

Ache

by Geezis Kryst

A thin man ALEX 30s, runs down windowless corridors at speed avoiding shocked onlookers on the way

ALEX
(Shouting)
Wait. Wait.

He continues down various corridors, some straight, some with a curve in them. He passes by a woman SUSAN 20s who shouts after him.

SUSAN
Alex, it's too late, they're
leaving. ALEX.

He runs on regardless until he comes to a large set of mechanical sliding doors. He frantically presses the panel at the side.

ALEX
Come on you son of a bitch, open.
(Shouting)
OPEN.

The door suddenly opens and as Alex tries to enter he is halted by two uniformed SECURITY MEN.

SECURITY MAN ONE
Whoa, slow down, where are you
off too?

ALEX
Get outta my way.

The security men stiffen at this. They block his path.

SECURITY MAN TWO
Easy. Answer the man. Where are
you going.

Alex gets more agitated as he tries to push his way past.

ALEX
Let me through.

SECURITY MAN ONE
Not until you tell us what your
hurry is.

ALEX
I have to get to the boat.
Please, let me get to the boat.

SECURITY MAN ONE
The boat's just leaving the dock,
(Mocking)
Are you wanting to wave it
goodbye?

ALEX
No, they have.....something I
need.

SECURITY MAN TWO
What can be so important you need
to run all the way to the dock?

ALEX
I need a syringe for my medicine,
they're still on the boat.

SECURITY MAN ONE
Can't you just get them from the
clinic?

ALEX
You don't understand, this is a
special syringe, I was promised
it, if I don't get it now I'll
have to wait and I can't wait any
longer, I need it now.
(Pleading)
Please, please let me through.

SECURITY MAN TWO
Okay, but slow down, you'll hurt
yourself, or someone else.

ALEX
(Grunting)
Thanks

Alex continues his run down corridors until he reaches what looks like an airport departure lounge. Several people are milling around and some are talking. It's windowless apart from one large aperture along one wall. He rushes over to it. Outside is the expanse of space. Suddenly appearing into view, departing is a large space ship with the name "The Boat" emblazoned on it's side.

ALEX
No, no no no no NOOOOOOOO.

Security personnel hear this and start to approach him. Susan appears and intervenes with a quick conversation. The security team walk away. She tentatively approaches Alex as he slumps to the floor.

SUSAN
Alex, are you ok?

ALEX

He promised me, the prick said he would leave them.

SUSAN

You knew he couldn't be trusted, you've dealt with him before.

ALEX

I thought he would be different this time. I have his money. If only he left it, I would have been fine, I could have been ok. I'm aching Susan, the symptoms are returning.

SUSAN

I know, but it's not the solution, the cure is over many months. But you don't have the patience for it. Come on, let's go, The Boat will be back next month.

ALEX

(Angrily)

Next month is too long. This was my chance and he's fucked it for me.

SUSAN

It's not too late for you, we can help, we can keep you settled until next time, there are other methods that can help you cope.

ALEX

But I prefer this one. You know, you know you can't get those syringes easily. Security is too tight. I need them, you know how difficult it is to get metal through, I need the syringe for my.....illness.

SUSAN

Let's at least try.

ALEX

(Defeated)

No. I don't want your help. I don't need your help. You don't understand, you'll never understand the ache.

SUSAN

Then tell me, show me.

(MORE)

SUSAN (CONT'D)

If you don't think I'll understand that's fine, but don't assume I don't know what the ache is, I've had it, I almost died me but I overcame it, you can too. Come with me, we can make the journey together, we can talk and one way or another we'll find a solution.

Alex starts gently sobbing as he stands and together they walk down the corridor.

CUT TO:

2

INT. CLINIC - DAY

2

Alex and Susan are in a room. It's sparse but clearly medical. Alex's head rests upon a table.

SUSAN

Alex, how did this begin? If I'm going to help you we have to start at the beginning. Talk to me.

Alex slowly raises his head.

ALEX

(Sighing)

It was a year ago when she died. For four months I watched her deteriorate before my eyes. Her once beautiful face became thin and pale. Her one athletic body shrunk to nothing more than a skeleton. She couldn't eat or drink. Taking her to the bathroom killed her once independent spirit, that was the start of my spiral. The physical pain she felt tore at my soul, there was nothing we gave her would help. Her cries and mewling made me crumble in tears, I would hide myself away so she couldn't see me sobbing.

(Looking at Susan intensely)
Have you ever watched the person you love fade and die before your eyes? Their slow death robbing you of happy memories, replacing them with the horrors of endless pain.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Have you ever had your spirit broken by helplessness as you hold the one woman, the only woman who ever showed you an ounce of love? Your soulmate, your friend, your whole reason for existing take their last breath knowing you'll never see their smile, hear their laughter or feel their touch ever again. I broke the second she died. I wish I had the courage to end it there but my cowardice greets me every time I look at myself in the mirror.

(Taking a breath)

Now my self pity has to end. And that syringe was my way out.

Alex lowers his head to the table again. Susan walks over to a table and opens a drawer. She takes out a knife with a white blade and the word CYRNG on it.

SUSAN

I felt the same when my son died. I've never known pain like it. The ache of loss I felt is exactly the same as yours, but with help I came to accept my grief, I'll never get over losing my son, but my anger is not as strong as it was. I know what it was you wanted. Metal is contraband so this ceramic knife is what you wanted. This will do the job you intended it for, I don't condone your choice, but having been where you are, I understand. I'm leaving this here, do what you have too.

Susan places the knife on the table and walks out the door. Alex picks it up and looks at it.

CUT TO:

3

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

3

Some time has passed. Susan stands in the corridor impassively. The door slowly opens and Alex slowly leaves the room. In the background the knife can be seen on the table. Breathing a silent sigh of relief Susan approaches Alex.

SUSAN

I'm proud of you.

ALEX

(Sobbing)

This only proves I'm still a
coward.

SUSAN

No, to have the power to take
your own life in your hands and
to place the knife back on the
table and walk out of that room
takes courage. And it's the first
step to your recovery. Come on,
let's talk.

Susan takes Alex back into the room and closes the door.

FADE OUT.

THE END