

Refraction

By

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Note - James and Jim are played by the same actor. Jim is the 20 year old version of James, 40

FADE IN:

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT BATHROOM - DAY

A modern and spacious apartment, no one home, everything in its place.

The over sized bathroom unveils a tiled floor covered in broken mirror shards. Above the sink barely hangs the shell of the remains of a half broken mirror.

The apartment door CREAKS open and SHUTS.

Slow FOOTSTEPS arrive into the bathroom.

JIM MANSELL, 20, handsome and confident, although not so much this time, glares down, sighs.

Jim sits down on the floor and pulls up the right sleeve of his shirt until we can see a FOUR LEAF CLOVER tattoo on his shoulder.

He looks at the tattoo, sadness overcomes him. He picks up a couple shards...

JIM
I'll miss you, James. I'm sorry...

BLACK SCREEN

NURSE
(v.o)
Mr Mansell?

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

In the Oncology wing, JAMES MASELL, 40, lounges in a stiff hallway chair. He wakes up to his name.

A young NURSE stands over him.

NURSE
Mr Mansell.

In a sleepy confusion, James looks up.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE (CONT'D)
He wants to see you.

James hesitantly enters the hospital room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Dark and soulless room, PETER MANSELL, 70s, pale and weak, lies in the bed. He manages to smile, always happy to see his son.

PETER
James, sit down.

James gingerly sits beside him.

PETER (CONT'D)
I don't have long, I'm sorry James.

JAMES
Why dad?

PETER
I've failed you son. I'm leaving
you all alone.

JAMES
Dad, I'm not--

PETER
I wanted the best for you, I tried,
but... You've got no one
now....nothing.

James looks away.

PETER (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry.

JAMES
Don't be sorry. I'm the one that
should be sorry. You were....are a
great father, even if mom and my
stupid brothers never told you.

Peter coughs with difficulty.

JAMES (CONT)
...did they even bother to call you
to ask you how you were doing?

(CONTINUED)

PETER
Not a word in over 10 years.
Doesn't matter.

James looks away furious.

PETER
James...come closer.

James moves in.

PETER (CONT'D)
You'll be living alone now in the
house were we've both lived. You
may start to feel very lonely.
Never forget James, you'll never be
alone if you have the mirror.

James looks at his father, confused.

PETER (CONT'D)
I mean it James. If you ever have a
problem, look for the answers
within yourself, deep down. Don't
let the scars of your past
overwhelm you. Don't let the
past...take control of your
present.

JAMES
What mirror? Dad...

Peter smiles peacefully and closes his eyes. James lays his
head on his dad chest.

BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: 3 DAYS LATER. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JAMES

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY PRESENT

The bedroom is small, scarcely decorated with only a small
bed, side table and a chair. Stacks of books and clothes
neatly fill the space.

James sleeps soundly under a cozy blanket.

An alarm clock BUZZES. James reaches blindly and hits
snooze.

He stares at the ceiling dreading the day. Finally, he gets
up and staggers toward the bathroom door.

(CONTINUED)

He stops to stare at a photo hanging in the wall. It's him as a young boy and his father, beaming.

He breaks down and starts to cry. He looks at a box full of random papers and books labeled "DAD". He picks up a few letters and papers looking over them.

JAMES

I miss you dad...

He sees a letter addressed to his dad dated 1993 from Lloyd and Associates Architecture Firm located in New York City. It's a job offer and partnership opportunity.

James goes limp, drops the letter.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT BATHROOM - DAY

PRESENT

James enters the BATHROOM. It is tiny but clean. Above the sink hangs a large antique MIRROR. James washes his hands and face. He looks up observing his reflection. Touching the frame of the mirror.

He doesn't look to happy. James points to the mirror, trying to convince himself...

JAMES

Breath, just breath. I am going to be fine. Today is a new day.

EXT. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

PRESENT

A hot sunny day, hundreds of workers labor like slaves to finish the half built skyscraper. Some carry bricks, others help elevate huge metal beams, others stand around giving orders.

James pushes a pile of bricks in a wheel barrow. He doesn't enjoy it.

WORKER

Hurry up James. You don't wanna miss lunch today.

James looks up to the sky, wondering when this will all end...then looks at his watch.

All the workers sit down where they can in groups of four or five. They eat sandwiches, snacks and drink cans of soda.

James sits alone on a large concrete block and eats in silence from a plastic container.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL, a well-built, nice but annoying coworker approaches James eating a sandwich.

PAUL

Hey buddy. How are we doing today?

James gives him a what-the-hell-do-you-want face.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Whoa, whoa, what's that face man?

Did your dog die or something?

(realizing his mistake)

Oh oh, I'm sorry man, I'm

sorry...I'm terribly...I'm sorry, I

totally forgot about your... dude,

I'm so sorry.

Paul plops down next to James.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Well, I hope you don't mind if I

sit here with you and we eat

together.

Paul SMACKS and CHEWS noisily eating sandwich. James barely listens.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Nice day today, huh? I mean, I'd prefer if the sun would stay behind the clouds from time to time, I mean, it's just a pain in the ass for us workers...but that's what we do, isn't it? Damn right it is. And that's what gives us the body the bitches love, right?

They look at the building

PAUL (CONT'D)

Hey James, how much more do you think it will take to finish this baby? It's pretty big, isn't it? And it never seems to get bigger actually. I mean, we break our asses everyday to get this shit done, so I dunno---

JAMES

(really annoyed)

Paul, what do you want from me?

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Hey man, what do ya mean? I'm just chatting, can't I--

JAMES

No bullshit Paul. Just tell me what the fuck you want.

Paul tries his best to be serious.

PAUL

It's just that...man I see you here every day doing the same shit we all do and you do it ok but...I have the feeling you don't belong here, ya know what I mean? You're just not...this kind of guy. Like me for example, no offense. Maybe you should be doing something different than carrying bricks all day.

James reflects then explains like a teacher to a child.

JAMES

You're right Paul. I don't belong here. But then I don't belong anywhere. Wish I could have done some things different - you know.

Paul doesn't quite know how to react, James continues eating, absently.

BLACK SCREEN

Title: 20 years earlier. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JIM

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY 1994

An alarm clock BUZZES. Jim reaches blindly, hits clock off. He yawns, reluctant to wake up.

A beautiful GIRL lies next to him, eyes half open.

The room is littered with books and papers lying all over the floor. Empty beer bottles and dirty glasses line the window sill.

GIRL

Jim?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Hmm?

GIRL

Are you going to class today?

JIM

Of course, I have to. My old man would find out if I don't leave the house.

GIRL

I mean...are you actually going to class?

Jim smiles deceitfully.

JIM

Well, you know what I mean by "university".

Motions smoking a joint.

GIRL

Jim, you're really a mess.

JIM

Really?

KNOCK at door.

PETER (CONT'D)

Jim, are you coming down for breakfast?

JIM

Yeah dad, give me a minute.

GIRL

(whispering)

Your dad wouldn't be too happy if he saw me, right?

JIM

Not really. Look, you just stay here and wait 'til he's gone...

Peter unexpectedly opens the door and looks at the situation.

JIM

(flustered)

Dad, I can explain. I...

(CONTINUED)

PETER
You, please get out of the
house ...now.

The girl sneaks past Peter and disappears. Peter shoots Jim a disapproving glare, turns and leaves. Jim dresses quickly and shuffles after Peter.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

1994

Jim stands in the kitchen, grabs some toast, ready to listen to his dad...again. Peter is sick and tired of giving Jim a sermon.

PETER
Jim, what the hell is wrong with
you?

JIM
What did I do wrong this time?

PETER
I was just thinking that for once
you might bring home the same girl
two nights in a row.

JIM
Yeah, ok, how's that your business
anyway?

Jim attempts to leave, but his father stops him, dead serious.

PETER
Listen to me, you can fuck the
girls, but you can't fuck with me.
I want you to focus on your
studies. I've sacrificed a lot for
you, just so you can go to this
school and get an education. You
understand that? You have no
idea...

Jim tries to look convinced.

JIM
Yes dad, I understand that. I just
don't see why I can't have a little
fun too.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

You know, if you had a nice girlfriend I wouldn't mind. It's all this partying and other stuff, it's a huge distraction from school.

JIM

Yeah ok dad, I get it.

PETER

And when you get home today, AFTER school, clean your room - it's a sty!

JIM

Yeah, ok... (rolling his eyes)

EXT. STREET - DAY

1994

Jim storms out of the building door, back pack in tow, with a skateboard in his hand. He jumps on the board and takes off downhill.

Jim approaches one of the UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS but bypasses them.

EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY

1994

Jim crashes into a rail at the deserted skate park, where CHRIS, a white Bob Marley-type and CHARLIE, a gangster boy, already wait for him with skate boards in hand.

CHRIS

Yo man, you're late. What the fuck?

JIM

(playful)

Sorry bro, was too busy fucking your sister.

CHARLIE

Ouch, that was heavy bro, that was heavy.

CHRIS

Yeah, fuck you asshole, leave my sister out of this. Or I'll fuck YOUR sister.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Go right ahead. Wassap Charlie?

CHARLIE
I'm cool man. Ready to trick out
and then fly like a rocket?

JIM
As always. let's go.

MONTAGE OF SKATEBOARDING:

- The three boys ride skillfully on their skate boards, doing tricks at the skate park
- They ride into the city
- Chris falls several times, but laughs and moves on
- The boys eat hot dogs while they ride
- More tricks at the skate park
- The sun moves lower in the sky

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON 1994

All three boys sit on their boards on a secluded street corner. They smoke pot, pass a joint while they laugh.

CHRIS
Yo, this is good stuff man, this is really good stuff.

CHARLIE
Yeah, like your sister.

CHRIS
Shut up asshole.

JIM
Hey homos, anything going on tonight?

CHARLIE
Oh yea. Crazy party at Sally Huber's house. The shit bro, it'll be full of bitches.

They make obscene gestures.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Yeah, you'll fuck 'em, for sure.

CHARLIE
Shut up you fagot, not everybody is
a sex-freak like you.

JIM
(exhaling cooly)
It's not that my dear Charlie. I
just happen to be charming. Some
have it, some don't.

CHRIS
I wanna kill this guy, shall we
kill him?

Chris and Charlie jump on Jim tackling him, rough housing
like boys do.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

PRESENT

James, still dirty with dust, sits in a crowded bar.

JAMES
The usual. Double whiskey please.

BARTENDER
Don't you wanna have change of pace
James?

JAMES
You mean ordering something
different?

BARTENDER
I mean not coming here every
weekend and getting wasted my
friend. That's not a life.

JAMES
Double whiskey.

The bartender pours him a double whiskey glass. James throws
it back in one gulp.

JAMES
Another one.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

1994

Cool college party full of young boys and girls in a big house. Everybody is having a good time.

The backyard is full of people dancing to the loud music, talking and drinking.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

1994

In the kitchen, Jim, Chris and Charlie play beer pong with a few others. Chris loses and drinks a shot.

JIM

Man, you cant take one more drop,
right?

Chris starts shouting to the room.

CHRIS

Hey people, who wants to see Jim
shit faced?

EVERYBODY

Meeeeeee

CHARLIE

I have an idea.

Charlie puts everything on the table aside and makes room for one paper cup at the far end of the table, just opposite to Jim. He takes a tiny ping pong ball out of his pocket.

CHARLIE

So Jim, we know you are a good
player and we all wanna see you
lose, so let me propose a bet. If
you miss this shot, you have to
drink whats left in the vodka
bottle.

Charlie points at the bottle, which still has over 100 ml of vodka.

Everybody roars. Some claps. Jim stays cool.

