

Medicaid Care Experience Simulation Project

"Lee"

Written by

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&

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EPISODE 1

INT. DARK REPURPOSED GARAGE - DAY

The garage is half setup for storage while the other half acts as a small make-shift apartment. Daylight faintly shines in from below the garage and house door. A single lamp spills warm light onto the rest of the space, not quite reaching into the dark corners.

Boxes take up half the space, blocking part of the garage door. Some are labeled "kitchen" or "kid's toys" - many are open and half empty - while others say, "dad's things". Along one wall is a half-made bed and beside it a small dresser. Atop the dresser sits a small radio and pictures, some of LEE 80's with a woman and others of only her.

Lee sits on the edge of the bed, his face and neck damp with sweat. With a grunt he reaches down into a drawer pulling out a shirt. He winces as he slowly maneuvers into the shirt and is breathing heavily when he finally stands fully dressed. He regards the photos for a moment before forcing open the top drawer. The drawer is disorganized, a Blood Glucose Monitor and testing strips are pushed to one side while several bottles of medication lay scattered beside it.

Lee lifts a bottle attempting to read the label. After repeating the action with several others, he sighs in frustration and shuts the drawer without taking anything.

He shuffles over to an armchair. With a heavy sigh he sinks into the chair, immediately reaching and downing the small glass of water beside him. By now, he is covered in a thin sheen of sweat, the edges of his hair stick to his temples and neck. He closes his eyes, savoring the little breeze from the small fan that sits across from him.

His attention shifts to a small blaring tv playing a family therapy show. The show host addresses a family that is struggling with an adopted child.

Lee shifts uncomfortably and reaches for the glass again. It's halfway to his mouth before he realizes that it's empty. His eyes shift to the door as if he is going to call out, but he hesitates and sits the glass down. He returns to blankly watching the tv.

After a while JAMES, 30's, dressed in business attire, enters washing the room in bright light. He leaves the door open as he juggles a large plate of dim sum and a couple of cups. He pauses at the doorway.

JAMES

Dad, I could have helped you get dressed.

LEE

Can't leave you all the fun.

James rolls his eyes at Lee's joke and walks over to the tv.

JAMES

(re: volume)

Need me to turn it down?

Lee tilts his head a bit confused. James sighs and lowers it. He takes the place beside Lee handing him chopsticks and balancing the plate between them on the arm of his chair. Lee's eyes light up as the different dishes steam up at him. James' quickly becomes distracted by his phone. They eat.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Have you thought about it - us bringing someone in for you?

Lee pauses between bites and frowns.

LEE

Don't need anything like that.

James looks exasperated but seems to carefully speak.

JAMES

Might be helpful. I've been really busy, and Heather's got the kids -

LEE

I'm fine - waste of money.

JAMES

We got enough back from your place-

LEE

Use it for the house.

JAMES

Things should be covered - We just want to get you setup inside ASAP-

HEATHER, 30's enters. She stands awkwardly in the doorway.

HEATHER

Good morning.

JAMES

Morning Hun.

LEE

Good morning.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Like what we've done with the
place?

Heather looks around and nods unconvincingly.

HEATHER
It's looking great.

Lee nods before turning back to the tv. Heather eyes James.
James gets the cue and rises patting Lee on the shoulder.

JAMES
You want to keep watching in the
living room?

Lee glances at Heather who avoids eye contact. He shakes his
head to answer James and turns back to the tv. James is
oblivious to the awkward exchange as he gathers the dishes
and follows Heather inside. They leave the door cracked.

HEATHER (O.S.)
Talk to the contractor?

JAMES (O.S.)
The estimate's more than we
discussed.

HEATHER (O.S.)
Seriously? You need to talk them
down.

Lee's eyes flick to the door.

JAMES (O.S.)
They found the mold so they have to
remove it. Just hope it's not a
huge knock to the budget.

HEATHER (O.S.)
The kids are constantly bickering -
sharing a room...

There is silence before Heather speaks again a bit quieter.

HEATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Did you ask him about moving into a
home again?

Lee freezes at her words. Fear flashes across his flushed
face as he straightens in his chair.

HEATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
If he's there we don't have to rush
the reno - might be able to save-

JAMES (O.S.)
We'll figure it out.

HEATHER
You mean me figure it out?

Lee leans towards the door. On the TV the host discusses how the adopted child feels like a burden.

HEATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You can figure out his appointment
tomorrow.

JAMES (O.S.)
I can't leave work early again.

HEATHER (O.S.)
(Heated)
You want to figure out kids pick-
up, homework, dinner? I'd love to
on time for my class, for once. I
am NOT going to figure this shit
out.

JAMES (O.S.)
(Heated)
I'll handle it then, okay.

The sound of keys and a door slamming reaches Lee. After several moments he relaxes back into his seat, but his eyes don't leave the door.

