

BEGINNERS

Written by

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INT. HAL FIELDS HOME.

A single daisy stands in a vase in an empty kitchen.

INT. HAL'S BEDROOM

OLIVER FIELDS clicks on the light to the closet. He looks at the rack of his parents' clothes.

He begins to put some in a box marked "home", some in a box marked "thrift".

INT. HAL'S BATHROOM

Oliver enters the bathroom and flushes bottle after bottle
of
pills and liquids down the toilet. Next he struggles as he
looks over the old toothbrush, hairbrush, all the bottles
and
tubes besides the sink. He stares for a beat, then throws
them all away.

INT/EXT. HAL'S TRASH AREA

Oliver hauls trash outside, adding it to a very large pile
of
bags. An older Jack Russell Terrier, ARTHUR, follows him.

INT. HAL'S OFFICE

Oliver and Arthur sit on the office floor surrounded by papers, boxes, books and trash bags. He finds a photo of HAL FIELDS in an open Jean jacket, no shirt, it's attached to a personal ad application which he begins to read.

CUT TO PAST

EXT. LARGE EMPTY PARKING LOT NIGHT

group
In the dark, OLIVER FIELDS has a tape recorder and microphone, he follows ANDY as he excitedly prepares, a group of friends looks on.

ANDY

Okay. Is it on? (recorder)

OLIVER

Yeah yeah.

ANDY

This is for our friend Hal Fields.
Hal. We love you.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Andy quickly lights a rack of large fireworks, they shoot up into the night and explode - smoke - more explosions - everyone's laughing. Oliver looks up at the fireworks, recording the sounds, happy.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM.

CUT TO PRESENT

EXT. HAL'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Oliver has packed his car, he leans down to Arthur.

OLIVER

You're coming to live with me now.
Arthur looks at him.

OLIVER

This is my car.
Arthur hops in.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Oliver's car drives down Sunset boulevard.

INT. OLIVER'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Oliver and Arthur enter, he's carrying a box, his house is dark and lonely.

INT. HAL'S DINNING ROOM

Oliver enters his dining room, Arthur in tow.

OLIVER

This is the dining room where
people come and eat sometimes.
The dog listens intently. Oliver moves on, the dog follows.

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM

Oliver and Arthur enter the living room.

OLIVER

This is the living room.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Oliver looks around, the dog looks with him.

INT. OLIVER'S BATHROOM

We see the door open revealing Oliver and Arthur continuing their tour.

OLIVER

That's the bathroom.
The dog looks.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Arthur lays next to Oliver in bed. Unable to sleep, Oliver looks to the ceiling.

CUT TO NARRATED SEQUENCE

STILL BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SUN, THE STARS, YOSEMITE, GEORGE W. BUSH FLASH BY:

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is 2003. This is what the sun looks like, and the stars, nature. This is the President.

NOW PHOTOS OF THE SUN, STARS, NATURE, ETC. FROM 1955 FLASH

BY:

OLIVER V.O.

And this is the sun in 1955, and the stars, and nature, and cars, and phones, and movies, and the President. These are what pets looked like. These are fireworks.

This was smoking.

PHOTOGRAPHS, CROPPED IN ON FACES FROM 1955, VERY FAST

SEQUENCE OF PEOPLE KISSING:

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This is what it looked like when
people kissed...

FAST SEQUENCE OF FACES FORM 1955 LAUGHING:

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...When they were happy...

SEQUENCE OF FACES CRYING:

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...When they were sad.

FAST SEQUENCE OF MARRIAGE PHOTOS FROM 1955:

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My parents got married in 1955.

SHOT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM, SHOT OF AN OLD HOUSE:

OLIVER

He was a museum director - she
fixed up old houses.

1955 STILL PHOTO OF A BABY BEING BORN:

OLIVER

They had a child, and they stayed
married for 44 years...

STAGES

A SEQUENCE OF STILL SHOTS OF FRENCH TOAST IN DIFFERENT

INTO

OF BEING EATEN, THEN STILL SHOTS OF STRAWS THAT JUMP CUT

CIGARETTES, THEN LIVE ACTION CLIP FROM THE TELETUBBIES, AND

**THEN RAPID FIRE THROUGH STILL SHOTS OF EVERY PRESIDENT FROM
1924 TO 2003 AND BACK.**

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...Until she died in their bed,
after four months of cancer and
eating French toast for every meal
and watching the Teletubbies
everyday and confusing white straws
for her cigarettes and skipping
back and forth through time inside
her head.

INT. HAL'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

into
Hal fields sits on a couch, in a purple sweater, looking
camera, struggling for words.

OLIVER (V.O.)

Six months later, my father told me
he was gay. He had just turned 75.

HAL

I'm gay.
Same camera angle, Hal still looking into camera we jump cut
to him wearing a robe.

OLIVER V.O. (CONT'D)

I always remember him wearing a
purple sweater when he told me this
but actually he wore a robe.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

HAL

I'm gay.
Same angle, we continue to jump cut through Hal talking to

camera, each cut in different clothes, and with each cut his line has a different inflection.

HAL (CONT'D)

I'm gay.
Jump cut, new outfit.

HAL (CONT'D)

I loved your mother, but, uh... now
I want to explore this side.
Jump cut, new outfit.

HAL (CONT'D)

I don't want to be just
theoretically gay, I want to do
something about it.
New outfit and inflection.

HAL (CONT'D)

...I want to do something about
it...
New outfit and inflection.

HAL (CONT'D)

...I want to do something about it.

INT/EXT. VARIOUS - DAY

A live action "portrait" of Hal, looking into camera, first in old clothes, then jump cut to new all black outfit.

OLIVER (V.O.)

He changed all his clothes.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The camera moves through a large group of men and streamers gathered for Los Angeles Pride event.

OLIVER V.O. (CONT'D)

He got a boyfriend, Andy, a physical trainer who was also studying for his professional pyrotechnic license.
Camera lands on Hal beaming with pride, his arm around Andy who looks into camera and says.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

ANDY

Since I came out to my father, he never speaks to me. That's why I've been always attracted to older men.

Hal and friends laugh warmly at Andy. We cut to live action "portraits" of a priest, a therapist, the Primetimers, his movie-night club, and the large L.A. Pride group, all

looking

into camera.

OLIVER V.O.

He found an out gay priest to guide him spiritually. He saw a therapist for the first time. He joined the Primetimers. Movie night. Los Angeles Pride, and then...

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM

We see Hal's living room, empty of furniture in the morning light.

OLIVER V.O.

Four years after he came out, he died in this room...

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Oliver enters, followed closely by Arthur. Oliver walks through the kitchen - Arthur follows him. Oliver walks through the living room - Arthur follows. Oliver makes a circle through the house - Arthur follows. Oliver sits, looking down at Arthur.

OLIVER

Look, its lonely out here, so you'd

no

better learn how to talk with me.
Arthur's face looks up at him filled with a dog's love and
words.

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

While I understand up to 150 words -
I don't talk.
Oliver leans down, pushing his head into Arthur's.

OLIVER

I know. I know.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

CUT TO PAST

A SERIES OF QUICK MEMORIES...

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Camera follow's Oliver down a long corridor.

INT. ICU ROOM - NIGHT

Oliver sits as HAL lays in a coma on a ventilator. The room is dark, Oliver uses a flashlight to quietly read to his father.

INT. ICU ROOM - DAY

nurses

QUICK CUTS. A nurse opens the shades. A DOCTOR and two
stand over Hal, everyone's nervous. Hal is struggling with
all the tubes down his throat. Oliver is trying to help him
breathe, talking into his ear.

Oliver is ushered out of the room. The nurse draws the curtain.

MOMENTS LATER: Oliver sits with Hal, now off the ventilator but still very weak and disoriented. Oliver coaches his breathing.

OLIVER

Calm. Calm, calm breaths.
Hal coughs.

INT. ICU ROOM

It's the middle of the night, Hal is connected to many I.V.s in both arms, still disoriented, he's tangled up in the tubes, trying to pull them out of his arms. He wakes up Oliver.

HAL

Oliver! Please help me with all these ropes.
Oliver rushes and helps him.

OLIVER

Pop, Pop, stop -- you're gonna hurt yourself.
A NURSE quickly enters and helps hold down his arms.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

NURSE

Mr. Fields, we're going to have to secure your arms again.

She puts his hands in restraints, Oliver helps.

HAL

You two married?

OLIVER

No, Pop.

HAL

Why not? She's great.
The nurse smiles, embarrassed, and continues with her job.

OLIVER

She's a great nurse in the hospital, we don't really know her, you're very high on drugs.

HAL

You always have some very good reason, haven't you?

OLIVER

No, Pop, I just don't want to be like you and mom.
(aside to the nurse)
Thank you...

CUT TO PAST

INT. OLIVER'S CHILDHOOD HOME 1978

mother
IN THE KITCHEN: We see 10-year-old Oliver watching his
GEORGIA and father kiss quickly, politely, and then his father leaves quickly. Hal remains in silhouette through the shot.
DIFFERENT DAY, IN OLIVER'S BEDROOM: Oliver watches Hal and Georgia kiss, and Hal leave - more like a performance than anything real.
DIFFERENT DAY, IN PARENT'S BEDROOM: Oliver watches Hal and Georgia kiss and Hal exit, quick and dry.
10-year-old Oliver studies them each time.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

DIFFERENT DAY, OLIVER'S BEDROOM: Georgia quickly opens the door and finds Oliver drawing.

GEORGIA

Oliver!
He turns and Georgia shoots him with her finger, Oliver
falls
to the ground.

GEORGIA

Olly, you can do better.
He gets up and she shoots him again - He falls more
dramatically, knocking his head on the floor.

GEORGIA

That's good.
His mom looks at him affectionately.

CUT TO PRESENT

EXT. ECHO PARK STREET - NIGHT

Oliver walks Arthur across a lit field, towards the dog
park.

EXT. DOG PARK - NIGHT

Everywhere dogs and their people are playing. Oliver and Arthur sit on a bench like two humans. Oliver watches the action, Arthur stares at Oliver.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Go have your own experiences with
your own people. I'll be right
here...
Arthur stays by Oliver's side.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

I'm a human. I'm not a dog.
And you're a Jack Russell, that's a
breed. Your personality was created
by this guy John Russell, a hunting
enthusiast, in the 1800s. And he
bred your ancestors to have stamina
and courage for the hunt. You think
you're just you, and you want to
chase the foxes, but other people
planted that in you years ago.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Now, somewhat arbitrarily, you are
considered very cute by us humans,
and we keep breeding you not to
chase foxes, but to be cute, and we
put you in movies and television
shows, and you, you're chasing
tennis balls cause there as close
to a fox as you're going to get.
Arthur stays by Oliver's side.

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE

CU on Oliver's hands as he draws a T-shirt that reads:
"My personality was created by someone else and all I got

was

this stupid T-shirt."

Reveal that Oliver is in a design office. LIZ, 30's enters,
they IMPROV hellos.

JUMP CUT thru a series of Oliver's drawings. A speech bubble
that reads: "A fair amount of failures." He draws portraits
of girls with dates: "Ellen O. 1984-1988" -- "Julie P. 1988-
1989" -- "Liz B. 1993 - 1995" -- "Lynette I. 1995" --
"Amanda Y. 1996-2000" -- "Yuki H. 2000" -- "Christina S.
2001" -- "Michelle M. 2001-2003"

Oliver stops drawing, lost in his thoughts...

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

I.V.s,
gardens
In the dark I.C.U. room, Hal is still attached to many
Oliver is helping Hal look at a book of Japanese rock
with a flashlight.

OLIVER

Want me to read this? I found it in
your books.

HAL

of
Yeah, alright. Give me the
flashlight.
Oliver opens it, they look at a few pages together, photos
serene gardens.

OLIVER

Nice.

HAL

Oh, that's nice.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Hal keeps peeking at a bouquet of flowers in the corner of
the room. Hal takes the flashlight from Oliver and guides it
to the flowers.

OLIVER

Oh, Andy brought those for you.

HAL

Oh, yeah?
Hal continues to direct the light across the room, we follow

the circle of light as it moves a cross a wall landing on a painting.

HAL

Oh, who did that painting?

OLIVER

Well, I don't know. Its just a painting on the wall.
Hal continues exploring, Oliver's enjoying his father's curiosity, he lands on some photos displayed on the table.

HAL

A--, and these?

OLIVER

They're just photos, Pop.

HAL

But how do they relate to the exhibit?

OLIVER

They're just personal photos.
They're not art.
Hal slowly moves the flashlight up the wall, across the ceiling to a strange assortment of fire detectors, sprinklers, sensors, all laid out against the acoustic tile ceiling. Hal points up. Oliver looks for a beat, then...

OLIVER

Uh, well that's the water sprinkler thing.

HAL

Well, its beautiful.

OLIVER

What is?

HAL

Putting the Japanese gardens there.
It's just beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Oliver looks from the ceiling to the rock garden book. The ceiling and the gardens look the same. Oliver is moved by Hal's confusion. ANDY, 45-years-old, physical, boyish, storms into the room.