JIM

And what if I don't miss?

CHARLIE

Well then lets say we...

(CONTINUED)

JIM

I have an idea too. If I hit the target, my friend Charlie here has to sing Tootsee Roll, in front of everybody.

EVERYBODY

Oooooooooooooohhhhhhhhhhh

JIM

And do the dance too!

Everybody is amused at this. Charlie tries to look confident.

CHRIS

Oh no! Tootsee Roll, I wanna see that.

CHARLIE

You wont see anything, I assure you.

CHRIS

Please Jim, do it. We all want a good laugh.

Jim prepares himself for the shot.

Drama rises. Some people come in from the backyard.

CROWD

Jim. Jim. Jim. Jim

JIM

SHHHHHHH. QUIET! I need to focus.

Jim genuinely concentrates on his target and slowly throws the ball. It goes in.

The crowd celebrates Jim, shouting and clapping. Some whistles. Charlie can't believe what just happened.

Charlie reluctantly stands on the table, wishes he were dead.

CROWD

Charlie. Charlie. Charlie.

CHARLIE

(singing in horrible voice)
Let me see that tootsee roll, to the left, left...

CHRIS

Ok better shut up.

Everybody laughs. Jim gets on the table with the vodka bottle in his hands.

JIM

You know what Charlie? I forgive you this, I don't wanna lose my ears. Lets just drink this together, how 'bout it?

CROWD

Yeahhhhhhh

Music starts while Jim and Charlie both drink from the vodka bottle. Someone in the crowd SNAPS a picture the flash blinds them for a moment.

Jim jumps to the floor and grabs a hot looking GIRL.

JIM

Hey baby, you wanna do something special tonight?

GIRL

(admiring Jim)

Sure whatever you want.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

PRESENT

James, drunk and slurring, is next to LISA, a woman in her thirties. While he talks, he drinks his whiskey shots without hesitation and unconsciously speaks in a drunken slur.

JAMES

Nah I don't really have any family. I've inherited my dad's apartment now, we've lived for a while, since the divorce.

LISA

Oh, ok. At least you've got some good memories.

JAMES

I do, I do. But, you know, as much as much as I love that, every second I spend in that apartment I have to think of my old man. And the fact that he's gone.

(CONTINUED)

LISA

Sorry.

JAMES

Yeah yeah, I hate my job too...I pretty much hate my life.

LISA

Where do you work?

JAMES

Construction.

LISA

(clearly disappointed)

Oh...what's wrong with that?

JAMES

Really? Who wouldn't love dragging bricks around under the scorching sun?

LISA

(slightly embarrassed)

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

JAMES

It's ok.

LISA

Why don't you do something you else, something you like?

JAMES

I'm not qualified for anything else, I fucked off school, had way too much fun.

Lisa tries to act normal after hearing this.

JAMES (CONT)

My dad was furious...kicked me out, I did try to start my own business once... that didn't go well. I just never had much luck at anything really, jobs, girls... life. One day I even tried to ki....

Lisa is shocked and James takes a long shot of whiskey before he continues.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

(talking in a monologue-way)
My dad saved me. He took me back
in, he didn't have to, but he did.
After the way I treated him... I
don't know what to do here anymore.

LISA

Well, James...I really don't know
what to say.

James now looks at her, making a strange grin.

JAMES

Don't worry. At least now I know
I've got nothing to lose.

James moves towards, Lisa, wanting to kiss her. Lisa leans
back, uncomfortable. James leans back now too, but rather
unsatisfied. He moves his hands towards Lisa's breasts. Lisa
hits both of his hands, pushing him away, angry.

LISA

What's wrong with you?

JAMES

Oh c'mon. You wanna go have some
fun?

LISA

You're sick! Asshole!

Lisa leaves the bar, furious.

James sits there, enjoying his whiskey as if nothing had
happened. he looks to his right, where there is a young
couple talking enthusiastically. He stands up, puts himself
next to the girl and starts playing with her hair. She looks
at him, disgusted. The YOUNG GUY next to her stands up and
confronts James.

YOUNG GUY

The fuck's your problem, clown?

JAMES

I'm feeling lucky today.

YOUNG GUY

Yeah well, you're gonna feel my
fist in your face if you don't back
the fuck off.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

Yup... just try it.

James suddenly kisses the girl on the mouth. The young guy punches him in the face. James hits the floor.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF BAR - NIGHT

PRESENT

Two big SECURITY GUARDS throw James out of the bar to the street. They close the door behind them. James is too weak to even stand up.

JAMES

Oh...shit.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

1994

Jim falls violently to the floor, completely wasted. He can barely see anything around him. He sees the cloudy figure of the girl he kissed bending down to him.

GIRL

Had a nice time with you, too bad
you're trashed.

CHRIS

(far away)

Man, you are a lost cause.

EXT. JIM'S HOUSE. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

1994

A car stops in front of Jim's building. Jim stumbles clumsily out of the back door. Chris lowers the driver's window.

CHRIS

You sure you can get to the door?

JIM

Oh my god, I'm not that fucked up.

CHRIS

Ok shithead. You're welcome for the
ride. Next time you take a fuckin
cab.

Chris's car drives away. Jim staggers to the front door.

EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE. FRONT YARD - NIGHT PRESENT

A TAXI stops in front of James' building. James stumbles out of the car, which immediately drives away. James staggers his way to the front door.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 1994

Jim enters his apartment and nearly falls down again. He reaches the bathroom.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - NIGHT 1994

Jim enters the bathroom, opens the toilet and vomits.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT PRESENT

James stumbled past a box of old photos, he sees the one of him at the party 20 years earlier. He picks it up, holds it tight.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT BATHROOM - NIGHT PRESENT

James enters his bathroom and vomits in the toilet.

SPLIT SCREEN:

INT. JAMES AND JIM'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - DAY

Both James and Jim lay their heads on the rim of the cool toilet.

JAMES AND JIM

My life's a mess, what have I done?

They both collapse on the floor, passed out cold. The photo falls to the ground.

A black smokey magic swirls around both of them, the photo, and SLAMS into the mirror. The mirror SHAKES and RATTLES violently, then stills.

THE NEXT MORNING:

James and Jim wake up lying on the floor. Both get up. Their heads weigh a ton.

They approach their sinks and wash their faces. They look up and see each other in the mirror at each "side".

(CONTINUED)

No reaction. Both sink their heads again...and look quickly up.

Jim touches his head, as does James. Similar face expressions and movements. Both slowly back up and leave the bathroom.

A moment passes. James and Jim enter the bathroom again, each on their side. They see each other. They both SCREAM.

Both back up and stumble, to the floor. They stand up and approach the mirror. Face to face, they extend their arms, so as to "touch" each other. They blink and rub their eyes.

JAMES

Holy shit.

JIM

Who are you?

James doesn't want to answer. He has just seen a ghost. He bends down and picks up the photo, looks at it.

INT. JAMES AND JIM'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - DAY

Jim walks around the bathroom, his hands over his head. He keeps looking at the other side of the mirror.

James enters the bathroom. Both men stand face to face.

JAMES

I know who you are.

JIM

You look like... me, but OLD!
Jesus.

JAMES

I believe I am you, James. In about
20 years.

JIM

I believe I'm dreaming.

JAMES

I this this is real. I can feel it.

JIM

No man, it can't be real. This is
impos--

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

--You're James Samuel Mansell, born in August 17th, 1974. You are 5 feet 11 tall and must weigh around 160 pounds. Raised by Peter and Sophie Mansell. You were always close to your dad, but often in dispute with your mom and brother Sam and John. Your parents divorced 6 years ago and now you live with your dad at 15 Roosevelt Street right next to Victoria Park.

JIM

Ok stop, how do you know that?

JAMES

By the way, your favorite flavor is strawberry and you favorite TV show is Baywatch. You like the color yellow but you don't tell that to anybody. You also enjoy jerking off in the...

JIM

OK. Stop, stop man. Stop it.

Jim looks his older self, still trying to understand this.

JIM

Let's say this is not a dream. This is sort of...magic. No, it's like a miracle.

JAMES

I know James. It is a miracle.

JIM

My name is Jim.

PETER

(v.o)

Jim, who are you talking to? You ok?

James recognizes the voice and freezes.

JIM

Hey dad, uh...I'm ok, be out in a minute.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

(v.o)

Did you spend the night at the
bathroom?

JIM

Uhhh, yeah I guess I did.

PETER

(v.o.)

We'll talk later, I'll be in the
kitchen.

JIM

Yeah, ok.

Peter leaves. Jim speaks softer now.

JIM

Our good old man, huh? How's he
doing by the way?

James is still petrified, thinking...

JIM (CONT'D)

You know what? Let's talk later,
when he's gone, ok? Let's say...at
11?

JAMES

Sure.

JIM

Cool. See ya...old me.

JAMES

Jim.

JIM

Yeah?

JAMES

Tell dad I love him. I miss him.

Jim leaves puzzled, James leaves the bathroom.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

1994

Jim and Peter eat breakfast together. Jim can't really focus
on his toast. Peter puts out a cigarette and drinks his
coffee.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Dad, can I ask you a question?

PETER
Go ahead.

JIM
What would you do if you
experienced something you couldn't
explain ... you know how something
happened?

PETER
What do you mean? Like math or
physics or something?

JIM
No, something bigger. Like
weird...like a UFO or something.

PETER
There's usually a logical
explanation Jim. It's just a matter
of finding it.

JIM
But what if you couldn't explain
it, by any laws of nature.

PETER
Well ...I would assume
what happened, must have happened
for a reason. Don't know.

Jim tries to let that sink in.

JIM
Yeah, I guess.

PETER
So...how was school yesterday?

JIM
Same dad.

INT. JAMES' HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

PRESENT

James lies in his bed looking at the ceiling. He is anxious
as the time draws closer, looks at his clock.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

This is not possible, this is not possible.

He continues thinking, whispering to himself. He looks again at the clock, 11:00.

James gets up, walks toward the bathroom. He is scared of what he might see there. He hesitates, then enters the bathroom.

INT. JAMES' AND JIM'S HOUSE BATHROOM - DAY

James and Jim are face to face again, looking at themselves bewildered. They lean in closer over the sinks.

JAMES

What's the date there?

JIM

September 20th 1994

JAMES

Same here. September 20th... 2014.

JIM

Whoa. Cool.

JAMES

September 20th...1994...yesterday you were at Sally Huber's party right? You challenged Charlie to a beer pong bet, you drank vodka together until you got wasted. You tried to fuck a girl with super breasts but past out before you could.

JIM

Wow, awesome man, you have like a photographic memory or something. No wonder, you are me.

JAMES

No, I found this photo last night, with the date on the back. When I was in here I was looking at it wishing I had done things differently.

James smiles. Jim begins to enjoy the situation.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

So, what does your future look like man. Jesus, there are so many questions I wanna ask you. hey, this is the same bathroom right? Don't tell me you still live in this shit hole.

JAMES

Well Jim...

JIM

How's work doing? Are you rich or something? I mean, am I a CEO? Or do you just keep the money under the pillow? Are there any wife and children there? Please, please, if there are, I don't wanna meet them. I want it to be a surprise. No, better yet, don't tell me anything about--

JAMES

Jim, shut up.

JIM

Sorry buddy but don't you realize how cool this is? I mean, this is like a...time-travel mirror where...

JAMES

Yeah Jim, I realize how "cool" this is. Now let me tell you something about my life. Yesterday I got drunk too, only I was alone in a bar and I got kicked out and passed out in here.

JIM

Oh. Oh shit man, that, that... sucks.

JAMES

Yeah...that's my life. Thanks to you.

JIM

W-what?

