CHARACTERS
Ray - male, 25, any ethnicity
Peter - male, 38, any ethnicity (same as Ray)
Lydia - female, 30, any ethnicity
Coach - male, 45, any ethnicity

SETTING
Poolside at an indoor pool.
Present, more or less.
One month before the summer Olympics.

There’s something simply un-American about this. This is about values, about culture, it’s about who we define ourselves to be.

– Joe Biden, on the topic of performance enhancement drugs

Anything you want, you got it.
Anything you need, you got it.
Anything at all, you got it.
Baby.

– Roy Orbison
As the audience enters the theatre, Roy Orbison has been playing, on repeat, looping, gradually getting louder and louder.

Just before the play begins, the music has become aggressively loud. Maybe it’s a little annoying by now. That’s okay. The audience can cope.

The set: it’s an indoor swimming pool at a gym. Everything is tiled. Everything has that watery blue glow that indoor pools have. The edge of the stage is the edge of pool, and there is water there.

And maybe we can smell chlorine.

And the room echoes the way indoor pools echo.

Enter Ray: a swimmer. He wears a red Speedo. For the entire play, he only ever wears a Speedo.

Also, he has a tattoo – a big one. The tattoo is of a sea serpent. It begins on his back; it covers almost his entire back. And then the tail of the serpent runs down his backside and wraps around his left leg. It’s ridiculous; it’s permanent.

And enter COACH and PETER.

And a loud air horn sounds—the sound that sounds when a race starts, and the music abruptly stops.

Scene 1

(RAY eats from a bag of baby carrots.)

(PETER speaks to COACH on behalf of RAY.)

PETER

A man. This man – Here is a man who is nothing short of amazing. He has devoted his entire life to swimming.
At age 4 he took his first swimming lesson, age 8 he won his first swim competition, age 10 he won his first national swim competition, years pass he’s working his way up the ladder, trying to make it to the Olympics, and yeah, there were a couple of years where he spent time roaming the desert in a van, he was on a

RAY

spiritual quest

PETER
took some time and space for himself, meditated on life and its what-have-you, but then two years ago, he came back and since then he has consistently worked hard to – skyrocketing, through the ranks – you, Coach, there for the entire journey, helping him hone his skills – and, Ray, excelling under your – and the sacrifices he’s made –

Here is a man who once got into a car accident, no fault of his own, a truck slammed into the side of his vehicle, broke two of his ribs. Ambulance takes him to the hospital, doctors bandage him, bind up his body, reset the ribs, all the while, didn’t even take any anesthetic, didn’t want to poison his body with – and he should’ve been at home, he should’ve been resting, but the team had a meet, and he didn’t want to miss it and let you down, and he took off those bandages and he swam.

And when he launched off the block, his whole torso hit the water at an incredible – the the the sheer force with which he hit the surface of the water, it must have – I can’t imagine

RAY

I have a high tolerance for pain

PETER

placed first in that race. Had to rush him to a hospital immediately after – the impact of the water, fractured more bones, broke a third rib when he hit the – three broken ribs – did for it you, did it for the club, the team, the –

Here is a man who, in the past 5 months, twice defeated Michael Phelps in pre-Olympic trials. Defeated Cullen Jones – I don’t remember how many times he – Once even defeated Ryan Lochte in free-style, Ray’s weakest stroke.

He works so hard. He practices 6 hours a day in the pool, does weights for 2 hours, every day, never misses a practice or meet, right?
he spends so much of his life in the water that his fingers are – the skin is permanently shriveled, peels off, in chunks

RAY
’s not that bad

PETER
calcification in his brow-line from the goggles, giving him these intense migraines that last for days

RAY
I can put my hand in a flame for up to 32 seconds without flinching

PETER
… and when he isn’t swimming or practicing, he’s teaching children how to swim, or he’s scooping crap out of the kiddie pool, or he’s teaching senior citizen water aerobics.

Think of everything he has done for this club and your –

And he gives to charity, he cares about animals and their charities, dog charities and – animals, he –

Women love him. Everyone loves him, but women, women love him the most of – and yes, he does love women back why shouldn’t he – so many women, but what’s wrong with

RAY
they just like me so much

PETER
he’s young and

RAY
people say I have a lot to offer

PETER
now he’s no scholar

RAY

PETER
didn’t do well at school, couldn’t – devoted all his time to this so completely devoted his – sure he could’ve tried to go to college could’ve but he put you and the club and the team first, made himself into a swimming machine, a body that’s built for one purpose, and that means maybe in other areas he’s not so – but this is the sacrifice he’s made.
It’s a sacrifice – like a monk, like a – he’s a

PETER
this is it all he has all he can do tried to work in the outside world, but that was a –
he has no skills – He can’t function, can’t function because he devoted everything to

I mean, look at him. You know what I – and yes, I am his brother, and yes, he is my flesh and
blood, my little brother, and yes, I do care for him, quite a bit.

But I’m not just his brother,
I’m also his lawyer, his representation,
and as his legal representative, I am here,
speaking to you the eve before the qualifying trial for the Olympics,
he’s destined, he’s ready, he will no doubt qualify tomorrow,
his times are – it’s not a question. Right?
Correct me if I’m

COACH
Yes, that is

PETER
easy, and there you are – he’s a swimmer on the Olympic team, and I have to think that’s
beneficial, and – this is what every coach wants, needs for – it’s why you do what you do –
worked hard, and Ray’s worked hard, and then you get this dipshit-what’s-it’s-name

RAY
Tad

PETER
Tad?

RAY
Tad

PETER
his real name – ?

RAY
yeah

PETER
so we’ve got this “Tad,” who was found with an Igloo cooler full of some sort of performance

enhancing whatchamafuckit

COACH
to be clear
yes

the cooler was found in the club refrigerator

and Ray saw him

I didn’t

he heard

I heard from someone that the drugs were Tad’s

so Ray heard from someone who heard from someone that the drugs are Tad’s

Ray knows who said, just doesn’t want to say

for fear of

retaliation, someone might punch me in the

so with very little evidence, you’re going to report this Tad to the swim association

Tad is

my concern here is not this Tad. My concern is, is Ray. My concern is this gets out, people hear
that one of your team’s swimmers has been doing performance enhancing drugs, and people start
to think that the whole team – you see where I’m going with this – that the whole team is doing –
people can’t see that Tad’s not Ray, that there’s no – from the outside, it all looks the same, and
then Ray, who’s been clean, who’s always been clean as a – gets implicated, and then –

Ray’s your best swimmer, this Tad – what – third, fourth – whatever, he doesn’t count. He’s on
the team, he wants to swim the qualifying – good for him – he’s not gonna make it, try as hard as
– not even a contender, not even close to a – the guy doesn’t matter unless...
unless you say anything or make a big deal
when you don’t have to make a big – because then you draw attention that we don’t – then it’s this big –
so – I’m asking you
please
don’t
bring it up.
Don’t stage an intervention.
Don’t alert the world anti-doping something er rather.
Don’t tell Tad. Don’t remove him from the club, you try to remove him, you don’t have much evidence – there isn’t even – did you even see him? – he could appeal, ask for a hearing, he asks for a hearing, there’s a hearing, this becomes public, and –

I’m going to ask that you do nothing.
Toss the drugs into a toilet and flush em an’

COACH

Peter

PETER

yeah

COACH

are you done.

PETER

… yes

COACH

because you’ve been going on pretty non-stop for the past [length of time] –
(looks at his stop watch and states the actual length of time PETER’s been speechifying)

PETER

go ahead.
I’m done.
I’m –

COACH

… It is my responsibility to inform the officials, the powers that be, that one of my swimmers has been taking performance enhancing drugs, and it is my responsibility to let them know that Tad’s actions may have affected outcomes of prior Olympic qualifying I can see you’re gonna try to cut in here and I’m not gonna let that happen Olympic qualifying rounds. It’s an ethical responsibility.

You understand that.
It doesn’t matter whether or not anyone finds out, it’s a moral decision that I
PETER

moral

COACH

yes

PETER

how is it

COACH

morality, integrity, a code of – if I were going to make my decisions based on whether or not I was gonna get in trouble, or whether or not someone’s gonna find out about it, well then that’s not morality, that’s fear, and in our business we don’t –

now I’m not gonna have to go to the association if Tad steps up, if Tad, of his own accord, comes to me and tells me that he’s been doing these drugs, agrees to go ahead and resign, well, then we have a different

PETER

that’s not gonna

COACH

I’m optimistic

PETER

you can’t

COACH

told the team it’s come to my attention that there’s some doping going on and

PETER

so you already

COACH

if Tad decides to do the right

PETER

has no reason to

COACH

’s not about that, not about having a reason to

PETER

how’s the club doing?

