

HIPPOCRATES DILEMMA

Written by

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INT. CLINIC "BEDROOM" - UNKNOWN

The "bedroom" is just a couch and a TV mounted on the wall. It's tiny and looks cold. TIM (40s, five o'clock shadow, out of shape) wakes up. He's only in his underwear.

There aren't any windows or clocks.

INT. CLINIC "KITCHEN" - MOMENTS LATER

The kitchen is a cabinet full of cans, a sink, counter, and hot plate. Tim heats up a can of soup. He looks miserable.

INT. CLINIC "BEDROOM" - MOMENTS LATER

Tim sits on the couch eating his soup while channel surfing but there isn't anything he wants to watch.

INT. CLINIC EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER

Tim (now wearing shorts and a t-shirt) walks into the clinic examination room (it's attached to the "kitchen"). We can see that he has a slight limp in the way he walks.

There are well-stocked cabinets, an operating table, and it's all very clean.

On the wall in the corner of the room is a bright red phone with a cord.

Tim grabs a spray bottle and wipes down already clean equipment. Tim is a bored man and the spark of life is gone from his eyes.

Tim stops what he is doing and pauses to listen. It's silent.

He walks over to a large metal door and unlocks it.

There's a flight of stairs going up to a door. We can see daylight spilling in through its cracks.

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Tim walks up to the top. He can hear street noise outside.

He looks down at the lock and pauses. He wants to open the door but he knows he's not allowed.

Oh fuck it. He opens the door.

EXT. VETERINARY CLINIC - CONTINUOUS

Tim holds the door open and breathes in the fresh air. He takes in the city street scene. Some spark returns to his eyes.

He grabs a chunk of concrete and sticks it in the door frame so it won't shut behind him.

He walks away from the clinic which we can now see is in the basement of an old tenement building. We see a sign that says 'Veterinary Clinic' and a second sign that says 'Closed Permanently' His limp is now more obvious in the open.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Tim walks down the street. A smile slowly comes to his face. He turns the block and takes in everything.

He turns on the next corner and grabs a free newspaper from a bin.

TIM

Holy shit it's Wednesday.

He tucks the paper under his arm and turns the corner.

EXT. VETERINARY CLINIC - CONTINUOUS

Tim arrives at the clinic and finds IVAN (30s, scrawny but intimidating, speaks with American accent) standing at the door smoking a cigarette.

Tim's spark instantly goes out.

IVAN

You're very lucky that I'm not a man inclined to panic.

TIM

Oh, I was...

IVAN

You're one of the Czar's most valuable assets, Tim. And here I was coming to check in when I find the door wide open and you missing.

TIM

I just went out for a quick walk.

Ivan slaps him on the back.

IVAN

Relax, my man. I figured that was the most likely case so I decided to wait for a few minutes instead of calling back up right away.

Ivan flicks his cigarette.

IVAN (CONT'D)

It would be fucked up if your other foot got broken because you broke the rules again.

Ivan stares Tim in the eyes. Tim looks away.

TIM

It was just a little walk outside.

IVAN

That is not allowed.

Tim meekly nods.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Time for an inspection.

Ivan opens the door and walks in.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Can't have you drinking on the job again.

INT. CLINIC EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER

Tim stands still with the newspaper under his arm while Ivan goes through the cabinets. Everything appears clean. Ivan closes them.

TIM

All good?

IVAN

Today it is.

Ivan reaches and grabs the free paper from Tim. He tucks it under his arm.

IVAN (CONT'D)

The Czar's rules are pretty strict but you know, if there's anything you want that I can maybe get, all you need to do is pick up that phone to reach me.

Ivan turns to leave.

TIM
How much longer until my debt to
him is paid?

IVAN
That's above my pay-grade. But
he'll let you know.

Ivan walks up to the door.

IVAN (CONT'D)
You're doing a good job. But if you
ever open that door with the idea
of going out when this place is not
on fire then next time won't be a
warning.

TIM
It won't happen again.

Ivan thinks about how to say this.

IVAN
Look, you might feel forgotten down
here but there are still people who
remember what you did and the
reward on your ass is still good so
please don't be a fucking idiot.

Tim listens to Ivan walk up the stairs. He hates it here.

Tim hears the front door close. He tries not to cry.

INT. CLINIC "KITCHEN" - LATER

Tim makes another can of soup.

INT. CLINIC "BEDROOM" - LATER

Tim eats and watches TV.

INT. CLINIC "BEDROOM" - LATER

Tim is sleeping with the TV on with just his underwear on.

BOOM

He wakes up.

BOOM.

That sound is coming from the metal door.

Tim jumps up and runs.

INT. CLINIC EXAMINATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tim runs to the door. He unlocks and opens it.

A WOUNDED MAN (30s, bleeding everywhere, shredded clothes) stands there holding a large duffle bag.

WOUNDED MAN

Help me.

He stumbles into the examination room. There's a lot of blood.

Tim processes the scene and closes the door.

Tim leads the Wounded Man to the table.

TIM

What happened?

WOUNDED MAN

Shot.

TIM

How many times?

WOUNDED MAN

A few.

There's a confidence that Tim lacked which has now returned. He's in his element and in control.

Tim lays the man on the table. He rips open the guy's shirt. There's a lot of blood.

The Wounded Man screams.

Tim frantically opens bandages and throws them on the Wounded Man's torso to soak up the blood.

He takes the saturated bandages off and throws on fresh ones.

TIM

Looks like three gun shot wounds.

He grabs a needle and syringe. He takes a small bottle and fills the syringe.

WOUNDED MAN

No drugs.

TIM

I need you to be still when I operate. There's a lot of--

WOUNDED MAN

I said no drugs.

He grabs Tim's hand.

TIM

I insist.

The Wounded Man holds a pistol and points it at Tim.

WOUNDED MAN

You're not putting me to sleep.

Tim freezes.

WOUNDED MAN (CONT'D)

Get back to work.

Tim collects himself. He gets fresh bandages to soak up the blood.

He opens another package and gets scissors and tweezers.

TIM

This will hurt.

WOUNDED MAN

Fuck you and do it.

Tim sticks the tweezers in to fish for the bullet.

The Wounded Man screams. Tim stops.

TIM

I can give you something for the pain.

The Wounded Man raises the gun. Tim backs off it.

TIM (CONT'D)

I need something bigger.

He runs to a drawer and grabs a larger tweezer.

He returns back to the Wounded Man. He's unconscious.

Tim notices a lot of blood under the guy.

Tim sticks the larger tweezer in. The Wounded Man doesn't move.

Tim feels for a pulse. It's there and the Wounded Man sighs.

Tim sticks the tweezer and fishes for the bullet. All of a sudden he stops.

The Wounded Man's duffle bag is in the floor and he can see money in it.

He walks from the Wounded Man to the duffle bag and opens it. It's packed with hundred dollar bills. At least three million dollars worth.

He looks back at the Wounded Man. The Wounded Man coughs. But it doesn't look promising for him.

Tim goes back to him and takes his gun.

EXT. VETERINARY CLINIC - MOMENTS LATER

Tim (now in shorts and t-shirt) walks out with the bloody duffle bag. He spots the trail of blood leading to his door and walks in the opposite direction.

EXT. SHOP - NIGHT

Tim walks out of a shop with a new suit case.

EXT. ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Tim transfers the money from the duffle bag into his suit case. He throws the bag in a dumpster.

He sticks the gun in his waist ban.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Tim walks down the crowded streets. He sees a parked police car and walks in the other direction.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

More police presence. Tim tries another route. He goes down a dark street.

The Wounded Man appears and cuts him off.

