

RESTRICTED TERRITORY

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Act XV

[Time to Wake Up]

Act XV, Scene 1

[Where Am I?]

Scene: Private hospital room in Susan's hospital. Austin is sleeping in the bed. He is connected to various monitors and has a set of IV's feeding him. Susan, Sam, Tylor and CJ are in the room. Susan is holding Austin's left hand, which does not have the IV in it, while looking at Austin's chart. Sam is holding a thick folder and is staring out the window. The boys are sleeping in the chairs.

Austin moves his left hand.

Susan: (In a gentle hushed tone, to draw attention to Austin's movement.) Sam.

Sam turns to see what Susan wants. Susan motions with her eyes for Sam to look at Austin. Austin's eyes move under the closed eyelids. Then, slowly, he begins to open his eyes.

Camera: From Austin's perspective. Austin sees a bright room and a kind looking lady that he doesn't know. As he is able to focus better, he starts to see the myriad medical equipment. Then he notices that he is attached to some of the equipment. He is weak, confused and frightened. Camera back to general view.

Austin: (Sitting up as best he can.) Victoria? Mom? Dad?

Sam takes hold of his right hand to both calm Austin down and to protect the IV. CJ and Tylor wake and approach the bed.

Sam: Hey buddy, it's me Sam.

CJ: Bro. It's CJ, I'm here and so is Tylor.

Austin: (Looking directly at Sam, in a very disappointing tone. Referring to the events of the last week.) Guess it's not a dream. (He looks around slowly.) Where am I? What's going on? (Looking at the heart monitor wires.) What's all this stuff stuck on me?

Sam: [\(Calmly\)](#) You're okay, son. You're right, it's not a dream. Take a couple deep breaths and try to relax. We'll answer all your questions. Right now you're in the hospital. You had a high fever and probably don't remember much of how you got here last night, but we'll fill you in on all the details. The lady next to you is Mrs. Davis, CJ's and Tylor's mom.

Austin: [\(Doing his best to polite. Directed at Susan.\)](#) Mrs. Davis, it is a pleasure to make your acquaintance.

Susan: No need to be so formal. You can call me Susie or Aunt Susie. Since I'm a nurse here, I'll make sure you are well taken care of.

Austin: Thank you, Aunt Susie. I'm not used to calling a grown-up by their first name. CJ sure is proud of you. He told me about how you work at the hosp . . .

[Austin suddenly realizes that Susan works with the terminally ill patients. He is mortified, knowing that he is going to die soon. He looks at Sam with wide, questioning, sad eyes.](#)

[Sam is a bit confused by the look that Austin has on his face. CJ sees the look too. After a second, CJ realizes the connection Austin is making with his mother.](#)

CJ: [\(Stepping in front of Sam to correct the misunderstanding.\)](#) No, no, no. It's not like that. You're not in her ward. You're going to be just fine. You're just a little sick, not dying. [\(He bends down and gives Austin a big hug.\)](#)

Sam: [\(Gently moving CJ out of the way.\)](#) Sorry CJ, you can have him in just a minute.

[Sam gets down on one knee to be close to Austin's height.](#)

Sam: [\(In a hushed tone.\)](#) Austin, son. Just a couple things before the doctor comes in. While you're in here, you should call me Dad. You should call her [\(Pointing with his head toward Susan.\)](#) Aunt Susie, and CJ and Tylor are your cousins, not your brothers. You haven't met my wife, Trish, yet, but you'll need to call her Mom. Okay?

Austin: [\(In a non-formal, understanding way.\)](#) Yes, sir.

Sam: And you got your back injuries from falling off a horse. You don't know how you got the other injuries. You alright with that?

Austin: *(As if he were getting lines in a play.)* Yes, sir. I can remember that. *(Austin pauses slightly, trying to find a way to put his request in a way to not be disrespectful. Almost meekly.)* Would it be okay to call you Captain or sir instead of Dad? It just doesn't feel right.

Sam: Of course. If that makes you more comfortable, I don't mind at all; however, try to remember that when anyone here asks you about your dad, they're talking about me, not your real father. There's so much more we have to talk about when we have time, but now that you're awake, we can expect the doctor at any moment.

Sam gets up and gives Austin a kiss on the cheek.

Sam: *(To Austin.)* Love you. *(Austin gives a slight nod of acknowledgment. He really likes Sam, but since his dad died just a week ago, he feels like it would be a betrayal to love Sam so soon. Sam addressing CJ.)* He's all yours. *(Hushed to CJ so those outside of the room won't be able to hear.)* I'm countin' on you and Tylor to bring him up to speed on his new identity *(Handing him the file folder with 'R, Aj. #17-099a-01 Sensitive' on it.)* and being a kid in the twenty-first century. Be patient, he's gonna have a thousand questions.