SCENE 2 - INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

LEE and JAMES enter a well manicured doctor's office. The waiting room is full, but there are a few open seats. JAMES is talking on his phone with work. LEE waits for the receptionist to notice them.

RECEPTIONIST
How can I help you?

LEE looks to JAMES expectantly.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Sir? Checking in?

JAMES

(On the phone)

The timeline is non-negotiable. No -
no that won't work -

He covers the microphone with his hand.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Dad.

JAMES takes a seat in the waiting room continuing his
conversation. LEE steps up to the desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Hi, do you have an appointment?

LEE

Yes. 3:00. Dr. Burnham.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Chen?

LEE smiles and nods.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Fill these out for me. Confirm date
of birth, medication list, double
check all your contact information,
(Flipping the form over)
And here's a list of symptoms.
Circle everything that applies.

LEE

Oh I don't need that big list.

RECEPTIONIST

But Dr. Burnham does.

The RECEPTIONIST half shoves the clipboard into LEE's hands
then ignores him, going back to the computer. LEE turns and
finds his son. HE sits down and waits for help with the form.

JAMES

Yes. Yes okay. Right. Bye.

JAMES hangs up.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Okay, what do they need?

He takes the form and starts filling it out hastily. LEE
looks around the waiting room and spots a bathroom. As he's
getting up:

JAMES (CONT'D)
Dad, what meds are you on?

LEE
Same.

JAMES
Did you bring a list?

LEE shakes his head. JAMES sighs, frustrated, then his phone rings very loudly. Other patients look up annoyed. LEE is startled by the sound and gets shortness of breath. He leans on a wall, trying to discreetly calm himself.

JAMES (CONT'D)
This is James.

A NURSE enters.

NURSE
Mr. Chen?

JAMES looks around for LEE.

JAMES
(Away from the phone mic)
Dad, let's go.

SCENE 3 - INT. DR. BURNHAM'S OFFICE

LEE sits on the exam table while JAMES texts on his phone. DR. BURNHAM enters reading LEE's chart.

DR. BURNHAM
Hello Mr. Chen. How are we doing today?

LEE
Fine.

DR. BURNHAM
I see we didn't get an updated med list. I have last years. Everything working well? How are you doing on refills?

LEE
It's fine. I have plenty.

DR. BURNHAM
I did notice your A1C is elevated.

JAMES
What does that mean?

DR. BURNHAM

At our age? Nothing yet. We'll keep monitoring it - just make you sure you show up to your appointments. I see you missed us in March... and August.

LEE

Things have been busy.

JAMES

We'll figure it out.

DR. BURNHAM pulls out a stethoscope and places it on LEE's back.

DR. BURNHAM

Deep breath in... and out.

Moves the scope.

DR. BURNHAM (CONT'D)

In... and out.

One more time.

DR. BURNHAM (CONT'D)

In... and out. Great. Other than busy, how are things? Any big changes?

LEE

Nothing. Well, moved in with James.

DR. BURNHAM

That's good!

JAMES

His hearing hasn't been great.

DR. BURNHAM gets out an ear-scope and checks LEE's ears.

DR. BURNHAM

Okay. What else?

JAMES

Well, he does get a little confused sometimes.

LEE

(Making light)
Doesn't everyone?

JAMES

Dad.

DR. BURNHAM

(To Lee)

Confused how?

LEE

Like I'm an 80-something man -

JAMES

Like he's not sure why he walked in
the room.

DR. BURNHAM

Mr. Chen, is that true?

LEE shrugs.

DR. BURNHAM (CONT'D)

Can you respond to me verbally?

LEE

Of course I can. Could I um, use
the restroom?

DR. BURNHAM

Of course.

LEE exits.

DR. BURNHAM (CONT'D)

James, I think your father is
dealing with early symptoms of
dementia.

JAMES

Oh god.

DR. BURNHAM

I know it feels scary, but you'll
both be fine. He might get that
confused look more often, forget
little things, just be patient with
him.

JAMES

Okay.

DR. BURNHAM

This is very common for someone his
age.

JAMES

Really?

DR. BURNHAM

We see it every single day. But one of the best things for him is to be close to people who love him. He's gonna be okay.

EPISODE 2

INT. FAMILY KITCHEN MORNING

Heather is grabbing cereal bowls from the cabinet. She pours herself a cup of coffee and pours James a cup. He grabs it absent-mindedly while on his phone. He sighs at the email he's reading.

JAMES
I'll be late tonight.

HEATHER
(Not wanting to start
fight)
Ok...

Heather chooses not to say anything.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
(Calling upstairs)
Winona! Noah! You'll be late.

KIDS (O.C.)
Ok!/Coming!

HEATHER
He's still isn't eating.

