

**The Carer**

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Copyright and Confidential  
Shine a Light Productions

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1 SCENE ARI'S APARTMENT INT DAY (0.30) 1

A dignified elderly man ARI, (70s) stands in an empty room. His shoulders are configured in uncertainty and loss. The doorbell rings.

2 SCENE TAXI CITY STREETS INT/EXT DAY (0.30) 2

As his taxi negotiates the city streets. ARI stares out. Inside, ARI's slightly strained breath in the air-conditioned hush. He leans forward.

ARI

Driver, can you cut through here-

He indicates a street and nodding, the driver turns into a street with people spilling out of bars and cafes.

Out the car window -frantic noise of the streets pumping with youth and energy and sex.

3 SCENE CARE HOME EXT DAY (0.40) 3

The Taxi pulls away. ARI inspects his surroundings. A prison-like building enclosed in hedges. Through the large windows he can see silhouettes of elderly people swaying their arms above their heads. It's surreal. Shadows in the cave. ARI is clearly repulsed.

ELENA

(Romanian accent)

Can I help you?

ARI turns. ELENA, a pretty young woman in a carer's uniform stands with a bag of laundered linen balanced on her hip. ARI looks back to the figures in the window in horror.

ELENA (CONT'D)

It's Dementia dance class

ARI

Oh -I -

ARI's eyes widen in dismay. He steps back. He could be considering a run for it.

ELENA takes his arm to assist him forward.

ELENA  
Come. This way.

They enter the building and the door closes.

4 SCENE CARE HOME MANAGER'S OFFICE AND FOYER INT DAY (1.45) 4

ARI sits near the door of a communal dining room as ELENA walks away. ARI listens acutely. He attempts to make sense of the blurry shapes beyond the doorway. Sharp female laughter. The Haw-Haw of old men, the clanking of cutlery. Each of the sounds pricks like a needle at his sensitive finely wrought features.

ARI is waiting outside an ante-room with a closed half-glass door. He watches the proceedings inside. The CARE HOME MANAGER (PAULINE, 45) is talking to a young man with a buzz cut in a carers uniform, (BEAU 22). His back to ARI, he appears to be enduring a telling off. His head is lowered in shame, or its facsimile.

A wheel chair swings into view from the dining room. It's owner (NEVILLE, 80) stops dead still at the sight of ARI. ARI looks down as NEVILLE approaches in his chair. He stops in front of ARI, and NEVILLE stares at him long and hard.

NEVILLE  
Look what the cat dragged in.

ARI looks at him. Taking in the neat cravat and pressed jacket, the bleary alcoholic eyes. Recognition dawnss. Neville's eyes betrays his anxiety about this -

ARI  
Neville. How are you?

NEVILLE  
(bluffing)  
Fighting fit.

He looks around and over his shoulder, secretive - fearful

NEVILLE (CONT'D)  
And in here, its 'Nev'

ARI takes this in. Frowns. Then something else -

ARI  
John passed away. Last month.

NEVILLE's mouth drops open a little and his eyes shift away from ARI's. When he looks back they are wide with alarm.

NEVILLE

I don't want to talk about the past  
Ari - you'd better shut it-

ARI

That's not what you used to say...

NEVILLE

Oh fuck off Ari!

The office door opens.

CARE HOME MANAGER

Mr. Greenberg?

NEVILLE is already swinging his chair back to the dining room at a pace. ARI gets up.

ARI

Ari, please.

He shakes her hand. BEAU steps forward. ARI looks at him. He is an impossibly beautiful young man, with smooth unmarked skin, dark hair and full insouciant lips.

CARE HOME MANAGER

Your things have already been taken  
to your room Ari. BEAU will help  
with anything you need.

BEAU shifts around on his feet like a caged animal. ARI stares at him- suddenly a little unsteady on his feet. BEAU steadies him, steering him towards the corridor.

They pass NEVILLE, and ARI swoons a fraction more for his benefit, leaning into BEAU. NEVILLE's eyes are popping out of his head. BEAU is oblivious. Ari shoots a smile back at panicking NEVILLE

5

SCENE 6 CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM - DAY (1.05)

5

ARI hovers uncertainly while BEAU moves some suitcases and boxes. He starts to take some things out.

ARI

Please - I can do that -

BEAU has noticed A beautiful shaving case, admiring the embossed leather.

BEAU

Nice.

ARI lifts it from his hands protectively.

