

Insanity Plea
by
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First Draft

FADE IN:

1 INT. EDWARD'S ROOM, PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - DAY

1

EDWARD CAMPBELL (30s), plain clothes, rugged, sits on the end of his bed, staring blankly at a wall. Behind him a NURSE (20s) cheerful, wearing clean & white clothing, is preparing him a glass of water, and a small paper medicine cup. A security guard stands by the door.

NURSE

(cheerfully)

Okay then! You should be all set. I'll see you tomorrow, Eddie.

The nurse makes her way out of the room, the guard follows. Locking the door behind them. The lock turns, Edward drops his blank expression.

EDWARD (V.O.)

Three months... That's how long I've been stuck in this loony bin...

Edward gets up and flushes the pills down the toilet.

CUT TO:

2 INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

2

Edward is sat at a table, staring into space, slowly eating his food off of a metal tray. He is surrounded by deranged patients, most of which are talking to themselves.

EDWARD

(V.O. CONTINUED)

Three months ago, I found out my wife was cheatin' on me. It didn't end well. The sentencing was rough. I didn't have too many options left. I plead insanity, which sounds alot more simple than it is. Basically it just means that you didn't know what you were doing was wrong-

Edward's voice over is interrupted by a man approaching him. DR. WRIGHT (50s), a psychiatrist wearing smart clothing and glasses, walks over to Edward.

DR. WRIGHT

(cheerfully)

Edward! How are we today?

Edward looks up from his meal with a forced smile.

DR. WRIGHT

Well I'm glad to see that. Are you ready for our session?

EDWARD

(slowly)

Yes, Mr. Wright. I've doing a lot of thinking this week. About everything.

Dr. Wright turns and gestures behind him

DR. WRIGHT

Shall we?

3 INT. DR. WRIGHT'S OFFICE - DAY

3

A dark room with two armchairs facing one another. A desk and bookshelf are just behind the chairs. Dr. Wright enters the room, followed shortly by Edward. We see a guard behind close the door after them.

DR. WRIGHT

So, you said you have been thinking a lot lately. Are you thinking about anything in particular?

EDWARD

All sorts of things. But really just how I ended up here, I still don't quite get it.

DR. WRIGHT

Would you mind if I go back to that night? How it all happened?

EDWARD

No, I don't mind.

DR. WRIGHT

Can you explain to me again, what was going through your head when it happened?

EDWARD

I got a phone call from my buddy, he said he saw my wife with another guy...

The speaking fades out.

4 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

4

Just after his session, Edward is walking down the hallway, away from the office, closely followed by a guard. Behind him, Dr. Wright is seen talking to the nurse.

The two finish talking and the nurse hurries to catch up with Edward.

NURSE

Well, Eddie. The doctor tells me that you've not been taking your medication.

Edward's expression changes, his eyes widen.

NURSE

So I'm gonna just watch for the next week or so. Okay?

Edward nods, still wide-eyed.

5 INT. EDWARD'S ROOM - NIGHT

5

Edward is sat on his bed, the nurse is preparing another glass of water and medicine cup.

NURSE

Here.

The nurse hands him the glass and cup.

NURSE

Now, I need to make sure you actually swallow these, so I'm going to stick around until I see that you've taken them.

The nurse stands over Edward until he puts the pills in his mouth.

NURSE

Open up.

Edward opens his mouth, all of his medication is still there. The nurse tilts the glass of water towards his mouth. Edward complies, taking a sip of the water, swallowing the pills, and opening his mouth to show to the nurse.

NURSE

Could you lift your tongue for me?

Edward opens his mouth, showing that its completely empty.

NURSE
 (cheerfully)
 Good. I'll see you tomorrow
 then.

The nurse leaves. Edward waits a moment before diving to the toilet and sticking his fingers in his mouth.

After a few attempts, nothing happens. He slumps down next to the toilet and sighs.

EDWARD
 Shit.

6 INT. EDWARD'S ROOM - NIGHT

6

Later that night, Edward is lying on his bed, staring at the ceiling. Moonlight partially illuminates the room. It is completely silent.

The faint sound of a woman whispering is heard.

VOICE (O.S.)
 (quietly)
 Eddie.

Edward gets up to find the source of the noise. He realises it is coming from the closet.

VOICE (O.S.)
 (quietly)
 Eddie.

He gradually moves closer.

VOICE (O.S.)
 (slightly louder)
 How could you?

Edward quickly opens the door. Nothing is there.

The moon's shadow behind him moves slightly. He does not notice.

7 INT. EDWARD'S ROOM - DAY

7

Edward is sat on the edge of his bed, completely upright on his bed, facing the door. He has not slept. He is panicked. The door swings open, making him jump. The nurse and the guard are standing just outside.

NURSE
 (cheerfully)
 Good morning, Eddie! Did you
 sleep well?

EDWARD

Uh- not- not really.

The nurse goes to the sink to pour him another glass of water for his medication.

EDWARD

Has- Has my medication changed at all?

NURSE

(chuckling)

Not at all, Eddie! Is something wrong?

EDWARD

I feel- I feel worse...

