

K R A N K

A Play in 3 Scenes
by

Danny Antonelli

from an idea by
Peter Pollmann

*KRANK is German for Sick, Ill, Disturbed, Unwell.

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The Play takes place in a German hospital

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Drake_____diagnosis pending

Chad_____OCD, corpulent, fixated on self

Clarence_____old, shocked at having to be there

Joules_____knife wound, good-natured

Nurses & Doctors without speaking roles come and go as needed for scene action



SCENE ONE

Night. Only a nightlight on near the door gives illumination to the room. Incredibly loud snoring at 30-50 decibels. Drake is pacing up and down in the darkness, hands over his ears. He goes over to the bed where Chad is snoring and looks down at him. He walks back to the other side of the room, picks up a bedpan and walks back to Chad, only one hand over his ear, bedpan high over Chad's head. He holds it there for a while, then steps back to where he picked up the bedpan and returns it to its place and covers his ear again.

Suddenly, the snoring stops. Drake takes his hands a couple of centimeters away from his ears. The snoring has really stopped. Relieved, he goes over and sits on his bed. He pulls back the covers, gets in and turns on his side, ready to go to sleep. The snoring starts again.

Drake jumps up out of bed, bumps into the side table, the bedpan crashes to the floor and makes a loud clang and the snoring stops.

CHAD

Is it morning yet?

DRAKE

The sun will be up soon.

CHAD

Boy did I sleep great!

DRAKE

Yeah, I heard.

CHAD

Oh. Did I mention that before?

DRAKE

The birds are chirping. Can you hear them?

CHAD

I have a house in the country. Cost me 3 million. The birds chirp out there all the time. Really annoying. You'd think they could shut up sometimes.

DRAKE

One of the Popes had all the birds in the Vatican gardens poisoned because their chirping bothered him.

CHAD

I wonder how much that cost? I'd pay to have it done.

DRAKE

They always come back though. After.

CHAD

Just for the week I spend at that house for my Spring vacation. That would do fine.

DRAKE

Too bad you're not the Pope.

CHAD

I'd have to be a billionaire I guess to be a Pope. I'm only a millionaire. I mean, on paper I have much more than 20 million, but in cash, well...

DRAKE

Yeah, I know. Filling suitcases and sports bags with paper money is a lot of work. The bags are bulky. And someone could steal everything.

CHAD

No. No. That's not how you do it.

DRAKE

Oh? Then how?

CHAD

Gold bars and diamonds. Diamonds are easier to use. Gold bars get heavy if you have lots of them.

DRAKE

Diamonds and gold bars. I'll have to remember that when I finally win the lottery.

CHAD

I'm in business you know.

DRAKE

Yes, you mentioned that yesterday. 12 restaurants?

CHAD

Number 13 is opening after I get out of here.

DRAKE
If you ever get out.

CHAD
What?

DRAKE
It'll all work out.

CHAD
Of course it will. I've been
working over 30 years. I know how
it's got to be done.

DRAKE
I believe you.

CHAD
Believe me. You can't trust anyone
in the restaurant business. The
minute you turn your back, they
start stealing from you.

DRAKE
Bread? Beer? Burgers?

CHAD
Cash.

DRAKE
How can they do that?

CHAD
Get paper instead of plastic as
payment, then don't give a receipt
and pocket the cash.

DRAKE
(Sarcastic) I never would have
guessed.

CHAD
My father was a waiter. My mother
was a cook. I grew up in the
business.

DRAKE
So your parents taught you how to
steal?

CHAD
What?

DRAKE

I mean your parents told you how people steal. Or did you learn how to do that yourself?

CHAD

I'm the owner. Why would I steal from myself?

DRAKE

Exactly.

CHAD

I don't understand.

DRAKE

Neither do I really. Business is a mystery to me. I don't understand how it works.

CHAD

You have to be driven.

DRAKE

So you have a chauffeur?

CHAD

You have to have drive. You have to want to do it. You have to be concentrated on the goal.

DRAKE

And what's the goal?

CHAD

To make money of course.

DRAKE

And then?

CHAD

To make more money.

DRAKE

And then?

CHAD

To make even more.

DRAKE

And then?

CHAD

Money. Money. Money. That's the whole point. Like I said, I'm worth more than 20 million.

DRAKE

On paper.

CHAD

I have 4 houses, 2 apartments, 6 cars.

DRAKE

12 restaurants.

CHAD

13, once I get out of here.