ARI

I can unpack myself, thank you -

BEAU

Why are you here? You don't look all that old and frail.

ARI

My partner died. I can't cook.

ARI is clearly being flippant. BEAU looks at him with amused disbelief.

BEAU

She let you get away with that?

ARI

(salaciously)  
He cooked, and I ate.

BEAU smiles uneasily.

ARI (CONT'D)

So I could work.

ARI is unpacking books. We see he is the author of some of them. One, labelled AUTOBIOGRAPHY has two naked men on the cover - engaging in a 'shotgun' kiss. One holds a posy of flowers over the others genitals. BEAU stares.

ARI (CONT'D)

(pointing at young man  
lying back)  
That's me. And that's him.  
(pointing at young man  
holding flowers.) Forty  
odd years ago. Weren't we  
gorgeous?

ARI is staring at BEAU's gorgeousness. BEAU processes all this.

He pushes back the sleeve of his uniform shirt and thrusts his shoulder towards ARI's face. He flexes his arm. He reveals an explicit tattoo of a woman's arse on his shoulder.

BEAU

That's fuckin gorgeous.

ARI looks at the young man, the delicious curve of his smooth bare shoulder, his unself-conscious beauty. He laughs

ARI

Indeed.

BEAU realizes that ARI is looking at him, not the Tattoo.

BEAU

Fuck it!

ARI gathers himself up. Smiles.

ARI

Thanks for your help Beau.

The younger man can do nothing but exit. ARI deflates a little. Alone, in the drab little room. He stares at the boxes from his past life.

6 SCENE CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM/EXTERIOR WINDOW NIGHT(0.40) 6

ARI sits in his room at a table by the open window smoking. His lights are out. He looks weak - and shaky. He can see BEAU with ELENA flirting in the outside light as they share a joint. They are just below his window. Suddenly BEAU looks up at ARI's window. Sees the glowing tip of ARI's cigarette.

ARI's looks back. A long moment.

BEAU turns back to ELENA. BEAU flips the joint into his mouth and offers ELENA a shotgun. She breathes the smoke from his mouth into hers. His hand strokes her throat and drifts down her cleavage. She pushes him away as she holds her breath. His eyebrows rise in amusement.

Their laughter is still audible as ARI turns from the window and lays his head down on the table, exhausted. His autobiography is there. He touches the image of young JOHN, pulls the book under his cheek and lays his head down on it his eyes closing.

7 SCENE FANTASY/MEMORY B&W IN A BLACK SPACE (0.30) 7

Ari's fantasy/memory of John on the day they pose for the book cover. Skin to skin, electric touch. JOHN's laughing eyes. It's a joyful moment, intensely private, although they are naked in 'public'. Sense of shapes moving around them, and smoke being fanned into the light from a smoke machine, it swirls in slow motion around them. The flowers fall into place. Sharp intake of breath -



8 SCENE CARE HOME, ARI'S ROOM - NIGHT (0.50)

8

ARI wakes. He has been asleep at the table. He is cold and disorientated. Someone is knocking at the door. ARI shuffles to open it. Turning on the light. A NURSE in a dark blue uniform - (different to the carer's uniform) stands with a trolley of medicines.

NIGHT NURSE

Mr. Greenberg?

ARI

Yes?

NIGHT NURSE

I'm Shelley. I'll be helping you with your medications at night and in the morning. I've read all the notes from the oncologist and the neurologist.

ARI

Helping me?

NIGHT NURSE

Well, we can make sure your pain is under control.

ARI says nothing.

NIGHT NURSE (CONT'D)

And sometimes it helps to know what to expect. Going forward.

ARI lets the door swing open further and Shelley enters his room.

9 SCENE CARE HOME, MEN'S COMMUNAL SHOWER ROOM - NIGHT - LATER 9 (30.0)

ARI enters the men's communal shower room wearing a robe and carrying a towel and a toilet bag. At each end of the room is a separate bathroom with large 'disability baths'. Ahead, four shower stalls enclosed in frosted glass. ARI takes in the pink ugliness of it all.

10 SCENE CARE HOME CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ARI'S ROOM NIGHT

10

BEAU knocks softly on ARI's door. Waits. He notices light from under the door. Knocks again.

11 SCENE CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM ((0.20) 11

A key turns, a door opens and BEAU lets himself into ARI's room. He looks around. ARI has transformed the room with his own belongings. A beautiful carpet, art on the walls - exquisite Mapplethorpe flowers and bodies. There are beautiful images of young men, of ARI and JOHN. Beau searches the faces, deciphering ARI's world. The sense of a full and rich life - an intellectual life - a life of beauty.