COACH

Excuse me – ?
under your leadership
questioning my – ?
is the club doing well?
The club is fine
I mean
talking about
financially
we’re open
and the closings
sure we’ve had
looks like you’re struggling
who hasn’t
some do and some
a lot of
cutbacks
it’s expensive
I know

what we do

what I’m saying is

you don’t know

I know that you’re in trouble, and

what you know is that if

you need Ray, you need him to make it to the Olympics.
He makes it to the Olympics – bring a lot of attention to the club,
name of the place mentioned in every article that mentions Ray,
publicity, you’ll be getting calls from every mother in a 100 miles radius,
calling about getting her kid after school lessons at the club,
type of stuff bring in serious money

so

I’m

saying that

I’ve talked to several

have you

other coaches

who

expressed an interest in working with Ray, especially Atlas
well now hold on

Atlas offered

does Ray want that – ?

I’m just saying

Ray, what do you – ?

(to RAY)
don’t need to answer the question

(to RAY)
are you unhappy with – ?

(to COACH)
doesn’t have to make any decisions right now

never expressed any

your actions threaten to hurt his reputation, then I have no choice but to

real shitty move

detrimental to his

what’s detrimental is this, this time, this time here, this time we’re talking, time that Ray could
be preparing, and instead we’re talking about

concerns

more like
questions about PETER
a threat COACH
no PETER
yeah you’re threatening me COACH
I’m just PETER
real shitty Peter COACH
have so much respect for you PETER
you do COACH
let me just say that PETER
it’s COACH
your move. It’s up to PETER
my COACH
decision, you can make a big deal about the Tad situation or – I hate to do this I really – kills me, I swear, but it’s in the interest of – (to COACH)
and you too, in your interest, I’m COACH
I’ll do what I need to do COACH
yes, you should do what you need to do. I’m just trying to remind you of what you need COACH
I understand, I’ll do what I need to do.

Okay. Which is what – ? What is that – ?

I have an idea

you’re going to flush the drugs

only if Tad comes forward

regardless of whether or not

I have an idea

in the interest of

Hey, I have

what – ?

What if Coach didn’t flush the drugs, and what if Coach instead gave you the drugs to

what – no

didn’t even let me

go ahead

you hold on to the drugs for safe keeping until after the race, and once Coach has decided what to do after he’s had more time to think

PETER

RAY

PETER

COACH

RAY

PETER

RAY

PETER

RAY

PETER
I don’t want them

RAY

because you’re kinda springing this on him, and it’s

PETER

no, I’m not – that’s a terrible idea.

COACH

Peter.
The answer is:

no.

(AIR HORN)

(COACH exits.)

Scene 2

(RAY, still eating baby carrots)

PETER

first thing we do, day after tomorrow, we move you to Atlas

RAY

don’t really wanna

PETER

it’s best

RAY

Coach knows me and

PETER

well

RAY

you just told him

PETER

The situation has changed

RAY

how – ?

PETER

talked to the Speedo people today

RAY
oh, and

they're interested

are they going to – ?

said it was a little unusual to sign someone this early

oh

I said

yeah – ?

“well that’s the point isn’t it?”

yeah, I mean

“you wanna get in on this before Reebok or Nike or Adidas”

Nike would be good too, if we had to – not that we
told them “you wanna get in on it before there’s a bidding war”

you said – ?

to the Speedo people

did you talk to Nike – ?

no

but
I acted like I – I implied, so that

oh

said if you’re impressed already, it would be stupid not to sign him, just

yeah just do it

pull the trigger

why not

eyep

cool.

so...

So. They said yes.

yes

you’re signed

I

mean, you have to officially qualify.
That’s tomorrow, that’ll happen.
When the notarized times get to their office,
you’re signed, you’re their guy.
And I’m working on some exclusivity stuff, so that – you won’t be their only guy, but

okay
but you’re – you know

yeah

it’s

cool

you’re a spokesperson, spokesmodel – whatever you wanna call it

and what about

as for money

did you –?

it’s a lot of money

like

I can’t say how much

oh

I mean, it’s not a secret – just haven’t sorted out the

that’s okay

gonna be a lot of money

hey, did you

I mean
a lot, and that’s why we can’t have you associated with Tad and his whole – why we have to move you to a different club, different

hey did you –?

what

tell them about my idea

who

Speedo

what idea –?

the special edition Speedo that has this part of my tattoo printed on

right, that

comes around like this and up through

deal with that stuff later

think people would buy it

sure

it’s unique

yep, probably, uh-huh
can call it the “Ray Gun”

I don’t

or the “Ray-dar”

put it on the to-do list

okay.

This deal is very good, you

yeah

for you

yeah

and even for me, for us

that’s good

and I’m happy to help out however

sure

...
PETER
leave the firm

RAY
you’d like that

PETER
well

RAY
you hate being a lawyer

PETER
no

RAY
you hate it

PETER
just don’t like the partners there, and

RAY
wanting to leave

PETER
nice to have options – this could become a full-time gig

RAY
yeah...

PETER
… What’s wrong?

RAY
Nothing.

PETER
Are you weirded out by the whole representation thing?

RAY
What.

PETER
Me representing you. Me being basically like your sports agent. Is that okay – ?

RAY
sure
mean we never really talked about it. Now’s the first it’s

sure

never called myself your representative until back there with Coach.

... So. I’m not overstepping am I?

nah

I mean, I’ve been doing this work for you, talking to Speedo and trying to set up a deal

thanks

takes a lot of time

sorry

not complaining, and, I mean, just reasonable for me to expect a cut

okay

not much, just 15, 20 percent or something, we can work it out.

okay

gonna need somebody to do this anyway, and anyone you get will take a percentage, and I know how you feel about people you don’t know, and so I thought keeping it in the family would
okay

tell me if it’s not

It’s okay.
I want you to represent me.
I think that’s best

good

wanna baby carrot – ?

no

okay

…

…

so, what is it then – ?
what’s the

what – ?

matter, something’s

nothing’s

something

wrong?

yeah.
… no, I’m thinking –?

what if

yeah –?

… I don’t qualify tomorrow.

of course you’ll

but, what

no

if I don’t I’m

then

nothing happens. Right?

well. The deal with Speedo is contingent on

me winning

but you’re going to

sure

your times haven’t dipped
no, I know

then I don’t see

but if they did

psych yourself out

I’m not

Don’t

I’m

gonna psych yourself out

thinking is all, just

next thing I know

gonna just

go off to the desert

nah

for two, three years, and

just having

a panic attack
no

have a tendency to

no

that’s

not what

’s all in your head

Those drugs were my drugs.

…

…

…

The drugs

what

that Coach found

Yeah?

… The drugs you told him to flush?

Yeah.

Those were my mine
and I kinda need them

need

yes

how – ?

to win. Without them, if I don’t – I don’t win.

why I was trying to get you to take them, you know, when I said

and you said

wouldn’t listen to me – you never – and you – and now he’s – and now we’re...

Those were your drugs.

Yes.

All of them.

Yes
those were a lot of

s’posed to be enough doses to get me through the next couple of weeks, to get me through the Olympics, and

what about Tad – ?

Tad – ?

all of that about Tad was

a lie.

right.

had no choice, it was him or me, and

well

but it’s okay

how

you said there’s no proof

so

he won’t really get in trouble

and

yeah – ?
this
what
… is this a new thing?
the
drugs, taking them, doping – is it –?
No.
… How “not new” is this?
… I dunno.
Like more than a year “not new.”
huh
Are you upset at me?
...
I think you’re upset
no, it’s just that – okay – I mean...
...
I doubt you really need the stuff
no
you think you
definitely need the stuff

doesn’t make that big a difference
definitely makes a
so much goes into your performance

nope

beyond

nope

what about your, you know, *skills*

I have skills

yeah, so

races are won or lost by fractions of fractions of a second

right, so

I definitely need the stuff.
I know this.
Really. I do.
I mean, this is like what do you call it – science

You don’t know anything about science.

…
… do you wanna know what I know about science?

sure why not

when they had to make all those cutbacks here

yeah

and they couldn’t afford to have so many swimmers training for competition, and during practices I was coming in last, every time, and Coach was like,

okay, we’re gonna have to cut back, we’re cutting back to 4 guys, 4 girls.

And you know, he says to me, you and Ron, your numbers are like 4 and 5, sometimes I’m like 4 in a race and Ron’s like 5 and sometimes I come in like 5 and he’s like 4.

and Coach says, “By the end of the year, one of you goes, and I’m gonna be watching, so just, you know, know that.”

So this is when Lydia and I were together

Lydia right okay

she’s like “you know, it’s out of your control, it’s science, you know”

yeah but she was
you didn’t like her

all those sports therapists are

I didn’t believe her either

bad news

and I’m like, “no,”
and she’s like, “yeah,”
and she says, “Okay,
don’t believe me?
Then look at the fingers.”
And I’m like, “Fingers?”
And she’s like, “Fingers.”
She’s like, “The difference between this finger and that finger,
like the length – that’s how much testosterone you have,
and how much testosterone you have – that’s how fast you swim.”
And I’m like, “no,”
and she’s like, “yeah,”
and I’m like okay,
and this is in November, and you know how Thanksgiving takes place in November

yes

and you know how Thanksgiving is all turkey themed and stuff

yes

and you know how at Thanksgiving they have us make Thanksgiving dinner
for the poor kids, as like charity,
and there’s the handicap kids,
and they had us do turkeys.
You know, what I’m talking about?