Winona, age 7, comes into the room.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
There's your cereal.

Winona sits down to eat. Noah, age 10, enters in PJs.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
Why aren't you dressed?

NOAH
Grandpa wears pajamas.

HEATHER
(Mom stare)
Go get dressed.

Noah exits the room grumbling.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
(Continuing about Lee)
I'm making him special meals, and
he won't eat. He pushes the food
away. He snaps at me.

JAMES
(Distracted)
He's adjusting. And the dementia...

Lee enters, in pajamas, on the word dementia. He greets everyone silently with a little smile. He sits down at the table. Heather pours him a cup of coffee. And pours a bowl of cereal for him. He smiles as thanks.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Dad, you gotta to eat your
breakfast, ok?

LEE
Ok. Could I have some water?

Lee tries to eat some cereal and grimaces.

HEATHER
Say good morning, Winona.

WINONA
Good morning, Grandpa.

Lee is trying, with difficulty, to eat. Heather goes to get water, but Noah enters with school clothes on.

NOAH
Happy, Mom?

HEATHER
Watch your tone. Say good morning
to your grandpa.

Noah waves his arms in front of Lee's face

NOAH
(Very loud, as a joke)
Morning, Grandpa! It's me,
Noahhhhh.

Lee is startled by the volume and the arm waving. He starts to look a little anxiously around the room.

HEATHER
Noah, enough.
(To Lee, re: food)
Not good?

LEE
It's good. My stomach hurts.

JAMES
You're just adjusting.

HEATHER
We need a nurse.

LEE
I'm not that old.

JAMES
See. He doesn't want one.

HEATHER
(Heated)
Ask me if I want a nurse, James.

JAMES
I'm asking him.

HEATHER
(About to really fight)
Because who cares what I think!

LEE
I can just get the water.

HEATHER
I'll get it.
(To James)
You said we'd both make this work.

Lee is taking this in. James clocks this.

JAMES
Hey, Dad. Dad! Why don't you go to
your room? Heather will bring the
water.

HEATHER
Don't ignore me, James.

James goes to touch his dad's arm, and Lee reacts as if he's
being touched by a stranger. He's startled and a little
disoriented.

JAMES
Dad? Hey. Dad. Go watch TV, ok?

Lee is agitated and does not move. Heather has begun noisily
doing the dishes in silence.

JAMES (CONT'D)
(To Heather)
I've got to get to work. Are you
going to get his water or not?

Heather grabs the Brita pitcher and fills a glass. She slams
it down in front of Lee.

HEATHER
Here!

Lee is startled by this and gets up and backs away from the
table. He has wet himself.

NOAH
Gross!

Winona giggles. Heather looks and sees Lee, and looks at
James. James looks down, embarrassed for his father and
leaves quickly for work. She looks up skyward because she
knows what she has to do.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM AFTERNOON

Heather is running the shower while Lee sits on the toilet in
his soiled pajamas.

HEATHER
Get those pants off.

Lee looks away.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
If you'd let me take you to the
bathroom, this wouldn't happen. I
don't like forcing you. Here.

Heather hands Lee a towel.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
I'll look away.

Lee starts to leave, and Heather goes to take his arm. He
pulls away. He starts to be overwhelmed by the sound of the
shower. It gets louder and louder to him. He looks at
Heather.

LEE
It's too loud.

Lee again goes to get up and leave, but his mobility forces him to sit back down.

HEATHER

(Deep breath)

I don't want to do this either,
Lee. You wet yourself again. So, we
need to clean you up. Ok?

Lee tries to leave. Heather grabs his wrist and pushes him down on the toilet. Sure he won't bolt, she checks temp of water and turns up hot water. The sound of the water and feeling of heat of the water increases for Lee. It's overwhelming. Lee becomes disoriented and agitated. Heather takes a deep breath before pulling him up off the toilet. Lee starts to bolt. Heather won't let go.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Stop, Lee! Fine! Just sit there all
wet!

Heather, in complete frustration, throws Lee's arm back down towards the toilet seat, but she throws too hard and he falls off the toilet and onto his wrist. He cries out.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Damn it! I told you to just get in.

Lee continues to cry in pain. Heather goes to him.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Are you hurt? Let me see. Stop
crying! Ok. Ok. I'm taking you to
urgent care.

Lee pulls it together a bit. He nods. She starts to stand, but then looks into Lee's eyes.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

This was an *accident*.

Lee looks at Heather and nods.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

(Relieved)

I'll go get some clean clothes. Sit
here.

Heather leaves. Lee is left alone and in pain.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3

INT. URGENTCARE EXAM ROOM - DAY

Lee sits uncomfortably on the exam table. Sweat gathers on his upper lip and head as he breathes shallowly, gently cradling his wrist. Peeking out from his shirt sleeve is an old bruise that looks like fingerprints. His lips are chapped, and he looks dehydrated.