ANDY

Hal.

HAL

Andy!
Andy gets on the bed opposite Oliver. He gives Hal a big kiss on the lips. Hal glows. Oliver backs away slowly. Andy picks up Hal's hand, turns it palm up and presses his face into it.

ANDY

I brought something for you.
Oliver watches from outside the room as Andy excitedly pulls a portable tape player out of his bag.

ANDY

We made a recording for you.

HAL

Oh, God.
Andy pushes play, on the recording we hear Andy's voice:

ANDY ON TAPE

This is for our friend Hal Fields.
Hal. We love you.

We hear voices HOOTING, and then large FIREWORKS, LAUGHTER and CLAPPING.

Oliver watches his father's happiness from a distance.

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE

CU on Oliver's hands drawing bright streaming colors of the fireworks.

LATER: Oliver get's to his real work, pulling out a few 8X10 photos of a band "The Sads". There are some instructions on record company letterhead - he is to do an album design for their new record - they want him to draw portraits of the three members.

Oliver begins to do quick portraits of them based on the

photo.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Jesus, Liz. Another band that wants portraits.

LIZ

Well, at least it pays the rent.

OLIVER

You do something decent once, and that's all people ever want.

JUMP CUT through the different portraits developing. It's

not

what Oliver want's to do.

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - LATER

Elliott and Shauna let themselves in. Elliot grabs a stool and sits down.

ELLIOTT

Hi Liz.

Oliver continues to draw, as Shauna and Elliott try to get his attention.

ELLIOTT

Oliver?

OLIVER

Yeah?

ELLIOTT

The pen is not your friend. The paper is not your friend. The party is your friend. We're your

friends. Your friends are your
friends.

INT. OLIVER'S LIVING ROOM

chicken,
Elliot is now dressed as a cop and Shauna as a large
they are dancing with no music as Oliver sits on a couch
depressed dressed as Sigmund Freud, complete with wig-beard-
glasses-pipe.

SHAUNA

I got the skills... he's got the
moves...

ELLIOTT

I got the moves... you've got the
skills...

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INT. OLIVER'S FRONT DOOR

believe
Oliver, Elliott, and Shauna are leaving. Arthur can't
he's being left behind. It's actually the first time they
will separate.

OLIVER

Arthur, you haven't been invited to
this party. You're gonna stay and
look after the house.
Oliver tentatively shuts the door, takes three steps, Arthur
begins to howl. Oliver tries to ignore it, but stops again.
He looks back at the house and the howling.

CUT TO:

INT. OLIVER'S CAR - DRIVING

Arthur, victorious, sits in Elliot's lap in the front seat, while Oliver drives and Shauna is squeezed in back in her chicken outfit.

ELLIOTT

You remember when Oliver was funny?
And he could actually, like, talk,
in complete sentences?

SHAUNA

Funny? Funny? I don't think so Fun
maybe, but not funny unless, like,
serious is funny. Then he's'
fucking hilarious.
Elliot and Oliver laugh.

SHAUNA

But, lovable. You are very
lovable.

ELLIOTT

Yeah, very lovable.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

making
Oliver carries Arthur, they all enter a costume party,
their way through the crowd of people in all kinds of
disguises, music blaring, Oliver slides into the less
populated kitchen. A woman rushes up to Oliver, surprised to
see he has a dog.

FEMALE PARTIER

So cute, does he do tricks?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER

His name's Arthur - he doesn't do
tricks.

In the background are a couple dressed as JULIAN and ETHEL
ROSENBERG, we see them observe Oliver and Arthur.

PARTIER

No? Arthur, SIT!
Arthur promptly sits down. Oliver's totally surprised.

PARTIER

He's so cute. Shake!
Arthur sticks out his paw. Oliver doesn't like seeing Arthur
blindly perform.

PARTIER

Oh my god, he's so cute, I want
him.

OLIVER

(in Freud accent)
Does it make you feel powerful to
order my dog around? Maybe give
you a sense of power?

PARTIER

Oh, you're being a therapist!
Freud!

OLIVER

Thanks, yeah. Very good.
Oliver picks up Arthur and escapes the kitchen. The
Rosenberg's are still watching.

LATER...

Oliver and Arthur sit in a chair next to a couch where a man
dressed as a witch, complete with green face and long black
hair, is lying back as if in a traditional analysis session.

LONG-HAIRED MAN

Well, I didn't ask for this. Who
would ask for this? This color.
This nose. This cheek, this chin.
You know, this is my life. This
isn't a story. This isn't a
joke...
Oliver is playing along, but he's really not emotionally
ready for this party. He feels very far away.

OLIVER

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG-HAIRED MAN

I'm so glad you came, Doc. Just really good to get this stuff off my chest.

OLIVER

(in Freud accent)

I'm sorry. Our time is up, uh... for this week. Thank you for coming in.

The witch moves on.

Oliver sits with Arthur in his lap, alone, lost in all this joviality.

We see that the woman dressed as Julius Rosenberg is watching him.

Just as Oliver is about to get up, she plops herself down onto the couch, ready for her session.

OLIVER V.O.

Oh, I was just- I was gonna take a break, actually.

She pulls out a writing pad, oblivious. Oliver can tell she's not going to give it up.

OLIVER

(back in accent)

Well, I guess we should start with your mother.

The woman writes on her notepad and shows it to Oliver: "Never had one."

OLIVER

Well then your father.

She mimes shooting herself in the head and dying.

OLIVER

I don't understand. You can't talk? Is it a mental problem? Do you need analysis?

She writes on her pad: "I have laryngitis"

OLIVER

That's a physical problem.

She smiles at him, looks at him a little too long, Oliver is more and more pulled in by her playfulness - she writes:

"Why are you at a party if you're sad?"
CU on Oliver, surprised and impressed by her observation.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER

I was doing such a good job of
hiding it. How could you tell?
Ethel holds up her notebook. She has drawn TWO EYES.
Oliver's taken by her.

OLIVER

Clearly, I'm gonna need a drink.
You?
She smiles and nods.

OLIVER

You, stay here, yeah?
Oliver moves to--

INT KITCHEN

Elliot and Shauna are deeply engaged in conversation with
someone dressed as a pickle and someone dressed as much less
colorful chicken.

ELLIOTT

No, its just not a natural color
for a chicken.

SHAUNA

No.

ELLIOTT

(motioning to Shauna's

COSTUME)

And look, you see what happens when
you free yourself from the cage,
walk away from the factory.

SHAUNA

You just have no real color.

YOU'RE LIKE--

Oliver slips past, hands Arthur to Elliot. He scoops ice from the bucket and starts filling two cups.

ELLIOTT

Hey, hey.

SHAUNA

(COUNTING CUPS)

Uh-oh, one. Uh-oh, two.

ELLIOTT

Two drinks.

SHAUNA

What does that me--, one, two.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

ELLIOTT

Well that's two, two people.

SHAUNA

Two people. A girl and a guy?

ELLIOTT

Hopefully.

SHAUNA

Yeah, wow, making moves.
Oliver leaves Arthur in Elliott's arms.

OLIVER

Watch him OK?
Oliver begins to leave his drinks. We see his POV of the woman dressed as Julius Rosenberg waiting on the couch.
Oliver slips into one of his memories...

CUT TO PAST

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM/INT. HAL'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

INTERCUT: The phone RINGS, wakes up Oliver, he turns on the light, answers the phone. PRE-CANCER Hal talks excitedly.

OLIVER

Hello?

HAL

Oliver?

OLIVER

Yeah.

HAL

I'm not sorry I woke you!
I went to Akbar tonight.

OLIVER

You did?

INT. AKBAR - NIGHT

Hal and his friends, BRIAN and ROBERT, make their way
through a crowded gay club. Hal is by far the oldest, and most
excited, man there.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

HAL (V.O.)

They had wonderfully loud music. In-
sit, in-sit, in-sit. What kind of
music is that?

OLIVER (V.O.)
Probably house music?

INT. HAL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hal gets a pad and pen to write this down.

HAL
"House music."

INT. AKBAR - NIGHT

A bunch of Young Gay guys dance. Hal is on the side, dancing by himself, hands in the air twinkling his fingers.

OLIVER (V.O.)
So did you meet anyone?
At the packed bar, Hal drinks alone.

HAL (V.O.)
Young gay men don't go for older
gay men.

INT. OLIVER'S HOUSE CONTINUOUS

Back to Oliver in bed, on the phone.

HAL (V.O.)
You have it easy.

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Oliver snaps out of his memory. He makes his way through the crowd and delivers the drink to her. He looks at her a little too intensely, then blurts out.

OLIVER
Would you like to dance?

She happily nods yes. They walk to the dance floor, we think Oliver's going to be shy, but he breaks into a kinetic, angular, dance. She's surprised with us - she laughs, they have a good time.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

JUMP CUT THROUGH THE NIGHT: Oliver, "Julius", Elliott and Shauna are talking to a magician. "Julius" picks a card, the magician mixes it into the full deck, pops a card into the air, it is hers. Shauna and Elliott can see that Oliver's coming alive.

LATER. They dance again, now they're sweaty, the dance floor's packed - it's the pinnacle of the party.

INT. PARTY BATHROOM - NIGHT

The party's winnowing down in the background - "Julius" and Oliver look at each other in the mirror for a beat, and then simultaneously take their wigs off, revealing their true selves.

OLIVER

Hello...
Shes mouths a silent "hi"...

OLIVER

Can I give you my number?
She pulls out her pad and pen and hands them to him.

OLIVER

Thanks.
As he writes, Oliver spies Arthur sitting in the corner of the bathroom, staring directly at him.

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

Tell her the darkness is about to
drown us unless something drastic
happens right now.
Oliver looks to her.

OLIVER

I feel bad dragging Arthur to the

party. I should get home. It was
really nice meeting you.
She writes on her pad: "Au Revoir"

OLIVER

(CHUCKLES)

Au revoir. Yeah.
He leaves.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE PARTY - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Oliver and Arthur walk up the empty street - Oliver kicking himself for missing his chance with her. His phone rings.

OLIVER

Hello?
ON THE OTHER END: Silence. A little breathing, the party in background.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Is that you?

BEEP.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

One beep means yes?

BEEP.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

I've always wanted to have a phone
call with someone who doesn't
talk...

BEEEEEEEEEEEEEP.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

You want to do something?

BEEP

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Now?

BEEP.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm parked just right up the street.

BEEP. They hang up. Oliver is filled with hope.

CUT TO: "Julius" walking out into a pool of street light. They smile at each other, but don't say anything. They get into his car.

OLIVER

Okay. You point - I'll drive. Oliver starts the engine. She points forward and they head off. At the light she points left, he follows. Down the street she points right...

OLIVER

This way?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

She nods. Oliver drives up on the sidewalk before the street, heads down it for half a block, then takes her right.

We can hear them laughing.

EXT./INT. HOTEL ROOM LOBBY - NIGHT

Oliver, Arthur and the woman enter a very fancy hotel lobby. Oliver is impressed. She mime's giving him a tour but still doesn't talk.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Oliver and the woman open the door and enter her suite. They look at each other nervously.

OLIVER

Nice place.
They sit on her bed. She steals his pipe, put's it in her mouth -- writes on her pad and shows it to him.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Oh, my mother. My mother died five years ago.

ANNA

(in a hoarse whisper)
Oh merd.

OLIVER

Oh, you spoke.

ANNA

(A WHISPER)

I'm not supposed to.
She writes and present him with a new question.

OLIVER

My father died two months ago,
almost three.
She looks at him with sincere empathy and surprise. Oliver's opened up, an now everything gushes out, he barely knows
what
he's saying.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

He, he was gay.
She's very surprised.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

He was gay the whole time they were married.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER (CONT'D)

He came out after my mother died
and, uh... he was 75 years old.
There's a quiet moment of deep connection.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Sorry.
She mouths "No" (don't say sorry). She reaches out and
gently runs a finger across Oliver's brow and the outline of his
squishes face, he's so vulnerable, she lovingly/mischievously
his face together and messes up his hair. Then she leans in,
and they kiss for the first time - delicately.

ANNA

(WHISPER)

Can we just sleep?

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Sure, sure.
They lay down, she takes his arm and pulls him into spooning
her. He pulls the covers over them.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Oliver wakes, still in his clothes. ANNA is already up. She
waves and Oliver smiles.
Anna holds up her notebook: "Who are you?"

OLIVER

Oliver.
She writes again: "Go to NY. Audition. Back Thursday."

OLIVER

How long are you here when you get
back?
Anna holds up one finger.

OLIVER

A year?
Anna shakes her head and smiles. She gestures smaller.

OLIVER

A month? Right. And then?...
She pantomimes a camera rolling, and herself acting.

OLIVER

You're filming here. Acting.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Oliver smiles as he interprets her gestures.

OLIVER

And after?...
She makes a casual tossing motion with her hand.

OLIVER

Just somewhere else. Where?
Anna only shrugs. She writes more, and tosses the notepad on his lap. Oliver reads: "Can I see you again?"
He's very happy.