No.

You know turkeys?
I know what turkeys are

RAY

Yeah

PETER

but I don’t know what you’re talking about.

RAY

you know

(Shows his hand.)

where you make like a turkey like this.

You draw around your hand and

PETER

Okay. Yeah, I know.

RAY

and it looks like a turkey thing – finger feathers

Yeah

PETER

RAY

each one of the swimmers made a finger turkey for each one of handicap kids, and I took those pictures and measured the fingers – used them to figure out and – the two where there was like less distance, where they were like closest to the same size, were me and Ron: we were like the same distance.

okay

PETER

RAY

But that’s not all: the other guys – here’s the order of the other guys – the order the other guys always came in when we raced were

Tad

then Rob

then Craig.

And the fingers were like that too:

Tad’s like the longest and then Rob and then Craig.

So like depending on your finger length, that’s it, that’s the order you’re gonna win in a race.

And I’m like, “no way”

and Lydia is like, “see?”

and I’m like, “no way,” that means there’s like nothing I can do,

and she’s like, “yeah,”
and I’m like, “that’s messed up,”
and I’m like, that really messes with my head,
and I’m like, everything I thought was true is a lie,
and I’m like, I’m like I’m totally screwed,
I’m like totally fucked, cuz there’s this limit, and no matter what I do,
I can’t get past that limit.

And she’s like, “well I think I can get you something that could help,”
she’s like “see what happens if you try the stuff,”
and I’m like, “what is this stuff,”
and she’s like, “it’s all natural,”
she’s like, “it’s from baby fetuses or something.”
And I’m like, “okay”...

And I tried it.
And it worked.
And I went from being number 4 all the time
to being number 3 all the time,
to being number 2 a lot of the time,
to being number 2 all of the time,
and... then to number 1 most of the time.
And then I beat Phelps, and I beat Cullen, and I beat Lochte,
and that’s when the world started to notice me.

... PETER

... RAY

... PETER

... RAY

I know that you’re thinking this is wrong, you think I’m breaking the rules,
but I mean if you read the rules, if you sit down and read them,
I read them, and I really think I have a good case

you don’t PETER

rules say RAY

I know PETER

yeah – ? well what are they – ? RAY
... 

RAY
number one you can’t take the drugs because they hurt you, and these drugs don’t hurt me

PETER
don’t know that they don’t

RAY
nah, they don’t, I know, I’m fine, I’ve been fine. Look at me

and

RAY
the number two rule is because they make it unfair

right

PETER
but in my case, they make it fair

RAY
no

PETER
we have science evidence for that

RAY
you’re kinda

PETER
wrong?

RAY
yes

PETER
No.
Think about it

RAY
I am

PETER
not so different from, what’s-it-called with colleges and black people
what?

you know

affirmative action?

yeah, it’s just like

nothing like affirmative action

how is what I’m doing not like affirmative action

what do you think affirmative action is

when you don’t have the same advantages as other people so the government gives you a little extra help

no, that’s not what it is – ?

no

so what is it – ?

I don’t even know where to begin, it’s so not answering the question because you can’t

one is about race, the other is about physical limitations, there’s no
exactly the same thing

it’s really not

isn’t being black just physical?

Ray.

in Buddhism they say

Stop.

Okay.

I’m not questioning whether or not what you’re doing is right. I don’t care about that. Sure, of course I do. Okay, whatever, fairness and –

But really, right now, I’m trying to figure out whether or not you’re gonna get caught

… I’m not

because, no, no, listen, my shit is on the line too. I’m associated with you. I’m working with you. We’re not just brothers, we’re in business together, and you do something shady that means looks like I’m doing something shady, okay? So you if you get caught

I haven’t

so far. But let’s not forget, you left like what like 20 plus doses of the stuff in a refrigerator... in your coach’s office

kitchen, everybody uses it, not just coach

doesn’t make it better.

didn’t want the stuff to get too warm,
they were in a cooler but they were also in my car trunk, and it was unseasonably warm

That was stupid.

I know

and that’s exactly how you’re going to get caught. But you don’t have to

That’s why I need your help.

…

cuz of you, coach has my drugs locked up in his office

…

You said you were my representative, so help me

what is it that you need me to do

5,000 dollars

you mean you need me to give you 5,000

yeah

for drugs

yeah

no way
the drugs cost that much
yeah
you’re crazy
it’s late, it’s really last minute, it’s probably going to cost more than usual
but 5,000
and they know I need it, they know it’s the night before the final – so they’re gonna totally jack up the price because
you know this
no yeah I just got off the phone with
I really
what – ?
really don’t like that Lydia is involved with this
but she’s
don’t trust her, don’t see why she would want to help you
you’re the one she hates
you’re the one she dumped
we were gonna get married
you’re delusional

but then you screwed her over

I did nothing

made her lose her license, and her job

it's not like I was her lawyer, I wasn't

you knew stuff about her case

I knew only what you told me—just gave her some advice.

and you told the oppositional lawyer stuff about her.

I don't think I said that much, nothing that was all that

I heard you, I heard it happen, you said

She was going to lose regardless.

I know but

was just saving my colleague some time on the research end, we all do that, it’s normal, I save him some trouble so maybe someday he’ll do the same for me

she was the only person who really understood me, and it’s like you took that away, and now I have no one now.

you’re being melodramatic
not

better off without her,
don’t need to be associated
with people like that.

… well anyway
you don’t have to worry
because
it’s not Lydia that I get the stuff from.
Since we broke up, I’ve been getting it from this guy

what guy?

His name is Jasper.

and who is he?

you know, just some guy

the guy who’s jacking up the prices last minute

why’re you asking all of these questions?

Because you’re asking me to give you 5,000 dollars
to get illegal drugs

not illegal, technically

from people I don’t know,
all of this after I’ve just set up a deal with a major corporate sponsor.
I can think of a dozen ways this can go wrong.
type of thing puts my reputation on the line.

RAY

Mine too.

PETER

I have a job. I have a high paying job,
I have a family,
I have a wife,
I have a kid, a two year old, a daughter
and soon my daughter’s going to be going to school
and she’s not going to a free school, she’s going to an expensive school,
because if she doesn’t go to the expensive school, then she’s already I mean, you know the future
it’s gonna be rough with China and where America is and the future

RAY

we didn’t have money

PETER

we were lucky. We’re doing better than we should. But the fact is: people with money are better
than the people without money.

People with money are better schooled, better fed, better trained, better cultured.
They’re the people who go to museums and opera and the theatre, and, you know,
they take their kids there, and the kids get this culture and shit and it makes them smarter.

And rich parents they aren’t stressed out maybe a little, I guess, distant big deal.
Poor parents, those are the one who beat up their kids, sexually abuse them,
don’t feed them, let them get fat on McDonalds, don’t care if they do their homework.
It’s not their fault poor parents suck because trying so hard to survive makes you meaner, shittier
you’re just trying to

take a poor kid, a poor kid who has talent, has to put up with all the shit of being poor and has to
work harder because of it a rich kid with the same talent doesn’t have to put up with so much,
and that kid’ll go farther, and

and I don’t want my daughter to suffer, or not be as – because I fucked up, put her in a position
where she has less.

That’s what I have to lose, that’s what’s at – And what do you have to lose?
What?

RAY

lots

PETER

No. You don’t.
You have nothing to lose because
you don’t actually have anything.
No wife, no kids, no house.
You have no skills – other than that you can swim – okay
but you have no actual

RAY
I know

PETER
you have

RAY
nothing, and nowhere to go,
and no real job, and sometimes I live in my car,
and sometimes I don’t have a car and live in people’s basements,
or I sleep in the locker room, and I don’t tell you about it because
I don’t want to have to keep asking you and mom for –
and I don’t have an education or a degree,
and no future, and I’m getting too old,
and this is it. This is it. My one shot.

PETER
...

RAY
but...
I win,
you win,
and if I win big,
you win big,
you win bigger than you’ve – you can – the stuff you could do for your daughter and your – I
mean – and what do you do for it what are you risking, I mean, really, come on, dude. And don’t
I deserve a chance, and don’t I – Don’t I deserve – isn’t that the American thing – ?

PETER
dream – ?

RAY
everyone gets a – just loan me the money, just – come on, do it. Do it. Loan me the money or I’ll
kill you I’ll bash in your skull nah I’m just kidding come on just help me out dude. Really.

(AIR HORN)

(Exit PETER.)

Scene 3

It’s late at night, at the pool. The
lights are mostly off, the room is lit
by the light coming from the pool –
that watery blue glowing light that pools emit in the dark.

No one’s around, except for RAY and LYDIA. RAY at the edge of the pool, legs hanging off into the water.

LYDIA – she’s a tough lady. She wears jeans and a tank top and a beat-up leather jacket.

RAY’s still eating baby carrots.