Heather sits in a nearby chair worry flooding her face.

DR. MILLER enters smiling at the two who look at her wearily.

DR. MILLER

Good news, the radiologist says it looks like it's just a sprain.

Relief washes over Heather as Lee's attention moves back to his wrist.

HEATHER

So, it should be okay within a few days?

Dr. Miller pulls up a seat in front of Lee.

DR. MILLER

Yep, should be fine with some rest and care.

She turns to Lee and pulls out a chart.

DR. MILLER (CONT'D)

Overall, how's the pain in your wrist now?

Lee looks at Dr. Miller but back down to his wrist.

LEE

(jokingly)
Could be better.

Dr. Miller smiles at his humor.

DR. MILLER

I noticed you had some minor injuries.

Heather tenses slightly and leans forward waiting.

DR. MILLER (CONT'D)
Do you fall often?

Lee hesitates for several moments. Finally, his eyes flick up to her then over to Heather.

LEE
I slipped because the floor was wet.

The doctor looks at Heather as if she expected this. She smiles jokingly.

DR. MILLER
(jokingly)
Consider asking for help *before* attempting stunts - can't do everything on our own.

HEATHER
It's been a little rough with him getting used to living with us. We're in a new house - a bit of a fixer upper -

The doctor is easily distracted.

DR. MILLER
Congrats! First time homeowners?

HEATHER
Yes, and it's been a major adjustment.

She laughs lightly and Dr. Miller smiles understandably. Lee watches them as they joke around but looks away once Dr. Miller's turns back to him. She amusedly quirks her eyebrows towards Lee.

DR. MILLER
Oh, I know it's not easy.

HEATHER
Anything we can do for his pain?

Dr. Miller looks over the chart.

DR. MILLER
I'll get you an anti-inflammatory prescription. You can get a compression wrap. Are there any other concerns?

Heather looks at Lee, who shakes his head, he shifts uncomfortably.

HEATHER
No, he should be fine.

Dr. Miller looks at her watch and turns back to Lee.

DR. MILLER
You'll want to use your wrist as little as possible Lee. Swap the Kung foo for Tai Chi.

Heather laughs as the doctor chuckles at her own joke. Lee gives a small smile but turns away as Heather stands and moves to his side.

HEATHER
Thank you so much.

Dr. Miller exits.

INT/EXT. CAR - DAY

They drive in silence. Heather's face is stony, and Lee keeps his gaze forward. A drugstore bag sits in his lap.

They reach the house. The moment Heather pulls to a stop Lee attempts to exit.

HEATHER
You're a victim now? Okay.

Lee hesitates, his hand poised on the handle.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
You think it's hard for you.

Lee turns to look at her .

HEATHER (CONT'D)
It wasn't my idea, but James wanted you to move in.

Her face grows red as she speaks.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
I have no problem with you Lee.

Lee turns away from her. He breathes deeply licking his chapped lips and staring out of the window. Heather rolls her eyes, and her voice raises slightly.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

You seem to have every problem with me-

Lee glances back casually.

LEE

(jokingly)

I'm too old for problems.

HEATHER

Except, I'm the one taking care of you but all you do is act stuck up - watching your little shows all day. I'm handling the kids, homework, and everything else under the sun.

Lee turns away his expression clouded in guilt.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

James is barely holding things together trying to make sure we can afford to live. You could at least ACT grateful. Especially with this entire situation. The kids had to carpool, I'm missing class, and for what- The least you can do is tell me you're about to piss yourself...

Heather sighs as Lee continues to stare out his window.

LEE

I know it can be hard... With parenting and everything -

HEATHER

But you make it impossible - and James won't even look at homes -

At the reminder of the nursing home Lee begins to silently panic. His eyes go wide and breathing gets shallow.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Are you even listening?!

The sound of loud, harsh, banging interrupts them. The banging freezes Lee, the sound echoing in his head as if someone is trying to break in - to take him away.

He licks his chapped lips as his hand harshly grips the prescription bag. Just as he shakily reaches for the door handle the sound of James' voice snaps him back into reality.

He peers worriedly in through Heather's, now lowered, window.

JAMES

Hey, sorry I couldn't get off earlier. Was everything okay?

Heather sighs. As Lee attempts to calm his breathing.

HEATHER

Yeah, just a sprain. Pain meds and a wrist brace for a few days.

Relief washes over James and he goes around the car to Lee's side.

In the moment he is away Lee and Heather sit in uncomfortable silence. Just as he is in front of the car Heather speaks.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

(whispered)

Try to make things easier on us.

James makes it to Lee's side and moves to help him out of the car.

JAMES

I was worried - you have to be careful dad.

James helps Lee from the car, and they move to enter the house.