OLIVER

Yes.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

They walk down the long hallway, Oliver carries her bags, Anna holds onto Arthur's leash. Oliver reaches out and holds her hand. They stop and kiss - gentle and comfortable with each other.

EXT. ANNA'S HOTEL, RED HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver now alone with Arthur - heading home, he's happy.
CU on his face as he remembers...
REPEAT SCENE: Oliver and Anna's first kiss, tentative and delicate.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Oliver's POV: Hal and Andy kiss lovingly.

INT. HAL'S KITCHEN - DAY

Oliver's POV: Andy comes up behind Hal doing the dishes, kisses him. Hal smiles very happy.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Oliver's POV: Andy kisses Hal in the Hospital.

CUT TO PRESENT

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INT. OLIVER HOUSE ENTRY WAY

Oliver and Arthur enter his home, much more alive than the last time we saw him come through the door.

OLIVER

Hello house, (Low voice) hello Oliver.

INT. OLIVER'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Oliver makes two piles of mail, one says Oliver Fields, one has a yellow forwarding sticker that says Hal Fields. The

Hal

Fields pile is much bigger.

OLIVER

Jesus, Pop, you get so much mail. Oliver slows and stares at his father's magazine - The Advocate. Two attractive, shirtless men on the cover under the title: America's Sweethearts. Oliver's lost in memory...

DOCTOR LONG (O.S.)

Hal, its remarkable how well you've recovered from being on the ventilator.

INT. HAL'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Hal sit's on top of his hospital bed, wearing one of his all black outfits, looking much healthier. A doctor sits on his bed, Oliver listens from the side.

HAL

But...?

DOCTOR LONG

The bronchoscopy revealed a mass about the size of a quarter. It is located in your lower right lung. CU on Hal taking this in.

DOCTOR LONG (CONT'D)

I'm afraid the biopsy showed it's cancerous.

HAL

Uh-huh. I see.

DOCTOR LONG

It appears to have spread... to the large hilar lymph nodes in your chest and liver.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

DOCTOR LONG (cont'd)

With the already weakened state of your heart and lungs...

As Dr. Long talks about treatments, Oliver drifts back from the conversation, slowly retreating to a window in the far corner, as we continue to hear Dr. Long speak, we see Oliver's thoughts, fixating on "a mass about the size of a

QUARTER"

WE HEAR:

DR. LONG (O.S.) (CONT'D)

... Surgery isn't possible given its location. We can start radiation treatments and see if you're strong enough for Chemo. You will be able to go home.

WE SEE:

SHOT OF A QUARTER ON BLACK

SHOT OF TWO DIMES AND A NICKEL

SHOT OF 5 NICKELS.

SHOT OF 25 PENNIES.

We cut back to Hal's face, stoically digesting the news.

DOCTOR LONG

Do you have any questions?

HAL

No. Thank you.

As the doctor leaves. Oliver takes his father's hand.

OLIVER

I'm sorry.

HAL

Well, let's not rush out and tell everyone.

OLIVER

Andy?

HAL

No need to get him up a tree.

Hal takes a moment and composes himself. In his eyes we can see that he knows there is an end to his life.

HAL (CONT'D)

Can you read me something?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Hal hands Oliver his Advocate magazine, he begins to read from "Tough Guys Do Dance."

OLIVER

The Brazilian ballet star is already known not only as a skilled partner, but also as a gifted and versatile dancer, who adeptly fields roles ranging...
Camera tracks out of the room, leaving the two men alone...

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - DAY

SERIES OF CU JUMP CUTS: We see Oliver's hands as he draws a series of silhouetted figures hanging from trees, others happily beheaded, all with talking bubbles that say, "Let's not rush out and tell everyone"

JUMP CUTS: Oliver draws another severed head, then a woman smoking next to the words, "First lung cancer."

JUMP TO LATER: Oliver tacks his drawings to the wall, looks at them.

He looks down and pets Arthur, as we hear...

CUT TO PAST

OLIVER V.O.

Yeah, he's fine. He sleeps on your bed.

HAL

But is he eating?

INT. HAL'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Hal sits on his bed fully dressed, Oliver is visiting.

OLIVER

Yeah, yeah, he's eating.

HAL

Oh God, I worry so much about--
As Andy enters, his hands mysteriously cupped together.

HAL

Oh here we are...
Andy shows Hal his cupped hands.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

HAL (CONT'D)

What have you got in there?

ANDY

A slug.

HAL

Oh, Andy, you can't bring that kind
of thing in here.

ANDY

Oh I can look.

Andy flashes open his hands, revealing nothing. He snorts
and
laughs.

HAL

Fuck you.
Oliver watches with amusement. NURSE SOPHIA enters...

HAL

It's time for inspection...
The nurse works her way between Andy and Hal to take his
pulse.

NURSE

Hello, Mr. Fields.

HAL

Hello.
Andy feels interrupted, strangely hurt by the nurse. The
nurse begins to take Hal's vital signs.

ANDY

I'm Andy. Hal's boyfriend

NURSE

I'm Sophia.
Andy gets more and more upset.

ANDY

You know, I have the right to be
here as much as anyone else.
Hal lovingly cuts him off, trying to ease the tension.

HAL

Go take a walk. Calm yourself.
Andy walks out, feeling embarrassed and rejected.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 29.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

What was all that?

HAL

Oh, Andy hasn't had it easy. Be
nice to him.
To everyone's surprise, Andy storms back in with a bouquet
of
flowers, dumps them on Hal's chest, kisses him triumphantly
and leaves again.

HAL

(knowing he stole them)
Andy, where did you get these?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM NIGHT

Andy
JUMP CUTS: Oliver helps a group of Hal's gay friends and
get settled. They're jovial, they come with drinks and
flowers, the room gets very full. Oliver hands out cups,
offers wine, Andy lifts his paper cup and makes a toast.

ANDY

Guys, guys, this is to us. Cheers.
A NURSE suddenly enters.

STRICT NURSE

Drinking's not allowed in the room.
All the guys freeze.

HAL

Oh, it's not?
She shakes her head no, the party stops, she leaves. Oliver instinctively polite, starts packing up their cups.

OLIVER

I'm sorry.
Moans and complaints from the group.

HAL

No, no, no. She's a wonderful nurse. (he pauses a beat, then raises his cup again) Here's to health care.
Hal swigs back his wine. They all laugh, grab their cups and toast.

EVERYONE

To health care!
Hal looks happy, Oliver smiles but can't believe his dad.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER

What did you do with my father? He was so polite.

HAL

Oh, I invited him - but he never returns my calls.
The guys drink merrily. Someone shoves a cup into Oliver's hand, pours him a drink.

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLD MELROSE BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

Oliver, Elliott and Arthur are shopping in a very old and crowded used book store. Oliver picks up a stack of magazines as Elliott interrogates him.

OLIVER

Two, four, six, eight...

ELLIOTT

That's it? That's all you're gonna tell me?

OLIVER

I'm gonna meet her at her hotel again. You happy?

ELLIOTT

Yeah, I'm very happy. Are you happy?
Oliver drops his books on the counter to check out.

OLIVER

(to shop owner)
Here's eight...
Turns to Elliot.

OLIVER

We haven't actually had a conversation yet, so, you know...

EXT. STREETS NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The three are now in Oliver's car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLIOTT

You're thinking about her all the time.

OLIVER

And you know that because?

ELLIOTT

Because you're not talking about it. I know you.
There's a pause, then the truth.

OLIVER

It's true. It's embarrassing. I'm 38 and falling for a girl again...

CUT TO PAST

INT. GEORGIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Georgia works at her writing table. Young Oliver, bored, watches her.

OLIVER V.O. (CONT'D)

It's like I lost the instructions or I, I never had them...
Young Oliver walks up to Georgia.

YOUNG OLIVER

Where's Pop?

GEORGIA

At the museum.

YOUNG OLIVER

Is something wrong with you guys?
Georgia is startled, she hides her feelings with humor.

GEORGIA

What're you, in the FBI?

YOUNG OLIVER

No.

GEORGIA

The CIA?

YOUNG OLIVER

No.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

GEORGIA

KGB? (Oliver shakes his head, no)
SLA? (no) PTA? (no) BMW?
Oliver sits silently.

GEORGIA

There is nothing wrong with me and
Pop.
Georgia's mask breaks revealing sadness. Oliver can see it,
she can see he sees it. Georgia gets up and leads Oliver out
of the room.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

C'mon.

INT. CHILDHOOD HALLWAY - DAY

They stand in front of his bedroom door.

GEORGIA

When you feel bad, you go into a
room and scream - loud as you want,
for a minute or two, then it's out
of you. It's called catharsis.
She opens the door, pushes him inside, and closes the door.

INT. OLIVER'S CHILDHOOD ROOM - DAY

Young Oliver pauses, confused in his room. He doesn't
scream.

INT. CHILDHOOD HALLWAY - DAY

He comes back out. Sheepish.

OLIVER

I don't feel like screaming...
Georgia, never ruffled.

GEORGIA

You will...

CUT TO PRESENT

EXT. HOLLYWOOD STREET - LATE AT NIGHT

of
Oliver and Arthur watch from the car as Elliott gets a can
spray paint, heads to a blank wall across the street and
sprays a large tag on a wall. He then runs back to the car,
looks proudly at his work.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 33.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

What the fuck is that?

ELLIOTT

L-E-IT, Elliot

OLIVER

Well, that's ridiculous.

ELLIOTT

I know! (Getting his criticism
more) You're not very supportive.

OLIVER

Well, its just copying something
someone did, like, 30 years ago in

the Bronx.

ELLIOTT

Well yeah. I'm part of a tradition
of civil disobedience, something
bigger than myself.
Oliver can't believe Elliott said that.

EXT. NEW STREET

Elliott drives along-side Oliver who's walking with a spray
paint can, terrified as he's never done this before. He
tries to spray, nothing comes out.

OLIVER

How does it work?

ELLIOTT

Shake it, you have to shake it.
Oliver shakes it awkwardly, then sprays across the wall:

1985 BUSH FINDS JESUS

Oliver runs back to the car, exhilarated.

ELLIOTT

What was that?

OLIVER

Historical consciousness... you
know, something bigger than myself.
Elliott scoffs.

OLIVER

Let's do it again.
Elliott drives off. Oliver's coming to life.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 34.

CONTINUED:

WE HEAR:

ELLIOTT (V.O.)

Okay, but when you see her, don't
tell her that you painted
historical consciousness on the

wall...
WE SEE: more of Oliver's graffiti on different buildings:

1983 CHICKEN MCNUGGETS

2003 BRITNEY SPEARS MOST GOOGLED

EXT. OLIVER'S HOUSE DAY

Oliver exits his house alone, down his front stairs to the street. Halfway down, he hears now familiar sound of Arthur barking and howling. Oliver can't believe it.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM

Anna is sitting on the bed, gently petting Arthur.

ANNA

He's sweet. He misses your Dad.
She stops. Gets up, nervous, and walks past Oliver into the next room. Oliver follows her in. They pause uncomfortably, Anna suddenly leans in and kisses him. Before it goes to far...

OLIVER

Maybe we, we could, um, just talk
for a second.

ANNA

Right.
They awkwardly break apart. Anna goes to a chair, Oliver follows. While nothing has really been expressed between the two, Anna seems to understand the problem.

ANNA

Well, my name is Anna. You're
worried you can't trust me because
you don't know who I am. I get it.
That makes sense to me.
She falters, looks at him vulnerably. Oliver abruptly kisses her. She pushes back. They pause. She traces his brow slowly with her index finger, the way she did their first night.

JELLY ROLL MORTON'S "SWEET JAZZ MUSIC" PLAYS

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 35.

CONTINUED:

CUT TO POST SEX:

The music carries us, they lie in bed, naked. Anna innocently

leans over and takes Oliver's arm and bites down hard. He grimaces. She stops and kisses it, admiring her teeth marks. She gets up, sits at a side table and finds her cigarettes. Oliver watches her. The music seems to bend and slow down, this continues as we fall into memory...

CUT TO PAST

INT. GEORGIA'S BEDROOM

CU on young Oliver's hand pushing on a record making the bending, slowing sounds.

GEORGIA

Oliver, stop it.

Oliver stands up bored, Georgia's in the connecting bathroom getting ready to go out.

OLIVER

This music's old.

GEORGIA

It's black, black music is the deepest cause they suffered the most, them and the Jews. Oliver plops down on the bed, listening to her.

GEORGIA

In my next life I'm gonna marry a good hot blooded Jew - someone full of emotion.

OLIVER

I'm Jewish right?
Georgia comes and sits with him, caresses his hair as she talks with him.

GEORGIA AT 50

You're a quarter, I'm a half, your father's none. He has the least emotions, You'll have more emotions than him, but I'll have the most emotions.
She likes that she has the most emotions. They head out.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

GEORGIA AT 50

You get to play chauffeur but just to the bottom of the hill.

EXT. OLIVER'S CHILDHOOD CAR

10 year old Oliver's in the driving seat, Georgia smokes and admires his handling of the car.