LYDIA

because I lost my license,
meant there were some things I couldn’t apply for
but I mean it seemed like there should be a lot of things
that I could apply for license or no license,
some stuff in offices or even retail,
I mean I really didn’t care,
I just needed some money was all:
rent to pay, bills, regular old living expenses –
I’d waitress, I’d work in a coffee shop – didn’t care

so I’d apply for all these jobs,
but no one’s hiring me
no one’s even calling me in for an interview
or they might call to schedule an interview
but then they end up canceling –
called the lawyer who had worked on my case,
asked him, what’s up with this,
an’ he was like, “well your former employer can’t say
negative things about you,
but when employers call them
they can just say no comment,”
and ‘no comment’ means that’s
just as bad as saying what did happen

RAY

Yeah that makes sense

LYDIA

and then some job applications,
they ask if you’ve ever been arrested,
which turns out is different from
whether or not you were convicted,
and I just don’t think that’s right, I mean come on, anybody can be arrested for anything, shouldn’t matter, but then when you say ‘yes’, “yes I was arrested,” they start asking follow up questions, and it all comes out, and none of what comes out is any good, all looks really bad.

RAY

...

LYDIA

so it’s not like people don’t wanna hire me,

RAY

no sure yeah

LYDIA

they’re always like “well given what happened” they’re like “sorry our hands are tied.”

RAY

sucks man

LYDIA

but I realized something recently that the same thing that makes it so I can’t get work might be the thing that’s going to get me work,

and I start thinking about the case in a different way about what happened and how I lost my case and what it really means about the world we live in and, you know, what is this case really about? I mean what is it about?

RAY

that a question for me?

LYDIA

do you know what it’s about – ?

RAY

… You sold some lady medicine that you’re not allowed to sell?

LYDIA

right well anyway I used to date this guy, long before you, he’s now in the movie business, and he’s like really high up I mean you look him up online you’d see
he’s really big and so I call him up and tell him what happened. 
I tell him how I have this true story about a friend of mine who was sick, 
how she needed a medication in order to live 
but she couldn’t afford it, 
but then here I am and I 
use my unique connections in the pharmaceutical trade, 
risk my career and my life (in a way) 
to obtain this medicine for my dying friend, 
and I do it, and I help her, but then the government finds out, 
I get arrested, and the rest of the movie could be 
about my court case and how I got railroaded

RAY

wow yeah

LYDIA

and there are a lot of parts where it could be a like a thriller

like that other movie about that other woman, it won all those awards

RAY

am I in this movie – ?

LYDIA

I’m changing all the names

RAY

so that means – ?

LYDIA
don’t want your brother suing me for something like defamation of character

RAY

is he the bad guy in the movie

LYDIA

I dunno Ray what do you think, is he a bad guy – ?

RAY

sounds like something that could make a lot of money

LYDIA

I dunno it’ll probably take awhile not like I’ve signed anything yet or 
just talking about it 
with people – but I

RAY

really sounds like you’re doing great,
I’m really happy that you’re

yeah well

really

look at you – you’re gonna be a spokesmodel for Speedo

yeah

bet that pays even more money than movies

Yeah

Why?

I guess because it’s hard work keeping real still for photos for several hours at a time

no I mean

what – ?

why did you call me here?

I just

I’m standing here trying to figure it out – something you’re not saying...
What do you want from me – ?

nothing

no I know you you want something
really I

don’t buy it

I missed you

missed, uh-huh, you

missed you.
I miss you Lydia

all of a sudden – ?

no, I

never called

you dumped me

you weren’t curious how I was doing?

told me to never call you.

And I see you got a new tattoo

it’s a sea serpent

(He shows her.)

You like it?

It’s... big

his tail even comes around
LYDIA

yeah

RAY

and up through

just thought it would be good for publicity and stuff, because we all kinda look the same when we swim,
because we all have goggles and swim caps, so I thought it would be a good idea
to make myself really easy to spot, so like when I’m swimming, and they have the camera overheard watching us swim,
it’s really easy to know which one I am, and every one will be like “whoa who’s that guy with the sea serpent, he’s awesome.”
and then I have this idea for a special edition Speedo

LYDIA

with that

RAY

has this part of the tail painted on it

LYDIA

right

RAY

got it for publicity

LYDIA

publicity

RAY

yeah

LYDIA

not to cover up the old tattoo?

RAY

well that too, I guess, but mostly

LYDIA

you can still sorta see the L and the Y...

there’s the D...
can still kinda make it out.

RAY

…

(Now that she mentions it, we can totally make out the name “LYDIA” buried within the body of the sea serpent.)

LYDIA

You don’t miss me.
You move on, you get over things,
things wash over you – just slide on by.
And I think that’s good – ‘s healthy.
We’ve both moved on, and

RAY

but I haven’t moved on. You’re all I think about.

just think you’re so smart,
so tough, and you have such good ideas,
and you’re really – with all your court problems,
how you’re able to talk to lawyers and police and stuff, and –
I couldn’t do that, I would – just totally freak me out –
you, you’re just so good at being in the world,
and I’m not so good at being in the world,
and

LYDIA

I don’t want to take care of you

RAY

no

LYDIA

that’s

RAY

not what I meant

LYDIA

it’s what you want, I can tell

RAY

No...

I’ll take care of you.
I’ll take care – I got this deal with Speedo,
all I have to do is make it into the Olympics
and and and get that Speedo deal,
and get that money,  
and that will lead to even more money,  
money I can live off of – we can  
live off of for the rest of our – cuz  
once people see me at the Olympics,  
and you know, I’ve got my you know  

LYDIA  
tattoo – ?  

RAY  
that and my outrageous and likeable personality,  
and people are gonna be like, “wow,” and there will be all these offers  
to do things that aren’t swimming, that are like  
being on tv or magazines and interviews, and –  
I don’t even care if they’re really like making fun of me,  
cuz if they’re paying me, cuz if I have money, then I can be like a real person  
with a house and a car and a bank and a doctor and a dog for a pet  
and a – a family, because that’s what real people have.  
I want to be a real person kind of person, not just a stupid  

LYDIA  
...  

RAY  
an’ it’s why I’m doing this, an’ it’s why I don’t just run off,  
an’ why I don’t just do what I did last time,  
an’ why I don’t just steal another van and  
run off into the desert and – because  
this time this time I have  
you to think about  
and you to – that’s what  

LYDIA  
...  

RAY  
and you know I’ve been with a lot of girls since you.  
I can get girls easy and – but you’re the only one I think about,  
and even when I’m with other girls,  
I close my eyes, and I think about you  

LYDIA  
yeah  

RAY  
even when I jerk off, I think about you, you’re  

LYDIA
well that’s nice to hear

all the time

okay

like 15 times a day

you jerk off 15 times a day – ?

yeah

you
do it so much I even ripped the penis skin, it’s all

Ray.

yeah – ?
you know what that is, right – ?

love – ?

… no

yeah, I think it’s

wait hold on how much are you taking – ?

wha – ?

the stuff
dunno what you mean

the HCG

I dunno

you’re taking more, aren’t you

not really

like, a lot more

a little more

you put so much testosterone in your body that you’re in a constant state of horniness, that you’ve gone and torn a hole in your dick does it hurt – ?

I have a high tolerance for pain

oh honey you don’t want me, it’s just chemical, that’s all

no, I know that’s not

hope you’re being careful, hope you’re

I’m careful

they keep records, they test you every week, stuff won’t show up

I know
but they *do* monitor the levels, okay, and if you

RAY

I’m careful.

LYDIA

Who’s supplying – ?

RAY

the stuff – ?

LYDIA

yeah

RAY

Jasper.

LYDIA

Jasper’s in jail

RAY

I know

LYDIA

well, if

RAY

I stocked up.

LYDIA

You call me the night before a qualifying round

RAY

no, I

LYDIA

you put on this act like you miss me,
act like you want to get back together

RAY

no, really, that’s not

LYDIA

okay, now it makes sense you ran out of the stuff

RAY

no really

LYDIA
just so you know

it’s for you that I need to win, it’s so we

I don’t have any.

Any what?

Stuff. I don’t – no, when I got in trouble, I got out of that business, I don’t – nope

oh

nothing, so if that’s

no no it wasn’t

Literally, the only “drugs” I have in my apartment are three doses of medicine for my cat. Who is sick –

Colonel Fuzzman –?

yeah

oh how’s he doing –?

he’s sick

oh yeah

so yeah

...
Okay. Yes. I do need the stuff.
I had the stuff, but the stuff went missing,
and tomorrow, I need the stuff to qualify.

Okay? But it’s not like you think.

See, I had this big plan.
I’ve been trying to figure how,
how am I gonna win you back,
and I knew that it had to be big.
Everything I’ve been doing
for the past coupla months,
has been about that, making like this big...
thing was gonna like blow your mind.

Uh-huh.

Like this, so picture it:
I was gonna win the Olympics,
and I was gonna be on tv,
and they were gonna put the microphone in front of me,
and I was gonna hold up the medal and say,
“This is for Lydia.
Love of my life.
Arrow of my heart.”
And then I was gonna take out a ring,
take out the box, open it, and show it to the camera like this,
and I was gonna say, “Lydia, will you marry me.”
And this was gonna be on national television,
and they’d put a phone number on the lower part of the screen
for you to call, and I’d stand, with the ring,
and with my medal, and I’d just wait,
the television cameras all watching me,
you at home, watching me, and I’d wait for your call,
and I wouldn’t leave, I’d just stay there, and wait, even if it took for the rest of my life.