JAMES

My whole life now is the result of all the bad decisions you make, asshole.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

The fuck you talking about? Dude, I haven't done anything yet.

JAMES

Exactly. Yet.

They both look at each other, thinking the same thing. Jim wants to say something.

JAMES(CONT'D)

Jim. Wait. First let's to do an experiment. Let's figure out how this works.

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - DAY

1994

Jim rushes in the door of the local tattoo joint.

A few people, tattooists at work and clients turn and stare at him.

JIM

A tattoo. Quick.

TATTOOIST

What'll it be?

Jim looks at the tattoo samples, then back at the tattooist, points to one in the book.

JIM

This is my lucky day... this one.

INT. JAMES'S HOUSE. BEDROOM - DAY

PRESENT

James anxiously paces around his room. James looks at the clock. Maybe it's time.

INT. JAMES'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - DAY

PRESENT

James enters the bathroom and faces the mirror. He puts his hand in his shoulder and slowly begins to lower his shirt. He sees nothing.

FAST FORWARD TIME PASSES.

James starts to leave, but then he turns again to the mirror. He lowers his shirt, watching the reflection.

(CONTINUED)

A tiny faded Four Leaf Clover tattoo appears on his shoulder. James looks in disbelief.

JAMES

What the...

EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK - DAY

1994

SKATERS play around doing tricks with their boards across the park. Jim, Chris and Charlie are among them.

CHRIS

So you say he was yourself...but 20 years in the future?

JIM

Yeah, exactly.

CHARLIE

The fuck man? And what did he tell you? Are you still a loser in 2014?

JIM

Fuck you man. He didn't tell me that much. He was as scared as me.

CHRIS

Boy, this must be the weirdest dream I ever heard.

CHARLIE

Yeah man, did you wake up ok? Did you look at the mirror again?

JIM

Ok guys, stop it. Let me just ask you a questions, seriously. What would you do if this happened to you in real life?

CHRIS

I would go to the mad-house dude. I mean, voluntarily.

CHARLIE

Hey I would ask my other self all the winning lottery numbers and sport results and shit, so I would bet on everything and become a billionaire.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
That's brilliant... I mean if it
were real.

INT. JAMES'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

PRESENT

JIM
(v.o)
I thought about that, but it would
be too suspicious if I started
winning on everything and shit,
don't you think so?

James sits on the floor of the living room, which is full of
books. He is surrounded by lots of OLD PICTURES lying
around.

He looks at the picture of himself as a 20 year old drinking
vodka together with Charlie at a party. He flips it over,
the date reads September 19, 1994.

He looks at another picture where he is lying wasted on the
floor. James is disgusted with himself.

EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK - DAY

1994

CHRIS
Who cares about what other people
would think. Is it suspicious to
have too much luck?

JIM
Well...yeah.

CHRIS
No way man. If this shit from your
dream happened to me, I would feel
as if I had won the lottery. I
mean, literally.

CHARLIE
Yeah, too bad that that only
happens in dreams.

Jim suddenly stops riding his board in order to reflect
deeply.

JIM
Maybe I could play the lottery and
win, let's say a million
bucks. Then, so it doesn't look

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JIM (cont'd)
suspicious I could place bets with that money and lose lots of it..most of it. Then it wouldn't be too suspicious. I could place a few winning bets, and they'd add up over time. Maybe hit the trifecta or one big pay off. I could wait a while and do the same thing all over again, until you I am so rich that I won't need to play anymore.

Chris and Charlie can't follow his fiend and are getting impatient.

CHRIS
Yeah, what the hell. Can we stop talking about weird shit and do some tricks.

CHARLIE
Yeah, let's go while we're still in the 20th century.

INT. JAMES'S HOUSE. BEDROOM - DAY

PRESENT

James looks at a picture of himself, about 30 years old, sitting on a couch holding two bottles of whiskey and surrounded by three prostitutes. James tears the picture up violently.

He sits there, as if he could stay his entire life in that position. James turns his head and looks at a picture of is father.

PETER
(v.o)
You are never alone if you have the mirror. Look for the answers within yourself. Don't let your past control your present.

James stands up and walks to the picture.

JAMES
Thanks Dad.

EXT. JIM'S HOUSE. FRONT YARD - NIGHT 1994

Jim, Chris and Charlie arrive at the house riding their skateboards.

CHRIS
Sweet dreams buddy, hope tonight
you see yourself as an 80 year old.

CHARLIE
Or maybe your dead body, gross.

Jim flips him the finger.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 1994

Peter sits on his comfortable couch, waiting for his son. Jim enters and quickly heads up to his room, barely noticing his father.

PETER
Jim, where were you?

JIM
Just...uh studying with friends
dad.

PETER
As if I believe that. (beat) You
wanna do something fun tonight? I
thought I might take you for pizza.

JIM
No thanks dad, I'm kinda tired.
Just going to bed.

Jim dashes to his room. Peter is visibly disappointed, but not surprised. He lights up a cigarette and sighs.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT 1994

It's dark, Jim is still awake standing next to the door. FOOTSTEPS trot down the hall and a DOOR CLOSES. Jim slowly opens the door and goes into the bathroom.

INT. JIM AND JAMES'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 1994

Jim turns the lights on. James waits on the other side of the mirror. No emotion. Jim closes the door and approaches the mirror.

JIM

Hey man, what's that face? Are you always like that?

James is not amused.

JIM (CONT'D)

Never mind. So, let's get to business, shall we? I've been thinking a lot about this and I've come to a...

JAMES

Before we talk about anything else, we will establish some ground rules.

James is clearly serious.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You know that everything you do in your present will in some way or another impact on my present.

Jim nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

That means you have to be very careful with what you do. Every major decision you make there, you have to tell me. Do you understand?

Jim feels very small.

JIM

Yeah ok, whatever.

JAMES

I'm saying this to you because with these implications things may change very fast. Consequently, my life will probably change from one second to another, without me moving a finger. We're doing this for the good of both of us. We are a team now. That means we need to trust each other.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Yes, yes...of course. No problemo man.

JAMES

Now there is one important aspect of all this Jim which you need to have really clear. (beat) You can't involve in any long-term relationship Jim.

JIM

(shocked)

What?

JAMES

You heard me. No serious relationship with any girl Jim. Is that clear?

JIM

No, that's not clear James. That's not fucking clear to me at all. Why on earth...

JAMES

Because every person you get involved with, is one more person I will have to deal in my present. For you they may be friends, for me they will be total strangers, I'll just happen to know artificially. And that includes partners, Jim.

Jim just can't assimilate that.

JIM

James...that's pretty fucked up you know? That means I can't have a girlfriend for at least...

JAMES

20 years, yes. And I don't see how that's a problem for you, since all you do is fuck sluts and get high anyway.

JIM

Yeah, well, but I don't wanna do that forever. Some day I will...

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

No, you won't. Trust me, you won't.

Uncomfortable silence.

JIM

So, if I got this straight, you actually can do whatever the hell pleases you? So basically I'll get to do all the work and you enjoy the outcomes right?

JAMES

Jim...you should take sometime and stop thinking only about yourself. It's that attitude which makes you almost commit suicide.

Jim is speechless. James feels he is earning some respect.

JAMES

I won't repeat myself Jim. Just try understand what is happening here. It's big. But you've gotta be careful.

Poker face on both sides.

JAMES(CONT'D)

Good. Now let's go to work.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE'. BEDROOM. - DAY

1994

An alarm clock BUZZES. Jim jumps up, excited to start the day.

A stack of paper lie on the nightstand. Jim browses through the pages.

Handwritten dates and number cover the papers.

ON THE PAGES:

"National Lottery" "Big Lottery" "FreeLotto" "Football"
"Baseball" "Hockey"

Jim goes through the numbers seriously.

INT. LOTTO SHOP - DAY

1994

MONTAGE:

Jim strides into a lotto shop. Several other people buying lottery tickets. Jim grabs a handful of scratch tickets and buys them. Jim scratches each ticket and throws them out.

He throws out ticket after ticket, making sure to chat each time to the lotto shop owner.

Jim has buys a pick 6 ticket. He looks at one of the pages. He reads: "October 1st 1994 : 3, 8, 23, 30, 36, 44"

Jim circles the numbers 1,2,3,4,5 and 6. He chats to the owner and leaves the shop.

He returns and buys more scratch tickets. Scratches them and throws out all of them.

Next day: the same. And next day. And next day.

Jim enters the shop. He buys more scratch tickets. After throwing out the last one, he gets to the number choice ticket. Jim looks at his page. "October 8th : 2, 5, 12, 22, 36, 45"

Jim looks around, and circles the numbers 2,5,12,22,36 and...42.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

1994

Jim STORMS into the house, celebrating...or pretending to celebrate. Peter sits on his couch and watches his son, amazed and a little taken back.

JIM

Yeahhhhhh. Fuck yeaaaaahhh.

PETER

Son. What's the matter?

JIM

Just won twenty thousand dollars on the lottery dad.

PETER

What? Really?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Yeah, really. It's so amazing. I guessed 5 numbers correctly out of 6.

Jim pours and drinks some orange juice, cooly.

PETER

But...since when do you play the lottery?

JIM

Started playing last week. And now I finally won. Isn't that awesome?

Peter doesn't really know how to react to this news.

PETER

Well I'm glad son, that's one hell of a lucky ticket. I hope you use the money well.

JIM

Course I will. I'll invest it on some more lottery tickets. And maybe I'll bet on some horses too.

PETER

What? Wait a minute, Jim. You can't just start gambling it away.

JIM

But dad, now that I have money, I can spend it on more games and that increases my chances of winning.

PETER

Well, yeah, but you'll end up losing way more money than you'll win. Son, be smart and use the money wisely, you should put that in the bank and...

JIM

Dad, it's my money. You can't tell me how to spend it. Gotta go...

Jim speeds up to his room.

MONTAGE: (WITH MUSIC)

Jim enters the same LOTTERY SHOP and buys several lottery tickets. Circles numbers.

(CONTINUED)

Jim watches an ICE HOCKEY MATCH on TV, apparently very focused. Jim circles some match results on a ticket.

Jim watches a BASEBALL MATCH on TV. Jim circles some match results on a ticket.

Jim watches an ice hockey match. The match has just ended and Jim, apparently angry, throws his ticket to the trash.

Jim watches a baseball match. The match has just ended and Jim, apparently angry, throws his ticket to the trash.

Throws ticket to the trash.

Throws ticket to the trash.

Throws ticket to the trash.

Jim watches an ice hockey match in a BAR and when it ends, he jumps and screams, celebrating. The other people watch him, a little scared.

Jim is furious in a bar and throws his ticket to the floor. He walks away, swearing.

Jim looks at his calendar. It says "November". He smiles.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

1994

Jim sits in front of the TV. Peter walks into the room.

JIM
Time has come.

PETER
What are you watching?

JIM
The numbers of the Big Weekly
Lottery will come out now. If I
guessed them all correctly, I'll
win 1 million dollars.

On the TV, we can see a female host smiling and saying some words. Behind him, there is a big wheel with many balls in it, each one with a different number.

PETER
Son, how much money have you wasted
gambling for the past weeks?

(CONTINUED)

JIM
I dunno. Couple of thousands.

PETER
And how much did you win?

JIM
100 dollars or so.

PETER
Well, as you said. It's your money.
Good night.

Peter leaves the room. Jim looks back to make sure he is not there. He takes out a paper from his pocket.

The paper says: "Big Weekly Lottery November 2nd 1994: 12, 17, 24, 30, 42, 55"

JIM
C'mon baby.

On the TV, the host spins the wheel and a ball comes out of a tube. It's the number 12. Next spin, next ball: number 17.