DRAKE

If they ever let you out.

CHAD

What do you mean?

DRAKE

They might find something else wrong with you.

CHAD

Like what?

DRAKE

That you have too much money.

CHAD

What?

DRAKE

They find out you have too much money and decide to keep you here longer and get more and more of it away from you.

CHAD

My insurance pays.

DRAKE

And you pay your insurance and the insurance pays the hospital and then gets money from you to keep paying the hospital who keeps you here longer to get more money from the insurance. It's a sweet game. They may never let you out.

CHAD

They can't do that.

DRAKE

They're already doing it, aren't they?

CHAD

What do you mean?

DRAKE

You broke your arm. Usually they just set the bones, give you a cast, then send you home. You've been here almost a week already.

CHAD

The doctor said... (stops)

DRAKE

The doctor said?

CHAD

They had to check to make sure... (stops)

DRAKE

To make sure?

CHAD

There could be something else wrong, he said.

DRAKE

You know what else is wrong?

CHAD

What? Did he mention something to you?

DRAKE

No. I noticed this myself.

CHAD

(worried) What?

DRAKE

Nobody has come to visit you.

CHAD

Oh, that's nothing.

DRAKE

You said you have two kids.

CHAD

They're grown up. I bought apartments for them.

DRAKE

And so that's how they show their appreciation? By not coming to see you?

CHAD

They're busy. They're finishing university. They have to study.

DRAKE

Oh yes, I forgot, university students don't have any free time at all. Especially not to visit a father in hospital. Like your wife too, right? She must be real busy looking after the restaurants now that you aren't around.

CHAD

Her? No. No. She doesn't know anything about business.

DRAKE

Is she on vacation?

CHAD

Of course not. She's... She's home. She spends her time looking after the garden now that the kids are gone.

DRAKE

You don't have a gardener?

CHAD

Of course we do. He's there to help her.

DRAKE

I'm sure he must be a great help.

CHAD

I don't like your tone. You're insinuating...

DRAKE

Chad, what could I possibly insinuate? I haven't met your wife. I haven't met your mistress either.

CHAD

Mistress?

DRAKE

You're a rich man. You must have a mistress. Maybe even two.

CHAD

You know nothing about me.

DRAKE

You've spent the last week telling me all about you. How your parents taught you to steal from a restaurant, how you managed to get your first restaurant by using a food inspector to claim it was below standard so you could buy it on the cheap. So of course I am sure you must have a mistress or two. Or at least had one or two along the way.

CHAD

My wife is very religious.

DRAKE

When did she stop sleeping with you?

CHAD

She didn't. I stopped. I was too busy building up the restaurants and watching the personnel. Everybody steals in the business. You are right about that. My parents showed me how people steal. Not just money. Everything. Glasses. Silverware. Linen. Tablecloths. Napkins. Things disappear, need to be replaced. Receipts are changed. Alcohol is bargained for and overcharged. It's a terrible business.

DRAKE

But you are good at it. You're successful. Your sons and your wife don't visit you in hospital, and your staff in the restaurants is probably stealing you blind because you are not around. But you are successful. You're worth 20 million. (pause) On paper.

CHAD

The doctors are keeping me here because they said I have an infection. (pause) I can't tell you where.

DRAKE

Did you get it from your mistress?

CHAD

No, of course not. She's...

DRAKE

She's?

CHAD

She's clean. And nice. She understands me.

DRAKE

Young girls are understanding of us older men.

CHAD

She's not so young.

DRAKE

Oh?

CHAD

She's over thirty.

DRAKE

But not close to 40.

CHAD

We've been together almost 5 years.

DRAKE

And she hasn't come to visit you here either.

CHAD

Of course not. She knows better than that.

DRAKE

Did you buy her an apartment too?

CHAD

It's small. Only 2 bedrooms. But it's in a nice part of the city.

DRAKE

And it's in her name?

CHAD

I couldn't put it my name. My kids would have asked questions.

DRAKE

Are they going to take over your restaurant business then?

CHAD

God, no. The oldest one—he's 22 now—is moving to Portugal with his

girlfriend. They want to buy some land. Do some organic farming.

DRAKE

To supply your restaurants with food?

CHAD

No. Portugal is too far away for that. They're looking for an olive farm.

DRAKE

Are you going to give him money to buy the farm?

CHAD

He's my son.

DRAKE

And the other one?

