

INT. PUBLIC RESTROOM

PETER, 40s, just had his butt kicked and has tissue hanging out of his nose. He washes blood off his hands. ETHAN, 40s, sidles up next to him to try and make peace.

ETHAN
Hey, buddy.

PETER
Don't call me that. Buddies have each other's backs when an assault takes place.

ETHAN
Peter, that man was handicapped.

PETER
You can call me Peter or Mr. Highman. I'll call you Mr. Chase... unless that was a fake ID, too.

Ethan doesn't react verbally to the obvious slam.

PETER (CONT'D)
Why you have a stage name is beyond me. You're not even really an actor.

ETHAN
What does that mean, really an actor? What is a "real" actor?

PETER
A real actor is someone who can really act.

ETHAN
Well go ahead, give me an action to do--

PETER
-- I'm not... no, I don't want to.

ETHAN
You should.

PETER
OK, I'm Julia Roberts, uh, you have terminal cancer, we're engaged... break the news to me.

ETHAN

Julia Roberts... as you know, we're engaged. I have terminal cancer.

PETER

Awful.

ETHAN

What?

PETER

Sorry, that's my feedback.

ETHAN

I thought that was really good.

PETER

Nope... I'll give you one more shot. Ahhhh, it's Super Bowl Sunday, you're a coach with a spotty career. You're down thirty-one points, you bust into the locker room and fire the guys up; all or nothing. Action.

ETHAN

That's stupid that would never be in a movie.

Ethan exits.

PETER

Ha! It's in a movie every two years... every two years. Ha ha.

Ethan re-enters as the Coach.

ETHAN

OK guys, we need to get out there... really need to get goin'. Pollard what are you doing? You're acting like a girl out there, what are you a girl or something?

He looks over at Peter for approval.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Jackson, come on, you gotta get yourself together. This is... what are you a girl or something?

PETER

Let's up the stakes. Your wife calls, she wants a divorce.

ETHAN
The coach's wife?

PETER
The coach you're playing. His wife
calls, she wants a divorce. Ring,
ring.

Ethan takes out his cell phone and puts it up to his ear.

ETHAN
Hello?

He addresses the players.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Hey, fellas. This is gonna be a
minute. It's my wife. She wants a
divorce.

Peter settles in for awfulness.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Hey, sweetheart.
What's that?
No, don't. This is not a good time.

Ethan/Coach starts to cry. Peter is surprised.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I lost my dad. I don't want you to
leave me right now.
I don't wanna be left alone.

Peter realizes that Ethan isn't playing the coach, he's being
himself. Vulnerable. Real. True.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I miss him so much.
You can't do this.

His crying dies down. He pockets his phone and exits.

Peter watches him go and then reflects. He then exits.

END SCENE