CJ: *(Hushed to Sam.)* Tylor and I will have a blast getting him caught up. *(Showing his hand, rubbing his fingers to indicate he's going to need some money.)* It's a given that we'll have to go to movies and concerts and stuff. *(Normal tone so Austin can clearly hear.)* Of course, he's so smart it won't take long, but it may cost a bit.

Sam: *(Conceding that he will foot the bill for CJ's, yet to be revealed, exhaustive list of activities.)* Whatever it takes.

Bill comes in the room, wearing his turn-outs. While Sam and Bill greet each other, CJ quickly gets down next to Austin and whispers in his ear.

CJ: *(Quickly and discreetly.)* That's my dad. You should call him Uncle Bill. He's a firefighter and he's wearing turn-outs. You should ask him "What's up with the turn-outs?". *(Smiles at Austin.)* It'll make a good first impression.

CJ retreats from Austin's ear and acts as if he is just sitting there.

Bill approaches the foot of Austin's bed. He gives Tylor a hug, then directs his attention to Austin.

Bill: You're awake! Looks like I have perfect timing. How you feeling?

Austin: Hi, Uncle Bill. (Bill is a little surprised by being called by name.) I'm feeling a lot better, thanks for asking. What's up with the turn-outs?

Bill: (Bill forgets that Austin is right out of the 1870's and begins his monologue.) Well, we just dropped of a kid we had to extricate from a car. (He now begins to realize that Austin shouldn't have known him or what turn-outs are.) Wha? . . . How?

Bill sees CJ and Austin start chuckling. Everyone in the room starts to laugh.

Bill: (Chuckling, as well.) You. . . you guys are good. I can see we'll be getting along just fine. (After the laughter quiets down.) When I told the boys at the station I was going to see my nephew, they almost fainted. Austin, glad to see you're feeling better. When they gonna break you outta here?

Austin looks at Sam for an answer.

Sam: The doc hasn't seen him since he woke up. My guess is it will be a couple days. His white count is still pretty high. They'll want a significant improvement before they'll let him go. Why don't you see if we can get him a ride home on the truck, if you are on duty. I'm sure he'll get a kick out of it.

Bill: I'll make it happen. Keep me posted. (Without thinking about it, he puts his fist out to get bumped by Austin. Austin bumps it with explosion.) I better get back to the truck. Hey Hun, why don't you walk me down?

Susan gets out of her chair, crosses to Bill, and gives him a quick kiss. Susan hangs the chart at the foot of the bed. Bill puts his arm around Susan as they head toward the door.

Susan: (Teasingly.) What is it this time? Another overtime?

Bill: (Just as they get out the door, bewildered, he looks over his shoulder toward Austin, then back at Susan. His voice fading as they move away.) Did he just bump me?

Austin, as inconspicuously as possible, feeling something uncomfortable, reaches for his groin. He looks under the blankets then motions CJ over to him. He whispers something in CJ's ear.

CJ: Tylor, ([Motioning Tylor over.](#)), this one's for you.

Tylor makes his way over to CJ and Austin.

CJ: ([Still addressing Tylor as Tylor goes to the bedside with CJ.](#)) You're the one thinking about medical school. ([When Tylor gets to them, CJ whispers in Tylor's ear.](#))

Tylor: ([Gives CJ a look of 'Really, you couldn't field this one', then speaks reassuringly to Austin.](#)) No big deal. That's just so you didn't wet the bed while you were sleeping. It's also used to measure your output versus your input, make sure you're not passing blood, and it helps monitor infections. ([Pointing to the chart that is now hanging on the foot of the bed.](#)) When I showed mom your chart earlier, she agreed that your liquid balance looked really good. They'll take it out when you can get yourself to the bathroom. Speaking of which, when you're ready, I'll have to show you how to work everything in there. It's not hard, just a bit different than an outhouse. ([Staring at CJ to let him know that he is silly for being embarrassed by such simple questions.](#)) I'll answer all the questions CJ is too embarrassed to tackle.

The doctor enters the room. CJ and Tylor cross back to their chairs and sit down. The doctor is obviously pleased to see Austin awake. He takes the chart from the foot of the bed and crosses to where CJ and Tylor were standing.

Doc: ([Addressing Austin.](#)) Almost didn't recognize you. You look a lot better than when you came in last night. ([He puts his hand on Austin's forehead.](#)) So, Austin, how are you feeling?

End of Act XV

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