NURSE

Maybe you're just feeling a little strange, now that you've actually taken it?

The nurse smiles, she turns to him with a glass of water and a medicine cup.

NURSE

Now, open up.

She hands them to him. He swallows them and opens his mouth.

NURSE

Good boy. I'll see you later, Eddie.

She leaves, the door locks behind them.

8

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

8

Edward is sat eating again, with a metal tray in front of him. Once again surrounded by other patients, they are progressively getting more rowdy, either moving more or talking louder.

This continues for a moment; Edward is becoming increasingly agitated.

One of the female patients gets right into Edward's face.

PATIENT

How could you?!

Edwards eyes widen, his expression goes from blank to shocked.

The sound of a metal tray dropping is heard behind him, it silences the entire room. We then see that Edward was sat entirely alone the whole time.

He looks around himself in a panic.

9

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

9

Edward is walking down the hallway to his room. It is dimly lit. He hears footsteps coming from behind him, getting closer. They appear to be right behind him.

VOICE (O.S.)
(quietly)
Eddie.

He quickly turns around. Dr. Wright is at the end of the corridor talking to some colleagues, they notice Edward's odd behavior.

DR. WRIGHT
(loudly)
Edward?

Edward looks around for a moment.

EDWARD
Y- Yes, Mr. Wright.

Dr. Wright moves to catch up with Edward, leaving his colleagues behind.

DR. WRIGHT
Edward, do you think that we should have a meeting?

EDWARD
Oh- Okay. Mr. Wright, these new meds are making me feel a little weird.

DR. WRIGHT
I'll speak to your nurse. I think I may be able to push our session forward. In a few days, perhaps?

EDWARD
Sure thing, Mr. Wright.

Dr. Wright smirks and pats Edward on the back before returning to his colleagues.

10 INT. DR. WRIGHT'S OFFICE - DAY

10

A short while has passed. Edward's mental condition has worsened. Dr. Wright is sat behind his desk. There is a KNOCK on the door.

DR. WRIGHT

Come in!

A broken Edward enters. His skin is pale, his clothes are unkempt. He cautiously moves to take his seat. Dr. Wright gets up from behind his desk.

DR. WRIGHT

How are you, Edward? You look a little frazzled.

EDWARD

I'm not doin' so hot, Mr. Wright. I barely been sleeping.

Dr. Wright moves to sit opposite Edward.

DR. WRIGHT

Really? Do have any idea why?

EDWARD

I'm losing it- I'm losing it, Mr. Wright.

Dr. Wright chuckles softly and leans forward.

DR. WRIGHT

Edward. You are here for that very reason. In this building, this office.

Edward becomes visibly agitated.

EDWARD

No! You don't get it! I'm seeing things, hearing things.

DR. WRIGHT

I understand just fine, Edward.

EDWARD

How could you possibly understand how I feel?

DR. WRIGHT

I don't understand how you feel, you aren't wrong. I do, however, understand why you feel like this.

EDWARD

What? What do you mean?

DR. WRIGHT

Your medication, Edward. I knew you weren't taking it. So I told your nurse.

EDWARD

I thought that shit was supposed to help me?

DR. WRIGHT

Oh, it is. Just not in your case.

EDWARD

(confused)

Wha- What-?

Dr. Wright walks towards the window.

DR. WRIGHT

I knew you weren't crazy from the moment you showed up here. Just looking for an easy way out.

EDWARD

No, Mr. Wright, you got it all wrong!

DR. WRIGHT

Although I am curious as to how you convinced the jury that you were actually insane. That is something that many have tried, and failed to do.

EDWARD

(agitated)

I'm not faking, I swear!

DR. WRIGHT

I know you're not faking. Not anymore, at least.

EDWARD

Is that why I been going nuts? Because you drugged me?!

DR. WRIGHT

In so many words, yes.

EDWARD

(pleading)

Make it stop, Mr. Wright, please. You know I'm not crazy.

DR. WRIGHT

It's doctor, and no. I won't.

Dr. Wright takes his seat again.

DR. WRIGHT
I'm simply having too much fun.

EDWARD
Why now? I've already been here
so long.

DR. WRIGHT
To be honest, Edward, I respect
you. Truly. You've made it
further than most who try to
escape sentences this way.

Edward takes his head in his hands.

DR. WRIGHT
The human mind is so fragile, so
malleable. I have thoroughly
enjoyed our sessions; and for
that I thank you.

EDWARD
I'm not crazy. Dr. Wright, I'm
not crazy.

Edward picks up his head.

EDWARD
Send me to jail, I don't care,
just please stop.

DR. WRIGHT
As a medical professional, I
cannot, in my right mind release
a truly unwell patient.

Edward stands up, and heads toward the door.

DR. WRIGHT
Edward.

Edward ignores him, he tries the door handle. It's locked.

DR. WRIGHT
Edward.

He is still ignored. Trying the door over and over again.
He starts banging on the door.

DR. WRIGHT
(louder)
Edward!

Edward turns around.

DR. WRIGHT
(quieter)
I'll see you next week.

The guard outside opens the door. He quickly darts out.
Dr. Wright leans back and smiles.

FADE OUT: