

RED SPEEDO

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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
 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

nope

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

PETER

the cooler was found in the club refrigerator

COACH

and Ray saw him

PETER

I didn't

RAY

he heard

COACH

I heard from someone that the drugs were Tad's

RAY

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

PETER

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

COACH

for fear of

PETER

retaliation, someone might punch me in the

RAY

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

PETER

Tad is

COACH

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'

Peter COACH

yeah PETER

are you done. COACH

... yes PETER

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

moral PETER

yes COACH

how is it PETER

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

that’s not gonna PETER

I’m optimistic COACH

you can’t PETER

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

so you already PETER

if Tad decides to do the right COACH

has no reason to PETER

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

how’s the club doing? PETER

Excuse me – ? COACH

under your leadership PETER

questioning my – ? COACH

is the club doing well? PETER

The club is fine COACH

I mean PETER

talking about COACH

financially PETER

we're open COACH

and the closings PETER

sure we've had COACH

looks like you're struggling PETER

who hasn't COACH

some do and some PETER

a lot of COACH

cutbacks PETER

it's expensive COACH

PETER

I know

COACH

what we do

PETER

what I'm saying is

COACH

you don't know

PETER

I know that you're in trouble, and

COACH

what you know is that if

PETER

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

COACH

so

PETER

I'm

COACH

saying that

PETER

I've talked to several

COACH

have you

PETER

other coaches

COACH

who

PETER

expressed an interest in working with Ray, especially Atlas

well now hold on
COACH

Atlas offered
PETER

does Ray want that – ?
COACH

I'm just saying
PETER

Ray, what do you – ?
COACH

(to RAY)
don't need to answer the question
PETER

(to RAY)
are you unhappy with – ?
COACH

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

never expressed any
COACH

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

real shitty move
COACH

detrimental to his
PETER

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
COACH

concerns
PETER

more like
COACH

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
 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 PETER
 COACH

I understand, I'll do what I need to do.

PETER

Okay.

Which is what – ?

What is that – ?

RAY

I have an idea

PETER

you're going to flush the drugs

COACH

only if Tad comes forward

PETER

regardless of whether or not

RAY

I have an idea

PETER

in the interest of

RAY

Hey, I have

PETER

what – ?

RAY

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

PETER

what – no

RAY

didn't even let me

PETER

go ahead

RAY

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

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

PETER

they're interested

RAY

are they going to – ?

PETER

said it was a little unusual to sign someone this early

RAY

oh

PETER

I said

RAY

yeah –?

PETER

“well that’s the point isn’t it?”

RAY

yeah, I mean

PETER

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

RAY

Nike would be good too, if we had to – not that we

PETER

told them “you wanna get in on it before there’s a bidding war”

RAY

you said – ?

PETER

to the Speedo people

RAY

did you talk to Nike – ?

PETER

no

RAY

but

I acted like I – I implied, so that

PETER

oh

RAY

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

PETER

yeah just do it

RAY

pull the trigger

PETER

why not

RAY

yep

PETER

cool.
so...

RAY

So. They said yes.

PETER

yes

RAY

you're signed

PETER

I

RAY

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

PETER

okay

RAY

PETER

but you're – you know

RAY

yeah

PETER

it's

RAY

cool

PETER

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

RAY

and what about

PETER

as for money

RAY

did you – ?

PETER

it's a lot of money

RAY

like

PETER

I can't say how much

RAY

oh

PETER

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

RAY

that's okay

PETER

gonna be a lot of money

RAY

hey, did you

PETER

I mean

yeah

RAY

PETER

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 – ?

RAY

PETER

what

RAY

tell them about my idea

PETER

who

RAY

Speedo

PETER

what idea – ?

RAY

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

PETER

right, *that*

RAY

comes around like this and up through

PETER

deal with that stuff later

RAY

think people would buy it

PETER

sure

RAY

it's unique

PETER

yep, probably, uh-huh

can call it the “Ray Gun”

RAY

I don’t

PETER

or the “Ray-dar”

RAY

put it on the to-do list

PETER

okay.

RAY

This deal is very good, you

PETER

yeah

RAY

for you

PETER

yeah

RAY

and even for me, for us

PETER

that’s good

RAY

and I’m happy to help out however

PETER

sure

RAY

PETER

start working with you, and then maybe take on one or two of the others – swimmers I mean – other guys or girls on the Olympic team, I’m sure there’s one or two who’d be interested in – help handle their contracts, establish myself as – and who knows, when it’s all done – establish a reputation, and take on more clients, bigger clients – I mean you’re my star, my priority, don’t – but I mean – and I could make the move into athlete management

RAY

...

leave the firm
PETER

you'd like that
RAY

well
PETER

you hate being a lawyer
RAY

no
PETER

you hate it
RAY

just don't like the partners there, and
PETER

wanting to leave
RAY

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

yeah...
RAY

... What's wrong?
PETER

Nothing.
RAY

Are you weirded out by the whole representation thing?
PETER

What.
RAY

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

sure
RAY

PETER
mean we never really talked about it. Now's the first it's

RAY
sure

PETER
never called myself your representative until back there with Coach.

RAY
...

PETER
So. I'm not overstepping am I?

RAY
nah

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

RAY
thanks

PETER
takes a lot of time

RAY
sorry

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

RAY
okay

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

RAY
okay

PETER
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

RAY

okay

PETER

tell me if it's not

RAY

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

PETER

good

RAY

wanna baby carrot – ?

PETER

no

RAY

okay

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

so, what is it then – ?
what's the

RAY

what – ?

PETER

matter, something's

RAY

nothing's

PETER

something

RAY

wrong?

PETER

yeah.

... no, I'm
RAY

thinking – ?
PETER

what if
RAY

yeah – ?
PETER

... I don't qualify tomorrow.
RAY

of course you'll
PETER

but, what
RAY

no
PETER

if I don't I'm
RAY

then
PETER

nothing happens. Right?
RAY

well. The deal with Speedo is contingent on
PETER

me winning
RAY

but you're going to
PETER

sure
RAY

your times haven't dipped
PETER

no, I know
RAY

then I don't see
PETER

but if they did
RAY

psych yourself out
PETER

I'm not
RAY

Don't
PETER

I'm
RAY

gonna psych yourself out
PETER

thinking is all, just
RAY

next thing I know
PETER

gonna just
RAY

go off to the desert
PETER

nah
RAY

for two, three years, and
PETER

just having
RAY

a panic attack
PETER

RAY

no

PETER

have a tendency to

RAY

no

PETER

that's

RAY

not what

PETER

's all in your head

RAY

Those drugs were my drugs.

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

The drugs

PETER

what

RAY

that Coach found

PETER

Yeah?

RAY

... The drugs you told him to flush?

PETER

Yeah.

RAY

Those were my mine

...

PETER

and I kinda need them

RAY

need

PETER

yes

RAY

how – ?

PETER

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

RAY

...

PETER

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

RAY

yeah

PETER

and you said

RAY

yeah

PETER

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

RAY

Those were your drugs.

PETER

Yes.

RAY

All of them.

PETER

Yes

RAY

those were a lot of

PETER

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

RAY

what about Tad – ?

PETER

Tad – ?

RAY

all of that about Tad was

PETER

a lie.

RAY

right.

PETER

had no choice, it was him or me, and

RAY

well

PETER

but it's okay

RAY

how

PETER

you said there's no proof

RAY

so

PETER

he won't really get in trouble

RAY

and

PETER

yeah – ?

RAY

this PETER

what RAY

... is this a new thing? PETER

the RAY

drugs, taking them, doping – is it – ? PETER

No. RAY

... How “not new” is this? PETER

... I dunno.
Like more than a year “not new.” RAY

huh PETER

Are you upset at me? RAY

... PETER

I think you’re upset RAY

no, it’s just that – okay – I mean... PETER

... RAY

I doubt you really need the stuff PETER

no RAY

PETER

you think you

RAY

definitely need the stuff

PETER

doesn't make that big a difference

RAY

definitely makes a

PETER

so much goes into your performance

RAY

nope

PETER

beyond

RAY

nope

PETER

what about your, you know, *skills*

RAY

I have skills

PETER

yeah, so

RAY

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

PETER

right, so

RAY

I definitely need the stuff.

I know this.

Really. I do.

I mean, this is like whatdoyacallit – science

PETER

You don't know anything about science.

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

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

PETER

sure why not

RAY

when they had to make all those cutbacks here

PETER

yeah

RAY

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

PETER

Lydia right okay

RAY

she's like "you know, it's out of your control,
it's science, you know"

PETER

yeah but she was

RAY

you didn't like her

PETER

all those sports therapists are

RAY

I didn't believe her either

PETER

bad news

RAY

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

PETER

yes

RAY

and you know how Thanksgiving is all turkey themed and stuff

PETER

yes

RAY

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?

PETER

No.

RAY

You know turkeys?

PETER
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

PETER
Yeah

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.

PETER
okay

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

PETER

you don't

RAY

rules say

PETER

I know

RAY

yeah – ? well what are they – ?

PETER

...

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

PETER

and

RAY

the number two rule is because they make it unfair

PETER

right

RAY

but in my case, they make it fair

PETER

no

RAY

we have science evidence for that

PETER

you're kinda

RAY

wrong?

PETER

yes

RAY

No.
Think about it

PETER

I am

RAY

not so different from, what's-it-called with colleges and black people

what? PETER

you know RAY

affirmative action? PETER

yeah, it's just like RAY

nothing like affirmative action PETER

how is what I'm doing not like affirmative action RAY

what do you think affirmative action is PETER

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

no, that's PETER

not what it is – ? RAY

no PETER

so what is it – ? RAY

I don't even know where to begin, it's so PETER

not answering the question because you can't RAY

one is about race, the other is about physical limitations, there's no PETER

RAY

exactly the same thing

PETER

it's really not

RAY

isn't being black just physical?

PETER

Ray.

RAY

in Buddhism they say

PETER

Stop.

RAY

Okay.

PETER

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

RAY

... *I'm not*

PETER

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

RAY

I haven't

PETER

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

RAY

kitchen, everybody uses it, not just coach

PETER

doesn't make it better.

RAY

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

PETER

That was stupid.

RAY

I know

PETER

and that's exactly how you're going to get caught.
But you don't have to be stupid about this, you don't have to

RAY

That's why I need your help.

PETER

...

RAY

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

PETER

...

RAY

You said you were my representative, so help me

PETER

what is it that you need me to do

RAY

5,000 dollars

PETER

you mean you need me to give you 5,000

RAY

yeah

PETER

for drugs

RAY

yeah

PETER

no way
the drugs cost that much

yeah

RAY

you're crazy

PETER

it's late, it's really last minute,
it's probably going to cost more than usual

RAY

but 5,000

PETER

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

RAY

you know this

PETER

no yeah I just got off the phone with

RAY

I really

PETER

what – ?

RAY

really don't like that Lydia is involved with this

PETER

but she's

RAY

don't trust her, don't see why she would want to help you

PETER

you're the one she hates

RAY

you're the one she dumped

PETER

we were gonna get married

RAY

PETER

you're delusional

RAY

but then you screwed her over

PETER

I did nothing

RAY

made her lose her license, and her job

PETER

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

RAY

you knew stuff about her case

PETER

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

RAY

and you told the oppositional lawyer stuff about her.

PETER

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

RAY

I heard you, I heard it happen, you said

PETER

She was going to lose regardless.

RAY

I know but

PETER

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

RAY

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

PETER

you're being melodramatic

not

RAY

PETER

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

RAY

... 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

PETER

what guy?

RAY

His name is Jasper.

PETER

and who is he?

RAY

you know, just some guy

PETER

the guy who's jacking up the prices last minute

RAY

why're you asking all of these questions?

PETER

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

RAY

not illegal, technically

PETER

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.

RAY

...

PETER

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

LYDIA

yeah well

RAY

really

LYDIA

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

RAY

yeah

LYDIA

bet that pays even more money than movies

RAY

yeah

LYDIA

Why?

RAY

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

LYDIA

no I mean

RAY

what – ?

LYDIA

why did you call me here?

RAY

I just

LYDIA

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

RAY

nothing

LYDIA

no I know you want something

really I
RAY

don't buy it
LYDIA

I missed you
RAY

missed, uh-huh, you
LYDIA

missed you.
I miss you Lydia
RAY

all of a sudden – ?
LYDIA

no, I
RAY

never called
LYDIA

you dumped me
RAY

you weren't curious how I was doing?
LYDIA

told me to never call you.
RAY

And I see you got a new tattoo
LYDIA

it's a sea serpent
RAY

(He shows her.)

You like it?
LYDIA

It's... big
RAY

his tail even comes around

yeah
 LYDIA
 and up through
 RAY
 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

RAY

all the time

LYDIA

okay

RAY

like 15 times a day

LYDIA

you jerk off 15 times a day – ?

RAY

yeah

LYDIA

you

RAY

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

LYDIA

Ray.

RAY

yeah – ?

LYDIA

you know what that is, right – ?

RAY

love – ?