Heather has a moment alone.

She shuts the car off.

EPISODE 4

INT. LEE'S GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

The garage is dark except for the flickering static television screen that casts shadows on the walls. Lee is lying in bed, visibly in pain. He turns over but it hurts even more. The fan blows hot air into his face covered in sweat. His shirt is drenched. A sharp pain forces him to sit up. He attempts to get up, but rolls over onto the bed. He considers calling, but decides to get up by himself. He manages to get to his feet and stumbles across the dark space - the flickering screen illuminates his face contorted by pain. He eventually gets to the door and exits - a moment later, we hear a tumble and a fall to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM EXAMINATION BAY NIGHT

James paces while Lee lies in bed, hooked up to an IV giving him fluids. A Nurse, Joanie, enters.

JOANIE

Mr. Chen, how are we feeling?

LEE

I'm feeling better.

WOMAN IN NEXT BAY (O.S.)

Hello! Please help me! I'm in PAIN!

LEE

(Making a joke about
WINB.)

But *she's* not feeling so hot.

JOANIE

(Small laugh)

Mr. Chen, I'm going to take your
temperature.

LEE

I can go home.

The beep of the thermometer goes off.

JOANIE

You'll be staying with us a bit
longer.

Lee nods.

JOANIE (CONT'D)
You're pretty banged up, Mr. Chen.

JAMES
He fell just the other day.

MOM (O.S.)
She keeps bleeding! Can someone
please-

JOANIE
My bat signal!

As Joanie begins to head off, Dr. Brooks, enters. She is kind and warm, but she's busy. This is a hectic night.

JOANIE (CONT'D)
(Exiting, to the Dr.
Brooks)
101.4

DR. BROOKS
Mr. Chen! That's a stubborn
temperature!

LEE
I'm feeling better.

DR. BROOKS
Let's get a look at you.

JAMES
He fell in his room, and we-

DR. BROOKS
(Cutting James off to
focus on Lee)
-Mr. Chen

LEE
Lee. Everyone's so formal.

DR. BROOKS
(Smiling)
Lee. I'm Linda.

WOMAN IN BAY (O.S.)
Hello! Is anyone going to help me?

DR. BROOKS
Show me where you've been hurting?

Lee looks at James. Dr. Brooks clocks this.

LEE
(Indicating pelvic area)
Here. Hard to eat.

DR. BROOKS
Mm-hmm. I'm going to press down
here, ok?
(Lee yelps in pain)
You've had more frequent urination?

JAMES
He has...accidents.

LEE
Two. Maybe three.

DR. BROOKS
I've looked at your tests, and you
have a pretty bad urinary tract
infection. Your kidneys are in
pretty bad shape. We'll get you
rehydrated and treat that
infection. Do you drink enough
water?

Lee Pauses. Unsure how to respond.

JAMES
He doesn't always remember to. He
has dementia.

DR. BROOKS
When was this diagnosed?

JAMES
Recently.

DR. BROOKS
Lee, you have difficulty
concentrating?

LEE
No, I concentrate fine. See?

Lee makes a concentrating face.

DR. BROOKS
(Smiling at the joke)
Dementia-such a catchall diagnosis.
It's an acute infection. Sounds
like signs of delirium. We need to
admit you overnight.

JAMES
Is that necessary?

LEE
How much will it cost?

DR. BROOKS
(To James)
Is that a problem?

James shakes his head no, but we see it is a problem. Lee gets very concerned.

LEE
(Trying to get up)
I don't need to stay..

DR. BROOKS
(Re: wires and tubes)
Careful. We need to keep you overnight. If you have questions about costs, maybe contact your insurance provider? If you improve, we'll get you out of here, and you won't have to see me again. Deal?

WOMAN IN BAY (O.S.)
Hello! Will someone help me? I'm WAITING!

Joanie leaves to make the call. Dr. Brooks begins to leave and then has "Columbo Moment."

DR. BROOKS
Lee, those bruises on your arm...

JAMES
He fell. We took him to the urgent care.

DR. BROOKS
(To Lee)
Some are older. Do you fall often?

Lee looks at James. Lee decides to cover.

LEE
It's hard to move around. James helps, but at night...

DR. BROOKS
(About to probe further)
Do you need more help at home?

Lee hesitates.

JAMES

Doctor Brooks? May I? My dad is so tired.

Dr. Brooks looks at Lee for a moment, wants to hear it from him, but nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It's my fault. When my dad says he can do something on his own, I believe him. It's hard to watch him...decline. And I'm working a lot to provide for him, and the kids...Do you have kids?

DR. BROOKS

I do.

JAMES

You get it. I can't be everywhere at once. But my wife, Heather, she can keep a closer eye on him. I promise.

Joanie pops her head back in. Noise from trauma across the hall. We see and hear the sounds of paramedics wheeling in a trauma patient. Chatter and noise.

