

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

JOE, also 32, but now clean-shaven, and with a less stylish haircut. He's wearing glasses and hospital scrubs, whistling as he speed walks through the ER, past the patients in the waiting area and out the door. He places a FaceTime call...

EXT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

The face of a 9-year-old, CHRISTOPHER, appears on Joe's phone. He shares Joe's kind, curious eyes...

JOE

Hey, buddy... Just wanted to say
goodnight. Why aren't you in bed?

CHRISTOPHER

Me and mom are binging 90 Day Fiance.

JOE

Just don't let her keep you up too
late, she's not the one who has to
wake you up in the morning.

CHRISTOPHER

Want to say goodnight to her?

Suddenly the view on the phone swings and we catch sight of Joe's wife... JENNY BANKS. The decade has been rough on her.

JOE

(perfunctory)
Goodnight.

JENNY

(a bit cold)
Night. And don't forget our
appointment tomorrow.

CHRISTOPHER

(reappears on phone)
That's it?

JOE

Love you, bud. I gotta go--

Suddenly, it starts to HAIL. An ambulance drives into the bay, SIRENS ON... And as Joe stares out at the hailstorm, fascinated...

INT. JOE'S APARTMENT - DAWN

Joe enters the quiet apartment, the first hints of daylight giving the room a soft glow. He tiptoes in and peeks into his son's bedroom. He immediately hears a whisper...

CHRISTOPHER

Hey, dad.

JOE

You're awake?

CHRISTOPHER

Want to play?

Joe smiles, then enters and surprisingly lifts his son out of bed... which seems totally normal to Christopher. Joe carries him like a bride over the threshold, then places him gently into his power wheelchair.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Joe scoots the piano bench way over to one side. Christopher rolls into the open spot in his wheelchair. They share a look. Then Joe begins to play *New York State of Mind* by Billy Joel. Christopher joins in... It's not perfect, but it's bouncy and fun.

JOE

Good! Nailed that chord change --

Their smiles are growing, and they both begin to sing until...

JENNY (O.S.)

Really you guys sound amazing, but
it's not even six--

The music stops. They turn to see a barely awake Jenny.

JOE

He made me.

CHRISTOPHER

Dad!

JENNY

(turns to leave)
Going back to sleep.

Joe turns to Christopher...

JOE

Can you think of anything quieter we
can do?

CHRISTOPHER
You see that hail last night?

JOE
Manual chair?

EXT. JOE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Joe pushes Christopher in his manual chair through various puddles, maximizing splashes and skid outs. Both are getting soaked and delighted...

INT. JOE'S APARTMENT - CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Joe enters to find Chris in bed, wide awake. [Note: we'll feature various homemade DIY assistance devices that Joe has made for his special needs son.]

JOE
Hey. Want to play?

CHRISTOPHER
Not really.

Joe lifts his son out of bed and carries him to his wheelchair. As Chris turns it on and begins to drive towards his bathroom, Joe steps in front of him...

JOE
Can we talk for a sec? ...I hear
you're upset about me and mom?
(off Chris's shrug)
Listen. Your mom and I... we've been
having some disagreements. But that
doesn't mean we don't love each other.

CHRISTOPHER
Then why don't you ever say it?

JOE
What?

CHRISTOPHER
I love you. You tell me every day
but you never tell her. And she never
tells you.

Joe kneels down in front of Chris, takes his hand.

JOE
Don't really have a good answer,
other than we should. Tell each other.

JOE (CONT'D)

(off Chris' look)

...Here's the thing. I'm going to
be... sleeping somewhere else for
awhile.

Chris reacts, emotional. A bit shocked, scared...

CHRISTOPHER

So... you'll just be gone?

JOE

No, I'll never be *gone*.

CHRISTOPHER

You just said--

JOE

This is important. You are the best
thing in my entire world. My greatest
accomplishment in life is being your
dad. So I'm never giving that up,
okay? I promise.

Chris nods, but he's shaken. Joe embraces his son... REVEAL
Jenny watching from the doorway, her heart breaking...