GEORGIA

You're turning into a wonderful driver.
Oliver's proud.

INT. LACMA ART MUSEUM STEPS DAY

Oliver escorts Georgia up the large steps of the museum. The crowd from an opening gathers at the top.

INT. DAVID SMITH GALLERY LACMA DAY

Georgia and Oliver approach a David Smith sculpture. After staring at it's angels for a beat, Georgia begins to do an angular modern-dance-pantomime of the sculpture, imitating

it's shapes with her body. Oliver locks up with embarrassment. A confused and concerned museum guard approaches.

SECURITY GUARD

Excuse me Mrs. Fields....

GEORGIA

What? You're not allowed to interact with the art?

SECURITY GUARD

It's just that...

OLIVER

C'mon.

Still embarrassed, Oliver takes Georgia's hand and walks her away from the guard.

GEORGIA

You too? You like being a good citizen?

OLIVER

No.

CUT TO PRESENT

10/29/07 37.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Anna's sits in her kimono. Oliver's buttoning his shirt.

ANNA

Can you toss me my camisole.
Oliver throws a sweater.

ANNA (CONT'D)

No, my camisole.
She throws the sweater back at him. Oliver looks around helplessly. He grabs a flower out of a vase and hands it to her.

OLIVER

Camisole?
Anna laughs.

ANNA

You don't know what a camisole is?

OLIVER

I was brought up by these animals
and they didn't like questions.
They're both smiling now.

OLIVER

They were very frowned upon. So I
had to guess.
Anna takes this in.

ANNA

You can ask me anything.

OLIVER

Anything?
CUT TO: Oliver and Anna at the window.

OLIVER

What's out there?
She points.

ANNA

That's a tree.

OLIVER

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 38.

CONTINUED :

ANNA

And cars.

OLIVER

Uh-huh.

ANNA

Another building like this one.

OLIVER

Right.

ANNA

People in the building like us.
Half of them think things will
never work out. The other half
believe in magic. It's like a war
between them.

Oliver smiles. He moves away from the window.

OLIVER

How do you know so much about
people?

ANNA

Oh. Well, you have to learn how to
read their faces.
She climbs onto his lap, straddles him.

ANNA

For example... here is mad.
Anna passes her hand across her face, and she's "mad".

ANNA

Happy...
Her hand passes again and she's "happy".

ANNA

Sometimes its just nothing.

OLIVER

Oh yeah?
She points at her blank face.

ANNA

This is nothing... And they are
good at looking one way and being
another way.
Her playfulness is very meaningful to Oliver, he's in love.

10/29/07 39.

EXT. FREEWAY PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS

They walk through a caged-in freeway overpass - Oliver is carrying Arthur while blindfolding Anna with his hands. Over this we hear the sounds of the quiet hotel room and an intimate conversation between them.

ANNA (V.O.)

You don't know me. I like that.

OLIVER (V.O.)

No, that's not true.

ANNA (V.O.)

Oh yeah?

OLIVER (V.O.)

Yeah, you have blonde hair that goes down to about here. You smoke in non-smoking rooms.

Oliver is still covering her eyes, leading her to a certain point, the busy sound of the freeway fading up...

OLIVER

Okay, open your eyes...

HIGH ANGLE on huge trucks and traffic racing just beneath Oliver and Anna's feet under the overpass. The trucks lay on their horns as they pass, scaring and thrilling them.

MOMENTS LATER: they walk alongside the LA river together,

arm

in arm, happy. The intimate conversation continues in voice over.

ANNA (V.O.)

Oh yeah? You drive on the sidewalk.

You were raised by animals.

Sometimes you look very alone, like you just got here.

They meet up with friends on the banks of the river.

OLIVER (V.O.)

Yeah, you see, you don't know me at all.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL HALLWAY

Oliver and Arthur are leaving, walking down the long hallway together. Arthur seems to stop and look up at Oliver.

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

She's unlike any girl I've ever met.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Oliver stops and looks at Arthur.

OLIVER

Someone flashy walks into your life and you're just gonna fall for it?

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

Are we married yet?

OLIVER

No, uh, it doesn't work like that. There are other steps, it's complicated.

They look at each other a beat and then walk on together.

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

I hope this feeling lasts.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S HOSPITAL BATHROOM - DAY

Oliver is shaving Hal's face.

HAL

What happened with Michelle?

OLIVER

You know... I don't know.

HAL

She seemed great.

OLIVER

She was great.

HAL

Maybe you should take out a personal ad, where you explain your situation?

OLIVER

My situation?

HAL

Yeah, I mean, you want to be in a relationship but you can't stay in one.

OLIVER

That's your fatherly advice? Personal ads?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

HAL

Well, a lot of people use them... I did.

OLIVER

What?

HAL

If Andy wasn't going to be monogamous, why should I be?

OLIVER

Jesus, Pop.

HAL

Jesus yourself.

INT. HAL FIELD'S HOUSE- DAY

Hal's friends hold up a hand-made "WELCOME HOME" sign in the living room. Oliver helps Hal walk to his crew, Andy at the center holding Arthur.

HAL

Hello house (Answers back in deep voice) Hello Hal.

Andy holds Arthur. Hal and Arthur kiss. They've clearly missed each other.

JUMP CUTS: Oliver takes bottles of pills and syrups and inhalers out of a Sav-On bag. He makes a chart of the medicine, the dosage, and puts the pills in a dish. It's emotional job for him.

INT. HAL'S DINING/KITCHEN

Oliver watches as Andy sneaks up behind Hal with his hands cupped closed. Hal turns and smiles.

HAL

Oh God, what have you got this time?

ANDY

It's a green caterpillar.

HAL

No, no, no, you don't have a green caterpillar.

ANDY

Oh yeah I do.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Andy opens his hands to reveal he actually does have a green caterpillar.

HAL

Oh my God. Gross! Oh, Jesus...

(LAUGHING)

Andy puts the caterpillar down on the saucer of Hal's tea cup, gives him a big kiss, and starts to leave...

HAL

Hey, you going?

ANDY

Yeah, Michael's in town.

HAL

Oh. Right.

Andy waves goodbye and leaves. Hal is sad but covering it up. He catches Oliver watching.

OLIVER

I thought he was your boyfriend?

HAL

Well, at least I'm the number one boyfriend.

Hal grimaces in pain, doubles over.

OLIVER

Pop.

HAL

Oh, my stomach.

OLIVER

Alright, come on. Come on.

Oliver tries to clear the couch of books and dogs for Hal to sit down.

OLIVER

Arthur, down.

HAL

Well, let's say, when you were little, you always dreamed of some day getting a lion?

Oliver eases Hal down onto the couch.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

HAL

And you wait and you wait and you wait and you wait and the lion doesn't come. Then along comes a giraffe.
Oliver helps Hal get his feet up.

HAL

You can be alone or you can be with the giraffe.

OLIVER

I'd wait for the lion.
Oliver grabs the oxygen tubes and puts them on Hal's face.

HAL

That's why I worry about you.
Hal looks at Oliver with love and concern.

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - DAY

CU on Oliver's hands as he writes "THE HISTORY OF SADNESS".
CUT TO him drawing an explosion with the caption: "EARTH BEGINS (SADNESS NOT YET INVENTED)". He draws a man and a woman with the caption: "FIRST COUPLE TO MARRY FOR WRONG REASONS." He draws a spilled glass - "INVENTION OF ALCOHOL, ANCIENT EGYPT." He draws a man's face and torso: "FIRST GAY MAN ACCUSED OF BEING MENTALLY ILL." He draws a man labelled "PRESENT" having been crushed by a giant boulder labelled

"PAST."

Oliver stops drawing, thinking of a conversation with his father. CUT TO: Hal on his couch (previous scene) talking to Oliver.

HAL

You want me to be with someone like

me. I like Andy cause he's not like
me... he's fun.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL HALLWAY

Arthur runs down the hotel hallway, followed by Oliver, they
come to a corner and Anna jumps out, scaring them, they
laugh
and continue on together.

10/29/07 44.

INT. MELROSE BOOK STORE NIGHT

Oliver and Anna are in the overcrowded used book store we
saw
earlier. Oliver sees her down the aisle.

OLIVER

Hey, what did you get?
She puts the cover of Liv Ullman's "Changing" over her face
-
Ullman's face on the cover becomes Anna's.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Liv Ullman. Very serious.

ANNA

And I found this crazy book.
She holds an old copy of THE JOY OF SEX in front of her
face.

OLIVER

That's kind of a classic American
thing.
Anna opens the book to a large drawing of a couple having
sex.

ANNA

Maybe we can figure out some
classic American things to do.
Oliver takes the book and flips through the pages.

OLIVER

Yeah, Like page 75?

ANNA

Uh-huh.

OLIVER

Or 75 all the way through, through

80.

LATER...

at Oliver, Anna and Arthur sit at the end of an aisle looking
a book on "Old Hollywood". The book has a photo of Louise
Brooks from the Twenties.

OLIVER

(READING)

Louise Brooks, star of silent
screen... effectively banned from
Hollywood in early Thirties, ended
up working as a salesgirl at Saks
Fifth Avenue.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Anna listens. Oliver turns the page, we see a photo of
Veronica Lake.

OLIVER

Veronica Lake.

ANNA

Oh I love her.

OLIVER

She was a pin-up model and a film
star... Success was short-lived...
series of broken marriages... She
struggled with mental illness and

alcoholism. She died of hepatitis
at the age of 53.

ANNA

All these actor stories end sad. I
can tell you that already. It's
not a good life.

Oliver closes the book, they share a look, and something
vulnerable. Anna changes the mood, pulls out *The Joy Of Sex*,
skips through the pages as she talks.

ANNA (CONT'D)

So. Now I want real Mexican food.
She stops on an illustration she likes.

ANNA (CONT'D)

And I want to try page... 46.

EXT. STREET TACO TRUCK - NIGHT

Oliver, Anna and Arthur walk up to a typical L.A. Taco truck
on the side of the street. There is nothing fancy looking
about it.

ANNA

No.

OLIVER

Yeah.

ANNA

Really?

OLIVER

It's really good.

JUMP CUT: They're sitting on milk crates by the truck, ready
to take their first bite, Anna dives in un-selfconsciously,
we're not sure what she thinks.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 46.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

What do you think?

ANNA

It's so good.
Oliver's so relieved.

OLIVER

It's good? Oh, I wasn't sure you'd like it.

ANNA

Why?

OLIVER

You're an actress and staying in that fancy hotel.
Anna can barely swallow her huge bite...

ANNA

I like this place.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM

They lie on the bed, continuing their conversation, side by side, looking up at the ceiling together.

ANNA

I used to love hotels. But now I'm always in a new apartment or... in another hotel somewhere.

OLIVER

How do you keep hold of friends... or boyfriends?

ANNA

It makes it very easy to end up alone - to leave people.

OLIVER

You can stay in the same place and still find ways to leave people.
She reaches up with her hand, their fingers intertwine.

ANNA

You are like that? Its what you do?
Oliver nods yes. They know each other much better than

either

one knew.

ANNA

So we are the same?

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 47.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Yeah, I guess so.
The look to each other.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S HOUSE - OLIVER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Thumps and loud 1920's music wakes Oliver in the middle of the night. He turns the lights on, discombobulated. He gets up, works his way through the dark house. Turning on lights.

OLIVER

Pop?

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hal's awake, he's taken down dozens of books from a wall to wall bookshelf. A huge physical task. MARIA a nurse is with him. Oliver's dumbfounded.

HAL

Oh, did I wake you? Yeah. (Handing Maria some books) Thank you Maria. (to Oliver) And now that you're here, uh, would you please put those up there?

OLIVER

What are you--? Pop. What?

HAL

I'm reorganizing.

OLIVER

Prednisone makes you crazy.

HAL

I'm just not sleepy. I feel great.

INT. HAL'S OFFICE

Arthur Oliver and Hal are sitting at either side of his desk,
is in hal's lap. The sound from last scene bleeds over...

OLIVER (V.O.)

Pop, you should rest.
Hal looks sick but energized, he shuffles his desk of
papers.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 48.

CONTINUED:

HAL

As soon as I finish these papers.
Right, papers? (In a different
voice) Right, Hal. As soon as
you're done, you can rest.
Oliver can only sit and worry.

CUT TO PRESENT

EXT. ELYSIAN PARK

Anna, Oliver and Arthur are walking in Elysian park, a view
of downtown behind them. Oliver's looking at her face, she
notices.

ANNA

What?

OLIVER

Nothing, you're pretty.

ANNA

No...

OLIVER

Yeah.

ANNA

Jewish girls are not pretty. They can be "interesting", or cute, but not pretty.

OLIVER

You're kidding right?

ANNA

That's what my mom told me.

OLIVER

She did not.
Anna laughs. As Anna continues to explain, the sound begins to fade down...

ANNA

No, you're right, this girl at school told me that. And I went home and my mom said, 'Anna, who told you that?
And Oliver's narration fades in over them walking...