CHAD

He's 19. He says he's an artist. He plays a little bit of guitar, he paints strange pictures, he likes to go to Greece a lot. I don't know about him.

DRAKE

Don't worry too much about him. Marijuana is legal now, so he won't get into trouble for smoking it.

CHAD

When they've taken care of this infection, I'll get back to taking care of business and opening restaurant number 13.

DRAKE

If they ever discharge you.

CHAD

They have to.

DRAKE

Do they?

CHAD

What about you?

DRAKE

What about me?

CHAD

What do you have? Why are you still here?

DRAKE

They're having a difficult time with my diagnosis. It could be this, or it could be that, or it could be nothing at all.

CHAD

Surely if it was nothing, then they'd let you go home.

DRAKE

Home. That's an interesting concept. Do you have a home, Chad?

CHAD

I told you, I have lots of houses.

DRAKE

Yes, but do you have a home?

CHAD

That's where my wife is, at home. That's where I live with her. At home.

DRAKE

She might be at home there, with her garden, and her gardener. But what about you? Don't you feel more at home when you're with your 30-year-old mistress?

CHAD

I can't see her as often as I would like.

DRAKE

She's busy too?

CHAD

Yes. She runs one of my restaurants. One of the best ones.

DRAKE

Aha. So she knows how to steal. Just like you. Did you teach her all the tricks?

CHAD

You have to know the tricks. You can't survive in this business without knowing them.

DRAKE

Sounds like you fit together well.

CHAD

She's smart. She knows how to make money.

DRAKE

For you? Or for herself?

CHAD

For both of us.

DRAKE

But more for you than for herself?

CHAD

Of course.

DRAKE

Chad, it doesn't sound like you are convinced. I mean, if she is so smart, maybe she is making more for herself than for you.

CHAD

She wouldn't do that.

DRAKE

You told me that everybody steals in your business. Does she steal more than you?

CHAD

I haven't taught her everything, you know. There are tricks she hasn't learned yet.

DRAKE

Like?

CHAD

Why should I tell you?

DRAKE

Because I'll never work in one of your restaurants. Because I don't know your mistress, so I can't tell her. Because I have no idea where I can get diamonds or gold bars.

CHAD

Gold bars you get from Degussa.

DRAKE

The people who melted down the gold from the teeth of Jews who were gassed and burned in the camps in World War 2?

CHAD

That was a long time ago.

DRAKE

Gold lasts a long time. Maybe some of the gold teeth gold is in the bars that you have.

CHAD

Accounting. You do it with the accounting.

DRAKE

Gold accounting?

CHAD

No. You take the cash that falls through the cracks...

DRAKE

The cash that comes in without receipts?

CHAD

Yes. You split it 60/40 with the manager of the restaurant.

DRAKE

60 for you?

CHAD

Of course. And then you circulate that money through the restaurants that aren't doing so well. You create receipts.

DRAKE

Money laundering.

CHAD

That sounds bad. I call it re-investing.

DRAKE

But it's stolen money and then it's not stolen anymore after it gets a receipt.

CHAD

I have a very good accountant. So all the restaurants show a profit. And then I go to the bank and they give me money to open another one.

DRAKE

But how do you get diamonds and gold if all the stolen cash is re-invested?

CHAD

Never all of it. 10% comes off the top and goes into the security account.

DRAKE

Security?

CHAD

Under my father's name. In Luxembourg. It looks like a pension fund for him.

DRAKE

Did you buy him an apartment too?

CHAD

He's been dead 10 years already. My mother is still alive.

DRAKE

And she won't steal the money from you?

CHAD

She has dementia. She's in a home in Switzerland.

DRAKE

You don't have much time to visit her do you?

CHAD

She doesn't know who I am.

DRAKE

Does anybody?

CHAD

What?

DRAKE

Who really knows you? Who really knows me? Who really knows anybody?

CHAD

I'm not pretending to be somebody else.

DRAKE

How should I know that? Maybe you're just making everything up. You don't own anything. You don't have 20 million... (pause) on paper. You don't have any children. No houses. No cars. No mistress.

CHAD

Why would I lie?

DRAKE

Maybe that's your real business, lying. Lying. Stealing. Pretending to have millions.

CHAD

Everything I told you is true.

DRAKE

How do I know that? If they let me out tomorrow, maybe I'll go to one of your restaurants and ask around. See if anybody knows who you are. Maybe I'll go to the restaurant where your mistress is manager. It shouldn't be hard to find her.

CHAD

Are they letting you out?

