

WHISPERS 1 - 1

By Sherry O'Brien - class use only

ANNA

Nurse Ballast tells me you've been hiding your medication. Is that true?

SUSAN

Yes.

ANNA

Why?

SUSAN

I would have thought that to be obvious.

ANNA

You want to stop your treatment.

SUSAN

I want alternatives.

ANNA

I thought we'd agreed...

SUSAN

I did what you all told me to do. It was not my choice.

ANNA

Susan, when you were admitted you practically begged me to start you on medication immediately. You believed, as I do, that you are ill. **(Pause)** What's changed your mind?

SUSAN

I've been thinking.

ANNA

About? What?

WHISPERS 1 - 2

SUSAN

That there are some things worse than losing your
sanity.

ANNA

Such as?

SUSAN

Being told you're crazy when you're not. Dying ins
some padded cell, strapped to a bed, drooling like
some weak and inhuman creature.

ANNA

Susan, you're not going to die in some padded cell...

SUSAN

Put it in writing, Doc! How the fuck do I know what
can happen to me here? I don't know my rights! I'm
drugged! Do I have any consent?

ANNA

Susan, your family is in contact. They've hired an
attorney to protect your interests.

SUSAN

Are they my interests? Really? Who is paying this
attorney? My family thinks I'm crazier than you do!

ANNA

We've talked about this. You're feeling rage because
you've discontinued your medication. And you will
continue to get worse without help.

SUSAN

[Pause] I don't know what's real any more.

ANNA

I know that. I understand. That's what delusion is.
You'll become more confused, more disoriented the
longer you go on.

WHISPERS 1 - 3

SUSAN

You're sure of this?

ANNA

Susan, I believe this is the best treatment available to you.

SUSAN

And if you're wrong?

ANNA

I don't think that I am. Your symptoms are almost textbook.

SUSAN

So this happens to a lot of people?

ANNA

Yes.

SUSAN

What about the restraints?

ANNA

If you give me your word you'll go back on your medication, I will give you mine that there will be no more restraints.

SUSAN

None?

ANNA

None.

SUSAN

(Pause) Do you think I'm crazy? **(Pause)** You do, don't you?

ANNA

I think you're in distress. I also believe we can help you.

WHISPERS 1 - 4

SUSAN

And if you can't?

ANNA

We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

SUSAN

Dr. Eldridge?

ANNA

Yes?

SUSAN

I.... I don't want to die here. Don't let me die here. I
couldn't bear it.

ANNA

Try to get some rest.