JOANIE

Dr. Brooks, they need you in Bay 3.

DR. BROOKS

Joanie, we're going to admit Mr. Chen. Tell them to get him started on Trimethoprim and continue giving him fluids. Can you get the call report started before Lee goes upstairs?

JOANIE

Yep. Anything else?

Dr. Brooks considers. She sees James with his hand on Lee's shoulder. She decides it's ok. She won't pursue.

DR. BROOKS

No. That's it.

(To Lee and James)

Stay on top of the medication. And you have to keep drinking a lot of water.

(Smiles warmly.)

(MORE)

DR. BROOKS (CONT'D)
Joking a bit)
Take care, young man.

Lee smiles at Dr. Brooks, as she exits with Joanie.

WOMAN IN BAY (O.S.)
Hello!! I swear to god, I'm in
pain!!!

LEE
(Looks to James)
I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S GARAGE-APARTMENT

The TV is on again, full blast. An insipid daytime talk show hosted by a faux-folksy Dr. Phil-type plays. Lee watches intently. The light from the TV shines across Lee's face in an otherwise dark room. The only other light we see is the crack at the bottom of the garage door leading to the outside world. We hear theme music and applause from the studio audience the talk show host.

TV HOST
Welcome back! Today on the show,
we're talking family.

Heather appears at the door.

LEE
Do I take pills now? Heather?

HEATHER
I'm getting the kids. Be back soon.

The sound of the fan intensifies. He begins to be agitated. He looks at his empty water glass. He picks it up. He calls out.

LEE
Heather, I need water!

We hear Heather drive off. Lee picks up full pill bottle. The sound the TV intensifies. Lee knocks over pill bottles and pills scatter everywhere. He tries to pick them up but struggles to get down to his knees. While on the ground he hears the voice of the TV Host more menacing.

TV HOST
What to do with bad in-laws!!! Am I
right?

Lee looks up at the screen. The crowd reacts with laughter and applause. The laughter is distorted and unnerving.

TV HOST (CONT'D)

Today, we're going to meet the biggest problem dad! He ruins everything around him.

Oohs and ahhs and applause from the crowd. Lee's face changes. And he is peeing himself. He stands, and his pants are covered in blood soaked urine. He has not been taking his pills. He looks off to the house. The garage has changed. It is now shadowy, menacing. He calls off.

LEE

Heather!

TV HOST

I wouldn't do that if I were you, Lee.

Lee stares at the TV in disbelief. Is he hearing what he thinks he's hearing?

TV HOST (CONT'D)

What do ya think happens if you keep on calling Heather every time?

Lee looks back to the door to the house. The door to the house looks like it cracks open a bit. We see shadows of James and Heather. Lee hears them in hushed tones.

HEATHER

He did it again, James.

JAMES

God, he's so embarrassing.

HEATHER

He can't stay here.

JAMES

I know.

HEATHER

We have to put him in a home.

JAMES

I wish he'd just die and leave us alone.

Lee walks towards the voices until the TV speaks again. It's louder, somewhat distorted.

TV HOST

Where d'ya think you're going, Lee?
Next up, Noah and Winona!! Kids,
what do you think of grandpa?

WINONA

He's scary.

NOAH

He's covered in pee and blood all
the time. He's suuuuper cool.

Lee walks back over to the TV. And we hear in another corner of the room, Dr. Brooks voice which comes from a coatrack in the corner. He is behind the coatrack, obscured in the shadows.

DR. BROOKS

I don't like the looks of those
bruises, Lee. I'm calling the
police.

TV HOST

Leave them alone, Lee. Go.

JAMES

Stop ruining our lives, Dad.

TV HOST

What do you think, Lee? Want to
stick around and fuck up everything
for everyone?! Lee, Run! Get outta
here! Now

Lee looks around the room, frantically, for a way out. Lee finds the switch to the garage door. It opens. We watch as light spills into the garage. The outside is warm and inviting. Birds sing. Lee begins to shuffle towards the open garage door. He is blood and urine soaked and barefoot as he walks out the door into the driveway. He keeps walking to the street that has a 50 mph speed limit. Lee shuffles into that street, and a car honks and narrowly misses him. Lee is startled and turns left keeps walking until he's gone. We see the peaceful day with no Lee in sight.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 5

EPISODE 5 - INT. HOSPITAL BREAK ROOM

The AVATAR sits in front of a communal computer bay checking emails. DR. BROOKS enters - she's visibly exhausted. She beelines to the coffee pot, fills a styrofoam cup, drains it, fills it again, and sits with a groan. She rubs her face and closes her eyes; sips her coffee.

DR. BROOKS

Just when I think I can't handle
anyone else, boom, trauma patient.
God, when will this shift end?

