

DR. CONWAY
Sc. 1

FADE IN:

INT. PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT CENTER - DR. CONWAY'S OFFICE - DAY

A folder marked "HIGHSTON LIGGETTS CASE" drops to reveal the concerned face of DR. BEN CONWAY. He looks up at the eager family across the desk: Parents WILBUR and JEAN LIGGETTS, both 48, brother BUD, 17, UNCLE BILLY, 55.

← START

DR. CONWAY

So... your son imagines that celebrities are his friends.

JEAN

That's right.

DR. CONWAY

And do you feel this delusion has been harmful to him?

JEAN

We're not sure. It just doesn't seem normal.

WILBUR

Some of them have actually helped him, I think.

JEAN

That's true. You wouldn't think it since she's kinda slutty-like but Madonna had some very good advice.

DR. CONWAY

Madonna? The pop singer?

WILBUR

I believe she also acts.

JEAN

She told Highston to stay in school and always wear a condom.

WILBUR

Well, not always, Jean, just when he's having sex.

JEAN

I assumed that was implied.

WILBUR

You know who gave him appalling advice was that Daniel Day-Lewis.

1/9

JEAN

That's true, I can't watch a film of his anymore after what he told our boy. What a wacko.

WILBUR

Although I did catch "There Will Be Blood" recently and liked it.

JEAN

The title spoiled it for me. I like to be surprised as to whether there will be blood or not.

BUD

Mom, if there's no blood, there's no movie.

DR. CONWAY

(genuinely confused)

Now, you're talking about an imaginary Daniel Day-Lewis and not the real one, correct?

JEAN

Oh yes, he's never met the real Daniel Day-Lewis, just the one that's not real.

Dr. Conway glances over at Uncle Billy, who winks. He turns to Bud, who stares back stupidly. He checks the folder.

DR. CONWAY

Highston -- that's an unusual name.

WILBUR

He's named after my grandpa Highston who was a hero in World War II. He even earned a medal.

DR. CONWAY

What was he awarded for?

WILBUR

Uh, he was tortured.

DR. CONWAY

Well, those Nazis could be cruel.

JEAN

Actually it was "Friendly Torture."

DR. CONWAY

I'm sorry?

2/9

WILBUR

It was his own troops who tortured him.

DR. CONWAY

My god, how awful. They mistook him for the enemy?

JEAN

Oh no, they knew who he was alright.

WILBUR

In fact while they tortured him they yelled "Take this Highston you god damn son of a bitch."

JEAN

He was not well liked.

Dr. Conway gives them all a look, stopping on Uncle Billy.

DR. CONWAY

And you're Highston's Uncle Billy?

UNCLE BILLY

I wasn't present at the conception so I just have to take their word for it.

DR. CONWAY

Okay. I understand you live with the family. Do you feel Highston should be in a psychiatric facility?

UNCLE BILLY

I believe that if Highston should be in a psychiatric facility then we should all be in a psychiatric facility, so I would have to say yes.

DR. CONWAY

I see. And what do you think causes Highston's delusions?

Uncle Billy points at Mom and Dad.

UNCLE BILLY

I blame it on those two and of course, the Mormons.

3/9

DR. CONWAY
Uh huh. Okay.

Dr. Conway looks back at the parents.

DR. CONWAY (CONT'D)
Do you think Highston will agree to treatment?

JEAN
It depends on who his friend is today. If it's someone nice like Meryl Streep then she'll probably be able to talk him into it.

WILBUR
But if it's an asshole like Donald Trump it might be tough.

Dr. Conway gets up and walks to the door. He peers through the small window, and we see through it --

← END

INT. WAITING AREA - CONTINUOUS

HIGHSTON LIGGETTS, 19, a face as friendly and down to earth as Jimmy Stewart's, stares straight ahead, looking like the last sane person on Earth. Highston turns as the camera pulls out to reveal FLEA next to him. Highston smiles.

HIGHSTON
Hi Flea.

FLEA
Hello Highston Liggetts.

HIGHSTON
I'm a big fan. I love the Red Hot Chili Peppers. "Scar Tissue" is one of my favorite songs. And your bass on "Charlie" is incredible.

(FYI)

Flea smiles, touched.

FLEA
Well thank you, Highston.

HIGHSTON
I always think of you as the consummate musician.

FLEA
Really?

4/9

HIGHSTON

Absolutely. You're a true artist who follows his muse no matter what the consequences. You've honored your unique talents by not cutting your cloth to fit the fashions or whoring yourself for commercial gain, and that's truly admirable. It's a rare and beautiful thing these days to not be a whore.

Flea is gobsmacked.

FLEA

That's so kind, thank you. It's really insightful as well, because that's what I'm all about.

