

SCENE 8

(At the doctor's office)

DOCTOR

That young Argyle reminds me when I was a boy. Like a fast train on the wrong track (takes a sip). Huh I'm no different really - just a few more stops down the line. I wonder sometimes.. how I miss my father, my brother? I left my family so long ago.

VOICE

You should visit.

DOCTOR

Oh mind your own business. . . Ive just got a fresh start again from that FIASCO in the last town! There seems to be no escaping the self..

ARGYLE (Argyle banging on the door)

Doc! You there? Open up! You've got to help me. I don't ffeel so good.

DOCTOR

..Or anybody else. Of course. Come in, come in!.... I was just thinking about you.. Alright tell me, tell me.. all about it.

ARGYLE

Doc, I think Im really losin it! I just had a big blue with Ma! An then I left and, and this nightmare all around or maybe in my head! I dunno. I've gotta get away, see dad. Im hearin of all sorts of voices and things. ('voices' said frightened)

DOCTOR

Voices hmm .. Calm down, calm down now Argyle. You're SAFE here. Tell me first - what happened with your mother?

ARGYLE

I, I had a huge argument with Ma in the bakery, in front of everyone! I said things I shouldn't have. I, I had to get it off my chest. I don't know what Im gonna do now.

DOCTOR

Take a breath... let me think...

ARGYLE

I want out of that bakery!... Dad got out!

DOCTOR

I understand but you can't just run out on your mother..

ARGYLE

Mother?... huh more like a monster.. I can't do what I want... Sometimes I feel like I dunno doc, I dunno, I just feel like (hands in throttling motion). She's going to send me off the deep end. I'm not sure what I'm going to do. You've gotta help me doc.

DOCTOR

Hmm that's some dangerous thinking.

ARGYLE

Maybe Ill burn down that frykin bakery!!

DOCTOR

I, I don't think that would be a good idea Argyle.

ARGYLE

It would solve my problems.

DOCTOR

I doubt it.. If I may be frank with you Argyle...

ARGYLE

(Desparately) You can be Harry for all I care!

DOCTOR

I can advise you on what course you can take to help you but, in the end, it also has to come from you, Argyle. I'm not a miracle worker.

ARGYLE

I'm gonna leave this town. I gotta be free!

DOCTOR

Freedom is a strange thing.. Are any of us really free? Listen ... I think between us we can work it out. We can.

ARGYLE

Bacchus is free at the bar. Serves ANYBODY she likes. Chats with ANYBODY she likes. Closes ANY time she likes.

DOCTOR

Er Bacchus? Oh you mean the local barkeeper? She's got to pay the bills like ALL of us - (More to himself) Why do you think I came to this town? Erhum. She has responsibilities like anybody else. I bet there's SOME place she'd rather BE, though.

ARGYLE

(Cools) Oh Maybe... Sometimes she gasses on about getting away to the desert or something..

DOCTOR

Ah, there you go my boy a bit of reflection in your voice, you know even a little visualisation like Bacchus - a calm desert oasis, a palm tree - may give a moment of peace.

ARGYLE

I dunno! I just want to get away but everything's pulling me down... I feel like Im gonna explode!

DOCTOR

(Goes over to book shelf to find a psychiatry book - sneaks a few nips of alcohol) Yes I can relate to er sense that! This concerns me very much - What I've heard this afternoon is that you are having aggressive ideations, er high anxiety and paranoia. You ARE still hearing those custard pies?

ARGYLE

Please don't mention custard pies!

VOICES

Custard pies, Custard pies, Custard pies..

DOCTOR

Sorry.. Hmm.. (more to himself) Im not sure.. but I THINK this might be on the spectrum.

ARGYLE

Spectrum? That doesn't sound too good Doc.

DOCTOR

Well.. it's like a range of problems er how should I put it?.. Problems of the mind. (pause) Argyle.. we have explored some options but... here is another one. (Lines up large pills on his desk of different colours) This is what you could say is our standard go to practice - You've got problems, we've got pills..

Pill SONG:

DOCTOR

If you just take a pill
It will put you under its spell
Take three or only two
It can really lift your mood
There are so many (different) kinds
And colours for you to choose
Though once you start, its hard to stop,
This is for life.

There's a yellow pill if you feel
Somewhat pale around the gill,
And a blue one for those Mondays
When you think you have run out of fun days,
If we like you can try
Cos there's a pill for every ill,
Well almost.., Well maybe.., Well (kind of) sort of.

ARGYLE

Well I don't know doc
There seems to be an awful lot,
An how can you be so sure
If they are gonna help me or not!

ARGYLE (talking over music)

So are they actually gonna make me better?

DOCTOR

Ah well sometimes you get more or less better, sometimes a little less than better, er occasionally a little less than less better.

ARGYLE

(Argyle takes a big breath) Sso how do.. the pills help exactly?

DOCTOR

They help, ah to a point. (Reading) We decrease the dopamine in the neurones but THEY may become more sensitive - so then it takes less dopahis, dopamyne no dopamine to cause a fsillyiosis, er ah psychosis.

ARGYLE

What the..??

DOCTOR (song cont.)

Now, Now if you feel anger, take -
The red ones - they're all the rage!
Like a mini vacation or a short course in anger management
Oh and these are the green if you're feeling mean!
They'll turn you right back into a springbean!

ARGYLE

Hey now.. but what about my nightmares and the voices?
Doc what can you do about that?

DOCTOR

Well Id need some more investigation, but from what Ive seen
I would recommend...
If you popped these purple pills,
To pan your pandemonium
Pipe down those pesky voices
(Custard Pies, Custard pies, Custard pies, Custard po po po pies)

ARGYLE

I cant believe you Doc
No way this wont do
This kind of life wasn't meant for me Doc,
I dont believe it, it cant be true!

DOCTOR

Oh you will, yes you will - We'll look after you,
No-one's an island, no-ones a superman
Its simple, just swallow a little pill,
It will calm you right down
Make you sleep, sleep,
Ever so blissful, ever so tranquil!!
Yes it will!

(Song ends)

ARGYLE

(Walking around the room) I dunno what the fryck you just said!
That sounds like the pills make things worse. I'm nnot going to
take them! III won't take them!

DOCTOR

Well,.. it IS early days yet, and we are STILL investigating and
there are OTHER methods - like injection, which seems to be the
latest - well at least its not the Electric Convulsive Therapy.

ARGYLE

Injections, electro what?...But why?

DOCTOR

Ah.. never mind - there are MANY different ways people NEED to
seek help.. Sometimes there is no choice but to take even MORE
serious measures and make people GET their treatment - they go to
stay in the HOSPITAL.

ARGYLE

(Breathing harder) That sounds like torture! Another kind of
nightmare!

DOCTOR

I've heard it explained that way.

ARGYLE

Is there any other way?

DOCTOR

There are a thousand different therapies - there is no "one size fits all"

ARGYLE

Can we try something, right now, anything but pills, anything - just for now - like that hypnotysie thing you did before? That was really good, I was visualising.. I was!

(Takes small fob watch from table)

DOCTOR

Careful. Really? That's more an introductory technique.. Oh if you insist... but we will need to explore further as we go.. No no THAT'S not a watch (Takes watch). Ill have to get he BIG guns out for this (He pulls out a giant Fob watch) Now can you please try to relax just like we did before and let your mind go -

(Hypnotic song)

Open.. open your mind.. open your mind.. let your dreams come.. forget about time..

Open your mind.. look, look into my eyes.. let your will be mine.. trust me you'll be fine..

ARGYLE

..I wish I could be free. Just like in the desert..

(Argyle rises up like zombie and drifts from the stage mumbled in disturbed fashion with Doc following him with watch)

SCENE ENDS