Jim's eyes are completely focused on the screen. On the TV, numbers flash: 12, 17, 24, 30, 42, 55.

Jim looks at his paper and then looks back at the screen. He grins and turns off the TV.

INT. JAMES AND JIM'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jim enters silently the bathroom. James is on the other side, having waited for him. He looks at him, expecting something.

JIM
It's done. I'm a millionaire now.

JAMES
Did you do everything as I sa...

JIM
Everything. I gambled on every fucking thing I could gamble and won barely anything even though I knew what the results were. But now I actually chose the correct numbers. That's it.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES
Good. Good.

JIM
Now what?

JAMES
Now...let's just go to sleep.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Good night Jim.

JIM
Good night James.

Both men go back to the doors. Jim stops for a moment.

JIM (CONT'D)
Oh wait a minute.

James looks back.

JIM (CONT'D)
How long do I have to keep doing
this?

JAMES
Until you get bored.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. BEDROOM - DAY

An alarm clock BUZZES. James wakes up. He looks around, as usual. He freezes. He is in a completely different bed and bedroom now.

The room is huge, with lots of furniture. There are antique paintings on the wall and high end furniture and decorations everywhere.

James gets out of bed, alarmed. He rubs his eyes. He leaves the bedroom.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION - DAY

PRESENT

James walks through his mansion lost.

Many many rooms, one bigger than the other, filled with paintings and furniture, a pool table and wardrobes.

James walks down the immense stairs of his mansion. Everything is shining clean.

(CONTINUED)

He arrives at the enormous living room. It has all the amenities one could possibly imagine.

HENRY
(o.s)
Good morning sir.

James turns back. HENRY, 50s, an elegantly dressed butler, stands in front of him.

JAMES
Oh, hello.

HENRY
Do you want your usual breakfast sir?

JAMES
Sure. Sure man, the usual please.

Henry looks puzzled for a moment, but he conceals it well and walks to the kitchen.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. DINING ROOM - DAY PRESENT

James walks into the dining room. His eye enlarge.

In front of him is a brilliant table for more than 20 people, with a white mantel and full of decorations with impeccable taste. James can't believe it. He starts to laugh.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. KITCHEN - DAY PRESENT

Henry is in the kitchen serving up eggs on a plate. James lets out a wild, crazy roar of excitement.

Henry shakes his head in disapproval.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION - DAY PRESENT

James runs from room to room, still roaring. In every room he goes in, he runs and runs around it like a child.

He stops. He has forgotten something. James opens the door of a bathroom and looks at the mirror.

It is not THE mirror. He opens the door of another bathroom. Nothing. Another bathroom. Another bathroom.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. BATHROOM - DAY

James opens the door in a hurry. The beloved mirror is there. James smiles and put himself in front of the mirror.

JAMES

Good job my friend, good job.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

1994

A BLACK PORSCHE speeds through the streets. It parks in front of the Lotto Store SCREECHING to a stop.

Jim, dressed in expensive fashionable clothes and dark glasses, gets out of the car. Everybody stares at him. He clearly enjoys the attention.

INT. LOTTO SHOP - DAY

1994

Jim enters the shop. Everybody looks at him, he is known there. Jim walks to the counter and takes his glasses off.

JIM

I would like to have all the lottery tickets please.

MAN

(o.s)

Aren't you that guy who won a million bucks the other day?

Jim turns around. A MAN, 50s, is staring at him with incredulity. Jim enjoys it.

JIM

Yes I am.

MAN

And you wanna keep betting? You want more?

JIM

I always want more.

BLACK SCREEN.

Title: 3 months later

INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT

A young FEMALE REPORTER tells the daily news at a TV channel. A photo of Jim can be seen next to her.

REPORTER

The latest news brought to you by Sensation TV. A young boy named James Mansell, attracted attention for becoming one of the youngest millionaires in history. How? By gambling. Only 4 months ago, James played the lottery and several sporting bets he could find. Investing a lot of money in it and 3 months ago, he won 1 million dollars in the Big Weekly Lottery. But, not satisfied with that, he kept on betting as much as he could and now...

A young MALE REPORTER tells the daily news at another TV channel.

REPORTER

...after winning several games, he has an estimated fortune of 15 million dollars. As expected, this young boy has quit school and lives the life of luxury. He's enjoying his youth, his life and his new found wealth. We wish him the best...

EXT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BALCONY - DAY

1994

Super party rages at Jim's new apartment.

Around 300 people dancing to the loud music on the huge balcony on the 70th floor penthouse. Everybody seems to be having a great time, a magnificent atmosphere.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - DAY

1994

Chaos erupts inside if Jim's apartment.

Everywhere, boys and girls are dancing, drinking talking or kissing passionately in every possible position.

Everything is a complete mess. Bottles, cigars, glasses and papers on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

Jim watches everything from a corner with Charlie and Chris, who still wonder what is happening.

CHIS

Yo, this is just awesome.

JIM

Yeah right? Much better than Sally's party huh?

CHRIS

I mean everything. You being a fuckin millionaire and living here.

CHARLIE

Yeah man, it's amazing. You are the luckiest guy ever.

JIM

Just a matter of discipline guys.

CHRIS

Hey, we couldn't stop wondering. You did exactly what you wanted to do in your dream.

CHARLIE

Exactly. You started gambling right after you told us about your weird dream of you and your older self in the mirror.

JIM

You see? Not everything is just a dream...

The voice of a young GIRL is overheard from the noise.

GIRL

Jim. Jim.

JIM

What is it?

GIRL

Someone's at the door.

Jim turns on a small SCREEN in the wall. He sees Peter waiting at the building's door. Jim knows he has to confront him.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF JIM'S BUILDING - DAY

Jim goes out of the building door. Peter waits for him, with poker face.

PETER

I see you're having a good time,
Jim.

JIM

I am, dad.

PETER

How many cars do own now? 4? 5?

Jim feels the anger in his father's voice.

JIM

Dad...

PETER

Let me make myself clear. I don't care if you are the richest man on the planet. I care about you. You on the inside. What's wrong with you Jim? You've become everything that I spent the last 20 years of your life teaching you not to be.

JIM

I'm sorry if I disappointed you dad. But at the end of the day, it's my...

PETER

It's your life. I get it. You're mister perfect. You do what the hell pleases you.

Jim avoids looking at his father.

PETER (CONT'D)

I would've loved to call you Jim. But I don't even know your phone number. One day you left the house and never looked back. I know nothing about you. I don't recognize you anymore.

JIM

Anything else, dad?

(CONTINUED)

PETER

No, nothing else, don't worry. You can go back to your insane party, I won't stop you.

Peter walks away. But then he turns back...

PETER

Just remember one thing Jim. You can surround yourself with expensive object, but you will always be the same person. I love you Jim.

Jim watches his dad going away.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

1994

Jim walks through his apartment. It's a monumental mess, only now without people. Jim doesn't care about any of this. He is indifferent to the scene.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

1994

Jim enters the bathroom. James is waiting on the other side of the mirror, standing patiently. Jim just stands there, waiting for something to happen.

JAMES

Having a bad day?

JIM

Nah...everything's fine

JAMES

Dad isn't too happy right?

Jim looks surprised at James, who seems to enjoy this.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It was bound to happen.

JIM

Nah, fuck it. Dad's just jealous of my situation, that's all.

JAMES

Jim, you know we both wanted this.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
I know. Don.'t worry. I'm ok.

JAMES
You sure?

JIM
I'm sure.

For some moments both just stand there...

JAMES
Good. Now go and enjoy the good
life, Jim. Just remember what I
told you. (pause) ...and you ought
to tell dad to stop smoking.

JIM
uh... ok. Maybe when I see him.

JIM
And remember, no commitments, to
anybody.

JAMES
Right. Good night Jim.

JIM
James.

James turns back.

JIM
Thank you.

James nods and smiles.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

PRESENT

An elegantly dressed James enters one of the most expensive
restaurants in the city.

Quiet CHATTER fills the air.

MARIE, 30s, pretty and intelligent, sits at one of the
impeccable tables.

James approaches the table, smiling.

JAMES
Excuse me, my lady, may I seat here
with you?

(CONTINUED)

MARIE

With what purpose would that be?

JAMES

Oh, I would never reveal that.

MARIE

Well then, I'll take a chance.

JAMES

I'm glad you will.

James sits down. A WAITER approaches the table.

WAITER

What will it be today, sir?

JAMES

The usual I guess. Lobster. And a bottle of the best Malbec please.

WAITER

The lady already ordered that, sir.

JAMES

Well, excellent then.

The waiter leaves. James and Marie look stare into each others eyes, obvious physical attraction.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So, did I do it better than the first time?

MARIE

Considering that you didn't stutter this time, yes.

JAMES

I practiced a lot in front of the mirror.

MARIE

Oh, you are a mirror guy, aren't you?

JAMES

You can say that.

MARIE

That says a lot about a person.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

It's not what you think. When you have a problem, the only person that can really help is yourself.

MARIE

Ok...is that how you became the luckiest guy on earth?

JAMES

Exactly. I looked myself in the mirror one day and told myself what kind of man I would like to become.

MARIE

And what would that be?

JAMES

A man who just wants to be on top, no matter what. How I get there wasn't important, just the target.

MARIE

And you think that gave you luck?

JAMES

It wasn't luck.

MARIE

Oh please.

JAMES

I took a risk and gambled. I won. Lots of other people don't, they lose. Simple as that.

The waiter comes and serves them both wine, slowly and classy. He leaves.

MARIE

Still, you have to admit, you had a hell of a luck.

JAMES

True. But I feel like I made my own luck.

They lift their glasses.

JAMES

Cheers.

(CONTINUED)

MARIE

Cheers.

They both drink a sip.

JAMES

Enough talking about me. What about you.

MARIE

I told you everything there is to know.

JAMES

Tell me more...

MARIE

I was born and raised here. I'm 35, love to read, I like cats, tolerate dogs. That's really it.

JAMES

That's not it. That's what says on your facebook profile. Now tell me something deeper.

Nervous laugh from Marie.

MARIE

I don't really have anything to tell.

JAMES

I've opened up to you. We've been seeing each other for a while now, you could do the same.

MARIE

Ok, let me think. Umm...

Marie tries to think of something, she fidgets, uncomfortable.

MARIE

I don't know. I really don't. I guess you'll just have to wait and see.

JAMES

Come on, it's just me.

MARIE

Oh stop it.

JAMES

Ok, it's fine. I bet I can get it
out of you... (playfully)

Marie looks suspiciously at James, trying to understand where he is heading. James smiles as he takes her hand under the table.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

1994

Jim and a young hot GIRL storm violently into the apartment, holding each other, kissing. They are both drunk and laugh like school girls while they stumble to Jim's room.

They throw themselves to the bed, where they KISS passionately.

Jim rolls aside and takes off his clothes. The girl does the same. He climbs clumsily on top and they have sex.

They MOAN and the bed CREAKS loudly.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

1994

Jim wakes up. He sees the young girl sleeping next to him. He stares at her trying to recall her name. He gets out of bed and dresses.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

1994

Jim enters the living room, where he stares at the city's skyscrapers through the big window.

GIRL

Hey you. Already awake?

The girl approaches Jim and kisses him. Jim shows no reaction. The girl doesn't seem to care too much. She goes to the kitchen and looks for a pan.

GIRL

You have some cool stuff over here.
So what do you want for breakfast?
How about some pancakes.

The girl continues to find ingredients to make breakfast. She cooks them as Jim just stands there, in his own world. She serves the pancakes on two plates.

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

Hey sexy. Breakfast's ready.

