

Parents Weekend

By

Patrick Flanagan

INT. DOCTORS ROOM - DAY

We pan around the room and see DR. CRAWFORD, (late 50s), a Hungarian man holding X-Rays. GUY, (48), has his bald head down. The look on his face is defeat. A tear rolls down his face.

DR. CRAWFORD  
(repeating himself) Do you have a family, Guy?

GUY  
A son and daughter, yes.

DR. CRAWFORD  
You need to tell them. They need to know.

GUY  
It's been 3 years.

DR. CRAWFORD  
3 years since what?

GUY  
Since I've seen them.

Guy goes into his pockets and brings out his wallet with a picture of himself, his son, Eddie and his daughter, Sarah at a Boston Red Sox game, a few years back. He shows the picture to Dr. Crawford.

DR. CRAWFORD  
I've seen this situation before, Guy. It's a lot worse if they were completely blindsided.

Guy is completely stone-faced, showing no emotion, face pale. He stares at the X-Ray in Dr. Crawford's hand.

DR. CRAWFORD  
You can see right here, the mass spread right into the colon lining.

GUY  
They don't want anything to do with me.

DR. CRAWFORD  
At the rate it's spreading, I would estimate you have 6 months. Do the right thing, Guy. You have a responsibility.

(CONTINUED)

Guy looks up at the ceiling and takes a deep breath, shutting his eyes for a few minutes.

DR. CRAWFORD

I can't imagine how you feel. The only thing I can really say is to spend these last few months amending broken relationships.

GUY

They have no idea. They don't even know about the cancer.

Guy gets up to leave.

DR. CRAWFORD

You have my number if you need to talk or anything. I'll see you in two weeks.

The door shuts.

FADE OUT.

EXT. CAR - DAY

He walks out of the doctor's office to his car and lights up a cigarette. Guy calls his ex-wife, KATHY. We go to a split screen and see Kathy, (45), painting her nails. She is accompanied by JOHNSON, (49), tall, techie looking guy.

KATHY

Guy?...

Guy pauses for a second.

KATHY

Hello...

GUY

Hey Kath. What are you up too?

KATHY

I'm with Johnson right now on our way up to Boston to see the kids. It's parents weekend.

Guy pauses. He sees this as his opportunity.

GUY

Yeah... I remember getting something in the mail about that. I was thinking about coming up too.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

Guy, what the hell are you doing?  
Why would you think they want to  
see you?

GUY

I need to see them, Kath.

KATHY

Are you going crazy? Jesus Christ,  
Guy. You haven't seen them in what?  
2 years now? Have you been  
drinking? You--

Guy brings the phone down to his lap. In the background we hear Kathy chirping away on the phone. Guy has a blank stare and hangs up the phone. He pulls out of the parking lot.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. CAR - DAY

We see Guy driving his old pickup truck on the highway. In the distance we see the skyline of Boston.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Guy tosses a cigarette out the window. We see that he is parked on a street with Boston University flags hanging above him. Guy gets the nerve to call his son.

EDDIE

Hello?

GUY

What's up, Ed?

EDDIE

Mom said you may be coming up, are  
you?

GUY

Yeah, Bud. Uh, I'll be there in 15.  
I wanted to surprise you and Sarah.

EDDIE

Well... did you talk to Sarah?

(CONTINUED)

GUY  
No... not yet.

EDDIE  
You know she hates surprises.

GUY  
Hey, text me your address will you?

EDDIE  
Sure. Everyone's coming to my dorm  
now.

GUY  
Sweet. Uh, I guess I'll meet you  
all there.

EDDIE  
Okay, I'll see you soon.

A text from Eddie appears saying "Warren Towers, 10 Buick Street". Guy puts in the address and heads to see everyone.

CUT TO:

INT. EDDIE'S DORM - LATE AFTERNOON

Guy takes a deep breath then knocks on the door. Everyone in the room becomes silent. EDDIE, (19), long hair, athletic sized, opens the door.

GUY  
Hi, everyone.

EDDIE  
Hey, dad.

KATHY  
I can smell the cigarettes from  
here, of course.

Guy and Kathy hug, awkwardly. Guy looks to SARAH, (22), attractive brunette, who has a look of shock on her face.

GUY  
Hi, Sarah.

SARAH  
What the fuck happened to your  
hair?

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE

You look so different.

GUY

Oh, you know... I decided I needed a bit of change.

Guy goes over to shake Johnson's hand.

JOHNSON

Hey, man.

GUY

How we doin' Johnson?

JOHNSON

Last time I saw you, you were racking up the lbs. You look good, Guy.

GUY

You know, running a bit here and there.

KATHY

I think you look exhausted. Bags under your eyes, very pale. Everything good?

GUY

All good Kath. I-I-- didn't mean to interrupt the weekend you had planned. It just worked out that this was one of the only weekends I had free.

Everyone becomes silent.