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 49.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is what it looks like when Anna tells me about being Jewish in

2003. And when I tell her that my mother was Jewish. And then my father turned in his gay badge when my mother turned in her Jewish badge. And they got married in

1955.

CUT TO NARRATED SEQUENCE

STILL PHOTOGRAPHS FLASH BEFORE US:

PHOTOS OF GEORGIA IN 1938, F.D.R., BUSINESS MEN...

OLIVER (V.O.)

My mother didn't know she was Jewish until she was 13. It was 1938. This is what people looked like.

THEN LIONS AND GIRAFFES FROM 1938. THEN ADOLF HITLER ON TIME

MAGAZINE COVER.

OLIVER (V.O.)

And lions and giraffes. This man was Man of the Year.

THEN GEORGIA'S FATHER IN 1938, GEORGIA'S SWIM TEAM PHOTO.

OLIVER (V.O.)

Her father tried to hide that they were Jewish. This is the swim team that asked her to leave once they discovered that she was Jewish.

THEN A QUICK SERIES OF ANGLO LOOKING FEMALE MODELS AND PIN-

UP'S FROM 1938.

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is what pretty looked like in

1938.

NOW A STILL PHOTO OF HAL IN 1938.

OLIVER (V.O.)

My father realized he was gay when he was 13. It was 1938.

THEN A SERIES OF PHOTOS OF MALE MODELS IN SWIM SUITS AND

EXERCISING.

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is what pretty looked like.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 50.

CONTINUED:

**THEN PHOTOS OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL, G.I.'S FROM W.W.2, AND
JAMES DEAN.**

This is the high school where they
first met. This is the war they
both went to. And this man was
popular when they met again.

NOW A PHOTO OF A PUBLIC RESTROOM.

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is the only place my father
could hide and have sex in the
Fifties.

**NOW HISTORICAL FILM FOOTAGE OF GAY MEN BEING BUSTED BY THE
VICE SQUAD IN THE 1950'S AND BEING LOADED INTO PATTY-WAGONS.**

OLIVER (V.O.)

My father said if you got caught my
the Vice Squad you could lose
everything...
This is everything.

**A RAPID-FIRE SEQUENCE OF FACES AND PEOPLE FROM 1950'S
ADVERTISEMENTS - EVERYONE HAPPY AND ENJOYING THEIR CARS,**

FAMILIES, MEALS AND HAIR PRODUCTS.

NOW A STILL PHOTOGRAPH OF A PSYCHIATRISTS COUCH.

OLIVER (V.O.)

My father laid down on a couch like this and told the psychiatrist all his problems in 1955. The doctor told him that homosexuality was a mental illness, but it could be cured.

AND THEN A MEDICAL MODEL OF A HUMAN BRAIN.

OLIVER (V.O.)

Not everyone got cured.

A MAP OF 1950'S LA, WITH SMALL ARROW POINTING TO THEIR HOME

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is where my parents lived in
1955.

ANOTHER ARROW SUPERS ON VERY CLOSE TO THEIR HOME.

TITLE: THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 51.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER (V.O.)

And this is the home where the first gay rights group was secretly meeting.

NOW A STILL PHOTO OF AN EMPTY CHURCH FROM THE 1950'S.

OLIVER (V.O.)

While they were reciting their

vows, here in this church...

AND THEN A STILL FROM ALLEN GINSBERG'S 1955 APARTMENT.

OLIVER (V.O.)

Allen Ginsburg was writing his famous poem, Howl, blocks away in this room.

AS WE SLOWLY ZOOM INTO GINSBERG'S APARTMENT, HISTORICAL RECORDING OF HIM READING HOWL FADES UP AND OVER THE NEXT SCENE.

ALLEN GINSBERG (V.O.)

Who let themselves be fucked in the ass by saintly motorcyclists and screamed with joy. Who blew and were blown...

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - DAY

GINSBERG'S READING CONTINUES OVER: Oliver flips through a mock-up he made for "The Sads" - it's all the happy faces from 1950's advertising that we saw in the last scene. One face per-panel.

LATER: the three members of "The Sads" and a RECORD COMPANY REP arrive. Jelly Roll Morton piano plays, we see but do not hear the meeting take place. The Sads look at the designs, which include many of the "History Of Sadness" drawings we have seen now in CD cover format - and no portraits of the band. It's clear that The Sads are not into Oliver's work. CUT TO: After the meeting, the RECORD COMPANY REP talks to Oliver alone.

RECORD COMPANY LADY

Just do the portrait of them, it's an album cover, right? That's what they want. Yeah?

Oliver's very disappointed but polite.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 52.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Yeah. Right.

CUT TO:

EXT OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Oliver and Arthur leave the office, defeated.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Oliver walks into Hal's living room, carrying his full tray of medication.

OLIVER

Here, Pop.

HAL

Oh, God.

OLIVER

I know, I know. Come on.

Hal begins taking his many pills, with each one he pings his glass with a teaspoon as he swallows. The room is cluttered with books. Oliver picks up a toppling pile of files from a paper-filled side table.

HAL

Hey, no, no, no. That's the Gay
Pride Day stuff. Just leave those.

OLIVER

Alright.

Oliver begins to neaten a messy pile of books on top of a chair.

HAL

And that's for gay book club. You better leave those too.

OLIVER

But what about this chair? Is it gay?

HAL

The chair's not gay. Obviously.
Hal gets up and walks to the kitchen, his oxygen cannon cord is attached to the pump behind him, stopping him short.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 53.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Pop, Pop, the cord won't go that far.

HAL

Oh, to hell with it.
Hal pulls off the oxygen and keeps walking, frail but determined. Andy enters with a large pilates ball.

HAL

Oh, hey what's that?

ANDY

Now that you're out of the hospital, you'll have to exercise, get you back into shape.
Oliver can't believe it.

HAL

That's a great idea.

ANDY

Okay, let's try it. I'll, I'll show you how.
Hal's still heading to the sink.

HAL

Yeah, later on, I'm gonna make

myself some tea.

ANDY

Okay, I'll clean it up. It's a little - yech.

Andy walks out, Hal pours water into a kettle, in front of him on the window sill is the same vase from the first scene of the film, with some dead daisies in it.

HAL

Your mother's vase needs some flowers.

Oliver looks at them frustrated and uneasy...

INT. STAPLES - DAY

Oliver and Hal walk amongst all the products. Hal wears his portable oxygen and grabs different kinds of papers, dumping them in the basket Oliver holds.

OLIVER

Pop, you just got out of the hospital, you should take it easy.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 54.

CONTINUED:

They're in a new isle, Hal continues his march.

OLIVER

You need to tell Andy that you're... not well.

Hal, continues on, avoiding looking at Oliver.

HAL

You'll tell him, won't you?
Oliver's flabbergasted, but his dad's vulnerability is clear to him.

OLIVER

Me?

HAL

Please?

INT. HAL'S GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Andy's on an elliptical trainer, through a window we can see Oliver approaching with the weight of the world on his shoulders. Andy see's him, can immediately sense that something is wrong.

OLIVER

Hey.
Oliver approaches seriously, this makes Andy nervous, he stops his workout. Oliver tries to find his words.

ANDY

You know that I tried to have sex with women?

OLIVER

Yeah?

ANDY

Yeah. I wanted you to know I tried, it just, it didn't work.

OLIVER

Hey, I don't have a problem with gay guys.

ANDY

Have you ever had sex with a man?

OLIVER

No.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 55.

CONTINUED:

ANDY

I heard that if a man hasn't had

sex with another man, he's always
afraid of gay men. You know,
they're a threat.
Oliver's blown away by the logic.

OLIVER

I don't know Andy.

ANDY

I didn't want you to feel
threatened, I don't want to have
sex with you. What I do, most
people wouldn't even call it sex.
Andy's relieved he got this off his chest, all tension is
relieved for him, Oliver is just confused.

OLIVER

Okay, okay.

ANDY

Hey...
Andy gives Oliver a big sweaty hug. Oliver leaves.

INT. HAL'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Oliver enters as Hal's finishing the dishes.

OLIVER

I couldn't tell him.

HAL

That's okay.

OLIVER

No it's not. You can't hide this
from him. He loves you.

HAL

For someone with so much
relationship advice, you seem
awfully alone.
Oliver, angry but at a loss for words, takes the flower vase
and leaves, Arthur follows.

EXT. HAL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Oliver and Arthur exit a side door, go to a planter full of
daisies and cuts some for his mother's vase. He looks back

Arthur.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 56.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Just act natural. When he's not looking, we'll make a run for it, okay?

CUT TO PRESENT

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK

Oliver

We cut to Arthur sprinting up a trail in Elysian park.

and Anna chase after him. In contrast to the previous scene there is lightness and laughter here.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM NIGHT

The three enter, the phone is ringing, Anna is staring at it with dread. Oliver looks at her, he finally moves to pick it up.

ANNA

Don't, don't.
It keeps ringing.

ANNA

It's my dad.
They both watch the phone as it rings and stops.

OLIVER

He's that bad?
She picks up the phone, and gestures for Oliver to pick up the line next to him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I'll be my dad, you be me.

OLIVER

OK.

ANNA

(In a deep man's voice) Honey?
She gestures again, Oliver picks up the phone on his side of
the bed. Anna turns away, he can only see her back across
the bed. He turns away too.

OLIVER

Oui?
Anna continues to talk in a different voice.

ANNA

C'est toi, cheri?

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 57.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Oui Papa.

ANNA

You never call me back.

ANNA

You know, I can't stop thinking
about, you know, about it. Doing
it.

OLIVER

Doing what?

ANNA

Killing myself. You are the only
one I can tell that to.
Oliver breaks role, turns around looks at her.

OLIVER

You should tell mom about that, not
me.
She just looks at him. Back into phone.

ANNA

You are my girl.
They hang up. She's embarrassed, she lightens the mood to
get out of this intimacy.

ANNA

Now I have to kill you.

OLIVER

Just as it was going so well.

ANNA

I know. I'm sorry.
She tosses a pillow over his face and pretends to shoot him
twice. She pulls the pillow back tentatively, he's smiling.

OLIVER

Hey Anna?

ANNA

Hey Oliver?

OLIVER

How do you feel about vandalism?
It's the last question she thought he'd ask. She's amused.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 58.

CONTINUED:

ANNA

I don't know. Pretty okay.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS/INT. CAR - NIGHT

a Anna, Oliver, Elliott, Shauna and Arthur drive up Sunset
Blvd. They arrive at Alvarado, park and get out. Above them
well lit large blank/white billboard. As Oliver and Elliott
get spray paint cans from the back of the car...

ELLIOTT

Oliver, don't write any of that serious stuff, okay? Just write something funny. Girls like funny.

EXT. ROOFTOP

The gang get to the top of the stairs, on to the roof where they can see the large blank billboard towering in front of them.

SHAUNA

You know what? Here, give me Arthur. We'll just stay here and get arrested. You know, that's good.

Oliver leaves Arthur with her, and Anna and Elliott and him head off to the billboard. They climb it's structure, it's high and a bit scary. On the top is a gang plank looking

over

the city. Anna is happy she came. Elliott goes to paint the back side of the billboard. Oliver meets up with Anna, over looking the city.

OLIVER

You okay?

ANNA

Yeah. I'm gonna stay here with my new friend (the handrail she holds).

OLIVER

Okay.

Oliver walks out and writes big letters across the billboard.

YOU MAKE ME LAUGH BUT IT'S NOT FUNNY.

and

He makes his way back. Anna's not where she was, he looks

finds her in the gangways between the two billboards with a view to downtown below her.

ANNA

C'est beau ici.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 59.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Yeah.
He comes to her, wanting to get beyond the romance somehow.

OLIVER

I'm trying to impress you.

ANNA

(Gasps ironically) Really?
She walks to him and puts her hands around his head, somehow it's more intimate and vulnerable now.

ANNA

It's working.
They kiss.
MOMENTS LATER. They're at the bottom of the ladder. They all run back to their car.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL - NIGHT

Oliver, Anna and Arthur walk down the hallway. Arthur bolts ahead suddenly, getting free of Oliver, he runs to and OLD MAN - wearing all black and looking just like Hal. Oliver runs up to stop Arthur.

OLIVER

Arthur, Arthur. I'm sorry.
We see the old man's face, it's not Hal, but it the resemblance hits Oliver too. The man is struggling with his hotel key card.

OLD MAN

Oh. No problem. No problem. What's with this card?

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Uh, do you mind?
Oliver swipes the man's key, the door opens.

OLD MAN

Thank you.
He disappears. Oliver looks overwhelmed by this ghost. Anna senses what's happened. She leads Oliver to their room.

INT. ANNA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Oliver sits on the bed, sinking. Anna watches him. She comes to him, hugs him.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 60.

CONTINUED:

ANNA

He looked like your dad?

OLIVER

Yeah.

She wants to take care of him, she lays him back on the bed, helps him take his coat off, she's sitting on him, caressing him - Oliver is overwhelmed by memory.