LYDIA

...

RAY

...

LYDIA

yeah I don’t believe you.

RAY

I knew you’d say that, so...

(RAY produces a ring.)

like I said, this wasn’t how I planned it, how I planned it was gonna be much more impressive.

LYDIA

oh. Ray.
no.

(RAY gets down on one knee.)

I think we should

RAY

don’t

LYDIA

what

RAY

say it

LYDIA

marriage?

RAY

I can’t.

LYDIA

RAY
Why not?

I’m leaving.

What?

The country.

This one?

I owe months of back rent and back taxes.
I can’t get a job, I mean sure there’s the whole movie thing
but I haven’t really talked to those people in I dunno three months –
I mean I don’t think it’s a bad sign or – I’ve heard these things take time
and you know, they have my contact info, I’m reachable

but yeah, at the end of the month, I’m gone, I’m leaving the country,
starting a new life with a clean record.

I’ve already given away all my stuff.
I have nothing except for my cat and a one way ticket
out of the country.

(looking down)

… actually I was also wondering if you would take Colonel Fuzzman
because I know how much you two liked each other, and
and I wanted him to be with someone who liked him

no

okay then I’ll find someone else

no I mean you can’t leave.

I can’t stay.

Then let me come with you.

I don’t want that.
Ray

You said – you said I wasn’t serious

Lydia

Yes

Ray

You said I’m not committed

Lydia

Right

Ray

And so – ?

Here I am.

Serious. And committed.

And if I can just qualify tomorrow,

I’ll have money from Speedo to take care of you,

to pay all of your bills, or or or

if you want to go to another country,

I can do that too, buy you a nice house in Europe or someplace like Europe.

Lydia

Ray

Nothing undoes what you did,

Nothing undoes the fact that

Your brother screwed me over,

And you didn’t stand up for me

An ‘ you told me that you overheard your brother
talking to the opposing council about my case

Ray

I mean I might have –

Lydia

I found out that that’s not allowed,

That if the judge had known

That your brother had done what he’d done,

The case would’ve gotten thrown out

And I would’ve won, and I wouldn’t be in the position I’m in

Ray

No

Lydia

Yeah
naw that doesn’t make any sense

because the hearing has to be fair. The other side isn’t allowed to get information that’s been said in confidence.

but I mean

what – ?

you did was sorta illegal

is that what you really think – ?

I just mean that what you did was sort of, on the technicalities, against the law

if it’s against the law to save my friend’s life, then it’s the law that’s wrong

But you barely knew the woman, and and

and what

it’s not like you did it for free you charged her for the medicine

I don’t get the stuff for free

you charged her for more than it cost you

not much

marked it up

I have to make a living too I’m taking a risk by
I wouldn’t have charged her.

Charging her or not, doesn’t change the basic situation

kinda

no

I’m just saying all I’m tryin to get at is that we all do things that are sorta good and sorta not so good, you and me and even my brother

honestly Ray, it’s not even about the fact that your brother did what he did, it’s about you not doing anything, it’s about when you heard Peter talking to the other lawyer, his buddy, his friend, talking about me when he had no business sharin my private shit

you shoulda said, “Dude that’s not cool.” If you just gone to him and said Dude, I don’t like what you did to my girlfriend. Even that, even that small miniscule gesture would have meant so much to me.

Why didn’t you do that just that little bit?

he doesn’t like it when talk to him about his work stuff

So?

He wouldn’t have changed his mind, and – I mean, he was helping me out at the time. I had all those credit card debts, bills from the car wreck and from – all sorts of stuff, and he was helping me out, and I needed that. I was
LYDIA living with me

RAY so

LYDIA you weren’t paying rent, it’s not like you weren’t also getting something from me, you

RAY didn’t have any money, and even now, he’s still helping me.
I can’t – I mean – I train all day, everyday. This is like a full-time job.
I do this, and then they pay me a little bit of money to lifeguard during like the senior citizen swim hours.

LYDIA He was paying your bills

RAY person’s gotta survive

LYDIA and I was giving you someplace to live

RAY yeah, I know, I was like between a rock and a hard place

LYDIA had a nice thing going, and you didn’t wanna give it up

RAY twisting my words.

LYDIA …

RAY …

LYDIA …

RAY … would you just look at the ring?

LYDIA … No.
RAY
... it's a really nice one.

LYDIA
...

RAY
expensive

LYDIA
... yeah.

RAY
cost me like
... 5,000 dollars

LYDIA
...

RAY
...

LYDIA
...

(RAY puts away the ring.)

RAY
I know you’re right I fucked up

but but but

like you were talking about

like those jobs you’re applying to where they won’t hire you because you were arrested, like where it’s totally not fair to have something you did just not go away, how people should give you a chance to do better because if you’re never given a chance to do better then nothing will ever get better

don’t you want things to get better?

(LYDIA nods)

I can’t undo what happened, but I can do better.
so...

... what if

... listen, what if – what if the judge knew that the lawyers fucked you over, what if

how – I would need

a statement – ?

yeah

from me. If I wrote up a – what do they call them – ?

affidavits – ?

what – ?

a statement

if I did one, wrote down everything

... about your brother – ?

told the courts that I overheard him tell the other lawyer things he wasn't supposed to say.
If I did that, you could uh you know appeal, and you could win for sure. You could get your sports therapy license back, you could get work — ya’ know until the movie thing happens, like you said it might take a long time and until then — you could clear your name, and you wouldn’t have to leave the country. Or you could, if you wanted, but either way, you’d have a clean record.

Come on. You don’t wanna leave. You have friends here. You like it here. You don’t wanna leave Fuzzman, you don’t. And you love being a sports therapist,

hanging out in gyms all day, giving dudes massages, it’s your favorite.

You get your license back, and I’ll talk to some people, I’ll get you a spot working with the Olympic swim team, yeah?

LYDIA

…

RAY

You miss me. You do. I know you do. I can tell. I can tell.

LYDIA

…

RAY

…

LYDIA

Your brother could lose his license you lost yours could get fired and so did you.
Fair’s fair, right – ?

… right

but

yeah – ?

one thing

what

if I do this, then – really important I win tomorrow, even more important than before, I need to – for us, and I need you to get me one more dose of the stuff.

… I

need it for tomorrow

Ray, I can’t – I don’t

just get it for me

where – ? how – ?

I know you have ways of getting the stuff.

really don’t. Ray, I really

can’t take no for an answer.

(AIR HORN)

(Exit LYDIA.)
Scene 4

(Just RAY and COACH.)

(RAY, cooling down.)

COACH
a bunch of members of the press. There’s some newspaper or web people, and some tv people

RAY
tv cameras – ?

COACH
a couple

RAY
oh

COACH
is that a problem – ?

RAY
no

COACH
just wanna take your picture, probably take our picture together, then take a couple more of just you

RAY
okay

COACH
they’ll wanna talk, ask you some questions

RAY
what kinds of questions?

COACH
Is there anyone you want to thank – ?

RAY
oh

COACH
How do you expect to do in the Olympics?
Uh, maybe something like, “you just broke the 100 meter breaststroke world record, do you think you’ll be able to top that time in July?”
okay

RAY

COACH

pretty easy questions for the most part

RAY

yeah

COACH

if you get stuck, I’ll be there, but I want you to really make an effort to field these questions on your own, okay?

RAY

okay

COACH
don’t be turning to me lookin for my approval or

RAY

yeah okay

COACH

be proud, be confident, I know you can do that. I’ve seen you do that

RAY

yeah

COACH

none of these one word answers like yeah or okay or

RAY

okay

COACH
don’t be shy, but also don’t be arrogant. Don’t be a jackass up there. Don’t do any trash talking. Don’t – you get what I’m talking about – ?

RAY

yeah I

COACH

so say they ask you, “Ray, how are you feeling right now?” What do you say – ?

RAY
good

no, you gotta

I don’t know

what do you – ?

I guess, “I’m feeling a lot of emotionality right now, lotta strong things inside me all,” I dunno

… okay, that’s a little better you can also just say that you’re grateful for the opportunity to represent your country at the upcoming summer Olympics. You can say that you’re excited to compete on the American team, and you’re a really big fan of the other team members, and it’s an honor

yeah I can do that

Don’t get into politics no one wants to hear about that at moments like this don’t talk about – what is it that you’re always going on about – ?

affirmative action – ?

don’t talk about that up there, okay?

okay

and lastly, no matter what, don’t chalk your success today up to luck

luck?

Don’t, you know say, I feel really lucky to be here, to make it on the Olympic
okay

COACH
it’s a shitty thing to say. This – what you’ve done – has nothing to do with luck. What you’ve done that’s about hard work and discipline, sacrifice. And to say you feel lucky is a slap in the face to the swimmers you bested, and it’s a slap in the face to you, and to me.

We worked hard to get here. … Wouldn’t you agree?

RAY … yeah.

COACH You believe that.

RAY … yeah.

