

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

BEN (35) walks down the hallway towards a group of people congregating outside one of room 215.

When he reaches them, a woman who is sobbing walks up to him.

BEN
Kim, how is he?

Instead of answering him, she smacks him across the face, hard enough to turn his head.

Two men, JAY (35) and AL (35) gently grab her and hold her back.

AL
Kim, don't.

KIM
(to Ben)
Don't you do it. You hear me Ben.
Don't you do it!

Ben looks around and sees Kim's children sitting in chairs nearby. The smack has disoriented him and his cheek is stinging.

Jay reaches into his pocket and pulls out a folded envelope and tries to hand it to Ben. Kim frantically starts to claw and grab the envelope.

KIM (CONT'D)
No! No, give it to me! Give it
back!

Al wraps his arms around Kim and hugs her until she surrenders.

Ben takes the envelope from Jay and looks towards room 215.

JAY
Go 'head B.

Ben is hesitant. Tears fill Jay's eyes. He wipes the tears away and he looks at Ben more assertively and nods his head.

JAY (CONT'D)
Go.

INT. ROOM 215 - MOMENTS LATER

Ben slowly opens the door and walks in. As the door closes behind him, he hears Kim in the hallway sobbing uncontrollably and yelling his name.

SEAN is in the hospital bed with his eyes closed. He's the same age as Ben but he looks so much older. There are machines hooked up to him everywhere.

Ben turns away for a moment, unable to look at his friend. He eventually gathers himself and sits in the chair next to the bed and takes Sean's hand.

He remembers the envelope and decides to open it. He takes out a sloppy handwritten note.

SEAN (V.O.)

What's up B. I guess if you're reading this, that last round of chemo didn't do shit. "Lol". And if that's the case, then I'm probably laid up in a hospital bed somewhere unresponsive and they're pumping me full of drugs to keep me unconscious. How fucked up would it be if I could still feel the pain but couldn't tell anybody.

Ben looks up from the note, wondering.

SEAN (V.O.)

Listen, since we've been 10 years old, you've always had my back, no matter what. Well bro, I need you to have my back one more time. And this one is a biggie. I'm not waking up man. Forget what your heart is telling you and definitely forget whatever Kim is telling you. It's not going to happen. And the longer I lay in this bed with these machines pumping air into my lungs and keeping my heart beating, Kim is never going to be able to accept that I'm not coming back. So that's why a few days ago Jay helped me file a new living will that gives you the authority to take me off life support.

Ben stops reading and drops his head onto the bed. The blanket muffles his crying.

BEN
(muffled)
You son of a bitch. You son of a...

He sits up, wipes his face. His expression is a mix of grief and anger. He continues reading.

SEAN (V.O.)
I know you're pissed off but guess what? I can't hear you so stop cursing me out.

Ben breaks up his crying with a brief chuckle.

SEAN (V.O.)
I'm asking you to do this because I know you will. Regardless of what you feel right now, I know you will. I need you to do this. Kim and the kids need you to do this.

BEN
She's going to hate me.

SEAN (V.O.)
She might hate you at first but eventually she'll understand. In 25 years, you've never let me down. Don't start now. I love you bro. Take care of everybody. And I'll give your mom a big hug for you.

Ben crumbles the note and drops it on the floor. He takes Sean's hand in both of his. His shirt is wet with the tears falling from his face.

Ben can still hear Kim crying as a doctor walks into the room. Ben and Kim make eye contact before the door closes.

FADE TO BLACK.