DRAKE

You never know. They might get tired of looking for whatever it is I have or don't have and decide I'm not worth keeping, that I don't have enough money. They can't make a profit from me.

CHAD

Did they tell you that they're letting you go?

ENTER nurses and doctors in white wearing white masks, pushing a wheelchair. They say nothing. They gather around Chad and put him in the wheelchair. They put a mask on his face. He cannot speak anymore except for muffled sounds. They hold him down as he tries to get free. They slowly wheel him out of the room.

Other nurses come and clean out the drawers of his side table, change the sheets on his bed, then exit without saying a word.

DRAKE

Should be time for breakfast soon.

LIGHTS DOWN

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP

Daylight outside the windows. Drake stands at the window looking out. Nurses and doctors dressed in white enter, wearing white masks. They wheel in a gurney with a male patient on it. He is dressed in a white hospital gown. He has a white mask over his mouth.

They transfer him to the empty bed that once belonged to Chad. They use the transfer sheet* technique. One of the nurses goes and collects Drake's breakfast plates. They say nothing and EXIT.

***How to Safely Use a Transfer Sheet**

To move or reposition a patient using a transfer sheet, you should first roll the patient to one side and place the sheet beneath them before rolling them back to a supine position on top of the sheet. It is important to use a transfer sheet with extended handles or straps, as this can help minimize the amount of stretch or pull force required to complete a transfer. Additionally, ensuring ample staff are available to assist is a key factor in reducing injuries and maintaining patient comfort.

Drake walks away from the window and over to look at the man on the bed. The man seems to be asleep. Drake studies him closely. Sniffs to smell him. Walks around him to the other side. Looks at his face. Looks at his feet, which are sticking out from under the sheet that is over his body. Touches one of his toes. The man wakes with a start.

CLARENCE

Huh? What? Who are you?

DRAKE

I'm Drake. I'm traveling with you.
A fellow passenger on this
journey.

CLARENCE

Journey? Where are we going?

DRAKE

That depends, doesn't it Clarence?
Where would you like to go?

CLARENCE

Do I know you? Do you know me?

DRAKE

Ah, that is the most important
question anyone can ask, isn't it
Clarence? What's wrong with you?

CLARENCE

I don't know. They didn't tell me.
I don't know why I'm here. I was
somewhere else before. Now I'm
here and I don't know how I got
here.

DRAKE

One of life's great mysteries. How
old are you Clarence?

CLARENCE

Seventy-something. Maybe eighty
already. I can't remember exactly.
I hate birthdays.

DRAKE

Doesn't everybody? Birthday
parties are like little wakes
after a funeral. People eating,
drinking, saying nice things about
you.

CLARENCE

Where are we going?

DRAKE

Again, a very good question. Let
me get back to you on that a
little later.

CLARENCE

I don't think I'm supposed to be
here.

DRAKE

I could say the same thing. But
we're here. Might as well make the
best of it, hey?

CLARENCE

Maybe my wife will come and get
me.

DRAKE

Oh, you're married. What's your wife's name?

CLARENCE

My wife.

DRAKE

Does she have a name besides "wife"?

CLARENCE

I hope she's still alive. I think she is still alive. I'm alive.

DRAKE

Are you Clarence?

CLARENCE

This is a hospital, isn't it?

DRAKE

Seems like it.

CLARENCE

With doctors and nurses.

DRAKE

That's what they look like.

CLARENCE

Then I must be alive or they would have taken me somewhere else.

DRAKE

Where is that Clarence? Where else could they take you?

CLARENCE

I was in Chicago once. In a nice house near the lake. There was a German shepherd there.

DRAKE

From Germany? Did he have a flock of sheep with him as well?

CLARENCE

I got robbed in Gary, Indiana. At gunpoint. They could have killed me.

DRAKE

Maybe they did and now you're here and you think it's a hospital.

CLARENCE

I'm hungry.

DRAKE

We're all hungry for something.
Love. Money—like old Chad. Peace.
Sex. Are you too old to get hungry
for sex, Clarence?

CLARENCE

Is it lunchtime yet? When do they
bring us lunch?

DRAKE

At lunchtime, I guess. At least
that's how it was yesterday.

CLARENCE

Do you know where I was yesterday?

DRAKE

Where were you?

CLARENCE

It wasn't Chicago.

DRAKE

The Windy City.

CLARENCE

I was at home yesterday. Before
they came to take me away. I was
at home.