He walks to the table and sits down. The girl eats without waiting for Jim. Now she notices he doesn't even move.

GIRL

C'mon. What's the matter? Not hungry baby?

JIM

No, it's not that. Listen, we need to talk about something.

GIRL

You don't like pancakes.

JIM

No, listen...sorry, what was your name again?

INT. JIM'S BUILDING. HALLWAY - DAY 1994

The girl rushes out of the apartment, furious, half dressed.

GIRL

Scumbag. I hope you rot in hell, you son of a bitch.

Jim doesn't bother to follow, he just closes the door.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - DAY 1994

Jim walks toward and stares out the window again. He picks up the phone and dials a number.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY 1994

Jim sits at a table with JENNY, 20s, pretty, smart and confident. They both stare at each other, waiting for the other to speak.

JENNY

Ok. I'll start then. What do you want from me?

Jim stares at her, with a mixture of emotions, not able to express them.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Jim, on the phone it sounded like a matter of life or death for you to meet with me. So, what's the matter?

Jim doesn't know what to say. Jenny finally breaks the ice.

JENNY

We started dating 2 months ago, Jim. And we were together for 3 weeks. And you said that was the longest you had ever been with a girl. We had a great time together. You took me to so many nice places, and the best part was when I was in your arms. Just us. (beat) When you told me you love me.

Jenny gets a little emotional.

JENNY (CONT'D)

When I told you I loved you, I meant it Jim. I don't understand why you dumped me, that night you got drunk...

Jenny hides her face and cries. Jim is visibly sad.

JENNY

I was just another girl, a dumb object for you Jim, wasn't I? Just like all the other girls you bring home, seduce them with your money, fuck them and leave them. You do it over and over. That's your life, isn't it James?

JIM

My name is Jim.

JENNY

What?

JIM

My name isn't James. I'm Jim.

Jenny looms at him, confused. Jim takes a deep breath.

JIM

Jenny, I know you are furious at me and I understand why. After all I put you through I totally

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JIM (cont'd)
understand if you never wanted to
speak to me again. Something tells
me, you may want to hear me out.
Which is why you said yes to this
date and we're sitting here
together.

Jenny looks at Jim, teary eyed, but hopeful.

JIM (CONT'D)
I get why you're angry, you feel
used. I can relate to that, I feel
used too, many times.

Jenny looks surprised at this statement.

JIM (CONT'D)
Yeah, believe it or not. I feel it,
not just a little, but quite used.
...(beat) James. That's the answer.
James controls me. That's me. Or at
least a part of me.

Jim struggles to express himself.

JENNY
I don't understand.

JIM (CONT'D)
Jenny, I have no idea how to
explain this... All I can say is,
there is a part of me, called
James, which controls me. I fight
it all the time, trust me. I fight
him when I'm awake and when I'm
asleep. But at the end, that son of
a bitch always wins.

Jim plays with his fork.

JIM
To be honest with you, three months
ago my only interest was to have
fun and get laid. But something's
different now, I can't explain it,
but I suddenly felt I needed more.
For the first time in my life, the
material things weren't that
important and I had everything. But
James won't let me...

Jim exhausted for words. Jenny looks now sympathetic.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Jim, you are saying you are afraid of commitment. James is a part of yourself that doesn't want to share his life with others because he isn't ready.

JIM

No Jenny, it's not like that.

JENNY

Yes it is. That's what you're telling me.

JIM

I know that's what it sounds like, but it's not like that. It's something much more...complex.

Jenny takes Jim's hand.

JENNY

You are not the first and last man with those issues Jim. Look I've been screwed over in the past. The one thing I ask is that you always be honest with me. We can fix that other stuff together. You promise?

Jim looks at Jenny hopeful. He shakes his head as they embrace.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION - NIGHT

PRESENT

Henry opens the mansion's door and Marie walks in politely, James follows. Marie's mouth gapes in astonishment.

MARIE

Wow. This is...amazing.

James and Marie take off their coats and hand them to Henry.

JAMES

Thank you Henry. Is everything ready as I asked you?

HENRY

Everything, sir.

JAMES

Excellent. Marie, this is Henry, the perfect butler. Henry, Marie, the perfect woman.

(CONTINUED)

MARIE

Nice to meet you.

HENRY

It is my pleasure madam.

JAMES

Marie, this way please.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

PRESENT

From the impeccable dining room flickers of candlelight set the mood. On the large dining table sits a DESSERT served for two, champagne and two crystal glasses.

Marie enters the room, delighted by what she sees. James proudly follows.

MARIE

James, this is...extraordinary.

JAMES

I know right. They say money can't buy happiness. It certainly can buy a lot of toys.

Marie beams, and they both sit down enthusiastically. Marie takes the first bite.

MARIE

My God, this is superb. Your butler cooked this?

JAMES

Yes, he did.

MARIE

Where did you find him?

JAMES

Oh through a friend I think, it was a long time ago. Is this the first time you've dined in a house like this?

Marie nods.

JAMES

Well, you'll get used to it.

(CONTINUED)

MARIE

Oh stop it.

James enjoys the moment.

MARIE

So, tell me, lucky guy. What do you do for fun?

JAMES

I live life, well I try to.

MARIE

Really? What kind of life do you live if you don't need to work anymore? I mean, what reason do you have to get up in the morning?

JAMES

None. That's why sometimes I don't get up at all.

Marie chuckles.

MARIE

And you're really are happy like that?

JAMES

Yeah, sure. These last 20 years have been much better than the previous 20.(trying to be confident)

MARIE

If you say so...

James stops eating and wants to really talk now.

JAMES

You must think I am shallow. What is money worth if you didn't work for it? Right? Well, that's bullshit. It's not how you earned it that counts, it's the final result. It's what you do with your money, and how you live. People that work hard all their life may never know this kind of life. Pure wealth. They work hard for nothing. It's a shame.

James takes a long sip.

Marie watches James with some admiration and reflecting about his words.

JAMES

Nevertheless, I'm still not complete. I still envy some people. Even though people would say I have everything. I feel something big's missing. Something I've avoided for the last 20 years. Something you can't buy.

James takes Marie's hand. She stares in his eyes.

JAMES

I would be willing to sacrifice all my possessions for that one thing.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

1994

Jim and Jenny enter his apartment, holding hands and laughing.

JENNY

So this is your famous apartment.

JIM

Not bad, huh?

JENNY

I wonder how girls have brought up here?

JIM

Oh shut up.

They play fight while they walk toward the terrace and go out onto the balcony.

EXT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BALCONY - NIGHT

1994

Jim and Jenny observe the amazing city view from above.

JENNY

Wow. The view is amazing here.

JIM

It is, isn't it.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

You throw a lot of parties up here?

JIM

Yeah, a few.

JENNY

I've seen them in the news.

JIM

I know, I know.

JENNY

Do you like being the center of attention. In a small town you can't do anything without being noticed.

JIM

Would you like that kind of attention?

JENNY

It's hard to say. Maybe, could be fun, but...

Jim puts his arm around Jenny, hugging her tightly.

JIM

I've had enough crazy parties here. It doesn't matter how much I drink, party or even how much I fu... It all feels the same...meaningless. Jenny...you bring meaning to my life. You are the only thing that matters to me now. I would give up all this to be with you.

Jenny fights a lump in her throat.

JENNY

You shouldn't have to give up all of this, I mean this is all really cool. And what about James?

JIM

James. He can go fuck himself.

Jenny smiles and kisses him deeply.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

1994

Jim and Jenny storm into the room, kissing passionately as they fall on the bed.

They look into each others eyes as passion takes over.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. BEDROOM - NIGHT

PRESENT

James and Marie enter the room loudly, both giggling, half drunk, with a champagne glass in hand.

James takes the glasses, puts them on the side table. He takes Marie in his arms and they fall together on the bed. Passion and kisses engulf them.

MARIE

I'd never seen such a huge bed.

JAMES

I'd never been so in love.

They kiss passionately.

MARIE

James, I want this feeling to last forever.

JAMES

It will, I promise you.

TIME LAPSE and it's dawn.

James wakes up slowly, smiles. He turns to the woman lying beside him, it is not Marie.

OLDER JENNY, about 40 years old lays sleeping. James SCREAMS in terror. He throws himself off the bed and falls to the floor.

Older Jenny wakes up, surprised, and sees James in the floor in shock.

OLDER JENNY

James? What's wrong?

James, tries to stand up.

JAMES

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

OLDER JENNY

What do you mean?

JAMES

Who are you? Who the hell are you?
What are you doing in my bed?

OLDER JENNY

James, calm down. What's the matter
with you? Do you feel ok?

James looks around.

JAMES

Where is she?

OLDER JENNY

Where is who?

JAMES

Marie. Where the hell is Marie?

OLDER JENNY

Who's Marie?

James storms to the bed tries to grab Older Jenny. She backs
up, terrified.

JAMES

Marie is the woman I was with last
night. Where is she?

OLDER JENNY

Oh my God.

Marie gets away from James, frightened and getting angry.

OLDER JENNY (CONT'D)

Yesterday you were with another
woman?

James couldn't look more confused.

OLDER JENNY (CONT'D)

You are cheating on me?

JAMES

What...the...fuck...

OLDER JENNY

James, who is Marie?

James tries to find any answer to what is happening.

(CONTINUED)

SAMMY

(o.s)

Mommy? Daddy? What's going on?

James petrifies when he hears a child's voice, shakes his head.

OLDER JENNY

Nothing sweetheart, nothing. Go back to your room.

SAMMY

Why are you arguing?

OLDER JENNY

Sammy, go back to your room now.

Sammy leaves. Older Jenny is visibly upset. James, awakens like from a dream and knows he has to do something.

JAMES

Uh, listen...honey. I think it was just a bad dream. That's all. I just had a horrible nightmare, where I was with a girl named Marie.

Older Jenny doesn't know what to believe.

OLDER JENNY

Really? That dream must have been very real for you. It was like you didn't even recognize me.

JAMES

I don't...look, I mean...I just need to go out for a minute.

James leaves the room.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION - DAY

PRESENT

At the hallway, James is stopped by Sammy, a 6 year old boy that looks like James.

SAMMY

Daddy, whats wrong with you and mommy?

JAMES

Nothing, nothing...son, everything's fine.

(CONTINUED)

SAMMY

Are we still going to wonderland today? You promised.

JAMES

Sure sure, I just need to go for...

KAREN

(o.s)

Dad, we aren't going again to that kiddy place right?

JAMES

Holy shi...

James looks back and sees KAREN, pretty 10 year old girl. He almost faints.

SAMMY

You don't have to go if you are a coward...coward.

KAREN

You shut up, you bighead.

SAMMY

Don't call me bighead.

Older Jenny enters.

OLDER JENNY

Kids, calm down. Your dad has had a difficult night.

KAREN

What happened Dad?

James looks at this threesome and wants to vanish from earth.

JAMES

Listen. Just...leave me alone. I'll be back in a few minutes.

James rushes down the stairs.

INT. JAMES' HOUSE DAY

PRESENT

He runs desperately through the house, family photos of himself, his wife and children are everywhere. He freaks out.

(CONTINUED)

He heads to the door. Before he gets to the door, he encounters Henry.

HENRY
Good morning, s--

JAMES
Henry. Thanks God. Come with me.

James grabs a shocked Henry by his arm and pulls him to the kitchen, closes the door behind him.

JAMES
Henry, what's going on?

HENRY
What do you mean, sir?

JAMES
Who are these people? Who's this woman and these children?

HENRY
Sir, do you feel ok?

JAMES
Last night I was with a woman called Marie here. Don't you remember Henry?

HENRY
I never saw a woman named Marie sir. Last night you were having dinner only with your family.