SARAH

Well... I'm starving. Can we go eat?

JOHNSON

Can you join us, Guy?

GUY

Would love that.

KATHY

I'll call to add another guest to our party.

Sarah, Kathy and Johnson head out the door.

(CONTINUED)

GUY  
Love the room, kid. I see that Sox  
poster, you got there.

EDDIE  
Got it signed with you, 2006-  
opening day.

GUY  
Great game. Sad season- 3rd place  
in the AL East just missing the  
playoffs. You riding with me?

EDDIE  
Sure.

Eddie and Guy head out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR AT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Everyone waits at the bar in the restaurant to get seated.  
The bartender is taking drink orders.

KATHY  
Merlot, please.

JOHNSON  
Make that two, please.

GUY  
I'll take a scotch on the rocks.

Everyone becomes silent.

GUY  
It's in my blood.

KATHY  
I thought you were done.

GUY  
Relax, Kath. It's one damn drink.

Sarah, Kathy and Johnson sitting next to each other look at  
Guy in disgust. Guy turns the other direction to Eddie.

GUY  
You having fun so far?

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE

Yeah, it's so different living on your own. But Sarah has been great to me, bringing me out to different parties and all.

GUY

What about class?

EDDIE

Oh right, Uh... I mean good so far.

GUY

Any cool professors?

EDDIE

My accounting professor barely speaks English. So it's actually like learning another language.

GUY

You can do it. I was decent at it.

EDDIE

You had an accounting class in high school?

GUY

I think we called it something else back then.

Camera angles on Sarah, Kathy and Johnson all talking.

KATHY

You actually think he looks good?

JOHNSON

I mean he lost so much weight?

SARAH

Probably stressed at work or something.

KATHY

It's weird to me that he's here. I know he pulls this type of shit all the time. One month he claims sobriety, the next he finishes a bottle of scotch every night after work.

(CONTINUED)



SARAH

But why so out of the blue?

KATHY

I think he needs us...

The hostess comes over.

HOSTESS

Hi! Table is all ready!

Guy slurps the rest of his scotch.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The family sits at a round table.

SERVER

What can I get you, sir?

GUY

I'll take another scotch, please.

Kathy, annoyed look on face, whispers to Johnson.

KATHY

Jesus Christ.

Everyone orders their food. Sarah and Eddie look down at their phones.

GUY

Well, I got us all tickets to the Red Sox game tomorrow.

EDDIE

What?!

GUY

Pretty decent seats.

KATHY

It's not like we had plans or anything...

SARAH

It could just be a guy's day. I wanted to go out with Mom for some shopping.

(CONTINUED)

GUY  
Alright. That's fine.

JOHNSON  
I've never been.

Guy and Eddie chuckle.

EDDIE  
Didn't you grow up here?

JOHNSON  
Yeah. My rents were never big  
sports fans or anything.

EDDIE  
Weird... You're missing out!

GUY  
Well, you'll have a great time with  
us.

Guy finishes his drink and flags the waitress down,  
signaling for another one.

KATHY  
Oh my god, Guy. So embarrassing. I  
hate when you do that.

GUY  
I can't do anything right.

SARAH  
It's so fucking rude, dad. I would  
spit in your drink if I was that  
waitress.

GUY  
Swear some more, Sarah.

SARAH  
Fuck you.

JOHNSON  
C'mon now.

GUY  
No one asked for your input, Softy.

KATHY  
No. You know what this is not  
happening. Nope.

Kathy, furious, gets up. The server comes to the table.

(CONTINUED)

SERVER

Everything Okay? Here's your drink,  
sir.

KATHY

Enjoy that, Guy. Thanks for ruining  
a great dinner, even better thanks  
for ruining a great weekend. You're  
still the same piece of shit you've  
always been. Let's go guys.

Kathy, Johnson, Sarah and Eddie all get up to leave. It's  
just Guy, alone, at the table. He looks at the server who is  
in shock. The entire restaurant is looking at him. The  
server walks away.

GUY

Hey! Miss! Check please!

Guy sits alone for a few minutes. He finishes his drink and  
stares around the restaurant noticing happy couples and  
families with children. He reaches in his wallet.

GUY

What the fuck.

The picture of himself, Eddie and Sarah at the Red Sox game  
years ago, is not there.

GUY

No. No.

He keeps digging around his wallet. He dumps all his cards  
on the table. Nothing. The server brings out the check and  
he gives her cash.

GUY

Keep it.

SERVER

Thank y--

Guy jumps out his seat and runs out the restaurant.

FADE OUT.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Guy tears his car apart looking for this picture. He goes  
through the glove department and center console. Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

GUY

No! Fuck!

We see the same look of defeat on Guy's face. He starts up the car. He stares out the window. He see a tear roll down his face. Guy starts to get flashbacks.

CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. DOCTORS ROOM - DAY

DR. CRAWFORD

At the rate it's spreading, I would estimate you have 6 months. Do the right thing, Guy. You have a responsibility.

Guy looks up at the ceiling and takes a deep breath, shutting his eyes for a few minutes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - DAY

KATHY

Guy, what the hell are you doing? Why would you think they want to see you?

GUY

I need to see them, Kath.

KATHY

Are you going crazy? Jesus Christ, Guy. You haven't seen them in what? 2 years now? Have you been drinking? You--

Guy brings the phone down to his lap. In the background we hear Kathy chirping away on the phone.

END FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Guy is panting. He makes a nasty cough. He pulls a bottle of scotch from behind the passenger seats, looks at it, then chugs.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Guy exits the hotel with his bags. He puts the bags in the back of his truck. His phone rings.

EDDIE

Dad.

GUY

I'm so sorry, Eddie. I thought about it all night. I love you, bud. I should have never got a drink and made everyone so upset

EDDIE

Did you go home?

GUY

I'm about to.

EDDIE

Come to my room. I want to say bye.

GUY

Where's everyone?

EDDIE

I'm not sure. I wanted to go to the game, but they all want to take me out to get some things for the room so I'm in good shape for the semester and Sarah wants to walk around campus.

GUY

Alright, I'll be there in a minute.

Guy drives off.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDDIE'S DORM - DAY

Guy pulls up to Eddie's dorm. Eddie has Sarah, Kathy and Johnson waiting outside. Guy sees them in a distance and starts to walk back to the car.

GUY

Fuck. No. I need to do this. You got this, Guy.

Guy forgets he has a cigarette in hand. He tosses it and tries to air out his shirt.

SARAH

Eddie, what the hell?!

KATHY

Dear God.

Guy takes a deep breath.

GUY

I'm really sorry for my actions last night. I should have known ordering a drink would have gotten everyone upset.

EDDIE

I hated the way we left dinner. I want us to be civil.

GUY

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I never meant for the weekend to be like this. I- I-- need to tell you all something.

A tear rolls down Guy's face.

KATHY

What's going on, Guy?

SARAH

Oh my god, dad?

Sarah hugs her dad. Guy builds up the courage to talk.

GUY

Truth is, there was a reason I came to see everyone this weekend. Can we walk?

(CONTINUED)

They walk off in the distance. Sarah puts her hands around her mouth. Kathy almost collapses. Eddie puts his hand around Guy. They hug, then all sit down on the grass.

CUT TO:

INT. FENWAY PARK - DAY

The 5 make their way past people to get into their seats. Everyone is having a great time. Johnson signals to a beer vendor.

JOHNSON

What can I get you, Guy?

GUY

Naw, I'm good Johnson. Thank you though.

SARAH

Dad, enjoy a beer.

GUY

I don't need a drink to make me happy, Sar.

SARAH

Ooo! Let's get a picture.

GUY

(overly excited)YES!

Sarah takes out her phone. They all laugh and pose. Camera angels on Sarah and Kathy.

KATHY

It all makes sense now.

SARAH

Hmm?

KATHY

All he wanted was his kids to get a degree. He was so happy you both ended up in Boston. He came this weekend to bring everyone together.

Sarah points to Guy.

SARAH

Look at him. Loving life.

FADE OUT.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Bagpipes play in the background. There is a long line in a beautiful church. In the front of the church stands Kathy who is next to Johnson, followed by Sarah, Eddie, then Guy's family respectively.

SARAH  
(to Eddie) Do we know him?

EDDIE  
No. Maybe a co-worker?

An unknown man speaks to Kathy and Johnson. They hug.

KATHY  
Sarah and Eddie, this is Dr.  
Crawford. He helped your father  
these past few months.

Dr. Crawford reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out a picture.

DR. CRAWFORD  
Your father showed this to me on of  
his visits and accidentally left it  
behind. I tried to give this back  
to him multiple times but it  
completely slipped my mind. Please  
hold on to it.

Sarah and Eddie look down and burst into laughter. Sarah wipes a tear off her cheek.

SARAH  
Oh my god. Look at my fat ass!

EDDIE  
Remember he almost got kicked out  
that game!

SARAH  
Yes, for pouring beer on the  
Phillies fan in front of us!

EDDIE  
Thank you so much, Dr. Crawford for  
all your help.

SARAH  
One of my biggest regrets was not  
having enough pictures with my dad.  
I'll cherish this for life now.

(CONTINUED)



Eddie and Sarah hug Dr. Crawford. They both look down at the picture with a huge smile. Sarah walks to place the picture on the memorial table made for Guy. She puts the picture next to the one taken at the Red Sox game during Parents Weekend. Camera pans to see a signed Red Sox jersey, pictures at the bar of Guy and his friends, ending on Kathy and Guy's wedding picture. Bagpipes fade out and text appears reading, "Parents Weekend".

FADE OUT.