DRAKE

Where is home for you Clarence?

CLARENCE

Somewhere around here. They
wouldn't take me to a hospital far
away, would they?

DRAKE

Depends. What did you do to get
here?

CLARENCE

I didn't do anything. Something
must have happened to me. I must
be ill or something.

DRAKE

Or something. That's probably it.

CLARENCE

What?

DRAKE

Or something. You probably have
"or something." Let's hope it's
not contagious.

CLARENCE

What is that, do you know?

DRAKE

One of the rare diseases. Probably
the rarest of all. But then again,
maybe it's the most common
disease. Or something.

CLARENCE

I don't feel ill. But the longer I
lie here the crankier I get.

DRAKE

Then arise, Lazarus.

CLARENCE

My name is Clarence. Am I allowed
to get up?

DRAKE

Who's going to stop you? Not me.

Clarence sits up on the edge of the bed. He looks around.
He puts one foot on the floor, then the other.

CLARENCE

The floor is cold.

DRAKE

Floors are like that. You're not
wearing slippers or shoes. Here.
These are you slippers.

Drake hands him slippers he got from the closet. Clarence
steps into the slippers. Drake hands him a bathrobe as
well, then helps him put it on.

DRAKE

We even have a view. Look!

Clarence walks over to the window and looks out.

CLARENCE

The sun is shining.

DRAKE

For a change.

CLARENCE

Was it raining before?

DRAKE
No, it was night.

CLARENCE
Why are you here?

DRAKE
That question has stumped the
greatest minds we have ever had on
this planet.

CLARENCE
Are you sick?

DRAKE
Probably.

CLARENCE
What have you got?

DRAKE
I can tell you what I don't have.

CLARENCE
(hard of hearing) What's that?

DRAKE
I don't have much patience. I
don't have gold or diamonds. I
don't have many friends. Maybe I
don't have any friends. I don't
have as much time as I once had. I
don't have a car. I don't have a
boat, or a jet, or a train. Not
even a toy train. Oh, there are so
many things I don't have.

CLARENCE
I don't have a wife. She left me
when I was 30.

DRAKE
50 years ago. You just remembered
that?

CLARENCE
It's hard to forget. We were happy
together.

DRAKE
And she left you anyway.

CLARENCE
She was too good for me. Too
beautiful. Too smart.

DRAKE

She left you for someone else?

CLARENCE

I don't think so. She just left. I never saw her again. One day she was there. Then she wasn't.

DRAKE

Sounds like everybody's life. One day we're here, then we're not.

CLARENCE

I'm starting to remember now.

DRAKE

It's about time. I was getting worried.

CLARENCE

I got lost. Somebody gave me something to drink. Then I got lost.

DRAKE

You got lost before the drink, or after?

CLARENCE

You were touching my toe, so I woke up.

DRAKE

I was touching your toenail. It's so long. Looks sharp. Like it could slice a grape. But it's not dirty under the nail. That was fascinating. I thought a long toenail like that would have black dirt underneath it.

CLARENCE

I don't feel any pain.

DRAKE

That could be a good thing. On the other hand, it could be really bad. They say the dead don't feel any pain.

CLARENCE

Am I dead?

DRAKE

If you are dead, then what am I? Eh? That's something to think

about, isn't it? If we're both dead, then this must be the afterlife. But a pretty stupid afterlife, don't you think? Stuck here in a hospital room. But then what if only you are dead? Then what? Am I speaking to a ghost? I never believed in ghosts. Still don't actually. So maybe you are a hallucination. What did they put into my breakfast juice?

CLARENCE

When do they bring lunch. I'm hungry.

DRAKE

So maybe you aren't dead. Do the dead get hungry? If they can't feel pain, can they feel hunger?

CLARENCE

My mother was a wonderful cook.

DRAKE

Ah, you had a mother. Or is she still alive? She must be at least 100.

CLARENCE

Mother left when I was 10.

DRAKE

Your mother left, your wife left. Who else left you?

CLARENCE

I left home when I was 15. My father was a cook. He drank a lot. He raped my sister when she was 12.

DRAKE

Ah, now we're getting somewhere.

CLARENCE

I ran away. She killed him. Then she killed herself.

In the background, Memory by Barbra Streisand

DRAKE

His wife left him. His mother left him. His sister left him. Everything leaves. (pause) Or we leave everything.

Music abruptly stops after the line: I remember the time
I knew what happiness was...

CLARENCE
Something happened yesterday.

