

Fine

written by

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ll's as English  
L's

ADRIAN - WILL MANNING

KRISTINE - KAYLA

MALE SCIENTIST - WILL DEVARY

MR. SCHROEDER - DEXTER

OFFICE WORKERS - ALL (but Mr. Schroeder)

YOUNG VOICE - NATALIE

SD - DANAYA

INT. NONDESCRIPT OFFICE BUILDING. DAY

CLOSE UP of computer monitor, an email describes an enormous amount of work that needs to get done very quickly. A distinct fluorescent buzzing sound can be heard. ADRIAN, late 20s looking unkempt, reads the email. As he scrolls he gets more and more stressed.

He clicks one of the files and an error message pops up. He suddenly finds it very hard to breathe and holds his head in his hands. His face is tight and his breathing is shallow. A faint sound of a waterfall can be heard.

All of a sudden MR. SCHROEDER walks in, early 50s in a more expensive suit, he gives off an aura of fake cheerfulness. Adrian looks up quickly and shakes it off, at least on the surface.

MR. SCHROEDER

Hello everyone! Everyone working well?

OFFICE WORKERS

Yes Mr. Schroeder.

MR. SCHROEDER

Well don't forget! The employee wellness email is sending soon! If you don't complete it...

~~He chuckles ominously and walks through a door near the beginning of the office.~~

Adrian looks at the newly sent email. He's about to click on when an ad pops-up that reads "Feel Your Feelings!" CAMERA spins back around to see Adrian's chair empty and the exit door of the office slams.

CUT TO:

INT. HIDDEN TECHNOLOGIES TESTING CENTER. DAY

CLOSE UP on foot, bouncing anxiously. Adrian is filling out a consent form on a clipboard.

Waiting room is nearly empty. On the other side of the room an ELDERLY WOMAN, sour looking, is clutching her oversized purse. Behind Adrian is a poster that looks similar to the pop-up and also reads "Feel your feelings!" With a very happy person on it, like a pharmaceutical ad.

Close up on words on Adrian's consent form, we see the words "Hidden Technologies™ is not liable for any damages, physical or mental."

Adrian hesitates for a moment before checking the box.

Immediately his phone buzzes and makes a loud alert sound.

ADRIAN  
(under his breath) Shit!

Pulls his phone out quickly and we see an alarm for MEETING 11:00 AM before he silences it.

The elderly woman makes a judgemental noise and his breath hitches. He looks over at her nervously before looking back down at his phone and scrolls through at least 5 missed calls from Mr. Schroeder.

He doesn't notice KRISTINE(looks fresh out of college, unfeeling and all business) walk up and cough quietly.

KRISTINE  
Adrian right? Could you follow me?

ADRIAN  
Oh! Uh, yeah! Do you need this?

She takes the consent form from him, scans it.

KRISTINE  
Excellent. Follow me if you would.

Adrian gets up to follow her. STILL on the nearly empty waiting room.

CUT TO:

INT. TESTING ROOM

Adrian walks in through a nondescript door. The room is almost completely white except for a mirror on the wall. There's a single table in the middle with a chair facing the mirror. There's a speaker on the ceiling where the P.A. comes from. Sitting on the table are three small glass vials, from left to right they contain yellow, orange, and red liquid.

Adrian looks around the room nervously and eyes the vials.

ADRIAN  
Hello?

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
(distorted)  
Please drink the yellow liquid.

He looks around, nothing's there for him to settle on besides the vials.

ADRIAN  
What are these?

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM. CONTINUOUS

A dimly lit room that is full of machines and measuring instruments. Kristine is sitting on the right of a window that looks into the testing room, the mirror is now obviously one way.

MALE SCIENTIST stands at the opposite end of the window, large imposing, blank expression on his face, staring at Adrian.

KRISTINE  
This might be the worst subject yet.

MALE SCIENTIST  
He gives us data. That's all we need.

KRISTINE  
Yeah, but, this guy barely looks like he can handle testing.

MALE SCIENTIST  
You know we've tweaked the serum. It's safe now. Corporate thinks with enough testing we can roll out the product within the year.

KRISTINE  
Please, you and I both know it's not ready.

MALE SCIENTIST  
I'm not one to disagree with the suits. And you shouldn't either.

KRISTINE  
But-!