12 SCENE - CARE HOME COMMUNAL SHOWER CUBICLE NIGHT (0.10) 12

Water pounding into the shower tray. ARI judging the temperature, stepping in, pulling the frosted glass door shut.

13 SCENE CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM (0.10) 13

Beau's eyes sweep across the array of pills on a shelf. He picks one bottle up. Takes off the lid and looks inside. Tastes one. He doesn't recognise the pills, puts them back.

14 SCENE - CARE HOME COMMUNAL SHOWER CUBICLE NIGHT (0.20) 14

Under the shower. ARI examines his body and mind. His wrinkled skin and wasted arms. His unsteady feet. Water swirls into the drain. ARI closes his eyes.

Wrapping his arms around himself in self comfort, ARI leans against the wall of the cubicle and kisses his own shoulder. Closing his eyes he lets the water run over his loneliness. One hand falls to cup his genitals. ARI has begun to masturbate. He turns

ARI

John?

NO SCENE 15 OR 16

17 SCENE BATHHOUSE FLASHBACK B&W (0.30) 17

A hand touches frosted glass.

Young ARI raises his hand to touch it. JOHN's lips press against the glass and are met by ARI's, followed by bodies.

A montage of details as ARI remembers/imagines being with JOHN in a bathhouse long ago.

Towelled torso's press together. JOHN smiling, blowing kisses, now they are out of the glass cubicles, he is leaning back against a concrete wall, his throat wet with sweat, his eyes loving, seducing - JOHN, drawing ARI down into bubbling water through swirling steam.

18 SCENE - CARE HOME COMMUNAL SHOWER CUBICLE NIGHT (0.12) 18

Beau stands in the middle of the bathroom transfixed by his view of ARI. BEAU realizing what ARI is doing - looks around to see if anyone else is in the bathroom.

18A SCENE BATHHOUSE FLASHBACK B&W (0.30) 18A

JOHN, head thrown back in passion which becomes helpless laughter - joyous abandon -

19 SCENE - CARE HOME COMMUNAL SHOWER CUBICLE NIGHT (1.0) 19

ARI, in matching reverse, head thrown back in climax - reaches for the laughter - but it's its strangled now - choked - a sob

As he calms and opens his eyes, Ari sees through the frosted glass - a hand reaching out - touching the glass. He gasps -

BEAU  
Ya' alright in there?

ARI turns the shower off. Composes himself, wondering how long Beau has been there. He opens the door.

ARI  
Dandy.

He smiles.

He extends his arm for BEAU to help him out of the shower, BEAU helps and ARI sails out with as much dignity as he can muster. BEAU's grudging admiration of ARI's unashamed attitude.

20 SCENE CARE HOME CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ARI'S ROOM NIGHT 20

BEAU and ARI move along the corridor towards ARI's room. ARI takes a little pause, swaying a bit. His toilet bag drops from his hands and clatters on the floor and he steadies himself against the wall.

ARI

Damn.

BEAU

What is it?

He's picking up ARI's things.

ARI

Nothing.

As Beau opens ARI's door, the door opposite opens a crack.

BEAU

(moving to open ARI's room  
door)

We might have woken old Nev -

ARI turns, sees Nev's door open a few inches.

ARI

Doubt it - from what I remember he  
sleeps like a log.

He turns and follows Beau into his room, nonchalant. Just  
inside Nev's door, a crack of light from the hall slashes  
across a face frozen in outrage and dread.

21 SCENE CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM NIGHT (1.05)

21

There are some cigarettes on the table. Beau notices them.

ARI

Have one.

BEAU goes to the window and opens it wide. ARI, sitting on  
the bed watches him light a cigarette, smoking it out the  
window.

ARI (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

BEAU

Halfway house

BEAU glances back into the room. ARI looks puzzled.

BEAU ducks back out the window and takes another drag on his  
cigarette.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Community service - for nicking  
stuff and that.

ARI lies back.

BEAU (CONT'D)  
What's all them pills for? You sick  
or what?

ARI  
Or what.

BEAU finishes the cigarette and tosses it into the night.

BEAU's head re-enters the room. ARI is fast asleep on the bed.

BEAU moves towards him and looks at him intensely while he has the chance. His long fine hands. His quivering neck. Mouth and closed eyes. He reaches down to cover him where his robe has fallen from his shoulder. ARI stirs and BEAU steps back.