DRAKE
That's how it usually works with
yesterdays. Something happens in
them.

CLARENCE
I was somewhere and something
happened. Then I woke up here. I
shouldn't be here. I'm sure of it.
I should be...

DRAKE
Come on! You almost had it. Where
should you be?

CLARENCE
Why am I in a hospital?

DRAKE
Because something is very wrong
with you. Otherwise you wouldn't
be here.

CLARENCE
What's wrong with you?

DRAKE
Diagnosis still pending.

CLARENCE
Something is very wrong with you.

DRAKE
Excellent observation. Shall we
find out what it is? Ask me some
questions.

CLARENCE
My wife left me.

DRAKE
Yes. Yes. She was 30. Your sister
left you because she killed
herself. Your mother left you.

CLARENCE
Who left you?

DRAKE

Everybody. (pause) Of course most of the time, I left. I would get tired of being with people. I needed to be alone. Needed to feel that pang which comes with loneliness. Late at night. No moon in the sky. You stare out the window. Or you take a walk on an empty street. Listen to the night sounds. Feel that pang in the solar plexus. Well, just below the solar plexus. Here, where the pancreas sits. Jean. She died of pancreatic cancer. Long after I left her. I was forbidden from contacting her after I left. She knew I would miss her. I did. I had to leave. She knew I had to leave. She put me on the bus. She cried. "Don't ever call me. Don't ever write to me."

CLARENCE

My sister didn't kill herself right after she killed my father. She grew up first. In a foster home. She was a dancer and she could sing too. Went to New York City. Auditioned on Broadway for the musicals. She was in a show called Assassins, about people who killed or tried to kill a President.

DRAKE

Sounds promising.

CLARENCE

She fell in love with a girl from Harlem. The girl was murdered. Then my sister killed herself.

DRAKE

Wow, lots of death around you. I hope it's not contagious.

CLARENCE

Maybe that's what's wrong with me.

DRAKE

Maybe. I escape before it gets there. If I can. Well, I've been able to do it so far. Except for my mother.

CLARENCE
You had a mother?

DRAKE
(Laughs) Most of us do.

CLARENCE
She didn't run away?

DRAKE
I never thought about it like that. Maybe she did run away. Before she died, the doctors wanted to keep her alive. She pulled out all the tubes and needles and eventually they just let her lie there. I arrived and she was on her way. She couldn't talk any more. I sat there for 4 days and watched her slowly fall asleep. The sleep got deeper and deeper. Finally, it was a permanent sleep.

CLARENCE
I was asleep when you woke me up. You were touching my toe.

DRAKE
Toenail.

ENTER nurses and doctors all in white wearing white masks. They gather around Clarence.

CLARENCE
I'm hungry. Are you bringing my lunch? I want my lunch. Hey, what are you doing? Drake. Help me.

Drake watches as the nurses and doctors put a white mask on Clarence, lay him down on a gurney, cover him with a white sheet, and wheel him out of the room.

After a slight pause, a nurse (dressed in white with a white mask) enters with a tray of food and drink and puts it on the side table next to Drake's bed. She exits quietly.

The song that was playing before, Memory, sung by Barbra Streisand, continues from where it left off as Drake walks over to his bed, sits down, eats, and then lays down to take a nap.

DARKNESS

END OF SCENE TWO

SCENE THREE

Lights go up slowly as the music fades into the background. The door to the room opens and Joules walks in. He is in a paisley multicolored robe and nice fluffy slippers. A black ankle bracelet is visible above the slipper on his left leg. He is young, strong, has a full head of hair and looks perfectly healthy. He saunters over to look at the sleeping Drake. Then he walks over to the window to look outside. As he does this, a nurse in white with a white face mask enters, strips the bed, puts on fresh sheets, and puts medicine bottles on the table next to the bed. Then she goes over and takes the tray from Drake's table and exits the room.

Drake wakes up. Stretches, sees Joules, sits up in bed. Joules sees him and walks briskly over, big smile on his face.

JOULES

Hey, hello, I'm Joules.

DRAKE

(Not yet fully awake) Oh, hi. I'm Drake.

They shake hands.

JOULES

Been here long?

DRAKE

A while.

Drake pours himself a glass of water from the jug on his table. He drinks it slowly, watching Joules over the rim of his glass. He seems to be getting more and more awake. He notices the ankle bracelet but says nothing.

JOULES

Nice garden out there.

DRAKE

When the sun is shining.