COACH Do you think you could’ve done this on your own? Without... help?

RAY … uh

COACH do you, Ray – ? Did you need any help to get where you are – ?

RAY no

COACH no?

RAY I did it on my own

COACH you did

RAY I think so

COACH You sure?

RAY
… yeah(?).

so then
what am I doing here – ?

oh, you

had nothing at all to do with – ?

no yeah, sure, thought you meant like no yeah you’ve been a big part of

how.

What do you think I’ve done.

You coached me

gave me advice

yes and

and you watched me swim.
And you told me what you saw,
and when you saw something wrong, you told me.
And you would sometimes change my stroke, make sort of adjustments to

when I did that, sometimes you would say “no no no,
don’t make me change my stroke, that’s my – “
remember sayin that – ?

yeah

give me a real hard time
naw I just

and gee how’d that turn out for ya’

it improved

what

my stroke

your performance

yeah, that

an’ look where you are.

...

So you would agree that we’ve been a good team, you agree that I’ve been instrumental in

yeah, sure

I think so too.

Which is why I was surprised last night, when I get a call from Coach Reed – you know Coach Reed over at Atlas

not really

he knows you

heard his name
and certainly knows your brother – told me yesterday that he and Reed had been talkin, well, I figured sure Peter probably called Reed and asked around, tried to suss out interest – figured that much – didn’t think that your brother had told Reed that you wanted to leave us –

RAY

…

COACH

that you had problems with my coaching style, that you thought I was a little – word he used was “abusive” –

RAY

naw I

COACH

that you had problems with the changes I was making to your program and your strokes

RAY

I swear I

COACH

thought he should maybe give me a call and give me a heads up, out of courtesy, because coaches – we don’t poach, we don’t – that’s not our

RAY

wasn’t me, it was Peter, I didn’t

COACH

so what is a body to do?

RAY

…

COACH

Ray – ?

RAY

I dunno what that means

COACH

lemme tell you, I’ve seen it happen – happens a lot: some coach’ll be the one who works with an athlete for 7, 10, 15 years even, and that athlete will grow and develop under the coach, and they’ll form a real bond, and that coach’ll know that swimmer’s every instinct, every twitch, every muscle, and he’ll know the swimmer’s mind, his habits, his bad habits, his idiosyncratic – and eventually that swimmer becomes a star, and gets all these other folks wantin to work with him,
and so he leaves his coach of 7, 10, 15 years,
for another coach, at maybe a bigger, better funded club,
a coach with maybe a little more clout, a little more fame.
But then, the swimmer stops performing, his times drop,
and now he’s a huge disappointment.
Everyone’s disappointed with the – not the coach – the swimmer.
They say, oh, gee, that guy, he choked, got performance anxiety – bullshit.
New fancy coach didn’t know the swimmer.
Didn’t know how to work with him.
Didn’t know his body.

I’m not tryin to scare you.
I just want you to understand
the risk you’re about to take unless,
you go to your brother and say, “no.”
Tell him, “I wanna stay where I am.”
Tell him, “What Coach is doing is working.”
Why would you want to mess around with something that works?
Why take the risk?

RAY

…

COACH

not luck that got you here.

RAY

I know.

COACH

So, you’re going to tell your brother

RAY

I can try

COACH

wanna go to that Olympics with you – might be my last

RAY
can try, but my brother doesn’t always do what I ask him to

COACH

it’s your signature that’s going to sign on to Atlas, not Peter’s

RAY

I’m just sayin – he has a way of getting his way

COACH
tell him no, just don’t sign any
RAY don’t understand, it’s all a lot more complicated than

COACH complicated how – ?

(PETER enters.)

PETER …

COACH …

…

RAY …

PETER Coach.

COACH Peter.

PETER congratulations.

COACH … thanks

PETER must be proud.

COACH well he

PETER gave quite a

COACH yes

PETER mind if we – ?

COACH sure

PETER
just be a moment.

he’s supposed to

press – ?

yes

no, I know.

I’ll be back in about 5 minutes, better be ready, Ray

(COACH exits.)

…

…

What were you guys talking about – ?

Atlas

he

said Reed called him

he knows – ?

Reed told him

that’s it – ?

yeah but
’s fine don’t worry about

I just

hey

(PETER produces a Fed Ex envelope.)
catch

(Tosses it at RAY.)

(RAY catches it.)

What’s this – ?

gift

from

Speedo

(RAY opens the package.)

and from me – a gift from – a little pre-signing congratulations token

(Takes a Speedo from the envelope)

(holds it up)

(a dragon tail wraps around the surface of the suit)

awesome

I think it looks stupid – but I know you really

wanna get like 20 of these
yeah well they exist

change into this for my press conference  RAY

sure why not  PETER

… thanks, that’s  RAY

nice of you

you’re so nice, sometimes, yeah, you’re  PETER

…  RAY

… really appreciate  PETER

you okay – ?  RAY

I  PETER

what  RAY

I did something.  PETER

what did you – ?  RAY

I’m definitely getting the Speedo deal, right?  PETER

yep  RAY

and that’s gonna make us both of a lot of money  PETER

I hope so  RAY
like more money than you got working as a lawyer, right –?

maybe, if everything goes well

we’ll be okay

Yes.

and you’re

yeah –?

gonna leave your job

well

You don’t have to be a lawyer anymore.

No.

You don’t want to be a lawyer anymore.

not really but

what

probably going to gradually phase out my career as a lawyer

When?

don’t know, sooner than later.

But you don’t need it anymore, we’ve got the Speedo deal.
Why not quit now?

PETER

I will. I’ve got things to finish up

RAY

should quit as soon as possible

PETER

cases pending, I’d be leaving people in a pretty bad spot if I left now

RAY

but if you need to leave

PETER

why are you asking –?

RAY

I dunno.
No reason.

PETER

what

RAY

nothing

PETER

there’s something

RAY

no

PETER

there’s definitely something – tell me

RAY

you know how I said I was gonna get the drugs from that guy Jasper

PETER

Yeah?

RAY

yeah well he’s in jail, so I couldn’t go to him

PETER

… okay

RAY
so instead I went to Lydia

ah.

really didn’t have a choice, so you know

go on

and at first Lydia was really mad,
and she didn’t want to sell me the stuff.

Okay.

She was still really pissed off at me about well a whole bunch of things, but

got it

She wouldn’t take the money.
She wanted something else.

...  

wanted me to sign something. She wanted me to sign something that said you spoke with the other side, other lawyers, that you broke the court rules, and the lawyer rules by talking to the other side.

...  

She really had me up against a wall didn’t have a choice, I mean

so she’s

going to appeal,
and she’s going to tell your firm, and she’s going to tell the people who give out lawyer-licenses.

... PETER

... RAY

... PETER

Oh. RAY

... PETER

Well... RAY

... PETER

... RAY

... PETER

... RAY

what are you thinking? RAY

... PETER

what are you thinking, Pete? RAY

... PETER

… what are you –? RAY

For starters PETER

RAY
it will take the courts a long time to do anything about this.
These things, they take time

okay

secondly – you said she’s appealing this – ?

yeah

won’t do any good

why not

she broke the law

she said

yes, it’ll get her case reopened

but

it’s not as if the affidavit changes the the the merits of the

are you

sure – ?

yeah

Yeah. I’m sure.
And she probably already knows all of this,
probably just doing it to get me fired or disbarred

will it – ?

get me fired – ?
or disbarred – ?

…

it might, yes – I guess… yes. But that’s fine – that doesn’t – it’s fine. I’m moving on from all of that – we’re gonna, start this new thing, and it’s okay. It’s great.

you sure – ?

yeah

So you’re not…
you don’t feel like I

like you what – ?

I dunno

betrayed me? fucked me over? threw me under the train?

… yeah

… nah

…

… I think
PETER
it’s like how on airplanes, when you fly how they say if the plane is crashing they tell you if the plane crashes, you should put on your own oxygen mask first, and then help the person next to you, because if you don’t put on your own mask, you don’t save yourself, you die and then you’re useless to anybody else. Right?

RAY
okay

PETER
You did the only thing you could, and the only thing you should. When you go for what you want, when you think about yourself, when you do what’s best for you, everyone benefits

RAY
yeah I guess

PETER
if you hadn’t done it, would either of us have gotten what we wanted? Would you have won the race?

RAY
No.

PETER
Right. And then the Speedo deal wouldn’t have happened, and I’d be stuck at the firm for the foreseeable future, miserable. You – you’d be even worse, you’d have nothing

RAY
yeah

PETER
so

RAY
okay

PETER
…

RAY
…

PETER
... why don’t you go get yourself put together for the

okay

RAY

... Ray – ?

Ray – ?

RAY

yeah, I’ll

RAY

PETER

... you gotta get up, buddy...

... you gotta get up, buddy...

RAY

(PAY tries to stand, weakly.)

(He wobbles.)

(He doubles over.)

(He vomits a large amount of water – orange water.)

RAY

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

what was that – ?

what was that – ?

PETER

I’m okay

I’m okay

RAY

RAY

RAY

RAY

Ray don’t – Sit down. Sit.