LYDIA

... no

RAY

yeah, I think it's

LYDIA

wait hold on how much *are* you taking – ?

RAY

wha – ?

LYDIA

the stuff

dunno what you mean
RAY

the HCG
LYDIA

I dunno
RAY

you're taking more, aren't you
LYDIA

not really
RAY

like, *a lot* more
LYDIA

a little more
RAY

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

I have a high tolerance for pain
RAY

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

no, I know that's not
RAY

hope you're being careful, hope you're
LYDIA

I'm careful
RAY

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

I know
RAY

LYDIA

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

RAY

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

LYDIA

I don't have any.

RAY

Any what?

LYDIA

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

RAY

oh

LYDIA

nothing, so if that's

RAY

no no it wasn't

LYDIA

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

RAY

Colonel Fuzzman – ?

LYDIA

yeah

RAY

oh how's he doing – ?

LYDIA

he's sick

RAY

oh yeah

LYDIA

so yeah

RAY

...

LYDIA

...

RAY

...

LYDIA

...

RAY

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.

LYDIA

Uh-huh.

RAY

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.)

RAY

I think we should

LYDIA

don't

RAY

what

LYDIA

say it

RAY

marriage?

LYDIA

I can't.

RAY

Why not?

LYDIA

I'm leaving.

RAY

What?

LYDIA

The country.

RAY

This one?

LYDIA

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

RAY

no

LYDIA

okay then I'll find someone else

RAY

no I mean you can't leave.

LYDIA

I can't stay.

RAY

Then let me come with you.

LYDIA

I don't want that.

You said – you said I wasn't serious

RAY

yes

LYDIA

you said I'm not committed

RAY

right

LYDIA

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.

Ray

LYDIA

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

I mean I might have –

RAY

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

LYDIA

no

RAY

yeah

LYDIA

RAY
 naw that doesn't make any sense

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

RAY
 but I mean

LYDIA
 what – ?

RAY
 you did was sorta illegal

LYDIA
 is that what you really think – ?

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

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

RAY
 But you barely knew the woman, and and

LYDIA
 and what

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

LYDIA
 I don't get the stuff for free

RAY
 you charged her for *more* than it cost you

LYDIA
 not much

RAY
 marked it up

LYDIA
 I have to make a living too I'm taking a risk by

RAY

I wouldn't have charged her.

LYDIA

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

RAY

kinda

LYDIA

no

RAY

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

LYDIA

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?

RAY

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

LYDIA

So?

RAY

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

living with me

LYDIA

so

RAY

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.

LYDIA

...

RAY

so...

... what if

LYDIA

...

RAY

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

LYDIA

how – I would need

RAY

a statement – ?

LYDIA

yeah

RAY

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

LYDIA

affidavits – ?

RAY

what – ?

LYDIA

a statement

RAY

if I did one, wrote down everything

LYDIA

... about your brother – ?

RAY

told the courts that I overheard him tell the other lawyer things he wasn't supposed to say.

LYDIA

...

RAY

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

RAY

you lost yours

LYDIA

could get fired

RAY

and so did you.

Fair's fair, right – ?

LYDIA

... right

RAY

but

LYDIA

yeah – ?

RAY

one thing

LYDIA

what

RAY

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.

LYDIA

... I

RAY

need it for tomorrow

LYDIA

Ray, I can't – I don't

RAY

just get it for me

LYDIA

where – ? how – ?

RAY

I know you have ways of getting the stuff.

LYDIA

really don't. Ray, I really

RAY

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

pretty easy questions for the most part
COACH

yeah
RAY

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?
COACH

okay
RAY

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

yeah okay
RAY

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

yeah
RAY

none of these one word answers like yeah or okay or
COACH

okay
RAY

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 – ?
COACH

yeah I
RAY

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

RAY

good

COACH

no, you gotta

RAY

I don't know

COACH

what do you – ?

RAY

I guess, "I'm feeling a lot of emotionality right now, lotta strong things inside me all," I dunno

COACH

... 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

RAY

yeah I can do that

COACH

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 – ?

RAY

affirmative action – ?

COACH

don't talk about that up there, okay?

RAY

okay

COACH

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

RAY

luck?

COACH

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

okay

RAY

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(?).

COACH

so then
what am I doing here – ?

RAY

oh, you

COACH

had nothing at all to do with – ?

RAY

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

COACH

how.

What do you think I've done.

RAY

You coached me

COACH

what does that – ?