JOULES

They brought me in late last night. I was down in Emergency all day. Now I'm here with you.

DRAKE

Congratulations.

Joules laughs. Drake gets up out of bed, puts on his slippers and robe. He walks to the window and looks out.

JOULES

Do you sleep a lot?

DRAKE

More now. Here.

JOULES

I never get enough sleep. I'm always on the move.

DRAKE

Do you own a restaurant too?

JOULES

Why? Do you own one?

DRAKE

Chad, who was here this morning. He has 12 restaurants. He's going to open number 13 when they let him out of here. If they ever do.

JOULES

No. I'm just a simple guy. A mechanic. I fix cars. Fix almost anything that has screws and nuts and bolts. I can paint things as well. What about you?

DRAKE

I'm a people person.

JOULES

Human resources?

DRAKE

Something like that.

JOULES

Are you a shrink?

DRAKE

I've never shrunk anything. I've inflated.

JOULES

I quit before I graduated from high school. Engines don't ask for a certificate. Either you fix them or you don't. If they run smooth after you fix 'em, it means they love you. If they don't run, well, then there must be a screw loose somewhere. (He laughs at his own joke)

DRAKE

Same with people. But more of them have a screw loose and don't run properly.

Joules laughs at Drake's joke. Drake smiles.

JOULES

Good one. So you try and fix people?

DRAKE

I don't think I've ever actually fixed anybody.

JOULES

Then what is it that you actually do?

DRAKE

That's a good question. It's one I've asked myself often. What do I actually do? I guess, like most everyone else, I survive. I go from one day to the next. When I wake up in the next day, I think: "Still here. Still alive." Although I did have some doubts about that earlier when Clarence was here.

JOULES

You're strange.

DRAKE

You're not the first to have said that.

JOULES

Why are you here? what's wrong with you?

DRAKE

Ah, Clarence asked me that too. I'm still being diagnosed by the doctors. Apparently they're calling in some specialists. Yesterday they put me through a bunch of tests. Blood. Urine. Spit. Feces. They looked in my eyes. They looked in my ears. They looked up there (points to his anus). They looked down there (points to his throat). They are looking for something, but they haven't told me for what. And they haven't told me if they found

something. I expect that if they don't find something soon, they'll try and look into my brain as well.

JOULES

You mean crack open your skull?
(Laughs)

DRAKE

Trepanning.

JOULES

Trip planning?

DRAKE

I suppose it's kind of a trip. Trepanning is when they drill a hole in your head to let out the evil spirits trapped in your brain.

JOULES

They do that?

DRAKE

They used to do it all the time. Started way back when the devil was invented.

JOULES

Invented?

DRAKE

Somebody made up the evil spirit thing, probably to get rid of the competition, or maybe just to explain something that they really didn't understand.

JOULES

And you think they'll do that to you?

DRAKE

Why not? If they can't find anything else wrong with me.

JOULES

I'm here because I got stabbed. Missed a big vein by a couple of centimeters. See? (Opens his robe and raises his gown to show a white bandage on his chest.)

DRAKE
How about the other guy?

JOULES
(Laughs) He didn't make it. I
tree-panned him with a broken
bottle. (Laughs again.)

DRAKE
Sounds exciting.

JOULES
It was. People were screaming.
Lots of blood. Mine and his.

DRAKE
And he had a knife?

JOULES
No. It was like a screwdriver or
something.

DRAKE
So he was a mechanic, like you?

JOULES
You think I carry a screwdriver
with me?

DRAKE
What do you carry? A gun? A knife?
Brass knuckles?

JOULES
Do I look like a criminal or
something?

DRAKE
What do criminals look like?

JOULES
(Not amused.) Like you maybe.

DRAKE
I'm not wearing an ankle bracelet.
(Points to the one on Joules.)

JOULES
That's the cops. They're just
being over-careful.

DRAKE
Do they need to be?

JOULES

Not with me. I wouldn't hurt anybody.

DRAKE

You already did. You told me. You killed a guy.

JOULES

He stabbed me with a screwdriver.

DRAKE

Before or after you shoved a broken bottle into his brain?

JOULES

(Angry) What the fuck?

DRAKE

What do I know? Maybe he annoyed you, spat in your beer, tried to pick you up? You broke a bottle, shoved it into his brain and then stabbed yourself with the screwdriver you always carry in your jeans.

JOULES

(Suspicious) What makes you think I always carry a screwdriver with me?