AVATAR

Fun night?

DR. BROOKS

A blast. Non-stop all day, complex
patients -
(Calming breath)
It's fine. Almost done.

AVATAR

I don't know how you deal with it.

DR. BROOKS

For every tough patient there's
always one or two who make things
easier. I had a patient tonight,
sweet as can be, funny too.

AVATAR

In ED?

DR. BROOKS nods.

AVATAR (CONT'D)

Poor guy. He okay?

DR. BROOKS

He will be. UTI, some bruising, and
blood work showed mismanagement of
type two, so got him antibiotics,
gave a little lecture to the son
about diabetes management, should
be out of here tomorrow morning.

AVATAR

How old is he?

DR. BROOKS
Eighties.

AVATAR
And he lives alone?

DR. BROOKS
No, no, with his son and daughter
and law.

AVATAR
And there was bruising?

DR. BROOKS
Some, mmmm.

AVATAR
Old? New?

DR. BROOKS
Both.

Pause.

AVATAR
Did you speak to him alone?

DR. BROOKS
Um... no. No his son was there; the
patient has dementia -

AVATAR
If the UTI is severe enough it
could be urosepsis.

DR. BROOKS
I know... yeah I know.

AVATAR
Can I see the chart?

DR. BROOKS
Yeah.

DR. BROOKS crosses and leans over the AVATAR. She opens up
the hospital database on the computer and pulls up Lee's
chart.

AVATAR
Didn't make it the PCP very much,
did he?

DR. BROOKS
No... urgent care for sprained
wrist? No one told me about this.

AVATAR
Look at his HbA1c.

BROOKS hangs her head.

DR. BROOKS
Shit.

AVATAR
You need to talk to the patient
without his son there.

DR. BROOKS
This poor guy. Do you think I
should get the social worker
involved?

AVATAR
It sounds like potential abuse or
neglect.

DR. BROOKS
I should have followed up earlier.

AVATAR
You're following up now.

DR. BROOKS
Right. I'm going to grab the social
worker and give a heads up to the
hospitalist. Thank you.

DR. BROOKS exits phone in hand.

EPISODE 6

EPISODE 6 - INT. LEE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Late at night, LEE sits up in bed still hooked up to IVs. The bay is quiet. A social worker sits nearby with a clipboard.

AVATAR

Sorry to wake you Mr. Chen -

LEE

Please, Lee.

AVATAR

Right. Lee, I want to have an honest conversation with you, just one on one. That okay?

LEE

Is James in trouble? Because really, everything is fine.s

AVATAR

James is fine. What's got you so worried?

LEE is distressed.

SOCIAL WORKER

Lee, we're here to help you, and we want to help James as much as possible too.

LEE

(Loudly, cutting off the SW)

What's going on?

AVATAR

(To SW)

There's some hearing issues.

SOCIAL WORKER nods, takes a note.

AVATAR (CONT'D)

Lee this is Ang, she's a social worker. Is it okay that she joins us?

LEE

Of course. Is James okay? I don't want to cause any problems.

AVATAR

You're not causing any problems.
Did someone say you were?

LEE struggles to say the next line.

LEE

I want to stay with my son.

AVATAR

I know.

LEE

Will I be sent to a home?

AVATAR

We will do everything we can to
keep you with your son, if that's
what's safest. Can we chat about
the bruises?

LEE

I fell. I did. And I have...
accidents, so Heather - she's so
busy - she has to help me, and it's
frustrating -

AVATAR

She gets frustrated with you?

LEE

Sometimes. It's hard because I need
help moving around, and she just
forgets I'm a little fragile.

AVATAR

Did she push you?

LEE

Not on purpose. It was in the
bathroom, the floor is slippery.

AVATAR

Does she help you in the bathroom a
lot?

LEE

Maybe once or twice a day.

AVATAR

Otherwise you can manage on your
own?

LEE

Well, no, but my room is far away. They're usually upstairs, and I'm on the main floor. It can wait.

AVATAR

Is your room comfortable?

LEE

It's good. A little warm in the summer, but I have my fan.

AVATAR

Do James and Heather make sure you always have water?

LEE

She's busy with the kids and the remodel - and James has to work so much just to pay for everything. My medications alone cost a fortune.

AVATAR

Do Heather and James help you take your diabetes medications?

LEE

When we remember. My memory is going -

AVATAR

But Lee, that's why they're there, to help you remember.

LEE

There's a lot going on. Not everyone can just drop everything to care for a grown man. They're not bad people.

AVATAR

I'm not saying they're bad -

LEE

I like living with them. I want to stay - I really don't mind the garage -

AVATAR

Your room is in the garage?

A pause. LEE realizes he's let something big slip, then nods his head.

LEE

I would rather be in the garage
than a nursing home.