JAMES
My family? My fam...Henry, since when am I married to this woman? Since when do I have these children?

HENRY
I think it's been about 17 years now. Karen is 10 and little Sammy just turned 6.

JAMES
What...this isn't possible.

HENRY
Sir, do you feel ok? Are you having an anxiety attack or something? Did you hit your head?

JAMES
Henry...what's the name of that
woman?

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT.BEDROOM - DAY 1994

Jim wakes up. He rolls over and sees Jenny asleep,
peacefully next to him. He's finally happy. He kisses Jenny
slowly gets out of bed.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - DAY 1994

Jim struts into the bathroom, washes his face. HUMMING. He
dries his face with a soft towel.

When he puts it down, he sees James standing on the other
side of the mirror staring at him. He SCREAMS.

JIM
Holy shit. You scared the hell out
of me man.

JAMES
Can we talk?

JIM
Now?

JAMES
Yes. Now.

JIM
Ok ok. What's up man? Anything new?

JAMES
What did you do yesterday?

JIM
Excuse me?

JAMES
(angry)
What did you do yesterday, Jim?

JIM
Why do you wanna know wh--

JAMES
Did you hook up with a girl, by any
chance?

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Yesterday, yeah sure bro, like every day...

JAMES
Was it perhaps a tall brunette named Jenny?

This really catches Jim off guard.

JIM
Wha...what?

James wants to punch him.

JIM (CONT'D)
Ok...how did you know that?

Jim knows the answer.

JIM (CONT'D)
No way.
Are you with her in...the future?

JAMES
17 years married with her Jim. Two kids. Sammy and Karen. Isn't that wonderful?

Jim is at a loss for words. (Beat)

JIM
James, look--

JAMES
No, I don't want any excuses Jim. You know what to do.

But Jim doesn't want to say it.

JAMES
Break up with her. Right now.

Jim feels empowered.

JIM
No

JAMES
Excuse me?

JIM

No James. I won't break up with Jenny.

James can't believe it.

JAMES

What...do you understand what your decision...

JIM

... effects you? Yes, James I get it. If I stay with Jenny, you'll be married to a woman you don't know with children you don't know.
(pause)

But you know what? I don't care James. It's my life. And I love her. And obviously it works out...

James even more angry.

JAMES

You love her. I don't.

JIM

You and I are the same person James. The Jenny on your side is the same person as the Jenny on my side.

James gives Jim a cold look.

JAMES

Jim...why are you doing this?

JIM

Why am I trying to really enjoy my life?

JAMES

Why are you trying to screw me over?

JIM

To screw you? James, I've fallen for this girl. She's smart and fun...

JAMES

...Yesterday I went to sleep with a woman I love, Jim, and I woke up

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JAMES (cont'd)
 with a stranger and the other woman
 doesn't exist anymore for me, the
 woman I love is gone.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. DAY

1994

Jenny approaches the bathroom, she hears him shouting.

JIM

(o.s)

...You just think everything has to
 be about you, you stupid bastard,
 and you don't stop for a minute to
 give a shit about what I want, what
 I need.

INT. JAMES' APARTMENT. BATHROOM - DAY

PRESENT

JAMES

..your needs? Thanks to me you can
 now wipe your little ass with 100
 dollar bills, you piece of shit. I
 gave you everything.

JIM

Yeah, you gave me everything so you
 can have the life YOU want, and be
 with any girl you please, while
 I...

JENNY

(o.s)

Jim? Jim?

The both freeze when they hear her voice.

JENNY(CONT'D)

(o.s)

Jim, are you ok? Who are you
 talking to?

JIM

No one, just singing to myself....

JENNY

(o.s)

Oh ok, well I'd love to hear it
 later.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Sure.

JENNY

(o.s)

Oh ok, sweetheart. I'll be in the kitchen.

JIM

OK.

Jenny's FOOTSTEPS leave the bedroom. Jim looks embarrassed and James still upset.

JAMES

I see. I see now how it all begins. Now you think you've found real love just because you've hung out with her a few times.

OLDER JENNY

(o.s)

James. James, honey, who are you talking to?

James shrinks.

JAMES

To a friend dear... a friend of mine on... the phone.

OLDER JENNY

(o.s)

But your phone is in in here. Do you have a second phone?

Jim chuckles.

JAMES

Uhh yeah, just an extra one for emergencies...in case the other battery dies...I have a backup.

OLDER JENNY

(o.s)

Ok, I'm going to take the kids to the park. Are you sure you're OK?

JAMES

Uhhh, yeah. I'll be fine.

Older Jenny leaves, front door CLOSES.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Well? Now what?

James needs to take control over the situation, like a father would.

JAMES
Now I believe you have to reconsider your options Jim. Either you continue with this egoistic life you're living, thinking only about yourself, or you consider your actions...how they effect me.

JIM
Alea iacta est.

JAMES
What?

Jim now smiles almost diabolically.

JIM
Alea iacta est, James. The die is cast.

Jim takes the mirror off the wall and places it in the bathroom closet. James is speechless.

JIM (CONT'D)
That'll show him.

EXT. TORONTO PARK - DAY 1994

Jim and Jenny are walking through the park, holding hands. They are enjoying a beautiful day. They sit on a bench, feels like a perfect moment.

JIM
Jenny.

JENNY
Yeah?

JIM
I would like this moment to last forever.

JENNY
I know, me too.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

I mean, really forever. I would like to stop time and leave everything as it is right now.

JENNY

Well...time can't be stopped, Jim. But we can enjoy the time we do have, it's all we've got.

JIM

I don't think it's enough. Time goes so fast. Before we know, we are both 40 and old, half of our life is gone...forever.

Moment of reflection.

JENNY

Stop worrying about the future Jim. The future doesn't exist. It never will. The present is the only real thing we have.

JIM

I wish I could believe that.

JENNY

What do you mean?

Jim can't open up to her.

JIM

I just feel that, in some way, the future does exist. It lives, with us, watching us...

Jenny chuckles.

JENNY

Oh Jim, you're starting to sound a little crazy.

JIM

I'll shut up.

JENNY

What made you think of this?

JIM

Do you believe in destiny?

Jenny moves in closer to Jim, hoping to convince him to change his mind.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Jim, destiny doesn't exist either.
You make your own path in life,
nobody else does it for you. You
make your own destiny.

JIM

(not convinced)
Yeah...I guess so.

Jim smiles and puts his arm around her. Jenny lays her head
on his shoulder.

EXT. TORONTO PARK - DAY

PRESENT

The park is crowded with lots of children playing
everywhere.

James sits with Older Jenny on the bench watching their
children play. James is uncomfortable, not sure how to feel
towards Jenny.

JAMES

What is it?

OLDER JENNY

I was remembering something that
happened here like 20 years ago.

JAMES

What exactly?

OLDER JENNY

Don't you remember? It was when we
first started dating. We both sat
right here and you started having
some philosophical thoughts about
time. destiny and weird stuff like
that.

JAMES

Really? You mean I started to think
about the future?

OLDER JENNY

Yeah, you said you wanted to stop
time and you were afraid of time
just passing too quickly. (pause)

And now, voila, we are here. We are
both 40 years old and nothing has
changed, has it?

(CONTINUED)

James hesitates.

JAMES

I guess not. Jenny, can we have another philosophical moment?

OLDER JENNY

Go ahead, Aristotle.

JAMES

I wanna ask you a question. It might sound silly, just try to be open minded.

Jenny is interested.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Suppose for a moment you were having another life. A completely different one. You're another person in another world. But then suddenly, this life, the one you have now gets erased in your head. You find yourself surrounded by people you don't know, but who know you perfectly well. People like me for example. Would you love me?

Jenny seems confused.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I know how stupid it sounds. Just, please answer.

OLDER JENNY

I don't know James. It's hard to say.

JAMES

You can say no, Jenny. It's OK.

OLDER JENNY

What does it matter? It's a hypothetical situation. It'll never happen.

James feels defeated, but has an idea.

JAMES

It's the experience that counts, right?

(CONTINUED)

OLDER JENNY

What do you...

JAMES

There's nothing in life you just love or hate by default, it's the experience that makes you feel something ...anything.

Jenny is speechless.

OLDER JENNY

Honey, I don't understand what you're trying to say when you talk like that.

JAMES

I just wished I had lived my last 20 years Jenny. I mean, really lived.

OLDER JENNY

You think you haven't really lived? That's bullshit James, of course you have. You've had a great life. Incredible life actually.

JAMES

I don't feel anything, Jenny. I feel ...totally empty. I want to have happy memories, but they are just faded...

Awkward silence.

OLDER JENNY

Then start feeling now, memories are just thoughts...think about having nice memories and there they are...even if you've forgotten - you can invent them.

James looks at his wife and for the first time he feels hope, a little happy.

Sammy and Karen run up.

SAMMY

Daddy, daddy, you wanna come and play with us. Push me on the swings.

(CONTINUED)

James smiles gently at his kids. He suddenly feels a connection, almost that the memories are materializing, that they are his.

KAREN

Dad. Are you day dreaming or what?

JAMES

No, I'm fine. Of course I'll play with you. Come here. Race you to the swings.

James playfully grabs his children and chases them. They all run towards the swings.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

1994

Jim's apartment is a mess, but not from a party. Clothing items are scattered on the floor.

Two empty plates, cups and several empty wine bottles line the counter.

Jim and Jenny KISS passionately on the floor in front of the fireplace.

JIM

Better than in the park, huh?

JENNY

(playfully)

Depends on what you wanna do next.

They giggle and kiss even more. They roll over and knock a PILE OF BOOKS off the coffee table. They CRASH to the floor, under the pile is a book with a RED COVER. It catches her attention.

JENNY

Hey, what do we have here? Pretty big one for you.

Jenny opens it, but Jim grabs it before she has a look inside.

JIM

No.

JENNY

What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Nothing, this book is nothing.

Jim gets up and slides it under another large stack of books on the other side of the room. Jenny is completely confused.

JENNY
What is it? Why don't you want me to see that book?

JIM
It's just a book from... the university I kept. Boring as hell, won't interest you.

JENNY
Ok, but why are you being so weird?

JIM
Jenny. Leave it there, ok? Let's get these dishes cleaned up...

JENNY
Ok. You should hire a butler to do that.

Jim rolls his eyes, Jenny looks back at the RED BOOK.

EXT. PARK - DAY

PRESENT

MONTAGE:

Jenny and James laughing, the kids playing at the park. They look like the perfect happy family.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. NIGHT

PRESENT

The Family Mansell enters the house. Sammy and Karen run upstairs to their rooms. James and Older Jenny hand their jackets to Henry, who politely hangs them in the hall closet.

JAMES
Thank you Henry.

HENRY
Are you going to eat now,
Sir, Madam?

(CONTINUED)

OLDER JENNY

Oh yeah, I think so. You, James?

JAMES

Yes, please.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

PRESENT

James and Older Jenny eat, as always, a luxurious dinner. They have a good time, drinking, talking, eating, laughing.

A moment of silence.

OLDER JENNY

Are you feeling better now?

JAMES

I am.

OLDER JENNY

But you still seem to be miles away.

JAMES

I was thinking about a woman I met before I met you. I thought I was happy, and that nobody else could make me happier. I was wrong. I'm sure she's happy as I am wherever she is.

Jenny feels his love, he takes her hand and squeezes it.

INT. SAMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

PRESENT

James carries Sammy on his shoulders and playfully bounces him to the bed.

SAMMY

Daddy?

JAMES

Yes, son.

SAMMY

Can I ask you something?

JAMES

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

SAMMY

Why were you acting kind of weird today?

