

Docuf
FOR ADDITION ONLY

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LOVE STORY

I WILL PLAY THEM THE ERL-KING
AS THEY RIDE A COCK HORSE
THEY'LL KNOW BACH, THEY'LL KNOW BERLIOZ
AND THE BEATLES, OF COURSE

I WILL PLAY THEM DEBUSSY
JOHN COLTRANE AND RAVEL
WE WILL CROON WITH SINATRA
AND WITH CALLAS AS WELL
AND WITH CALLAS AS WELL

I WILL PLAY MY KIDS NOCTURNES . . .

SCENE THIRTEEN

We are in a Doctor's surgery. OLIVER walks in.

OLIVER *(loquacious with nerves)* I'm sorry I'm late. At Harvard they insisted that punctuality is essential in a lawyer . . . but no one seems to have told the clients that they have to be punctual.

DR. ACKERMAN We're less strict here, Mr. Barrett.

OLIVER Please . . . Oliver . . .

DR. ACKERMAN Well, Oliver, thank you for coming in at such short notice.

OLIVER Not at all. I trust there's not a problem. I mean I know we've been trying for over a year . . . but I guess we've just got to keep trying, yeah?

DR. ACKERMAN I'm afraid . . . Oliver . . . that there is a problem. I've studied the blood samples you and Jenny gave us and –

OLIVER Is it me?

(Beat.)

DR. ACKERMAN No . . . the problem is with Jenny.

(Beat.)

OLIVER Okay. But there's things that can be done, right?

(DR. ACKERMAN looks away.)

OLIVER There *must* be things. Like we can adopt. I mean we can still name the baby, can't we? It would feel like ours . . .

DR. ACKERMAN Oliver . . . the problem is more serious than that. Jenny is very sick.

OLIVER How do you mean, "very sick"? Pause.

OLIVER Doctor?

DR. ACKERMAN Jenny has leukaemia.

(Beat.)

OLIVER There's been a mistake. A mix up. For Christ's sake we came in here for a fertility test!

DR. ACKERMAN We ran her blood test three times. We may be able to slow it down, we can ease the pain, but we can't cure it.

(Beat.)

DR. ACKERMAN I'm sorry, Oliver.

(Pause. OLIVER looks away.)

OLIVER How long?

DR. ACKERMAN Two months. At the most.

OLIVER She's twenty-five . . .

DR. ACKERMAN I promise you we'll do all we can to help with the pain. But I'm afraid I should warn you that it won't be cheap.

(OLIVER looks at him sharply, amazed that he could have brought that up.)