SOCIAL WORKER

Lee, it sounds like Heather and
James could really use a hand. Have
they ever talked about hiring
someone to come help out?

LEE

Too expensive.

SOCIAL WORKER

As a Medicare patient there are
options available, financial
assistance, to get a home care
nurse - I can talk to your son
about it.

LEE

Okay, okay. It's just if...

LEE is emotional.

AVATAR

If what, Lee?

LEE

If Heather knows I told you this
she will put me in a home. I don't
want to leave. I want to stay with
my son.

AVATAR

Okay. Okay. It's going to be okay
Lee.

SOCIAL WORKER

(Quietly, just to the
avatar)

I'm going to make the call.

LEE

They both work so hard. I just
don't want to be a burden.

AVATAR

You are not a burden. We're going
to talk to James and Heather, and
then we can get the ball rolling on
finding some help you all.

LEE

How does that work?

SOCIAL WORKER

There will be an application process, which I'm confident you'll be approved for, then once Medicare figures out the funds, you and James will be able to choose someone together.

LEE

If it helps James and Heather...

AVATAR

And you. That's what's really important here. Thank you for being so honest with us.

EPISODE 7

EPILOGUE - INT. LEE'S BEDROOM

A small but cozy bedroom in James and Heather's home. There is a comfortable bed, a window, and a bookshelf. On the bookshelf are books in both Mandarin and English, and lots of tchotchkes, keepsakes, and photos from Lee's life. Front and center is a framed photo of Lee and his late wife with James at his college graduation. On the wall is a calendar, the days are being crossed off dutifully. A radio plays Chinese oldies in Mandarin. LEE is pulling a cardigan on over a t-shirt when there's a knock on the door.

LEE

Come in.

MARCUS, a non-Chinese nurse, enters.

MARCUS

Zaoshang hao (good morning), Lee.

LEE smiles to himself. MARCUS' accent could use some work.

LEE

Zaoshang hao (good morning).

MARCUS

Did you sleep okay?

LEE nods. MARCUS crosses to the calendar and marks off another day.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Good, good.

MARCUS goes to a days-of-the-week pill organizer and tips out the contents into his hand. He looks around for something.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Have you had your tea yet?

LEE

No, not yet.

MARCUS

Be right back.

MARCUS exits, leaving the bedroom door open. LEE looks out the window and hums along to the song playing on the radio. WINONA walks by his door and stops in the doorway.

WINONA
What are you listening to?

MARCUS returns with the teacup.

WINONA (CONT'D)
Hi Marcus.

MARCUS stops short for a moment, surprised to see WINONA in this space.

MARCUS
Hey there.

MARCUS hands the tea to LEE and sits in a nearby chair. MARCUS hands LEE his meds, discreetly monitoring him, while stealing looks at WINONA.

WINONA
(Yelling)
What are those?

LEE winces, but smiles, and points to his ears.

LEE
My hearing is a lot better now.

WINONA
(Stage whisper)
What are those?

LEE
It helps me feel strong.

HEATHER walks by the open door.

HEATHER
Sweetie, don't bug grandpa.

LEE
She's not bugging me.

MARCUS is trying to hide his excitement. He makes eye contact with HEATHER and raises his eyebrows.

HEATHER
Well, okay, but breakfast is in ten everyone, okay?

WINONA
Okay, okay.

HEATHER exits slowly, lingering in the doorway, mouthing to MARCUS "oh my god!" He mouths back, "I know." WINONA enters LEE's space and examines his items.

MARCUS

(To Lee)

Shall we go on a walk after
breakfast?

LEE

(Teasing)

Only if you pick up the pace. I'm
not *that* old.

MARCUS

(Smiling)

I'll do my best.

LEE continues taking his medications and sipping tea. WINONA approaches MARCUS and whispers in his ear. MARCUS grins and whispers something back.

WINONA

(Whispering)

Will you come see my new room...
Yéyé - ?

MARCUS

(Whispering)

Yéyé ma.

WINONA walks right up to LEE; stands directly in front of him, curious.

WINONA

Will you come see my new room -

WINONA looks to MARCUS, he nods encouragingly.

MARCUS

(Whispering)

Yéyé ma.

WINONA

Yéyé ma (Grandpa)?

LEE smiles, tries to speak, but has to clear his throat first as he's choked with sudden emotion.

LEE

I would love to.

MARCUS gives WINONA a thumbs up, and she excitedly tugs on LEE's sleeve leading him out of the room. MARCUS follows behind. We hear WINONA's voice as they exit:

WINONA

At first I thought my favorite part was not having to sleep on the blow up mattress anymore, but actually the best part is Noah doesn't bug me or anything. Also, sometimes, I turn my closet into a secret spy base, but don't tell anyone.

Final shot on LEE's empty room, the radio playing softly, fade to black.