JAMES

Ha, what do you mean by weird?

SAMMY

Well, when you were playing with us, it was like we were having fun...but you seem different.

JAMES

Wow, you're a smart kid. You really notice lots of things for your age.

SAMMY

Yeah, so?

JAMES

Well, Sammy. It's hard to explain. You know that sometimes I feel like I'm discovering things all over again. Like everything is new. But you know what? You enjoy life more when you see everything as if it was the first time you saw it. That way, everything's always exciting for you. And the first time's are always the best.

SAMMY

Ok. You still know who I am, right?

JAMES

I damn well know. You're my son.

He gives Sammy a good-night kiss on the head.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Good night, Sammy.

SAMMY

Good night daddy.

James turns off the light off and watches his son fall sleep.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. NIGHT 1994

Jim sleeps peaceful, but Jenny is awake. She's tossing and can't fall asleep.

She slowly gets up, very careful not to wake up Jim. She walks to the living room. She head to the pile of books. She rummages through until she finds the RED BOOK.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 1994

Jenny closes the door of the bathroom behind her. Quietly she sits on the toilet with the book in her lap. She opens it.

She's in shock. She flips through the pages of the book and stops.

" LOTTTO NUMBERS APRIL 12 2001 : 3, 15, 16, 22, 35, 40"

Another page.

" NATIONAL LOTTERY OCTOBER 30 2004 : 13, 16, 22, 35, 42, 55"

And another page.

" PATRIOTS VS 49ers JANUARY 20 2007: 12-35"

The book falls to the floor. Jenny looks at it as if it were the devil's Bible. She tries remain calm. She looks to the door.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY 1994

It's morning, Jim looks over surprised Jenny is not next to him.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY 1994

Jim enters the living room. Jenny sits at the table, quiet, dressed, looking out the window.

JIM

Hey honey.

Jim leans in and kisses her on the neck, unaware that Jenny doesn't give a shit.

(CONTINUED)

JIM (CONT'D)

Nice day, huh? Great day for a picnic at the park. Or maybe you wanna take a road trip. How about New York Or DC. Haven't been there yet, could be fun.

Jim walks to the kitchen, whistling, careless. He pulls out eggs, frying pan... Jenny is still motionless.

JIM

You want some pancakes? Or waffles, maybe? Scrambled eggs? Hon?

Now Jim notices something's wrong. He walks towards Jenny.

JIM (CONT'D)

Jenny, what is it?

Poker face Jenny, now she has Jim's attention. She speaks to him ice cold.

JENNY

I want you to tell me everything. Right here, right now.

Jim sits down in front of her.

JIM

Everything of what, Jenny?

JENNY

You tell me.

JIM

I've got nothing to tell you, or else I would.

JENNY

How did you win your money Jim?

JIM

Sorry?

JENNY

How did you win the lottery and and the sport bets?

Jim stays calm.

JIM

Gambling. Gambling a lot. And, of course, luck.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Really? Luck? Nothing else you wish to say?

JIM

Of course. I mean, I was consistent and everything, but without luck none of this would've been possible.

JENNY

Last chance, Jim. The truth. I can't handle lies Jim, honesty is the most important thing in a relationship. If we don't have that - we have nothing. No matter how much money you have.

Jim looks serious but says nothing.

JENNY (CONT.)

Ok. I can't believe this.

Jenny marches to the bedroom. Jim follows her, slowly.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

1994

Jenny grabs a suitcase and packs her things in it from the drawers.

JIM

Jenny, what on earth are you doing?

JENNY

Leaving you.

JIM

What?

Jim rushes towards her and tries to stop her from packing. Jenny reacts quickly.

JENNY

Don't touch me. Leave me alone.

JIM

Jenny, what's wrong? Please tell me.

Jenny doesn't bother packing. She just rushes out of the room.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

This isn't going to work, you haven't been honest with me. I don't like cheaters Jim. Liars and cheaters...

JIM

Jenny, Jenny.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - DAY 1994

Jim runs after her. He manages to catch her at the door.

JIM

Jenny, you can't just leave me. Give me an explanation.

JENNY

No Jim, you had your chance.

Jenny escapes from the apartment to the stairs. Jim just follows her with the look. He doesn't know what has just happened. He stands there bewildered. He thinks of last night, a look of realization...

He rushes to the stack of books. He frantically looks for the Red one, not there.

JIM

No, no no... FUCK!

A terrible thought crosses Jim's mind. He rushes to the balcony and see Jenny getting in a taxi.

Jim watches it as it drives away

EXT/INT. TAXI - DAY 1994

Jenny is still shaking. Slowly, she opens her bag and looks in. She takes out the RED BOOK, opens it.

EXT/INT. JIM'S CAR - DAY 1994

Jim speeds though the streets of the city in his car, with only one thing in mind. He arrives at the OLD HOUSE.

He steps out, runs to the front door and rings. Ring ring ring ring. Nothing. Jim gets impatient.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Jenny. C'mon get out. I know you're there.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

1994

Jenny looks through the window at Jim. She wants to go out, but doesn't. She is scared and angry. She looks at the red book, right next to her.

JIM

(o.s)

Jenny. Jenny. Come out.

Jenny opens the door and looks Jim right in the eyes.

JENNY

What do you want?

JIM

Just to talk to you.

JENNY

About what?

JIM

About our future. May I come in?

Jenny hesitates, but lets him in.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

1994

Jenny and Jim enter Jenny's room. Jim immediately notices the book.

JIM

I guess you must have many questions.

JENNY

I do, but I don't really wanna know. All I have to know is in that book.

JIM

Jenny, I'm really sorry that...

JENNY

Don't apologize to me. I gave you a chance.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

If I'd told you about this, you would have thought I was crazy. Or a cheater or something like that.

JENNY

And what exactly do you want of me?

JIM

I just want to ask you a question. What would you have done? Or, actually...what will you do now?

She is speechless. Both look at the book.

Jenny makes a step forward and grabs the book. She leaves the room, Jim follows.

INT. JENNY'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

1994

They go to the LIVING ROOM, where there is a FIREPLACE. Jenny, without saying a word, she lights it. As the fire begins to burn the wood, Jim stares at her.

JIM

You gonna burn it?

JENNY

What does it look like?

An uncomfortable wait until the fire starts to rage. Jenny gives a last look to Jim and throws the book into the fire.

The book slowly melts and burns up. Then, quicker and quicker, it turns into ashes. Jim watches it, as he feels a big part of his life is now gone.

An uncomfortable silence fills the air.

JIM

Now what?

JENNY

Now we can live our lives... separately.

Jim stares at her, as if waiting for something,

JENNY (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna tell anybody about this. But please just stay out of my life.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Jenny, are you sure you want to do
th...

JENNY

Jim, I can't trust you. I really
thought you were different, the
one. There's nothing more to say.

Jim steps out of the room, followed by Jenny. He goes to the front door and leaves. One last look at Jenny, she closes the door.

Jenny turns back and goes into her room. She reaches for something under her bed. She finds it. A stack of papers, about 20 pages. She browses through them, they are full of numbers and words like "LOTTERY".

She lets the papers fall on her bed. She grins, as she looks through the window. Jim is gone.

INT. JAMES'S MANSION BEDROOM - DAY

PRESENT

James slowly wakes up, smiling as he turns over and puts his arm around his wife. No one is there.

JAMES

Jenny?

His room is a mess, empty bottles and papers everywhere. His head pounds from an obvious hangover.

He rushes down the hall, the bedrooms are sparse, no kids or toys anywhere.

JAMES

Nooooooooooooo

INT. JAMES'S MANSION. KITCHEN - DAY

PRESENT

James pushes Henry into the kitchen. He is desperate, to say the least.

HENRY

Sir, what's the matter?

JAMES

Henry. Henry. Where is Jenny?

(CONTINUED)

HENRY

Who? I don't recall a Jenny Sir.

JAMES

My kids?

HENRY

You certainly have no kids sir.

James begins to cry.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Sir, can I help you?

JAMES

Not again, please not again.

HENRY

Not again what?

James storms out.

EXT/INT. JAMES'S CAR - DAY

PRESENT

James speeds out of his mansion in his luxurious car.

The city rushes through the car's windows. James barely notices anything. He finally reaches his destination, an OLD HOUSE on the outskirts. James gets out of the car, runs to the house front door. Ring ring.

No answer. James keeps ringing, as if his life depends on it.

JAMES

C'mon. C'mon. Answer.

A WOMAN in her 40s smoking a cigarette, annoyed, opens the door.

WOMAN

Who the hell are you?

JAMES

I'm looking for Jennifer Carlson.

WOMAN

I don't know who the hell that is.
Now excuse me--

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

--No, please listen to me. I'm sure she lived here, I would say, like 20 years ago.

WOMAN

And how the fuck am I supposed to know where a woman is that lived here 20 years ago? I moved here three years ago, I've no fucking idea who the previous owners were. Now get out of here.

The woman closes the door violently. James is defeated. He turns blankly away...

WOMAN

Who do you said you were looking for?

JAMES

Jennifer Carlson. You know her?

WOMAN

Jennifer Carlson...Did you mean Jenny Holmberg? I think she lived here before she got rich.

JAMES

Wait, wait, who is Jenny Holmberg?

The woman can't believe what she is hearing.

WOMAN

Where you come from, Mars?

JAMES

I don't...who...

WOMAN

She's the richest bitch around here buddy.

JAMES

Wait a minute, one of the richest ...you know how she made her fortune?

The woman SLAMS the door.

JAMES

Thanks lady...

He heads back to his car. He sits in the driveway.

INT. JAMES' CAR

PRESENT

James takes out his iPhone, Google searches "Jennifer Carlson Holberg". He reads the articles, how she won the lottery 3 times. His face saddens, then it turns to anger. He speeds away.

JAMES

This can't be happening...

MONTAGE:

Jim partying, hooking up with girls, kissing a pretty blond.

INT. JAMES' BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

PRESENT

James wakes up, rolls over and there is a stranger in his bed. A blond woman he's never seen.

JAMES

What the fuck..... not
again! Noooooo

He runs out of the house... everything starts to swirl out of control. James is losing his mind.

James runs out the door.

EXT. PARK - LATER THAT NIGHT

James sits in the park bench, he lays down and closes his eyes.

INT. JAMES' BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

PRESENT

James wakes up in his bed alone. His face shows it all, he is desperate and lonely.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT

1994

Another big party, Jim slow dances with another girl, drunk. He passes out on the couch.

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

1994

Jim wakes up in the bathroom floor, hungover again. He takes the mirror out of the closet and hangs it up. He sits in the floor and waits.

TIME PASSES:

Jim glances up at the mirror and sees...James. He looks worse than ever. Almost as if he was dying.

JIM
Boy, finally.

Jim stand now face to face with James and thinks about where to begin with his speech.

JIM (CONT'D)
Man, I've been wanting to talk to you. I've been in this bathroom for hours, waiting. Where were you man? Ok, ok...stupid question...look, I know your life must have changed drastically again. And this time, I have to say, I'm sorry James. This is all my fault. I fucked it up. Totally. I fucked it up really bad. And you have all the right in the world to yell at me.

Jim expects some kind of reaction, but there is none. Absolute emotionless face on James.

JIM (CONT'D)
Look James, I'll do all my best to not fuck it up anymore, ok? I thought everything was going to be all right, but that didn't happen. And I understand what you meant now. This time I'll listen to you. I promise, I swear to God.

Still no reaction.

JIM (CONT'D)
Just tell me how stupid I am. How much of a fucking douche bag your younger self is. I deserve it. I was stupid and selfish.

James moves an eye, but nothing more. Jim starts to get impatient.

