

"CHARLIE'S CALLOUS"

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FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Mortified faces of MOM (40), DAD (41), and SISTER (16).
Bearded DOCTOR (55) sits behind desk.

DOCTOR
When a child is dying, the
Hardest conversation is worth
Having.

CHARLIE (15), thin and in wheelchair, stares straight ahead.
Doesn't show emotion or reaction.

MOM
What about radiation therapy?
Or more chemo?

Charlie rolls his eyes, groans.

DOCTOR
The MRI scan shows that the
Cancer has spread. It's
Average survival, and by
Definition of average, fifty
Percent of patients live
Longer and fifty percent live
Shorter. I'm sorry.

DAD
We really weren't expecting it
To be this bad.

DOCTOR
At this time, I would advise
You to be very close as a
Family and to make Charlie's
Last days some of his most
Enjoyable.

INT. CAR - DAY

Family drives in silence. Mom chews a knuckle and looks out
the window. Dad grips steering wheel, swallows hard. Sister
sniffs, bites her lip. Charlie grins, bobs his head.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sister sits on couch. Charlie in wheelchair. Mom and Dad
stand facing them. Forced smiles. Looks like they're about
to make a big presentation.

MOM
I think we should make a
calendar. Think of all the
things we can do as a family.
We'll make a list and start
Doing all of them.

DAD
Perfect. That's perfect.

CHARLIE
Guys?

DAD
Yes, Charlie?

CHARLIE
I don't want to do all that.

DAD
Well of course, son. What
Would you rather do?

CHARLIE
Before I die, I'd like to
Fuck Mom and Candice and then
shoot Dad in the head.

MOM
Surely you can't mean such a
thing.

CHARLIE
Of course I do.

SISTER
Charlie, why would you even
say that?

CHARLIE
Cause I don't want to die some
Skinny bald-headed loser
Virgin.

MOM
Candice, maybe one of your
Girlfriends at school might--

SISTER
Ha, no way!

MOM
Why would you want to shoot
your father?

CHARLIE
Look at him.

Dad looks himself over. Clark Kent look but certainly no
Clark Kent body.

CHARLIE
He's a wuss. He's never done
Anything for me. He's boring
As hell.

DAD

That's enough.

CHARLIE
Mom, you're still good
looking.

Mom puts a hand to her face, realizes what she's doing,
quickly lowers it.

CHARLIE
Let's keep it in the family,
As they say.

Winks at sister.

SISTER
Gross.

INT. SISTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sister lays asleep in bed. Charlie wheels into the room.
Gets out of wheelchair and into bed with sister.

SISTER
Charlie, get out!

CHARLIE
Come on, sis. Let me touch
Your coochie.

SISTER
Mom! Dad!

CHARLIE
Can I feel you up at least?

SISTER
Get your hand out of there,
You freak!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mom stands facing Charlie.

MOM
You shouldn't want to harm
Your father.

CHARLIE
Come on, Mom. Dad's a dork.

MOM
I'll admit he's no Joe Montana,
But he's your father. He
Deserves your respect.
(pause)
Charlie, stop looking at me
That way.

CHARLIE

I'm your only son. It's my
Dying wish.

MOM
Charlie!

CHARLIE
Please?

MOM
Jesus Lord, forgive me. You
Can look but nothing more.

Mom strips in front of him. Stands nude facing him, back to camera.

Charlie's face blooms. He wheels forward.

Front door opens. Dad enters.

DAD
Home.

Dad stops dead in his tracks, doesn't even shut the front door. Mom's face turns pale.

CHARLIE
Fuck. Why does he have to ruin
everything?

MOM
Dear, it's not what you think.
I just wanted to make him
Happy and--

Dad looks away. Walks slowly into the house away from them.

MOM
The door!

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Dad takes a shotgun off the top shelf. Holds it in both hands. Takes a deep breath and lowers his head.

INT. GARAGE - LATER

Charlie sits in front of Dad.

Shotgun is laid out on the workbench.

DAD
You are not going to further
defile your mother or sister,
and you are not going to shoot
me.

Dad points gun at Charlie.

CHARLIE

So you're going to shoot me?

DAD

No. You're going to do exactly
as I say.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

A hole dug in the lawn, six feet deep. Shovel next to it.

Dad points shotgun at Charlie.

DAD

Get in. Oh, and if you make a
commotion, I'll place a bullet
in that diseased bald head of
yours.

Dad tips Charlie out of his wheelchair. He rolls him with
his foot into the grave.

Charlie sits at the bottom looking up at Dad.

CHARLIE

You won't get away with this.

DAD

Yes, I will.

Dad shovels dirt on top of Charlie.

CHARLIE

Dad?

DAD

What is it?

CHARLIE

What does mom's pussy taste
like?

Charlie is almost fully covered now.

DAD

Goodbye, Charlie.

INT. SHOWER - DAY

Dad takes a nice hot relaxing shower.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Dad inspects the closet and shelves. Opens a drawer and
finds dirty magazines.

DAD

Hott Blackkk? Jungle fever,
eh, Charlie?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dad sits back in an easy chair and sips a beer. He opens the magazine.

EXT. BACK YARD - EVENING

Mom, Dad, and Sis sit on the porch gazing out at the lawn. Beautiful sunset, chirping birds.

DAD
How was school, dear?

SISTER
Oh, it was good, thanks. How was your day off?

DAD
Fine.

MOM
I hope everyone enjoyed dinner this evening. It was a brand new recipe. I spent the whole day shopping.

SISTER
It was really good, Mom.

DAD
Lovely.
(beat)
I was just thinking. . .

Mom and Sis wait eagerly for him to finish.

DAD
I know the perfect spot where we can put the new shed.

FADE OUT.