OLIVER

Somewhere along the line, he stopped admitting to himself that he was sick.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A SERIES OF REPEAT ACTIONS ON DIFFERENT DAYS:

1. Camera tracks with Oliver helping Hal into the Cancer Center. Hal is full of life.

SAME ANGLE TWO MORE TIMES, DIFFERENT DAYS, DIFFERENT CLOTHES

AND EXTRAS.

2. Hal arrives at the cookie plate in the Cancer Center Lobby.

SAME ANGLE TWO MORE TIMES, DIFFERENT DAYS, DIFFERENT CLOTHES

AND EXTRAS.

3. CU on the cookie plate.

COOKIES. SAME ANGLE TWO MORE TIMES, DIFFERENT DAYS, DIFFERENT

4. Hal sits happily eating his cookie. He is chipper, alive, without self-pity.

SAME ANGLE TWO MORE TIMES, DIFFERENT DAYS, DIFFERENT CLOTHES AND COOKIES.

INT. RADIATION ROOM

Hal looks into camera (Oliver's perspective) as he pulls his shirt off, the radiation machine is in the background. Hal grandly introduces Oliver to the Technician.

HAL

Oliver, this is Blake. He's a wonderful man.
CU of the small round registration tattoos on Hal's chest

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 61.

CONTINUED:

HAL

Look. I finally got a tattoo.
Registration purposes of course.

CUT BACK TO PRESENT

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM

Anna still straddles Oliver, she's moved by his story.

ANNA

Good for him.

CUT BACK TO PAST

Oliver continues to tell Anna about Hal.

INT. COUNTERPOINT BOOKSTORE

OLIVER (V.O.)

He did a lot of shopping. Bought
all these books.

OF SAME ANGLE AND LOCATION, JUMP CUT THROUGH 3 DIFFERENT DAYS

HAL LOOKING FOR BOOKS.

JUMP CUT THROUGH 3 DIFFERENT SETS OF BOOKS BEING PUSHED

TOWARDS THE CASH REGISTER.

OLIVER V.O.

And new clothes.

INT. MENS CLOTHING STORE DRESSING ROOM.

SAME ANGLE, MENS DRESSING ROOM, 3 DIFFERENT DAYS, OLIVER
BRINGS DIFFERENT CLOTHES TO HAL IN THE DRESSING ROOM.

INT. STAPLES STYLE STORE - DAY

Hal buying more and more paper, Oliver helping him.

OLIVER (V.O.)

He was obsessed with Staples.

INT. NURSERY

JUMP CUT THROUGH TWO DIFFERENT DAYS, OLIVER HELPS HAL BUY
PLANTS.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 62.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER (V.O.)

He bought a lot of plants.

CUT BACK TO PRESENT

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM

Oliver's very emotional now, as is Anna.

OLIVER

He had a lot of parties.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

is Oliver arrives at Hal's, there is a party going on, Oliver surprised, he carries groceries with him.

HAL

Well, glad you could make it.

OLIVER

I thought I was making dinner?

HAL

It's movie night.
Oliver and Hal make their way through a crowd of Hal's gay friends. They're in party mode.

PARTY GUEST

Hal, you look wonderful.

HAL

Oh, I'm turning the corner on this thing.
We lose Hal and Oliver in the group...

INT. HAL'S DINNING ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Twelve of Hal's gay friends sit around the table in an assembly line of paper folding-envelope stuffing-labeling, stamping...

OLIVER (V.O.)

He had these political letter writing parties, there was an out gay congressman he was supporting...

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 63.

CONTINUED:

Hal leads the guys as they put the letters together.

INT. HAL'S HOUSE (BACK TO MOVIE NIGHT PARTY)

BACK TO Oliver and Hal, arriving in the kitchen with the groceries.

OLIVER (V.O.)

He started telling everyone that he was getting better.
They're finally almost alone.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Why're you telling them you're "turning the corner"?

HAL

Well...

OLIVER

You have stage 4 cancer?

HAL

It's not as bad as it sounds.

OLIVER

Pop. There is no stage 5.

HAL

That's not what it means.

OLIVER

What does it mean?

HAL

It just means it's been through 3
other stages.

Oliver doesn't know what to say, he looks through the door

at

all of Hal's friends -- happy, laughing, partying. He looks
back at Hal, ready to fight him more, but for the first time
we can see fear and doubt in Hal's face.

OLIVER

What movie are we watching?

HAL

"The Life of Harvey Milk." He was
the first openly gay politician...

OLIVER

Yeah I know who Harvey Milk is.

HAL

Good, good.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 64.

CONTINUED:

Hal heads back to the party, leaving Oliver alone in the
kitchen overwhelmed.

MOMENTS LATER: Everyone is crowded onto the couches, they're
watching the Harvey Milk film.

INT. HAL'S OFFICE

Hal paces and dictates to a secretary.

OLIVER (V.O.)

He hired a secretary that he could dictate to.

LIVE ACTION PORTRAIT OF THE SECRETARY LOOKING INTO CAMERA.

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He wrote an essay about religion...

INT. HAL'S DINNING ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Hal works with his secretary as Oliver looks on. Hal pulls the lap-top to himself and reads what he has dictated...

HAL

Eventually Jesus grew old. He could no longer walk far and he could no longer preach in a loud voice. One day he announced to his apostles that he was departing. The three disciples prayed with him, gave him water, bathed and fed him. After gasping for breath for several days, one morning, just as dawn came, Jesus passed away.

OLIVER

You re-wrote Jesus' death?
They all laugh.

HAL

It was so violent, we need new stories.
Oliver goes over and kisses Hal on the head.

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM

Oliver enters and sees Hal and Andy taking a nap together on the day bed. Hal wakes up and waves at Oliver.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 65.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER V.O.

For the first time I saw him really
in love.
Oliver waves back at his father.

ANNA V.O.

He sounds amazing. But that must
have been crazy for you.

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM

Anna hugs and kisses Oliver. She's both overwhelmed by his
need and sympathetic to all that he's lost.

LATER THAT NIGHT: The room is dark, Oliver is asleep. Anna
is nervously awake. She quietly gets out of bed, puts her pants
on, and sneaks to the door. Arthur wakes up and hops to her
wanting to follow.

ANNA

Stay here.
She starts to close the door, Arthur scratches, she tries
again, he scratches. She opens the door, Arthur trots out
into the hallway - Anna catches up with him.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

A troubled Anna walks down the hallway with Arthur.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM

A dark empty ballroom, filled with tables. Anna sits in the dark and smokes.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Oliver wakes up, slowly figures out that Anna is not in bed.

OLIVER

Anna?

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

Oliver, now in clothes, sleepily looks for Anna.

10/29/07 66.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM

Oliver enters the ballroom, Arthur trots to him. He see's Anna across the room - full of heavy feelings. He sits by her.

ANNA

I couldn't sleep, I wanted to walk around...

Oliver's petting Arthur. He's confused and hurt.

ANNA

You've lost so much. What if I can't make up for that?

OLIVER

If this is too much, then we should just stop.

Oliver gets up and starts to leave, Anna's surprised. She catches up with him puts her arms around him from behind.

ANNA

Wait, wait.

She forces him to stay there.

ANNA

I don't want to stop.
They hold this pose in silence for a beat, then,
surprisingly, he hoists her over his shoulder, and carries
her back to their room. She laughs, they've made it past
trouble.

this

CUT TO PAST

EXT. LARGE PARKING LOT - DUSK

Andy shouts...

ANDY

Ready?
Andy has a set-up of large fireworks ready to go, Hal and
twelve friends stand by, Oliver's behind.

EVERYONE BUT OLIVER

YES!

Mock enthusiasm.

OLIVER

No!

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 67.

CONTINUED:

The fireworks go off.

BOOOM BOOOM BOOOM BOOOM

IT IS INCREDIBLY LOUD. Big fireworks explode, the guys laugh
and HOLLER. Hal raises his arms up in the air in
celebration.

HAL

Again!

EVERYONE

AGAIN! AGAIN!

As Andy lights up some more.

BOOOM BOOOM BOOOM BOOOM

Oliver covers his ears, he yells out...

OLIVER

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

He's still yelling after the explosions stop.
The guys, all sensing the insanity laugh and yell back at him.

GUYS

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

Oliver's laughing now - the noise, the absurdity. Hal and Oliver make eye contact. Hal yells less strongly than the others but trying...

HAL

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

They keep eye contact. They are bonded, happy, out of their normal confines. Oliver comes to Hal, yelling again.

OLIVER

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

HAL

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

OLIVER

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

HAL

FFFFFFUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKK!!!!!!!

CUT TO LATER: All the guys spread out across the parking lot looking for Arthur who must of fled during the explosions.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 68.

CONTINUED:

EVERYONE

Arthur! Arthur... Arthur...

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM MORNING

Arthur runs towards camera chasing a tennis ball that Anna threw for him. He runs back and jumps onto the bed, waking Oliver. He's sleepy, she's happy, wants him to wake up.

ANNA

Ah, you're awake! Arthur says it's time to get up, he says he has the day off.

OLIVER

He talks to you too?

ANNA

Yeah.

OLIVER

Your English is not so perfect. And he said ten minutes.

INT. MOONLIGHT ROLLER RINK - NIGHT

Hard cut Oliver and Anna roller-skating to carousel music. They're having a great time being terrible at it. Oliver and Anna join Elliott and Shauna on the side of the rink. Arthur is half hidden in a duffle bag at their feet.

OLIVER

You okay? (to Anna) You did really well.

ELLIOTT

Yeah, I can't believe that was your first time.

OLIVER

(To Arthur) You watching all the humans going around and around.
The manager of the rink suddenly arrives, upset.

MANAGER

Excuse me. There's no dogs allowed in the building. You need to remove him from the premises please.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

OLIVER

If I leave him on his own, he loses all control.

MANAGER

I'm sorry. There's no dogs allowed in the building.

OLIVER

Yeah, but if I leave him in the car, he cries, he howls. I can't leave him in the car.

ELLIOTT AND SHAUNA

C'mon, it's her first time!

ANNA

(ANGRILY)

A ca vas! C'est bon!

MANAGER

I don't know what she's saying but I don't like it.

OLIVER

She is just talking in French. She's saying it's OK, it is such a small dog.

MANAGER

You need to remove the dog from the premises or I'm going to have to call the authorities.

OLIVER

You're gonna call the authorities?

ELLIOTT AND SHAUNA

Fuck it, steal the skates, just leave.

ANNA

Dans ce pays! On ne peut pas amener un chien. On peut rien faire. Mais c'est con...

EXT. MOONLIGHT ROLLERINK BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Oliver, Anna and Arthur make their way out the door and down the street in their skates.

INT. MAIN HOTEL HALLWAY

They roll down the main lobby hallway, Arthur running behind,
dodging people as they go.

10/29/07 70.

INT. UPSTAIRS HOTEL HALLWAY

They struggle to skate down the hotel hallway, past a maid.

OLIVER

Sorry, excuse us, sorry.
They enter Anna's door.

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Oliver, Anna, Arthur enter on their skates. Still very playful, they skate around the big room. The phone rings. Anna's face falls, they both know it must be her father. She mustn't be on trying to have a good time. Oliver goes and unplugs the phone.

OLIVER

He shouldn't do this to you.
The phone in the next room keeps ringing. He awkwardly
skates to it and unplugs it. He returns.

Oliver skates to her concerned.

ANNA

Even if we don't answer, he's still in here (points to her head). I go somewhere else, he's still here. Oliver can relate.

OLIVER

Your leaving soon?

ANNA

Yeah.

OLIVER

I think you should come to my house and move in with me.

ANNA

Would you want a strange girl like me?

OLIVER

Yeah, a lot.
She's very moved.

ANNA

Do you cook?

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 71.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Yes (not so sure).
She laughs. She almost cries as she thinks this over. She
skates to him, puts her arms around him.

ANNA

I would love that.
They kiss.

OLIVER

But now I'm going to have to kill
you for sure now.

ANNA

Why?

OLIVER

Cause I'm falling in love with you.
The sound in the room fades down, Oliver's narration fades
over the shot of them embracing in their skates.

in

OLIVER V.O.

Anna and I are in a relationship in

2003.

**STILL PHOTOS OF THE SUN IN 2003, THE STARS, LIVE ACTION SHOT
OF OLIVER AND ANNA EATING, TALKING AT NIGHT IN BED:**

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is what the sun looks like and
the stars. This is what it looks
like when we eat. When we tell each
other the stories in our heads.

**THEN STILL PHOTOS OF L.B.J., GEORGES POMPIDOU, THEN SUN IN
1971, ANNA'S CAT, ANNA'S PARENTS IN THE 70'S, ANNA'S
POSTCARDS OF PARIS-LONDON-BERLIN-NEW YORK CITY:**

OLIVER (V.O.)

I was born in 1965. Anna was born
in 1971. This is what the sun
looked like. Her pets. Her parents.
She left home when she was 16. She
lived here and here and here.

NOW STILL PHOTOS OF FOUR DIFFERENT YOUNG MEN, 3 DRAWINGS OF

OLIVER'S X'S:

OLIVER (V.O.)