BEAU slips away. Near the door on a shelf he spies the beautiful leather bound shaving kit. He glances at ARI asleep. He pauses, torn, indecisive. He frowns, swiftly takes it and slips silently from the room.

22 SCENE CARE HOME CORRIDOR/STAIRCASE NIGHT (0.30) 22

BEAU trots nonchalantly down the stairs. When he reaches the bottom, he takes out ARI's shaving kit and opens it.

Above him, NEVILLE's wheelchair arrives at the balcony and he watches BEAU unseen.

BEAU selects the cut-throat razor and quickly closes the cover. He puts the razor in his pocket.

NEVILLE shrinks back a little in fear.

BEAU opens a bin to ditch the rest of the shaving kit. He hovers uncertainly for a few seconds. Shivers. With a quick glance around, he tosses the kit in the bin and continues walking away.

Above, NEVILLE watching, thinking, deciding what to do.

23 SCENE CARE HOME MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY (0.35) 23

ARI's cut throat razor is on the manager's desk. The rest of the shaving kit is next to it in a plastic bag - it is soiled from the rubbish bin.

ARI picks it up.

Four people stare at it. NEVILLE, trembling with hate and anxiety in his wheel chair, PAULINE, stoney behind her desk. ARI in front of the desk, and BEAU sits at the side. Arms folded, closed faced.

NEVILLE

I saw him put it in his pocket.

He turns to Pauline

NEVILLE (CONT'D)

He's got to go. Thieves never change -

ARI looks at Beau who stands staring at the floor.

PAULINE

Beau? How did it get to be in your room?

NEVILLE

Get rid of him. Sack him.

ARI

I gave it to him.

NEVILLE

What?

BEAU looks up.

PAULINE

You gave it to him?

ARI

Indeed. With great pleasure.

ARI shoots a look at NEVILLE, who is horrified.

ARI lifts his trembling hands to show Pauline

ARI (CONT'D)

Too shaky for it these days. I've got the electric.

PAULINE

Mr. Greenberg. My sincere apologies for wasting your time.

24 SCENE CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM - NIGHT (1.30)

24

ARI accepts a cigarette and BEAU and ARI both smoke at ARI's table. The razor and a bottle of vodka with two glasses is on the table between them.

BEAU

Why?

ARI shrugs.

ARI

You're cute. There's fuck-all else to look at around here.

BEAU snorts. ARI raises his eyebrows at BEAU and exhales. They get each other.

ARI (CONT'D)

Keep it. Flog it if you like. That bit is gold.

BEAU picks it up.

BEAU

Its got fancy old writing on it

ARI

Read it.

Beau stares at the writing.

BEAU

With -

He starts to read and stops.

Silence. ARI takes the razor and reads out the inscription.

ARI

With all my love, for all eternity,  
John.

Sunlight streams through the window. JOHN's words hang in the room like motes. ARI moves the razor across towards BEAU.

BEAU

I don't deserve it.

BEAU seems to realize all at once, that he means his whole life. All that he has taken from others. All that he has been denied. He slumps.

ARI  
That's what I thought when I was  
given it. It's taken a long time,  
but I've almost changed my mind.

BEAU raises his head.

ARI (CONT'D)  
Perhaps you will too.

BEAU is very close, his eyes glittering.

BEAU  
Thank you.

He leans in to ARI. With certainty and great erotic  
tenderness, BEAU kisses him.

ARI  
Thank you.

ARI puts the vodka bottle in BEAU's hands.

ARI (CONT'D)  
Now bugger off please. I'm old and  
I need my kip.

BEAU picks up the razor. Feels its precious weight. Puts it  
in his back pocket.

25 SCENE CARE HOME EXT DAY (DAWN) (0.10) 25

A sharp blade slices through a flower stem in a flower bed.  
Then another. BEAU raids the Care Home gardens for flowers  
using the razor to cut them.

26 INT CARE HOME ARI'S ROOM DAY (0.30) 26

ARI wakes in his bed. He looks to the window and sees it is  
open. He sits up to go to it, slowed a little by increased  
pain, and then he notices - flowers - on his lap - just like  
the poesy on the cover of his book. ARI gasps. Sunlight  
streams in the window. A monarch butterfly slides into the  
room. ARI follows it with his eyes.

ARI  
(unspoken)  
John -

Silence. ARI is content. At home. Dignified. Still alive.