Ray don’t – Sit down. Sit.

PETER

okay

okay

RAY
maybe you shouldn’t do that press thing

no

people don’t want to watch you throw up

do you think I need to go to the hospital?

…no.

you know how it feels when you have food poisoning

yeah

that’s how I feel right now

oh well, so you’ve had food poisoning and made it out fine, so you probably

(COACH enters.)

…

…

…

…

hey Coach

…

Ray’s gonna skip that little press conference, if you don’t mind.

…
…

…

… He okay – ?

yeah, he’s

Ray – ?

Ray – ?

yeah – ?

you okay, buddy – ?

I’m okay

…

…

cuz you’re layin face down on the ground

the ground feels good on my face

he looks sick

nope

get up, Ray

Coach – ?

… what.
leave im alone.

…

…

Ray, I want to see you stand

Ray, don’t stand.

… Ray – ?

don’t –

…

…

taking his pulse

Coach, I’m asking you kindly
to respect our

(COACH ignores PETER, takes RAY’s wrist.)

Don’t violate my client.

…

(groans)

We need a doctor
we don’t

he’s going to the hospital

Ray do you want to go to the hospital – ?

no

Ray, show Coach you’re fine

no

show Coach you can stand up

okay

Ray

(RAY stumbles to his feet.)

(He is wobbly.)

see – ?

see. He’s great

(RAY vomits more water.)

…

COACH

…

PETER

…
RAY
I wanna go to the hospital.

COACH
calling the ambulance

PETER
$5000

COACH
what – ?

PETER
$5000 just to walk away, leave us

COACH
he

PETER
doesn’t want to go to the hospital, he doesn’t want to see a doctor, you’re

COACH
bullshit

PETER
no

COACH
Ray did you take anything – ?

PETER
don’t answer

COACH
did you – ?

PETER
doesn’t have to answer the question

COACH
Jesus Peter, what if he’s really

PETER
no

he’s sick.
… $10,000. Walk away

he’s your brother

I’ll take care of him, $10,000

Ray, what did you take – ?

nothing

when I call 9-1-1
I need to tell them what you took, what did you

HCG

15,000, Coach, I’ll pay

HCG – ?

(taking out his wallet, taking out cash)
Look I have about 400 right here

HCG doesn’t do that to you

’s what I normally take

just take the money

been taking it for – year, two years

Ray, stop talking

where is it – ?
RAY
wha – ?

COACH
the stuff

PETER
there’s no stuff

RAY
my duffel bag

(COACH grabs the duffel bag before PETER can get his hands on it.)

PETER
don’t

(COACH opens the duffel bag.)
(He takes out a vial, looks it over.)

20,000 to walk away, don’t call the ambulance, no doctors, forget this ever happened …

COACH
…

PETER
…

…

RAY
…

…

COACH
…

RAY
…

(COACH is still starring at the vial.)

PETER
Coach?

COACH
(gestures to the vial)

…
you don’t know what this stuff is, do you

PETER
it’s

what

I mean I

The label says metronidazole—Ray, did you read the label before you — ?

yeah, I guess, I dunno

metronidazole is not HCG. It doesn’t make you swim fast

… oh –
what is it – ?

metronidazole?

dunno what that is

cat medicine.

…

I know.
My ex-wife had a lot of fucking cats.

…

you’re not gonna die, Ray

that’s good

just gonna feel really sick
okay

…

…

Coach – ?

…

What are you going to do – ?

Coach?

… Coach

… come on, a little, feedback here

…

PETER
cuz I mean what just happened I’ll tell you what just happened: somehow Ray ingested cat medicine. It upset his stomach. He had a panic attack. In the middle of this panic attack he started talking about HCG – what is that some sort of performance enhancing thing? I don’t know about these types of things. Nor does Ray. He was panicking at the time, speaking nonsense, you can’t put any weight on that, means nothing.

Okay and so you think you also heard him say that he’s taken HCG in the past, that this time it was just cat medicine, but in the past, all those other races, he did take drugs? You might even be thinking that those drugs that you found the other day were Ray’s. Sure that stuff you found, that definitely wasn’t cat medicine, but it also definitely – I assure you – definitely wasn’t Ray’s.

RAY

no it was mine
PETER
and there he goes, in a state of I-dunno-what – confusion,
overwhelmed by his life-changing win today – ?
winning is hard, it’s emotionally hard –
you understand, once Ray signs with Speedo,
he’s a corporate entity, he – saying shit about Ray
is tantamount to saying things about
uh, uh international corporation,
and you go and you start making accusations about him,
you hurt their company, you hurt their investment, you cost them money,
and then they’ll come after your ass, their people, their lawyers,
you think you have problems now, you, you’re worried about the club closing, losing your job?
What they’ll do to you is worse, a lot worse,
because
because you don’t actually have proof.
You don’t have test results.

You don’t have anything concrete.
So what, he said something there about having taken HCG. So what.
It’s all what you say versus what we say and you know what we’re gonna say.

… I suggest we should just go our way and you go your way,
and we don’t need to
have anything to do with one another

and the money’s yours, that money I offered that’s a real offer, $20,000, that’s a lot, and you
could put it back into the club, you could pay your employees, pay some bills, pay yourself I
don’t care what you do with it, it’s yours.

RAY
Coach, you should just get rid of me.
I’m no good – just – why don’t you

COACH
Ray

RAY
I fucked up, I did

COACH
are you trying to tell me what to do – ?

RAY
…

COACH
are you trying to tell me what to do –?

RAY
COACH sounded like you trying to tell me what to do. I’m kinda sick of people tryin to tell me how to run my

RAY

I

COACH ’s not your job and (to PETER)
not your job

RAY

I broke the rules

COACH I’m talking

RAY yes sir

COACH I think you’re tryin to pussy out of competing, I think you’re scared you’re gonna fail – and I don’t respect that, you understand – ?

RAY no I

COACH shut it – what I’m seein is someone who wants to do what he did x-number of years ago when he was this close to makin it, and then, when the heat got too hot ran into the goddamn desert disappointing every – makin an ass of himself, total embarrassment, cuz he got scared, cuz he wanted to go run back to mommy

RAY the drugs in the fridge were

COACH don’t you bullshit me – keep that up an’ I will get rid of you faster than

PETER absolutely right, Coach. I’m glad to see you taking a

COACH drugs were Tad’s drugs
PETER
yep, that’s exactly – listen to him

COACH
I flushed the drugs.
That’s the end of that.

We’re moving forward

RAY
but what about

COACH
you were tempted. I understand.
Today – and only today – you tried
to take something you shouldn’t take,
but you ended up not taking
what you thought you were taking,
and ended up taking nothing,
an’ as far I’m concerned you

RAY
meant to cheat

COACH
your performance out there – that was a result of the work we’ve done –
you and I – what we’ve been working on for years.
That was what that was. Okay?
And that’s why I’m not gonna take Peter’s deal.

Peter, I’m not gonna let you pay me off, just so you can move Ray to another club,
that’s not right, after everything I’ve invested into Ray and his – would hurt Ray’s performance –
in the hands of another Coach who doesn’t know him inside out he’ll lose. I’m not going to let
that happen.

PETER
...

COACH
So right now, you’re gonna promise me,
that Ray stays where he belongs,
stays with me, under my supervision and guidance,
and together we’ll take this to the Olympics,
make damn sure that Ray follows through and performs,
because I know that’s what you want
and that’s what I want,
and that’s, whether he understands it or not, that’s what Ray wants.

So do we have deal –?
RAY

no

COACH

sorry, I’m not talking to you, I’m talking to your representative.

RAY

not just some thing you

COACH

Peter manages you, not you

PETER

yes, Coach

COACH

‘yes’ what?

PETER

we have a

(AIR HORN)

(COACH exits.)

(RAY, still face on the ground.)

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER
Ray – ?
come on

(RAY rolls over.)

(AIR HORN)

PETER

…

RAY

…

(RAY gets up and leaves.)

(Now PETER is alone on stage.)

(Just standing there.)

(All by himself.)

(Thinking.)

(Contemplating.)

(Trying to figure out what to – )

(AIR HORN)

Scene 5

(RAY re-enters.)

(He’s wearing his new Speedo.)

(He’s eating from a bag of carrots.)

(There’s something ice cold, steely, unusually calm about RAY throughout the scene. In fact, he doesn’t look at PETER. Just stares out, stone-faced.)

PETER

…

RAY

…

PETER

…
I actually think this is the best case scenario

right – ?

I mean, you won, and you won on your own without

Not really

just a trick is all

what trick

Today—this morning I tricked myself without even knowing it. Thought I was taking stuff, and so then my body thought I was taking stuff, and made my body start producing you know testosterone – ?