(CONTINUED)

JIM (CONT'D)
Just say something, James, please.
Anything.

James closes his eyes.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

A young Peter swings his son at the park, Jim age 7.

A young Peter fishes with his son Jim, age 12.

You can feel the love between father and son.

END FLASHBACK

JAMES
(zombie-like)
I'm so sorry dad, I love you. (to
Jim) I can't live like this. I am
nothing more than a product of YOUR
mistakes. I always have been and I
always will be - no matter what I
do, it's not enough. This is not my
life.

James looks as if he was trying to recognize something in
Jim, very deeply. Jim just can't read his mind, no matter
how hard he tries.

James moves now, although slowly. He picks up a PISTOL. Jim
goes weak out of shock. James holds the pistol and looks
into Jim's eyes.

JIM
James. What are you doing? James.

James continues looking through the mirror straight at Jim,
content. He aims the gun at the mirror, then shakes his head
slowly.

JIM (CONT'D)
James. Put that down man, you're
freaking me out!

James points the gun to his head.

JIM
James. No. No. No. James!

One last look from James. BANG!

SLOW MOTION:

(CONTINUED)

James falls to the floor.

JIM
Nooooooooooooooooo!

The bullet fragments hit the mirror and it SHATTERS into thousand pieces on BOTH sides. The black smokey magic puffs out of the edges of the frame and disappears slowly.

SILENCE.

EXT. ROOF OF JIM'S BUILDING - DAWN

1994

The sun rises slowly in the city. Cars WHIZ pass on the streets below, a few people CHATTER.

Jim sits on the edge of the flat rooftop of his building, contemplating. He zones out.

The door to the roof opens behind him. Peter walks towards him, lights up a cigarette and sits.

PETER
How are you feeling today, Jim?

JIM
Hard to say.

PETER
You wanna talk?

No answer, Jim stares into space.

PETER (CONT'D)
Yes, you wanna talk. Otherwise you wouldn't have called me at 5am to tell me this whole mirror story. So, how do you feel now?

JIM
Sad. And terrified.

PETER
Why?

JIM
Because I blew it up dad. In my stupidity and selfishness I managed to lose it all, every person I cared about. Even myself. I killed my own future dad. I have no future.

(CONTINUED)

A long silence passes. Both men continue reflecting deeply.

PETER

Jim, I have something to tell you.

Peter has now Jim's attention.

PETER (CONT'D)

My father gave me that mirror just before he died. I saw my older self too. It was a long time ago...

Jim just can't believe what he is hearing.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

Peter's father giving him the mirror when Peter was about 20 years old.

A few years later, Peter looks in the mirror and sees an older version of himself, runs out of the bathroom.

PETER (V.O)

Your mom and I were young. One day I looked at the mirror and saw myself about 20 years older. I couldn't believe it, neither could the man on the other side of the mirror. I freaked out and ran. I only dared to look again a week later.

END OF FLASHBACK.

JIM

And?

PETER

I never saw him. It ended there. It felt real, but I thought it might have been a hallucination. But...

Jim doesn't know what to say to that. It is really a big surprise for him.

PETER (CONT'D)

I suspected that it might have happened to you too.

JIM

Oh my god, why you didn't say something...why didn't you ever see your older self...

(CONTINUED)

PETER

Why I never saw my older self again and you did? I've been asking myself the same thing. I think I know the answer Jim. You needed him. And he probably needed you.

JIM

Well, that didn't turn out so well. I enslaved James. I made him live the consequences of my life. I ruined his life. Now he's dead.

PETER

Jim, he's not dead.

JIM

Yes, he is dad. I saw him point the gun and the bullet exploded his head into--

PETER

--Jim, Jim. He's not dead because he doesn't exist. James doesn't exist, Jim.

Jim can't digest that.

PETER (CONT'D)

James is just the consequence of your actions, only a POSSIBLE future. He can't be dead because he never existed...not yet.

Now Jim starts to follow him.

PETER (CONT'D)

It's up to you to change that future. He's not dead if you decide to change your life now, you have to go down a different path. If you choose the right path, James will live, he will live in you. He will BE you.

A smile starts to form itself in Jim's head. Those words sound so true to him. Peter puts a hand on Jim's shoulder.

PETER (CONT'D)

It's all up to you Jim, you decide your future, right here, right now.

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATER - NIGHT

1999

Hundreds of university students and parents are gathered at the university theater to watch their mates or children graduate. One by one the students go up to the stage to receive their diploma from the faculty dean.

DEAN

James Samuel Mansell.

Claps all over the hall.

An about 25 year old Jim appears at stage and proudly receives his diploma. He looks to the crowd to find his dad.

Peter smiles back at his son from his seat.

EXT. UNIVERSITY YARD - NIGHT

1999

Jim walks together with his father amid the crowd.

PETER

I'm very proud of you, Jim.

JIM

Thanks dad.

PETER

You see now all the changes your life can have just by taking a decision?

JIM

(genuinely happy)

I do.

Jim recognizes somebody behind Peter. It's Sarah, a smart girl in her 20s.

PETER

I'll leave you guys alone.

Sarah approaches Jim and both just look at each other with chemistry.

SARAH

You've waited a long time for this, Jim.

JIM

Yes I did. And I never would've made it without you.

(CONTINUED)

Sarah holds Jim hands.

SARAH
And what now?

JIM
Now I'm ready for the next step.

Both KISS.

INT. HOSPITAL. DELIVERY ROOM - NIGHT 2004

Sarah lies in a bed, she moans, pushes, while giving birth to a child. Jim, in now in his late 20s, stands next to his wife, holding her firmly in support. A DOCTOR and NURSE ready to deliver the child.

NURSE
A little bit more, we're almost there.

Sarah gives one last push and the BABY finally comes out of the womb. The doctor takes him and brings him to the more than excited mom. Jim can barely believe it.

NURSE
Mr and Mrs Mansell, this is your son.

Sarah takes the newborn and beams, together with Jim at her side.

SARAH
Honey, what are we gonna name him?

JIM
I think Jim is a good name.

SARAH
(looking at Jim)
Jim? Like his dad?

Jim knows better.

JIM
I think you can call me James now.

Sarah nods and smiles. Both parents are glowing.

INT. JAMES'S NEW HOUSE - DAY

NEW PRESENT

James slowly wakes up. He opens his eyes and feels the rays of light coming from the window. He enjoys it.

SARAH enters the room.

SARAH

Good morning, sleepyhead. Had a good night?

Sarah kisses James.

JAMES

Of course honey, as always.

SARAH

Are you gonna stay in bed all day or are you gonna help me to set things up for lunch?

JAMES

Oh, are we having lunch with the whole family today?

SARAH

Don't act surprised, you knew this a week ago.

JAMES

(amused)

Oh, you're right. Tell me, why we are celebrating?

SARAH

The fact that we are a wonderful family.

JAMES

Oh yeah.

SARAH

I'll wait for you in the kitchen.

Sarah leaves the room. James stays for a couple of moments in his bed. He stands up and looks out the window. He pulls the curtains and faces a very sunny day.

A big green garden with a swimming pool on the side, he watches two little KIDS run around play with a dog.

James pulls his shirt down to see the four leaf clover tattooed on his shoulder. The he looks at the kids again. James smiles.

EXT. ROOF OF JIM'S BUILDING - DAWN

1994

Jim fully understands what his father is telling him and smiles now with confidence.

JIM

You're totally right, dad. You're totally right. Everything will be different from now on. I'll change, I've got no choice.

PETER

I know you can.

JIM

I just need you to promise me something too.

PETER

Yes?

JIM

I want you in my future dad. I'll finish school I promise, if you do something too... stop smoking? OK?

PETER

(pause)

OK, Jim. I'll do it for you.

Peter puts out his cigarette. Long silence of reflection from Peter's side. They both smile.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'll be here for you son, I promise.

EXT. JAMES'S NEW HOUSE. BACK YARD - DAY

NEW PRESENT

All the family hovers around a large table in Jame's back yard. The BBQ grill is smoking and food is cooking. About 10 people sit around the table, adults and teenagers. A 5 year old child beside Sarah. James sits next to his wife, everyone CHATTING, having a great time.

Sarah looks up.

OLDER SARAH

Oh, look who's here.

James looks up too and smiles as he sees Peter walking towards them.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

Hey, how is everybody today?

EVERYBODY

Good.

PETER

(to James)

And how is my new partner doing?

JAMES

Fine dad. Hey, may I speak to you for a moment in private?

PETER

Well, sure, what's up?

They walk away from the table and stop near the swimming pool.

PETER

I know what you are gonna talk to me about James.

JAMES

Really?

PETER

Yes, I do. On this day, 20 years ago, you said to me on the roof of your building that you were gonna change your life.

JAMES

Nothing escapes you dad.

PETER

No. But the point is not what happened 20 years ago. The point is what is happening today. Look at you. You're finally happy. You have a lovely wife, 3 beautiful children, a fantastic house and a great job. That's what you always wanted James. You actually changed your life and I couldn't be more proud of you.

James first smiles, then looks down to the ground.

PETER (CONT'D)

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

It's just that...dad, I can't stop thinking that it was a man in the mirror who made me change my life. And that man also killed himself because of me.

PETER

James, you remember what I told you?

JAMES

Yes dad, I know you told me that man never actually existed. But what if he did exist dad? What if James Mansell actually lived and had to die in order for me, Jim, to live a better life? Isn't that sort of unfair? Cruel?

Peter reflects and puts a hand on James's shoulder.

PETER

Well, let's look at it this way. James didn't die in vain, he saved my life...and his own life too. HE is YOU now. He's happy.

Peter hands James a small box to open.

PETER

The new cards came yesterday...it's official.

James opens the box to reveal business cards, MANSELL & MANSELL ARCHITECTS. The card has the four leaf clover as the logo.

James smiles, they hug.

PETER (CONT'D)

It's what I always wanted.

JAMES

Me too dad, me too.

They return to the table, join in the conversations.

EXT. SKATEBOARD PARK - DAY

1994

Jim, Chris and Charlie skateboard at the skate park. They take turns showing off some of their best tricks.

CHRIS

So, let me get this straight. You actually sold your apartment and all your cars and donated most of your money to charity?

CHARLIE

And you're actually gonna go back to college?

JIM

Yes and yes, boys. The rumors are true.

CHRIS

But, what the hell man? You were living the perfect life, the life everyone dreams about.

JIM

Sometimes, the things you dream about are not as good as you think.

CHARLIE

So what exactly was the problem of living the life of luxury?

JIM

Well, you see Charlie, if you already have everything you need, what's the point of life at all?

CHARLIE

Oh shit, are you Socrates or whatever his name is?

CHRIS

Yeah man, why didn't you give me the money if you didn't want it. I sure as hell would'nt give it away like that, moron.

Jim stops doing his tricks and walks to his friends.

JIM

It's over now. I'm a new Jim and you know what? I prefer it much better this way. I don't know how much I'll see you guys later.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

What the fuck do you mean by that?

JIM

I mean exactly that, Chris. Take care guys, see you you the flip side.

Chris and Charlie stand perplexed, as Jim away from the park, confident and proud.

EXT. JAMES'S NEW HOUSE. BACK YARD - DAY NEW PRESENT

James eats happily with his family in his backyard. He nods his head towards Sarah.

JAMES

Sarah, I'm going to the bathroom.
I'll be right back, ok?

James dashes upstairs.

INT. JAMES'S NEW HOUSE. BATHROOM - DAY

In front of the sink, he scrubs his hands and face, enjoying every minute.

James looks up and sees something on the mirror that captures his attention. He is first a little puzzled, but then he starts to smile.

FADE OUT