RAY

gave me advice

COACH

yes and

RAY

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

COACH

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

RAY

yeah

COACH

give me a real hard time

naw I just

RAY

and gee how'd that turn out for ya'

COACH

it improved

RAY

what

COACH

my stroke

RAY

your performance

COACH

yeah, that

RAY

an' look where you are.

COACH

...

RAY

COACH

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

RAY

yeah, sure

COACH

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

RAY

not really

COACH

he knows you

RAY

heard his name

COACH

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.

COACH

he's supposed to

PETER

press – ?

COACH

yes

PETER

no, I know.

COACH

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

(COACH exits.)

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

What were you guys talking about – ?

RAY

Atlas

PETER

he

RAY

said Reed called him

PETER

he knows – ?

RAY

Reed told him

PETER

that's it – ?

RAY

yeah but

's fine don't worry about

PETER

I just

RAY

hey

PETER

(PETER produces a Fed Ex envelope.)

catch

(Tosses it at RAY.)

(RAY catches it.)

What's this – ?

RAY

gift

PETER

from

RAY

Speedo

PETER

(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

RAY

I think it looks stupid – but I know you really

PETER

wanna get like 20 of these

RAY

PETER

yeah well they exist

RAY

change into this for my press conference

PETER

sure why not

RAY

... thanks, that's
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 – ?

PETER

maybe, if everything goes well

RAY

we'll be okay

PETER

Yes.

RAY

and you're

PETER

yeah – ?

RAY

gonna leave your job

PETER

well

RAY

You don't have to be a lawyer anymore.

PETER

No.

RAY

You don't want to be a lawyer anymore.

PETER

not really but

RAY

what

PETER

probably going to gradually phase out my career as a lawyer

RAY

When?

PETER

don't know, sooner than later.

RAY

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

PETER

ah.

RAY

really didn't have a choice, so you know

PETER

go on

RAY

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

PETER

Okay.

RAY

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

PETER

got it

RAY

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

PETER

...

RAY

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.

PETER

...

RAY

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

PETER

so she's

RAY

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?

PETER

...

RAY

what are you thinking, Pete?

PETER

...

RAY

... what are you – ?

PETER

For starters

RAY

...

PETER

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

RAY

okay

PETER

secondly – you said she’s appealing this – ?

RAY

yeah

PETER

won’t do any good

RAY

why not

PETER

she broke the law

RAY

she said

PETER

yes, it’ll get her case reopened

RAY

but

PETER

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

RAY

are you

PETER

sure – ?

RAY

yeah

PETER

Yeah. I’m sure.
And she probably already knows all of this,

probably just doing it to get me fired or disbarred

RAY

will it – ?

PETER

get me fired – ?
or disbarred – ?

RAY

...

PETER

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.

RAY

you sure – ?

PETER

yeah

RAY

So you're not...
you don't feel like I

PETER

like you what – ?

RAY

I dunno

PETER

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

RAY

... yeah

PETER

... nah

RAY

...

PETER

... I think

RAY

...

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

RAY

okay

PETER

... Ray – ?

RAY

yeah, I'll

PETER

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

(RAY tries to stand, weakly.)

(He wobbles.)

(He doubles over.)

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

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

what was that – ?

RAY

I'm okay

PETER

Ray don't – Sit down. Sit.

RAY

okay

maybe you shouldn't do that press thing

PETER

no

RAY

people don't want to watch you throw up

PETER

do you think I need to go to the hospital?

RAY

...no.

PETER

you know how it feels when you have food poisoning

RAY

yeah

PETER

that's how I feel right now

RAY

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

PETER

(COACH enters.)

COACH

...

PETER

...

RAY

...

PETER

hey Coach

PETER

COACH

...

PETER

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

PETER

COACH

...

RAY

...

COACH

... He okay - ?

PETER

yeah, he's

COACH

Ray - ?

RAY

yeah - ?

COACH

you okay, buddy - ?

RAY

I'm okay

COACH

...

RAY

...

COACH

cuz you're layin face down on the ground

RAY

the ground feels good on my face

COACH

he looks sick

PETER

nope

COACH

get up, Ray

PETER

Coach - ?