She had three serious relationships. She left all of them. I had four serious relationships. I left them too. Or let them fall apart.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 72.

CONTINUED:

STILL PHOTOS OF W.W.2 GI'S SEEN BEFORE, AND THE PUBLIC MENS ROOM SEEN BEFORE. LIVE ACTION SHOT OF ANNA FEELING TROUBLED, LIVE ACTION SHOT OF ANNA WALKING BY THE RIVER LOOKING INTO CAMERA HAPPY.

OLVIER (V.O.)

We didn't go to this war. We didn't have to hide to have sex. Our god fortune allowed us to feel a sadness that our parents didn't have time for and a happiness that I never saw with them.

NOW LIVE ACTION SHOT OF OLIVER AND ANNA TALKING AT NIGHT, LIVE ACTION SHOT OF OLIVER AND ANNA RUNNING BACKWARDS IN PRETEND SLOW MOTION. THEN ANNA'S EYES LOOKING INTO CAMERA, HER EAR, HER FEET, ANNA SAYING "I LOVE YOU".

OLIVER (V.O.)

We didn't know how we learned the stories in our heads but sometimes they stop running and I can really see Anna's eyes in 2003. Her ears. Her feet. This is what it looks like when she says, I love you, in

2003.

SHOT
LIVE ACTION SHOT OF ANNA CRYING WITH OLIVER, LIVE ACTION
OF OLIVER HUGGING HER AND ANNA SAYING SOMETHING WE CANNOT
HEAR.

OLIVER (V.O.)

This is what it looks like when she
cries. When she tells me there's
always a new empty room waiting for
her. They used to make her feel
free. Now they make her feel the
opposite of free.

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Oliver
and
Oliver's at his desk, looking at photos of himself and his
mother at a museum exhibit from the 70's. We see young
and Georgia, an exhibit of stuffed animals, a quote on a
wall. Oliver goes to his notebooks, looks through them till
he finds a small rainbow sticker. He puts it on the table
and
thinks...

CUT TO PAST

EXT. HAL'S DINNING ROOM

Oliver's helping Hal take his medication, Hal deals with is
mail.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 73.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Next one.

HAL

Lord.

With each swallow he pings a glass with a fork. Hal opens a letter from a gay rights organization, he hands Oliver the rainbow sticker we just saw.

HAL (CONT'D)

Here, that means gay pride.

OLIVER

Yeah, everyone knows that, here.
He gives Hal another pill, another reluctant difficult swallow, another ping.

HAL

No they don't.

OLIVER

Everyone knows about that Pop.

HAL

Don't be ridiculous.
Hal's hiding something, he doesn't look Oliver in the eyes when he asks...

HAL

Did you know, about me?
Oliver shakes his head no.

OLIVER

No, I just thought you and mom weren't in love.

HAL

We loved each other.

OLIVER

But you were gay that whole time.

HAL

I learned how not to be.

OLIVER

For 44 years?

HAL

I knew I was gay, though, at dinner parties I was looking at the husbands not the wives.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 74.

CONTINUED:

HAL (CONT'D)

I couldn't have survived if I didn't know that. I just chose not to follow those instincts.

OLIVER

What about sex? You guys had sex?

HAL

She didn't think I was the greatest lover, but we made do. Look, I liked my life, the museum, our house, that's what I wanted.

OLIVER

And mom? You wanted mom too right? Frustrated and angry, Oliver takes the pill tray into the kitchen, leaving Hal behind.

HAL

Yes, stop that.

HAL

She proposed to me you know. This draws Oliver back into the room.

HAL

I said - look I love you and we're great buddies but you know what I am. And then she says, that doesn't matter. I'll fix that. Oliver's never heard this part of the story before.

HAL

I thought. Oh, God. I'll try anything.

SCREEN FILLS SOLID PINK.

OLIVER (V.O.)

Sex.

SCREEN FILLS SOLID RED.

OLIVER (V.O.)
Life.

SOLID ORANGE.

OLIVER (V.O.)
Healing.

SOLID YELLOW.

OLIVER (V.O.)
Sunlight.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 75.

CONTINUED:

GREEN.

OLIVER (V.O.)

NATURE

TURQUOISE.

OLIVER (V.O.)
Spirit.

WE SEE STILL PHOTOS OF THE FIRST GAY PRIDE FLAG, THE 1977

SAN

FRANCISCO GAY PRIDE PARADE.

OLIVER (V.O.)
The first Gay Pride flag was made
in 1978 by a man named Gilbert
Baker. He gave a meaning to each
color.

NOW STILLS PHOTOS OF CARTER, A LEGO FIGURE, SUPERMAN, PETS:

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
This man was President. This was
invented, this is what movies

looked like. Pets.

**HISTORICAL FOOTAGE OF HARVEY MILK'S BODY BEING CARRIED AWAY
ON A STRETCHER.**

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

On November 27th, 1978. Harvey Milk
was shot and killed.

STILL PHOTOS OF THE MUSEUM EXHIBIT OF STUFFED ANIMALS.

OLIVER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

One week later, my father opened
his annual Museum Christmas
Exhibit. He collected stuffed
animals from people in the
community, and put them on display.
My father printed a quote from The
Velveteen Rabbit in large type on
the wall...

NOW A STILL PHOTO OF THE QUOTE ON THE WALL OF THE MUSEUM.

OLIVER V.O.

...`The stuffed rabbit asked - What
is real? And the Horse said, "Real
isn't how you're made. It's a thing
that happens to you. When a child
loves you for a long long time not
just to play with, but really loves
then you become real..."

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 76.

CONTINUED:

**NOW WE SEE HISTORICAL FOOTAGE OF GAY MEN BEING LOADED INTO
PATTY WAGONS BY THE VICE SQUAD IN THE 1950'S:**

OLVIER (V.O.)

...And the rabbit asked, 'Does it hurt?' And the horse said, 'Sometimes.' 'Does it happen all at once like being wound up, or bit by bit?'...

THEN HISTORICAL FOOTAGE OF CASTRO STREET DURING THE 1977 GAY

RIGHTS PARADE:

OLIVER (V.O.)

...'It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen to people who break easily...

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM

loud

Oliver enters to find Hal and Andy dancing humorously to opera music. Hal dances free, without restraint, full of life.

OLIVER (V.O.)

...Generally by the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints. But these things don't matter at all because you are real and you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.'"

The music blares as Arthur greets Oliver. Hal comes to Oliver, Andy continues to dance.

HAL

Andy's moving in.

OLIVER

Yeah? Is that a good idea?
Hal hugs Oliver.

HAL

Just be happy about it.
Oliver can't just be happy about it.

CUT TO PRESENT

10/29/07 77.

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE

HARD CUT TO: Oliver's design for The Sads tacked on his wall

a clumsy drawing of a man and a woman with the caption:
"First couple too in love to feel sad."

Reveal a Sads band member looking at the design in
disbelief.

The rest of the band looks at Oliver's wall of designs -
there are no portraits of them. We cut into the meeting mid
melt-down.

OLIVER

This is the idea, is that it's the
history of sadness.
Oliver spreads out an impossible long CD panel design.

OLIVER

Here, this could be your...
The panels go on and on.

OLIVER

Your gonna need a big CD box.
JUMP CUT: Later, Oliver's still trying to talk the band into
his idea.

Four billion years ago, Earth
begins. And the idea is that
sadness has not been created yet.
JUMP CUT: Oliver and the RECORD COMPANY REP now alone.

OLIVER

I'm sorry.

RECORD COMPANY REP

I'm sorry too.
They shake hands and she leaves.
JUMP CUT: Oliver's now alone with Arthur in his lap.

OLIVER

Well, that went well.

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

Are we married yet?

EXT. OLIVER'S HOUSE

Oliver's car stands in front of his house. He gets Anna's suitcase out of his car.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 78.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Come on Arthur.

INT. OLIVER'S FRONT DOOR

They enter his house, it's her first time there. She's nervous, but tries to get over it.

OLIVER

This is the living room.
He leads her into the dining room.

OLIVER

Dining room.
Oliver points to a photo of his parents when they were in their 50's.

OLIVER

There are my parents. My mom. Hal,
Georgia, this is Anna - Anna - Hal,
Georgia.
Anna's overwhelmed feeling increases, she continues to try
to roll with it.

ANNA

Hello.

INT. OLIVER'S STAIRWELL

Oliver continues his tour, leading her up the stairs to his room.

OLIVER

These're the stairs.

ANNA

Yeah?

OLIVER

They go up.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM

his They enter, Anna's churning, he shows her some drawers in
dresser that he emptied out.

OLIVER

I emptied these for you. I'll get
your case.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 79.

CONTINUED:

Anna looks around, not able to deal with the intimacy,
stability and generosity.

OLIVER

Are you okay?
She want's to be, she hides it all by initiating sex with
him, physical and fast.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

They sleep.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM - DAWN

he Oliver wakes up, he figures out he's alone again. Feelings
was trying to overlook come to the surface now.

INT. OLIVER'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Oliver comes into the living room finds Anna on the couch. Feelings of hurt and mistrust well up in him. Nervous at Oliver's look, feeling in trouble, she tries to reconnect.

ANNA

You OK?

OLIVER

Are you?

ANNE

I couldn't sleep, I didn't want to bug you. Oliver can't overcome his mistrust of her and the whole situation. She tries to defend herself, honest and vulnerable.

ANNA

I was nervous, and excited. I kept thinking, maybe I'm not so lost.

OLIVER

Why were you crying yesterday? They're miles apart.

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Oliver deep in thought, something building in him...

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 80.

CONTINUED:

CUT TO PAST

REPEAT MEMORY: Young Oliver watches his mother and father go through the motions of kissing.

CUT TO PRESENT

EXT. OLIVER'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Oliver and Arthur stand outside his house at night.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM

Oliver notices Anna's drawers are still empty.

INT. OLIVER'S DINING ROOM

They eat, their connection is broken. Oliver is moody and distant.

ANNA

You okay?

OLIVER

Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. OLIVER'S KITCHEN ROOM - MORNING

Oliver alone in the kitchen, brooding. Anna enters in her Kimono.

ANNA

You seem so unhappy with me.

OLIVER

Well are you happy here?

ANNA

Maybe I'm not perfect at it. I
don't really know what I'm doing...
but I want to be here.

He's silent, distant, confused. She's hurt by his silence
and
mistrust and leaves.

10/29/07 81.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM

WE SEE BUT DON'T HEAR: Oliver and Anna talking/arguing through a series of jump cuts. The sound comes back for the last line.

OLIVER

I don't know Anna. I don't think this is what I am supposed to feel like.
Anna looks crushed and surprised.

ANNA

Okay. I will go back to New York then.
She gets up to go.

EXT. OLIVER'S HOUSE DAY

A cab is picking her up, Anna looks back up at Oliver's house, hoping something will happen, nothing does, she puts her suitcase in the trunk and gets in.

INT. OLIVER'S LIVING ROOM DAY

Oliver paces by his door. He rests his head against the door,
lost in a confused sadness, we cant tell he's crying.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver's POV as he pushes Hal's wheelchair down a cold hospital hallway.

INT. DOCTORS' OFFICE - DAY

have
Inside a small doctor's office, Hal, Oliver and Dr. Long
a meeting.

DR. LONG

Hal, you don't need to come in for
any more treatments.
Stoic and irreverent, Hal feigns surprise.

HAL

Have I done something wrong?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

DR. FLASTER

It's best that you stay home.
Hospice can help you more now, any
more treatments would just -- cause
more pain.

HAL

I see.

DR. LONG

I'm sorry, I wish we could do more.

HAL

You did an excellent job Dr. Long.
Thank you... for... For coming to
the party.
Oliver's devastated.

INT. HAL'S HOME - DAY - LATER

JUMP CUTS: From Hal and Oliver's POV we jump through time as

two men deliver and set up a hospital bed in Hal's living room. And the nurse puts sheets and a blanket on the bed.

EXT. HAL'S STREET - DAY

to Oliver wheels Hal's chair in outside the house, taking him see a view of the canyons. Hal's face reveals he's finally stopped denying the end is near.

INT. HAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

it's Oliver and Hal sit side by side in his new hospital bed, dark and quite and Oliver has his hand in Hal's.

HAL

You always wanted to hold my hand when you were little. I couldn't, you know. I was afraid it would look funny. I wanted to be close, you know and my father certainly was never close with me. God, I hope I wasn't like that.

OLIVER

I can barely remember you from when I was little.

HAL

I guess I was at work.

CUT TO PAST

10/29/07 83.

INT. MUSEUM OPENING 1978

the Young Oliver walks behind Georgia as she meanders through

tail.

crowd, feeling alone. She turns and finds Oliver on her

and

A fancy woman is talking pretentiously about a painting. Georgia's critical and amused, she sidles up to the woman

gently places her head on the woman's shoulder.

FANCY WOMAN

Oh!
Georgia smiles at her, casually unnerving. Oliver pulls her away.