MALE SCIENTIST

Stop. You know they can see you.

~~He gestures towards a camera with a blinking red light.~~

MALE SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

My word brought you in, but it  
won't keep you in. Ah, here we go.

Male Scientist has noticed Adrian approach the table and grab the yellow vial. He takes a tentative sip and considers its flavor. Then he slowly drinks the rest of the vial.

MALE SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

Always that one.

KRISTINE

Yellow invokes a positive emotion.

~~Male Scientist rolls his eyes and turns focus back to Adrian.~~

Adrian holds a laugh in and coughs to cover it. Kristine takes notes fervently while Male Scientist simply watches. He glances over at her and scoffs.

Adrian loses the battle he's been fighting and bursts out laughing. He can't control himself. He falls down on the table and eventually off his chair in laughter. He can't stop.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

This is a bit of an intense  
reaction no?

MALE SCIENTIST

It's acceptable.

Kristine shifts uncomfortably in her chair.

Adrian's eyes snap open in panic, he can't stop even though he wants to. He continues to laugh but his eyes dart around unnervingly. An image of a closed casket flashes on the screen.

KRISTINE

He's not ok... something's wrong.

MALE SCIENTIST

He's fine.

KRISTINE

He doesn't look fine!

MALE SCIENTIST  
 (forcefully)  
 Kristine

Adrian has recovered from the laugh but is breathing very heavily. He's still on the floor and gets up shakily.

ADRIAN  
 (looking towards the ceiling)  
 What is this stuff?

KRISTINE  
 Should we continue testing?

MALE SCIENTIST  
 No reason not to.

KRISTINE  
 No reason-?

Adrian is looking around, more nervous than ever.

He leans down to press a button and speaks into a microphone.

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
 (distorted)  
 Please drink the orange liquid.

ADRIAN  
 Hello? Is someone there?

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
 (distorted)  
 Please drink the orange liquid.

ADRIAN  
 I-I don't want to...

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
 You signed the contract.

ADRIAN  
 Um, could you please let me out?

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
 The contract is legally binding.

ADRIAN  
 A-alright.

Kristine looks like she wants to say something but after looking at how intensely focused Male Scientist is, her voice dies.

Adrian, who's still using the table as support, starts to reach for the orange vial. His hand starts shaking but he steadies himself and grabs it.

He shuts his eyes once again and takes a sip, but this time he immediately starts to drink very enthusiastically.

MALE SCIENTIST

A better reaction to this one?

KRISTINE

That's strange...

Adrian is pumped up, bouncing on his heels and breathing heavily. All of a sudden he grabs the chair and smashes it against the wall, shattering it.

He stumbles back and lets out a primal scream. He hasn't felt this much emotional freedom in years.

ADRIAN

(laughs)

O-oh my god! That was incredible!

Adrian looks around and his gaze lingers on nothing. His gaze grows angry. He reaches down for a piece of wood and rears it back behind his head.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

NO!

He chucks the wood at nothing, it clatters on the wall harmlessly.

KRISTINE

Wait...

(looking at a display)

Why is his cortisol up?

Kristine looks disquieted. Adrian has slowed down in his breathing, but an odd smile spreads across his face, he's forgotten about the incident. The effects are starting to wear off, and he gets desperate for more.

ADRIAN

Can I get some more of that?

~~There's silence.~~ Adrian looks around and sees the remaining red vial next to the other empty ones. ~~His eyes widen in excitement.~~

KRISTINE

I don't think he's up to that one.

MALE SCIENTIST

He'll be fine.

KRISTINE

Are you s-?

MALE SCIENTIST

What are you going to do if he's not?

~~She's shocked into silence.~~ Adrian moves hastily towards the table hungrily looking at the red vial.

MALE SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

It's too late now anyway.

Kristine turns towards the window in horror. Adrian reaches the vial and grabs it. He licks his lips, takes a deep breath out, and throws back the vial.

Halfway through drinking it Adrian chokes. He slams the vial back down on the table and backs away, coughing and spluttering.

KRISTINE

Is he ok?

Adrian is not ok. His eyes snap open and he looks around, panicked.

ADRIAN

N-no! I didn't! No!

KRISTINE

What's going on?

MALE SCIENTIST

(with intrigue)

What an odd reaction...

KRISTINE

(panicked)

What's happening?!

