.

DR. PATEL

Would you like to have some tea now?

DOMINICK

Sure.

DR. PATEL

Your brother tells me that you're an avid reader. That your house is filled with books. You know, he was very animated when he was telling me about you. He seems very proud of your mind.

DOMINICK

Hm, right.

DR. PATEL

You think otherwise?

DOMINICK

I think that Thomas... can't focus on much of anything or anyone but Thomas. And because of his disease, he's unable to, um, think about anybody but himself.

DR. PATEL

Was he like that even as a child?

DOMINICK

No. He worried more.

DR. PATEL

About what?

DOMINICK

About, about people. About me. He was a bigger worrywart than she was.

DR. PATEL

And who was that?

DOMINICK

My mother. She used to call him the bunny rabbit and me the spider monkey. Hey, what difference does it make, anyway? I mean, all this history stuff, it's-it's-it's irrelevant. I mean, this is the same stuff they were doing 20 years ago when this whole thing, when this... when this nightmare first started. All right. It's genetic. It's got nothing to do with his upbringing. There's no use delving into the secrets of the past. You know, let's just... Let's focus on the present. Let's, let's get him the proper medications so that he can control his behavior, and let's try to teach the guy some self-management.

DR. PATEL

Are you uncomfortable about remembering the past?

DOMINICK

Am I? No, I'm not uncomfortable. Why, why, hey, listen. Why do you insist on turning this around on me?

DR. PATEL

Well, because you're his twin, aren't you? You're his mirror image, so to speak. His, his healthy self. In scientific terms, well, you're the equivalent of a control group.

DOMINICK

All right, all right.

DR. PATEL

The part of himself that is free from the burden of his disease.

(MORE)

DR. PATEL (CONT'D)

In a sense, as his identical twin,
well, you are he and he is you.
More than most siblings. You're
each other.

DOMINICK

I, I, I don't know.

DR. PATEL

I want to play you a recording of
my session with your brother from
today after the incident. I was
very pleased with our progress and
I... I thought it might be helpful
to hear your reactions.

DOMINICK

Is that fair? I mean, in terms of
patient confidentiality?

DR. PATEL

Hmm! There you go again, Mr.
Birdsey. Worrying about my ethical
intent.

She goes to retrieve the recording device.