OLIVER

Let's go home.
CUT TO: Oliver and Georgia heading away through the gallery.

GEORGIA

What about your father? What will he possibly do without us?

INT. MUSEUM HALLWAY

older

As they're making their way out of the museum an formal lady stops them.

OLDER WOMAN

Georgia? You leaving?

GEORGIA

Yes Mary, it's an emergency, Oliver's appendix has ruptured.

OLDER WOMAN

Oh dear.
They look at Oliver who's mortified.

GEORGIA

He's a very composed child.

OLIVER

Let's go.
Oliver pulls her away before she starts any more trouble.

EXT. STREET/INT. GEORGIA'S CAR

Georgia's in drivers seat, they're at a stoplight.

GEORGIA

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 84.

CONTINUED:

Oliver points left and she turns...

GEORGIA

Aha. The infamous left.
Up a new street, they arrive at the next stop.

GEORGIA

And?
Oliver points left.

GEORGIA

Left again. Going in circles. I
like it.
Irreverent but heavy, they drive on.

INT. OLIVER'S CHILDHOOD HOME

Oliver and Georgia enter. She heads down the hallway to her
hallway room, Young Oliver follows behind. She walks down the
to her bedroom, enters and closes the door.

CUT TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Oliver lies on his bed in the half darkness. He's been there
a while, Arthur staring at him.

CUT TO PAST

INT. ANNA'S HOTEL

Oliver remembers Anna on her hotel bed the night they met,
messing up his hair, kissing for the first time.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM

Oliver feeling the most lost, can't help but look at Arthur who's staring him down.

ARTHUR SUBTITLE

We knew it wouldn't work even before we met her. Oliver get's this more than ever. Something changes inside him, he picks up his cel phone and dials.

of

ANNA

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 85.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Anna? Where where you?

EXT. ELLIOTT'S HOUSE - DAY

Oliver arrives with Arthur in a hurry.

EXT. ELLIOTT'S DOOR - DAY

Oliver hands Arthur, a dog bed, and a bag of dog food to Elliott.

OLIVER

Hey.

ELLIOTT

Hey.

OLIVER

(TO ARTHUR)

You're going to take care of Elliott. I'll be back in a couple of days.

(TO ELLIOT)

Good luck.

ELLIOTT

Alright.

OLIVER

Okay? Thanks.

Elliott closes the door. Oliver heads back to his car and Arthur's howling begins. It's an incredibly sad and desperate howl. Oliver gets to his car, the howling doesn't stop, Oliver can't ignore it. Oliver get's out of the car, heads back to house to get Arthur.

EXT. OLIVER'S CAR - DAY

Oliver and Arthur drive up to a new house. Oliver looks at Arthur with guilt.

EXT. ANDY'S BACKYARD - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Oliver watches Andy cry as Arthur licks him all over.

ANDY

He remembers me.
It's true, Oliver's surprised.

10/29/07 86.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Andy closes the door, Oliver walks the first ten feet, to his surprise, silence. He walks to the edge of the yard, silence.

He tentatively gets into his car, silence. He drives away.

INT. TAXI CAB - NEW YORK - DAWN

Oliver sees the Manhattan skyline as they cross the bridge into Manhattan.

EXT. 2ND AVENUE - CONTINUOUS

Oliver crosses the cold New York avenue.

EXT. AVENUE B AND 10TH ST. - CONTINUOUS

Oliver passes a bodega with flowers - he pauses.

EXT. ANNA'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

for
door,
Oliver now with a bouquet of flowers in his hand, looking
the right number, finds her building. On his way to the
he has doubts about the flowers, he decides to throw them
away.
Oliver rings her buzzer, no answers, a stranger leaves the
building and he catches the door before it close, he enters.

INT. ANNA'S DOOR

He
Oliver makes it to her door, he knocks, there's no answer.
pulls out his phone and calls her.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THEM:

ANNA (V.O.)

Hey.

OLIVER

Hey. Look I'm so sorry... But I'm,
I'm at your front door. I'm in New
York.
Anna, still in bed, sits up and feels something.

ANNA (V.O.)

I'm in Los Angeles.
Oliver's flabbergasted she's not behind the door.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 87.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

You, you're in LA?
Anna laughs, but is touched.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

You said you were coming here?!

ANNA

Yeah, but I didn't leave.

OLIVER

Fuck. I'm in your building.
Anna laughs.

ANNA (V.O.)

Okay. See the window? Near the
radiator?
Oliver looks around and sees the radiator - goes to look.

ANNA

There is a hide-a-key behind it.

INT. ANNA'S APARTMENT.

The door opens, Oliver tentatively enters the empty room.
The apartment is very spare, barely lived in. A lone couch,
clothes on a rack, a few personal photos taped to the wall.

OLIVER

Okay, I'm inside. Wow, there's like
nothing here.

ANNA

No.
Oliver moves forward into the kitchen.

ANNA (V.O.)

This is my kitchen. It's where I eat.

Oliver follows her tour, while she's not there, it's strangely intimate.

ANNA (V.O.)

This is my bathroom. It's very fancy.

The bare, poor bathroom is not fancy.

ANNA (V.O.)

Outside my window...

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 88.

CONTINUED:

Oliver walks and looks out her window.

ANNA (V.O.)

... That's my neighbor's roof. The room at the end is my bedroom...

INT. ANNA'S BEDROOM

Oliver enters her bedroom.

ANNA (V.O.)

That's my closet. Those are my clothes and my pictures.

There is a single rack holding up some clothes. Her pictures are taped to the wall. Oliver sits on her bed.

ANNA

Why do you leave everyone? Why did you let me go?
Oliver thinks for a moment.

CUT TO PAST

INT. OLIVER'S CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT

REPEAT MEMORY: Oliver watches his mother walk down the hallway, very alone, and enter her bedroom - it feels like some gesture of hopelessness.

WE HEAR OLIVER'S ANSWER OVER THIS IMAGE:

OLIVER (V.O.)

Maybe because I, I don't really believe that it's gonna work. And then I make sure it doesn't work.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S LIVING-ROOM - DAY

Hal lies in the hospital bed set up in his living room. JUAN, a young handsome and probably gay hospice nurse is gently helping him take his morphine. Hal looks at Juan with love and affection. Oliver watches from the kitchen door.

HAL

Isn't Juan's hair wonderful.

JUAN

Thanks. I use this great mousse.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 89.

CONTINUED:

HAL

Well it's terrific.

JUAN

Do you wanna try some?
Hal turns shy and young.

HAL

Oh, no.

JUAN

Just a little bit?

HAL

I don't think so.

JUAN

Come on. Just try a little bit.
It'll be fun.

HAL

(LAUGHS)

Yeah?

JUAN

Yeah.

HAL

How do you do it?

JUAN

Okay, I'm going to show you how.
Juan steps away and grabs his mousse, puts a little in his hand and sits back down on Hal's bed. He begins to spread it gently through wisps of Hal's white hair. Oliver watches Hal close his eyes, and deeply enjoy this simple affection and camaraderie with another gay man.

JUAN

There.

HAL

Is that it?
Hal looks into camera which is Oliver's POV.

HAL

How do I look?
Oliver's filled with love, happiness, regret.

OLIVER

Great. You look great.

CUT TO PRESENT

10/29/07 90.

INT. ANNA'S BEDROOM

Oliver's still on her bed, his heart and mind is somewhere else.

CUT TO PAST

INT. HAL'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hal's unconscious on his hospital bed. Some of Hal's friends gather around his hospital bed as Hal's gay priest gives him his Last Rites - Oliver and Juan watch in disbelief in the background.

INT. HAL'S KITCHEN - LATER

Oliver's alone in the kitchen, his head on the table - asleep. Juan walks to him and wakes him.

JUAN

Oliver. He's gone.
Oliver gets up. He can now see to the hospital bed, Hal's lifeless profile. Oliver is lost.
Oliver goes to Hal, puts his head on his chest and cries.

CUT TO NARRATED SEQUENCE

CUT TO BLACK

OLIVER (V.O.)

Once you make the call, you have
less than an hour before two men
come and place the body into a bag.

**WE SEE STILL PHOTO OF A CHECK TO THE NEPTUNE SOCIETY, A JAR
OF PEANUT BUTTER, A METAL ASH CONTAINER.**

OLVIER (V.O.)

They charge 1485 Dollars for
cremation and deliver the remains
in a small metal container, the
size of a jar of peanut butter. You
will need to get a death
certificate.

**NOW HAL'S DEATH CERTIFICATE, CREDIT CARDS, PHONE BILLS,
INSURANCE STATEMENTS, MORTGAGE STATEMENT, TAX FORM**

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 91.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER (V.O.)

You will need to make copies and
send them to cancel every credit
card, phone account, utility, gym
membership, every insurance policy,
mortgage, to settle their taxes.

**A FAST SEQUENCE OF STILLS OF HAL'S MAIL PILING UP, THEN LIVE
ACTION SHOT OF A HAND WRITING THE OBITUARY. STILL PHOTO OF A
TRASH BAG, HAL'S PURPLE SWEATER.**

OLIVER (V.O.)

You will have all their mail
forwarded to your address. You will
write their obituary. You run it
with a photo in the paper for two
dollars a word. You will wonder if
it's right. You'll throw a lot of
their stuff away. You'll bring a
lot of their stuff to your house.
This is the photo my mother kept in
her bedroom.

**A STILL PHOTO OF DOROTHEA LANGE'S FRAMED DAISY PHOTOGRAPH.
THEN, MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THE PHOTO WITH DIFFERENT HANDS**

AND

DIFFERENT CONFIGURATIONS OF DAISIES FLASHES BY.

OLIVER (V.O.)

When I was a kid I thought that was my arm giving her daisies. Now I make a new mistake and think it's her arm giving me the daisies, saying, here, here's simple and happy. That's what I meant to give you.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Oliver arrives at Andy's door. Andy answers, Arthur's jumps up to see Oliver.

OLIVER

Hey.

ANDY

Hey.

OLIVER

Arthur...

Oliver picks him up, he gets all of Arthur's stuff, he's a little cold to Andy.

OLIVER

Thank you... Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 92.

CONTINUED:

ANDY

It's cause I'm gay, isn't it?
Oliver stops and looks back.

OLIVER

What?

ANDY

You never called or came to see me?
Oliver falters, not know how to say it, then...

OLIVER

No. No, it's because my father
loved you so much.
This hits Andy hard. Oliver turns to leave but can't. He
turns back, goes to Andy and they hug.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM

on Oliver and Arthur arrive, happy and relieved, Oliver jumps
his bed and Arthur follows.

OLIVER

Arthur... hey. Hey, how've you
been?

INT. OLIVER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Oliver opens the front door to Anna.

OLIVER

Hey.
She's a bit tentative, but she's here and happy.

ANNA

Hey.

OLIVER

Come in, come in.
Arthur runs up and Anna bends down to greet him. They missed
each other.
Anna walks in and Oliver follows.

ANNA

The living room.
She heads to the dinning room.

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 93.

CONTINUED:

ANNA

Dining room...
Oliver laughs nervously. In the dining room, Hal's old boxes are still stacked along the walls. Oliver leans forward and pulls something out of a box.
She looks at a personal ad application, with the picture of Hal in the open jean jacket we saw at the beginning of the film.

ANNA

Oh. Crazy picture...

OLIVER

Yeah.

ANNA

Can I read it?

OLIVER

Sure.

ANNA

I'm looking for sex with the hope it turns into friendship or a relationship. But I don't insist on monogamy.

CUT TO PAST

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

We see REPEAT SHOTS of Hal, and in every shot he's looking at camera. Hal telling Oliver he's gay, Hal napping with Andy and waving at Oliver, Hal after Juan put in his hair mousse looking at Oliver, Hal showing Oliver his radiation tatoo...

ANNA (V.O.)

I'm an old senior guy, 78, but I'm attractive and horny. I'm an art historian, now retired.
MORE REPEAT SHOTS: Hal with Andy at the L.A. Pride picnic, Hal playing with Arthur on his couch.

ANNA (V.O.)

And in addition to art, I like houses, gardens, parties, and walking with my Jack Russell.
I'm 5'11", 160 pounds. I'm trim,

gray hair, blue eyes, hairy chest.

CUT BACK TO THE PRESENT

(CONTINUED)

10/29/07 94.

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

Chest...

ANNA

(LAUGHS)

Chest? I like giving and, and what?
Oliver finishes reading for her.

OLIVER

I like giving and getting rubdowns and then going into mutual soft stuff.
They both smile.

ANNA

I have a nice house with food, drinks, friends and me. If you are willing to try an older guy, let's meet and see what happens. She looks at the photo again.

ANNA

He didn't give up.
They look at each other, more vulnerable and willing than we've seen them.

INT. OLIVER'S HALLWAY

Anna walks down the hallway, Oliver follows her.

INT. OLIVER'S BEDROOM

Anna and Oliver sit side by side on his bed.

OLIVER

What happens now?

ANNA

I don't know.

OLIVER

How does that work?
They look at each other, they smile.

CUT TO MAIN TITLE