Yep.
It was all psychotic.

psychosomatic
Yeah, that too

…

I never swam times like that, never

came close

nope – don’t know how I did what I did, except that somehow I psyched myself into it – and now I know I psyched myself, the problem is if you need to psych yourself how do you psych yourself if you know you’re psyching yourself – ?  
… an’ the answer is you can’t. And then when I can’t do it again in three weeks, everyone’s gonna start asking questions, an’ then

an’ then we’re all fucked

Just a matter of time

no

If I go to the association now I think I can make a deal with them

whoa

where they suspend me

hold on

the world anti-doping agency doesn’t get involved

you’re not
I’ll get them to agree to not investigate,
no more questions,
no hearings,
no one gets in trouble

PETER
no one will get in trouble. Anyone makes any accusations, I’ll

RAY
rather lose the money than get the money,
and then lose everything and have everyone in the world
see me lose everything – think that would be worse

PETER
just get you more of the stuff, get back on the stuff
so your times don’t change, and

RAY
you, an’ you and Coach, just a bunch of

PETER
what

RAY
think I’m—like I’m a thing, just out to

PETER
thinking about it too much

RAY
How can I not? How can I not think about it –
How can I not think about all sorts of things,
all sorts of things I know now that I didn’t know before,
things you can’t unthink.

PETER
...

RAY
...

PETER
...

(RAY turns to face PETER, looks him in the eye.)

RAY
you were gonna let me die
what – ?

back there, back then

…

when I was

I I was just

were gonna let me die, an’ pay Coach to help let me die.

… so you’re gonna go and turn yourself in and kill your career just to get back at me because I – what

weren’t gonna let me go to the hospital

you didn’t need to go to the hospital

maybe I did

no, you didn’t, you’re fine look at you

but you didn’t know that then

no, I

couldn’t know

no, I knew, I know you.
I know how you can get
RAY was sick

PETER panicking and you

RAY felt I was

PETER if we went to the hospital and they ran tests and found some sort of illegal substance in you, well, I mean, you would’ve definitely regretted that

RAY not if what it was
was killing me

PETER I was protecting you

RAY from

PETER the possibility that someone would find out something that would destroy your career

RAY and then you wouldn’t make any money off of me

PETER well Ray, I mean, let’s be honest: with that affidavit you did kinda put me in the position where your well-being and my well-being and my family’s well-being are inextricably – I mean, not that I’m complaining or anything – I agreed to go in on this

RAY so that makes maybe letting me die okay?
I don’t understand.

PETER ...

RAY is that what you’re trying to say – ? because

PETER look I don’t know why I’m getting all the blame here. I haven’t heard you mention the person who actually poisoned you.
That person seems to be getting off scot free

RAY

Lydia didn’t

PETER
go to her, you pay her money, money I gave you by the way, you make a deal with her
wherein she’s essentially getting me disbarred
in exchange for drugs
that are supposed to help you win a race,
and instead she gives you something
that makes you sick.

RAY

…

PETER
I mean, that’s fucked up, that’s a sociopath an’ here you are acting like I’m the bad guy

RAY

but she didn’t

PETER
give you those drugs – ?

RAY

never said she gave them to me.
I said
I got them from her.

RAY

what’s the

PETER
I took them

RAY

and she

PETER
told me that she didn’t have the drugs.
She told me that she gave up dealing that stuff.
I didn’t believe her, thought she was – I dunno –
just didn’t wanna get in any more trouble with the law,
and I understand that, and I didn’t want – but
things were going ‘okay’ between us, and talking was –
and the more we talked, the more it was like it was
before everything got bad,
and we just sat here,
and then I kissed her,
and then she just held me for awhile,
and that was nice, and I knew yeah
I really miss her, and I knew yeah
she really is like I remember her being,
and not at all some bitch you tried to make me think she was

I never

and I went back to her place

okay

and we

right

you know, we

got it

after she fell asleep, I went down to her refrigerator –
that’s where she normally keeps stuff,
and I saw some stuff that I thought was – and I took it

the cat medicine

it was in the same kind of sort of looking bottles they put the – so I

that’s

what happened

…
Lydia doesn’t want to hurt me.
She actually cares about me, unlike you
who was gonna leave me to die on the floor puking up my guts begging you to take me to a hospital

and she – and I’m happy,
and I’m thinking maybe she’d,
eventually you know, down the line

maybe kids,
a house,
a car,
a dog

an’ I dunno, we can just go
somewhere
far away from here,
and maybe I don’t need to be some Olympic swimmer,
and I’ll just get a job,
and it’ll probably be a shitty job,
and I’ll probably suck at it,
and I’ll probably get fired,
and I’ll just get another shitty job,
and I’ll just keep getting fired from shitty jobs,
and I won’t care about the fact that I suck at all those jobs,
because I don’t need to be that great, I don’t –
because Lydia likes me, and

you said –
you said you signed an affidavit in order to get the stuff

what – ? I said

it was the only way you

I thought

but she didn’t give you any drugs

I got

them because you more or less stole them
or stole what you thought was

RAY

but

PETER

so, I’m sorry,
I don’t understand
why you wrote up that affidavit.
You told me you had no choice but to –
but it doesn’t sound like –
Can you explain that to me?

And the money I lent you, what was that

RAY

outstanding expenses

PETER

not why I gave you the money.
So, I’m still confused.
Are you telling that you just killed my career as a lawyer
for – what

RAY

the situation was complicated

PETER

no, that doesn’t – did you just throw me under the train
so you could get back together with Lydia – ?

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

You have a debt, and you’re gonna pay that debt.
You owe me, I own you

RAY

you don’t

PETER

after all the money I’ve given you,
all the bills I’ve paid off,
protecting you, protecting your interests,
watching out for your career,
keeping you out of jail
am I making this up, am I misremembering – tell me, am I – ?

RAY

…

PETER
wasn’t easy to make that car accident look like it wasn’t your fault,
wasn’t easy to explain away what seemed to look like

RAY
wasn’t my fault

PETER
any judge with half a brain – wasn’t easy to keep manslaughter charges off the

RAY
gonna hold that over my head for the rest of

PETER
come to me, begging me, telling me you win, I win,
and I figure yeah, I’ve carried you for a long time now,
it’s about time that you, after all I’ve –
so I’m gonna make you follow through.
This is your burden, you carry it, and you better do a damn good job,
you better do everything in your power to – because if you don’t,
if you back out of this Speedo deal,
if you don’t perform at the Olympics,
or if you go to the association,
or if anyone finds out about your doping,
then I promise, within 24 hours, police will show up on Lydia’s doorstep,
and don’t you doubt I can’t find a way to make that happen,
don’t even try me, you better bet your ass, that – do you understand?

RAY

…

PETER
You don’t put my life on the line so you can fuck some cunt

don’t call her that

RAY

she’s a cunt, Ray, she’s
(He walks over to PETER.)

don’t like when I call her a cunt – ?

RAY

no

PETER

sorry but she’s a

(hits PETER in the stomach)

(PETER winces in pain)

(then readjusts)

alright then.

(pause)

(take a breath)

got that out of your system – ?

(RAY hits PETER again in the chest, harder)

RAY

did that hurt – ?

PETER

…. 

…

RAY

PETER

yeah

RAY

good

(punches PETER in the stomach)

(this one almost knocks PETER down.)

(PETER takes a moment to recover)

(then looks at RAY.)
(RAY stares back.)

(then)

(RAY goes in for another hit, PETER pushes him back...)

(RAY slips, falls, cracks his head on the tile)

(RAY’s bleeding.)

(PETER sees the blood.)

(PETER approaches RAY.)

(RAY lunges at PETER.)

(PETER flails and fails to defend himself.)

(RAY knocks PETER to the ground)

(RAY drags PETER to the edge of the pool)

(RAY dunks PETER's head under the water)

(for a count of 1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8...PETER is struggling, squirming around, tries to—)

(9)

(10)

(11)

(12)
(13)  
(PETER squirms again, but now the arms are starting to go limp)  
(14)  
(15)  
(16)  
(17)  
(18)  
(19)  
(RAY lets go.)  
(Drags PETER out of the water)  
(PETER gasps for air)  
(huge gasps of air, catching his breath)  
(catching)  
(catching his breath)  
(and catching his breath...)  
(PETER reaches out his arm)  
(reaches out his arm towards RAY)  
(hits RAY in the face.)  
(RAY hits back)  
(and PETER hits back)  
(and RAY hits back)  
(and PETER hits back, and again)  
(and RAY...)  
(And RAY hits PETER.)  
(…)
(…)

(…)

(and then...)

(PETER hits RAY.)

(…)

(…)

(RAY just stares at PETER)

(…)

(and RAY sorta kinda throws a sorta kinda punch that misses)

(…)

(PETER pushes RAY)

(and RAY just sits there)

(just sits there)

(RAY doesn’t—)

(RAY just pants)

(and PETER pants)

(and the two pant)

(and the two rest)

(and for a good long while they rest)

(and bleed)

(yeah, they’re bleeding a lot)

(and time passes)

(time passes)

(PETER weakly says)
I’m so sorry.

RAY

… I'm tired of winning.

PETER

I’m so sorry.

RAY

yeah

PETER

...

RAY

...

(and the Roy Orbison that started the play – that music fades up)

(and the music plays)

(and it gets louder and louder)

(and the music plays on)

(as RAY and PETER lie on the stage)

(totally, completely, absolutely exhausted)

(BLACKOUT.)

(END OF PLAY.)