COACH

... what.

leave im alone.	PETER
...	COACH
...	PETER
Ray, I want to see you stand	COACH
Ray, don't stand.	PETER
... Ray – ?	COACH
don't –	PETER
...	COACH
...	RAY
taking his pulse	COACH
Coach, I'm asking you kindly to respect our	PETER
(COACH ignores PETER, takes RAY's wrist.)	
Don't violate my client.	PETER
...	COACH
(groans)	RAY
We need a doctor	COACH

we don't PETER

he's going to the hospital COACH

Ray do you want to go to the hospital – ? PETER

no RAY

Ray, show Coach you're fine PETER

no COACH

show Coach you can stand up PETER

okay RAY

Ray COACH

(RAY stumbles to his feet.)

(He is wobbly.)

see – ? RAY

see. He's great PETER

(RAY vomits more water.)

RAY

...

COACH

...

PETER

...

I wanna go to the hospital. RAY

calling the ambulance COACH

\$5000 PETER

what – ? COACH

\$5000 just to walk away, leave us PETER

he COACH

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

bullshit COACH

no PETER

Ray did you take anything – ? COACH

don't answer PETER

did you – ? COACH

doesn't have to answer the question PETER

Jesus Peter, what if he's really COACH

no PETER

he's *sick*. COACH

PETER

... \$10,000. Walk away

COACH

he's your brother

PETER

I'll take care of him, \$10,000

COACH

Ray, what did you take – ?

RAY

nothing

COACH

when I call 9-1-1

I need to tell them what you took, what did you

RAY

HCG

PETER

15,000, Coach, I'll pay

COACH

HCG – ?

PETER

(taking out his wallet, taking out cash)

Look I have about 400 right here

COACH

HCG doesn't do that to you

RAY

's what I normally take

PETER

just take the money

RAY

been taking it for – year, two years

PETER

Ray, stop talking

COACH

where is it – ?

wha – ?
RAY

the stuff
COACH

there's no stuff
PETER

my duffel bag
RAY

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

don't
PETER

(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.)

Coach?
PETER

...
COACH
(gestures to the vial)

...
you don't know what this stuff is, do you

PETER

it's

COACH

what

PETER

I mean I

COACH

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

RAY

yeah, I guess, I dunno

COACH

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

RAY

... oh —
what is it — ?

COACH

metronidazole?

RAY

dunno what that is

COACH

cat medicine.

RAY

...

COACH

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

RAY

...

COACH

you're not gonna die, Ray

RAY

that's good

COACH

just gonna feel really sick

okay

RAY

...

PETER

...

COACH

...

PETER

Coach – ?

COACH

...

PETER

What are you going to do – ?

PETER

Coach?

... Coach

... come on, a little,
feedback here

COACH

...

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

no

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 – ?

no

RAY

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 – ?
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

...

RAY

...

PETER

I actually think this is the best case scenario

RAY

...

PETER

right – ?

RAY

...

PETER

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

RAY

Not really

PETER

...

RAY

just a trick is all

PETER

what trick

RAY

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

PETER

testosterone – ?

RAY

Yep.
It was all psychotic.

PETER

psychosomatic

RAY

Yeah, that too

PETER

...

RAY

I never swam times like that, never

PETER

came close

RAY

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

PETER

no

RAY

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

PETER

whoa

RAY

where they suspend me

PETER

hold on

RAY

the world anti-doping agency doesn't get involved

PETER

you're not

RAY

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 – ?

PETER

back there, back then

RAY

...

PETER

when I was

RAY

I I was just

PETER

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

RAY

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

PETER

weren't gonna let me go to the hospital

RAY

you didn't need to go to the hospital

PETER

maybe I did

RAY

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

PETER

but you didn't know that then

RAY

no, I

PETER

couldn't know

RAY

no, I knew,
I *know* you.
I know how you can get

PETER

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.

PETER

what's the

RAY

I took them

PETER

and she

RAY

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

PETER

I never

RAY

and I went back to her place

PETER

okay

RAY

and we

PETER

right

RAY

you know, we

PETER

got it

RAY

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

PETER

the cat medicine

RAY

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

PETER

that's

RAY

what happened

PETER

...

RAY

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

PETER

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

RAY

what – ? I said

PETER

it was the only way you

RAY

I thought

PETER

but she didn't give you any drugs

RAY

I got

PETER

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

RAY

don't call her that

PETER

she's a cunt, Ray, she's

(He walks over to PETER.)

don't like when I call her a cunt – ?

no
RAY

sorry but she's a
PETER

(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)

did that hurt – ?
RAY

....
PETER

...
RAY

yeah
PETER

good
RAY

(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)

(14)

(15)

(16)

(17)

(PETER squirms again, but now the arms are starting to go limp)

(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)