DRAKE

Mechanic. Nuts and bolts. A screw loose.

JOULES

(Angry. Stares aggressively.) You saying I have a screw loose?

DRAKE

Most people do. I'm sure a couple of mine are loose.

JOULES

Maybe you do need some tree-panning.

DRAKE

Trepanning. The "e" isn't that long. Not like "ee", more like how you thought it sounded the first time. Like the "i" in "trip."

JOULES
(Sarcastic.) Thanks for the lesson
professor.

 DRAKE
You are very welcome.

 JOULES
I don't like you.

 DRAKE
I've heard that before too. Mostly
from women. Men just give me dirty
looks. Yes. Like that.

 JOULES
Lucky you weren't there last
night.

 DRAKE
Luck has nothing to do with
anything.

 JOULES
You got an answer for everything?

 DRAKE
I have more questions than
answers.

 JOULES
Too bad that nurse took away your
lunch tray. There was a knife and
fork on it.

 DRAKE
Look around. Maybe there's
something else you can use. But
then you'd have to hit yourself
over the head with something
afterwards.

 JOULES
Maybe you fell out of the window.

 DRAKE
We're only on the second floor. I
could probably survive that,
especially since we're already in
a hospital and they could take me
to Emergency immediately and
operate immediately if they need
to.

JOULES

Smart ass. If I had my
screwdriver...

DRAKE

The one you stabbed yourself with?

JOULES

I'll be out of here real soon. One
day you'll get out too. I'll find
you.

DRAKE

What makes you so sure they'll let
me out?

JOULES

Yeah. Right. They could keep you
here forever after they trip-plan
you. Did I say it right this time
professor?

DRAKE

Thanks for the title, but I'm not
a professor. I'm just a normal
Drake.

JOULES

Well, Mr. Normal Drake, you want
to know if I bashed that prick's
skull in on purpose? Yes. I did.
And I was happy to see some of his
brains in the blood on the floor.

DRAKE

It took a lot of courage to stab
yourself though, didn't it?

JOULES

It only hurts if you think about
it first. You gotta do it quick.
Without thinking. Then get down
there on the floor real quick. Put
is hand on the grip. (Smiles
evilly.) His dead hand.

DRAKE

That's an engine you can't fix. An
engine that certainly won't love
you.

JOULES

He owed me money for a job I did
for him. Fixed the engine on a car
he needed to use for something or
other.

DRAKE

So he was a criminal?

JOULES

I never ask questions like that.
You need an engine fixed? I'll fix
it. Half up front, the rest when
you get the car back.

DRAKE

He got the car back.

JOULES

And he wanted to stiff me for the
second half. It would ruin my
reputation if people found out.

DRAKE

Ah, I see. You have a reputation.

JOULES

I'm a good mechanic. I can fix
engines. Or anything else that
might need fixing. You can count
on me.

DRAKE

You fixed him OK.

JOULES

And if I had the chance, I'd fix
you too.

DRAKE

Maybe you'll get the chance one
day.

A church bell chimes in the distance.

JOULES

What's that?

DRAKE

Vespers.

JOULES

Eh?

DRAKE

Evensong. (Pause) It means the
night is coming and they are going
to sing in church.

JOULES

Before dinner?

DRAKE

Yes. The priests and monks sing
for their supper.

JOULES

You're not funny, you know.

DRAKE

That wasn't supposed to be funny.
It was for your information.

JOULES

When does our dinner come?

DRAKE

When they think we deserve it.

JOULES

Well I deserve it.

DRAKE

You deserve to get your just
deserts.

JOULES

They just serve desert? Nothing
else?

DRAKE

Ask them.

ENTER nurses and doctors dressed in white, with white masks over their mouths. They grab Joules from behind, pin his arms and frog march him out of the room after putting a white mask over his face and a white blindfold over his eyes. His muffled voice gets louder as he is taken out the door. Then it slowly fades away. The door closes.

After a while, the door opens again and a nurse in white, with a white mask over her face comes in with a tray and places it on the table next to Drake's bed. Before leaving the room, the nurse strips Joules' bed, gathers up all the medicine bottles from the table next to the bed and then exits.

Drake walks over to his bed, looks at what is on the tray, picks up the fork and tastes something.

DRAKE

Mmm. I guess I am hungry.

He sits down on the side of the bed and begins to eat.
Music: Everybody's Got the Right (Finale) Lights slowly dim as the song plays out.

THE END