Adrian stumbles backwards, his hands on his head. Grunting he hits the back of the wall and slides down it.

ADRIAN

S-Sammy! Please!

CLOSE UP on Adrian's face, in apparent pain. A sound of a rushing waterfall is heard.

YOUNG VOICE (O.S)  
 (inside Adrian's head)  
 Woohoo! Look at me!

ADRIAN  
 NO!

KRISTINE  
 He needs help!

MALE SCIENTIST  
 We can't interfere.

KRISTINE  
 (desperate)  
 Please! This isn't right!

MALE SCIENTIST  
 It's all part of the job.

Kristine looks back at Adrian, his suit wrinkled and his eyes wild. She looks back at Male Scientist. ~~She grows rageful.~~

She looks around the room, settling on a button with an unlock symbol on it. She looks back over at the Male Scientist before reaching for it quickly. An arm grabs her wrist and stops her.

MALE SCIENTIST (CONT'D)  
 What are you doing?! Would you really throw everything away for a test subject?

Kristine gets up and gets up in Male Scientist's face.

KRISTINE  
He's a person!  
 (turns to leave)

MALE SCIENTIST  
 You leave and it's over.

KRISTINE  
 Good.

She leaves through the door in the back of the room. Male Scientist looks slightly disappointed but continues to watch Adrian.

He's gotten worse. He's still clutching his head and mumbling. All of a sudden he rushes over to the door, grabbing a piece of the broken chair, and starts banging on it.

ADRIAN  
LET ME OUT!

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
(distorted)  
Please finish the red liquid.

~~Adrian looks back at the vial.~~

ADRIAN  
N-no... No!

He scrambles back over to the corner of the room and hides in his knees.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Please please it wasn't me please  
no.

Several match cuts of Adrian in the room. He's in different positions in the room, looking more and more disheveled. His suit is ruined, his hair is matted in places, pitiful.

Images flash between the cuts. Low angle shot of a waterfall. Shot of a lake with an object that looks suspiciously like a body. Shot of ambulances. Shot of Adrian, much younger, probably 12 or 13, in shock, sitting in the back of an ambulance.

CUT TO:

INT. TESTING ROOM. AFTERNOON

Adrian is in the corner, alone and terrified, in the same position as the last scene when he was younger, he's reliving this moment.

ADRIAN  
(almost a whisper)  
Why won't you let me out?

A beat.

MALE SCIENTIST (V.O.)  
(distorted)  
Please finish the red liquid.

Adrian looks at the vial, still afraid of it, then he looks back over at the door. Shakily getting up, he walks over to the table, trips, catches himself on the edge of the table.

He looks back up at the vial and grabs it shakily. He holds it up to his face and a tear runs down his face. He breathes heavily and quickly and then drinks the rest of the vial in one gulp.

Another flash of the casket, now much closer.

YOUNG VOICE (O.S)  
Please let me out...

Instantly he shatters the vial in his hand, cutting into him. He collapses back onto the table, sobbing heavily.

Male Scientist is now sitting, watching, emotionless. As he watches Adrian, he smiles.

Camera ZOOMS on Adrian slowly, his cries are silent, but visibly shake his entire body.

Male Scientist ~~watches for a moment, then~~ pushes a button.

CUT TO:

INT. NONDESCRIPT OFFICE BUILDING. AFTERNOON

CLOSE UP on computer screen. The fluorescent buzzing can be heard again. An email is being written about a proposal for a meeting. Adrian is typing away a pleasant smile on his face. All of a sudden he notices a tab he's left open.

Adrian clicks on it and with a little smile clicks on the email. He types away for a while before we see a 1-10 scale has been put under the question "HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?"

Adrian drags his mouse over the "9 GREAT" option before he winces in pain. He looks down and moves his hand away to see there are blood stains on the mouse. He turns his hand over to see the cuts. The sound of a rushing waterfall fades in.

The office disappears and his hand appears in front of the casket. He reaches for it and it flies open, it's empty.

YOUNG VOICE (O.S)  
Goodbye Adrian.

The office appears back around Adrian. He starts breathing heavily and looks back at the computer screen. The waterfall becomes almost deafening. He slowly and painfully moves the mouse over to the scale and clicks "7 FINE". Silence.

CLOSE UP on the scale with the "FINE" option chosen.

CUT TO BLACK.

