

# TO DUST DOCTOR

OVER BLACK. The voice of a DOCTOR. A young doctor.

Start

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
Her breathing is broken.  
*(he mimics the pattern)*  
Like, um...like *that*. It's called  
Cheyne-Stokes, Mr. Rosenblum.

1 INT. HOSPITAL (ANTEROOM IN FRONT OF ELEVATOR) - DAY 1  
SHMUEL (46), a wearied Hasid, waits for the elevator.

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
It's a perfectly natural sign that  
death is nearing. I can assure you  
that, while it sounds tortured,  
there is no distress, no pain.

The elevator arrives, empty. Shmuel steps in.

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
Your wife's body is shutting down.  
She's dying, Mr. Rosenblum.

The elevator stops on the next floor. No awaiting passengers.  
Just a lone FEMALE NURSE behind her station. She glances up.

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
No ifs, ands or buts, about that.

Shmuel remains stoic. The elevator doors close.

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
We're already noticing an unyoking  
of the eyes. What's essentially  
happening, Mr. Rosenblum, is. The  
brain, the swelling in the brain,  
Mr. Rosenblum, it's. It's pushing  
down on the brainstem.

Shmuel uncomfortably looks up at the slowly moving numbers.

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
What's fascinating, really, is that  
you'll often notice the same sorta  
things in a newborn.

The elevator opens. A nursery. A new mother breastfeeding.

DOCTOR (V.O.)  
Except, you know, in reverse.

# To Dust Doctor

2.

An OVERWEIGHT MAN in a wheelchair (60s) is pushed into view by an ORDERLY. The wheelchair snags entering the elevator.

SHMUEL

It's a...

The overweight man looks at Shmuel. The wheelchair makes it in. Shmuel steps aside to give room.

DOCTOR (V.O.)

Do you understand what I'm getting at, Mr. Rosenblum?

The elevator stops on the next floor. A nurse station, empty. The overweight man groans.

SHMUEL

This is. It's a...*Shabbat* elevator.

The doors close. The awkwardness in the elevator is palpable.

DOCTOR (V.O.)

As the brain stem gets pushed down, Mr. Rosenblum, eventually, very soon, everything's going to stop. A day. If not an hour.

The doors open. THREE HASIDIC MEN in *shtreimels* step in. The door closes. The overweight man coughs. The door opens. The three Hasids exit. The overweight man sighs audibly.

DOCTOR (V.O.)

We say, "Waiting for the other shoe to drop." There's really nothing we can do for her now except make her comfortable. So, we say...we're just waiting for the other shoe to drop.

The door opens, revealing a FRAIL ELDERLY WOMAN (90s) with a rolling IV. Her hospital gown shoulder has fallen, exposing her entire right breast. Shmuel is thrown. But she stares straight ahead, unaware. A NURSE arrives to escort her away.

DOCTOR (V.O.)

Have you ever heard that expression, Mr. Rosenblum?

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INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY (OUTSIDE PATIENT ROOMS) - LATER

2

DOCTOR

Mr. Rosenblum. "Waiting for the..?"

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# To Dust Doctor

3.

The doctor (late 20s), finally revealed, is acned. A FEMALE NURSE stands behind him. They both stare at Shmuel, who is unable to speak. The doctor clamors and continues.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Well, there's a story about, um, a man, who, lives downstairs from a drunk. Who, every night, comes home. The drunk. And. It's the middle of the night. And. He gets home and he, um, he lies in bed, fully dressed, the drunk, and his shoe slowly slips, off his foot, falls flat on the floor. With a thump. Right? And the man, the one downstairs, is in bed with his wife. And he wakes up. Every night. From the thump. And he can't go back to sleep, and his wife, she says, "Irving, go back to sleep." And he says, "Gertrude, I can't." And she says, "Why can't you." And he says, "I'm...I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop." -- You see. It's only a matter of time. Before the other shoe --- I understand the social worker has spoken with you.

The doctor hands a paper over to Shmuel, along with a pen.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It's a "Do Not Resuscitate" order.

An elderly woman steps out from the hospital room. FAIGY (70s), Shmuel's Mother. She approaches the nurse and whispers in her ear. The nurse follows her back to the room. The doctor pushes on, but Shmuel's attention turns to the door.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Do you know what that means?

The nurse comes out from the room and approaches the doctor.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Without this, we're required by -

She stops beside him. And whispers in his ear. He nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

The doctor turns and enters the room with the nurse, leaving Shmuel alone with the DNR. Faigy comes out and takes her place slightly behind Shmuel. She whispers into his ear:

End

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