

FADE IN

INT. APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

MATT comes home to his apartment, walks in the front door wearing his workout clothes. He throws his gym bag on the floor near the door, his hospital scrubs hang out the side. MATT is about thirty years old, very good looking and is really strong. He's hard and buff on the outside. We hear JIM, Matt's roommate shouting to him from the bathroom. Jim, is really this nice guy, with a soft smile and always something funny to say.

JIM

Hey Matt, is that you? I'm getting ready to meet with this beautiful women. What about you, another night home with Netflix and yoga before bed. Teasing laugh

MATT

Very funny, who is she?

Jim walks out of the bathroom and the two men meet in the hall. Jim is smiling as they meet but Matt's face drops.

MATT

I told you not to wear that shirt!

JIM

I have a date, I'll wash it and give it back to you nice and clean!

MATT (Yelling)

I don't care if you have a hot date, take my shirt off now!

Matt try's to shove Jim into his room. Matt's face is red and looks dark with anger. He pulls at the shirt to get it off Jim and it rips.

JIM (Shouting)

Really, chill out! You just ripped it!
Man you are going crazy!

Matt

I'm not the crazy one, I told you not to touch that shirt, and then you think you can just borrow it for some random date.

Jim takes the shirt off and throws it at Matt. Matt looking like he is going to punch Jim but instead grabs the shirt, turns and runs into his room slamming the door behind him. He slides down the wall to the floor in tears and starts talking out loud to himself.

MATT

I tried to stay calm, dude that's my shirt.
But then.....I'm so angry.
But, how could he think I wouldn't

mind, he crossed a line doing this....
I said we could never be friends after this.
I can't take that back.

Jim is listening at the closed door

JIM
Hey, are you okay?

Matt still crying and mumbling to himself, he is staring out in front and talking to the air.

MATT (through tears)
I refuse to be like you dad!
I will not be angry!

FLASHBACK

To Matt when he is much younger sitting on the floor. His father standing towering over him, is yelling at him.

MATT'S FATHER
You're full of unrealistic dreams, dreaming is
for fools, you'll make nothing of yourself.
Get the hell out of my house if you
hate it here so much.

BACK TO PRESENT TIME

Jim knocks harder on Matt's bedroom door and speaks through it.

JIM

Dude, I'm sorry, I had no idea you would
loss your shit over that shirt. I didn't touch
any of your nice clothes. I know you told
me something about that shirt before but
honestly I didn't remember what.

Matt looks surprised that Jim is even talking to him.

MATT (still mad)
You never listen, do you!

JIM
You are right, this is all my fault.
Think I can make this up to you. Open
the door. Let talk face to face.
What going to happen now?

Matt now standing behind the door, wiping his face dry.

MATT
I guess that's really up to you.

JIM

I thought you were going to really do some damage on me. You got really pissed off. I've never even seen you upset before.

MATT

I think I probably freaked you out with my anger outburst

JIM

God says, to be kind and compassionate and forgive each other. If you can forgive me for the shirt, I can forgive a minor explosion. No harm done.

Matt slowly opens the bedroom door. The two men shake hands and tell each other sorry as they walk to the kitchen to grab a couple of beers.

JIM

My date can wait, tell me what the deal is with that shirt.

The two guys sit down on the couch and Matt takes a deep breath.

MATT

I know it's just a beat up shirt but it's what it represents. My anger. I've been burying it for years. 14 years ago my father kicked me out of the house. And I've never looked back.

JIM

Wow, okay, what's that got to do with the shirt

MATT

It was the shirt I was wearing the day I left home all those years ago. It was the only shirt I had for almost a year living on the streets and working my way up.

Jim opens his beer and takes a drink.

JIM

Oh my God, this is awful. So you just walked out and have never been back?

MATT

Ya, I miss my mom, but my dad has a really bad temper and yelled at me a lot over nothing my whole life. So the last time he exploded on me I did exactly what he said to do, and I got the hell out.

JIM

I never knew any of this.

MATT

So, I keep that shirt as a reminder of my success, and of angry dad and what I left behind.

Jim pats Matt on the shoulder in a very caring way as he gets up and gets him another beer.

JIM

You call us interning at the hospital a successful career? Haha
I'm late, and better go, thanks for explaining.
We will talk more later. But, no hard feelings.

MATT

Thanks Jim, really, thanks

That evening Matt lays on his bed looking thoughtful. He scrolls through some old family pictures. He takes a deep breath and pushes the number to call home.