(FYI)

They exchange smiles.

FLEA (CONT'D)

So what's on your mind, Highston?

HIGHSTON

Well there was something that I've been wrestling with today.

FLEA

Your parents wanting to institutionalize you?

HIGHSTON

Oh no, I figure they must have their reasons.

FLEA

Then what is it?

HIGHSTON

I was wondering where all matter comes from.

FLEA

All matter.

HIGHSTON

Yeah.

FLEA

Hmm. Well there's definitely a lot of math and science involved and if you got to the bottom of all that I wouldn't rule out divine magic... But... I don't know.

5/9

HIGHSTON

Sometimes when I have a really tough question I call the Library Quick Information desk. I even have them on speed dial.

FLEA

Well give 'em a whirl.

HIGHSTON

I'd feel silly asking them that.

FLEA

Highston we're all silly, only some of us are brave enough to admit it.

Highston nods, pulls out his phone and hits a button.

HIGHSTON

You're right, Flea.

(into phone)

Yes, I was wondering if you could tell me where all matter comes from... Matter... Yes, all of it.

Uh huh... Yes, I can hold.

He looks at Flea, they nod at each other and wait.

FLEA

Sure is taking them awhile.

HIGHSTON

Yes? Uh huh. I see. Thank you.

He hangs up.

FLEA

What did they say?

HIGHSTON

They don't know either.

Flea gives an understanding nod.

FLEA

You really want to know what it's all about, don't you?

HIGHSTON

That would be so great.

(FYI)

6/9

Sc. 7.2

INT. PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT CENTER - DR. CONWAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Conway peers through the door window.

← START

DR. CONWAY

I think it's time to bring him in.

He opens the door.

DR. CONWAY (CONT'D)

Highston would you join us, please?

Highston enters, sits by his folks, Dr. Conway opposite them.

DR. CONWAY (CONT'D)

So, Highston, how are you feeling?

HIGHSTON

I feel great, thank you for asking.

DR. CONWAY

Is there anyone with you today?

Highston watches as Flea sits down behind him.

HIGHSTON

Yes, Flea.

BUD

Oh for fucks sake!

JEAN

Bud, don't say "fucks."

DR. CONWAY

What's a Flea?

BUD

The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Don't you remember him playing in just a sock?

JEAN

Well that's dangerous, you should always wear two socks because of splinters.

BUD

No Mom, not on his feet.

JEAN

Oh.

(realizes)

Oh.

7/9

FLEA

I started a non-profit music school
for kids and all he remembers is
the sock? Jesus.

DR. CONWAY

Oh, yeah, them. I never cared for
their music.

Highston looks back to see Flea flip Dr. Conway off.

HIGHSTON

Flea can hear you.

DR. CONWAY

Tell Flea I'm sorry.

FLEA

Fuck you you pompous brain diddling
asshole.

Highston smiles.

DR. CONWAY

Did Flea say something?

HIGHSTON

He said "Apology accepted."

UNCLE BILLY

Flea is a musical genius and anyone
who doesn't recognize that can kiss
my ass. "Californication" always
makes me cry.

Flea smiles at Uncle Billy. Dr. Conway waits a beat.

DR. CONWAY

Uh, thank you, Billy. Okay, so --

UNCLE BILLY

"First born, unicorn, hard core
soft porn, dream of
Californication."

Dr. Conway stares at Uncle Billy, who is misty eyed.

UNCLE BILLY (CONT'D)

Listen to Flea play and you will
know what it means to be a human.

Flea goes over and kisses Uncle Billy on the head.

8/9

FLEA

Anthony wrote the lyrics, but thank you Billy.

Dr. Conway waits a beat for Billy.

DR. CONWAY

Uh huh. Great. Anyway Highston, I'd like to invite you to stay with us for a while.

Highston turns to Flea.

FLEA

It's your call, dude. I'm here for you either way.

HIGHSTON

I would prefer to stay home.

DR. CONWAY

How about stopping by to take some tests and meet with a counselor?

FLEA

Follow your heart. The brain is a little overrated. But don't follow your spleen. It's basically just a blood filtering device.

Highston nods.

HIGHSTON

Can I talk it over with Flea first? And Stephen Hawking?

He turns back to Flea, apologetic.

HIGHSTON (CONT'D)

He's really insightful on personal matters, too.

Flea nods in agreement.

← END

~~INT. LIGGETTS FAMILY ROOM - DAY~~

~~Highston, Uncle Billy, and Bud sit watching an off-screen TV. Highston is smiling, Billy riveted, Bud bored.~~

~~DOCTOR (O.C.)~~

~~I'm afraid that President Lincoln has passed away.~~

9/9