

CONTINUED:

AVERY

No, the day I took control of my life?  
Best move I ever made.

CROCKETT

(sees she's tired)

Anyway, I should let you get some rest.  
You enjoy your ice chips, and I'll check  
back in later.

(heads off, then turns back)

So wait -- what did you end up doing  
after med school?

AVERY

Malpractice lawyer.

CROCKETT

Medical?

(Avery nods; he smirks)

Your mom must be very proud.

Avery smiles back. Crockett, liking her, exits.

INT. E.D. - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

Charles enters to find Susan in a chair. Todd's outside  
the room on his phone. Ryan sits nearby, tapping  
rhythmically on the wall.

Start  
Scene 3



CHARLES

Hey, Susan. Just wanted to let you know  
they're finishing up. Alex is doing  
great.

SUSAN

Really? Oh my god. Thank you.

CHARLES

I'm just the messenger. But tell me --  
how are you holding up?

It's a complicated question. Susan considers, then --

SUSAN

Can I ask you something? Am I a terrible  
mother? I mean, look at me. I missed a  
bleeding disorder in my own son. Alex  
always has bruises. But I figured it was  
just because of Ryan's roughhousing.

CHARLES

I can see how you would think that.  
Believe me, I know you're in an extremely  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

difficult situation. And Ryan does seem like he can be a lot.

SUSAN

(nods)

They told us the Adderall would change our lives. But he only seems to be getting worse.

CHARLES

(taking a seat)

You know, I've been wondering about the Adderall. In my experience, it works great to help ADHD patients focus. ~~In fact, lots of college kids and young professionals use it off label to help focus as well.~~ But, when used for the wrong diagnosis, I find it can actually be counterproductive.

Todd enters, done with his call, as --

SUSAN

Wrong diagnosis? What do you mean?

CHARLES

I'm starting to suspect Ryan doesn't actually have ADHD. I think he may have an anxiety disorder.

TODD

~~Anxiety? What are you talking about?~~  
Ryan isn't anxious. He's impulsive.

CHARLES

I know it seems like that. But --

(re: tapping)

The tapping and counting, for example. He does that a lot, right?

SUSAN

Yes.

CHARLES

I think it's how he calms his mind, ~~his way of dealing with mounting anxiety.~~ ~~And I know~~ his outbursts may look like a boy who has too much energy, and can't focus. But, I have a feeling it's really a symptom of all his worries building up inside of him, until he feels backed into a corner, and is forced either into fight or flight.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Really?

CHARLES

(nods)

And the Adderall, I suspect, is just working against him to make all these anxious feelings seem even worse.

TODD

Dr. Charles, we really appreciate your help. But Ryan already has a diagnosis.

CHARLES

I completely understand. But this isn't just about Ryan. It's about Alex, and all of you -

TODD

Please. Our son's in surgery.

SUSAN

We can discuss this later, but it's been a long day.

Knowing when to stop, Charles stands.

CHARLES

Of course. I'll let you know as soon as Alex is awake.

Charles exits, knowing he needs to get through to them --



End Scene 3

Chicago Med

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