Timothy Hill

CAST & CHARACTERS

AlinaAndriyanova
 Dr O’Brien
 Vanessa

Alisha Gupta
 Ashley Hill nee Thomas

Emilie Ladouceur
 Grandmother Thomas
 Medic #1

Fatima Abdulla
 Sally Thomas
 Ms Morgan
 Medic #2

Jonah Tysse
 Andrew Hill

Luca Parkinson
 Timothy Hill

Sonia Trusca
 Nurse Holly
 Sheila

Script by: Fatima Abdulla with contributions from Luca Parkinson (Tim monologues) and Jonah Tysse (Christmas scene)

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ACT I SCENE 1
HOSPITAL

Timothy walks onstage happily, a little slow, enter stage: faces the audience.

Timothy:
The Grim Reaper just pops up one day to say hey, and the next thing ya' know, your heart's exploded inside your chest. Bang!
Most fifteen year olds feel like they're gonna' live forever.  You think you have your whole life planned out.  School, work, marriage, kids, two cars, a house and a dog.  Things don't always work out that way.

Count of 3: slow collapse.
(Blackout)
Exit Timothy

~

(Lights)
(Dr walks onstage to the doctor's chair)

Dr O’Brien:
Holly! Please get Timothy Hill's reports.

(Holly walks in with a folder, stands to the side)
(Dr looks through the folder, reacting to information)

Dr O’Brien to Holly:
Call in the Hills please, Holly

(Exit Holly)
 (Enter Holly, Andrew, Ashley, and Timothy. Dr shakes the Hill’s hands)
(Andrew and Timothy sit on sofa)

Holly:
Would you like to sit down Mrs Hill?

Ashley:
No, I'm fine.

Holly:
I insist.

(Ashley reluctantly sits down)

Dr O’Brien:
Good afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Hill. I’ve studied the results of your son’s tests.

(pause -looks reluctant)

I am afraid that they are not exactly very good. Your son’s recent x-ray considering his collapse at school has revealed to us a small tumor in his left lung.It’s about 6cm.

(pause –talks slowly)

I’m afraid that it’s of a cancerous nature. To be even more precise he has stage *IIA* cancer.

(Parents frightened, Timothy angry)

Timothy:
Is this a joke?

Dr O’Brien:
Unfortunately not. This is very serious. I’ll have to be honest. The survival rate is 30%, but if Timothy undergoes a series of chemotherapy rounds and surgery, he could get through this. I suggest you sort out his school work and such, as this treatment plan will take up a lot of his time.

(Timothy starts acting scared/ uncomfortable)
(Andrew pats him on the back but he shrugs off)

Ashley:
Can't he stay at home? For the chemo?

Dr O’Brien:
I am *so* sorry, but he cannot leave the hospital, he will have to stay for treatment. He will be quite susceptible to bacteria and germs, so it’s important that he stays within a sterile and closed off environment.

(Timothy still uncomfortable)

Andrew:
Where do we begin?

(Dr glances at Timothy)
(Timothy distraught)

Dr O’Brien:
Holly!

(Enter Holly)

Holly:
Yes?

Dr O’Brien:
Do take Timothy here to get his final tests done.

(Andrew helps Tim up, nods in encouragement. Ashley stands up)

Ashley:
I’ll come with you

Dr O’Brien:
Mrs Hill, we’ll need you here to be part of the treatment plan, Timothy is just going for some tests.

(Holly and Tim exit. Ashley sits)
(Dr O’Brien turns to the parents)

Andrew:
So..?

(mime)

Dr starts pulling out papers to show to parents. Dr starts talking, emphasis on the hands, parents look at each other worriedly.
Parents get up and shake hands with doctor. All leave.

(blackout)

ACT II SCENE I
FLASHBACK: FIGHT

Timothy:
So... cancer huh? You know when I was a little kid I used to think that this sorta stuff never happened in real life, I mean, cancer? Seriously? If you told me two years ago that I’d have lung cancer at 15… jeez I would’ve said you were crazy! My life was going as well as anybody’s life would. That is until the big C came along. But- like any other family- there were some bad...

(Ashley is chopping fruit on the 'kitchen counter’)
(Andrew and Timothy watching TV in front of the table)

Timothy:
Oh God dad, I’m starving.

Andrew:
Yeah me too... Ash! When's food going to be ready? You’re taking so long!

Ashley:
Well if you wanted food that much, you would come in here and help!

Andrew:
Come on now, it’s been such a long day of work, and you know how tired I am.

Ashley:
How do you think I feel doing everything for you and Timothy, and in exchange none of you do a thing?!

Andrew:
Hey, I work every single day to keep this family under a roof with food, clothes, and a place to sleep. Why don’t you show some respect and sympathize?

Ashley:
How can I feel sorry for you, when all *you* ever do is make *me* do all the work? I make the food, clean the house, and you don’t even *try* to help by even cleaning after yourself. You don’t do anything except sit on your lazy ass all day!

(Ashley storms out)

Andrew:
You want to order some takeout?

Timothy:
Sure! Pepperoni pizza sounds great.

ACT II SCENE II
FLASHBACK: BIRTHDAY

Timothy:
...there are ups and downs in every life, and most people get a little too caught up in the downs. You see- me? I like to think of myself as a sort of optimist- you know, all that “finding the silver lining “crap. One of my favorite memories is coming home from school one day to find my friends and family had put together a little surprise birthday party for me...

(Ashley, Sally and Grandma set up stuff on the table)
(Doorbell goes off)
(Grandma opens the door)

Grandma:
Hello, you must be Tim's friends?

(reaches out to shake hands)

Vanessa:
Hi, I'm Vanessa.

Grandma:
Nice to meet you, you are?

Sheila:
I’m Sheila.

Grandma:
Please call me Gran!

(Enter Sally)

Grandma:
Please make yourself feel at home! Excuse me while I check up on the cake.

(Exit Gran)

Sally:
Yes, do sit down! We’re just waiting on Tim and his dad now!

Ashley:
Sally, please help mom with the cake.

(Ashley sees friends)

Ashley:
Hi guys, so glad you could make it! The boys should be coming in right about now.

(Grandma and Sally come in)
(Ashley gets a missed call from Andrew)

Ashley:
They're here!

(everybody hides)
(enter Andrew and Timothy)

Andrew:
...and that is how I broke my leg.

(Timothy rolls eyes)
(everybody jumps out)

Everybody except Tim:
SURPRISE!

(Timothy’s face lights up)

Timothy:
Guys! Thank you so much!

(Timothy hugs parents while Sally and Grandma get cake)

Everybody:
Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you...

(Timothy blows out candles and everyone cheers)

Timothy:
Best birthday ever!

ACT II SCENE III
FLASHBACK: PTC (BAD)

Timothy:
I was never a very- let’s say academic- student. I was failing tests, not completing homework assignments- it was getting pretty bad. I remember the day that my parents had actually gotten a personal phone call from my teacher asking them to come into school for a meeting. Never had my parents been so disappointed in me in my entire life

(Andrew, Ashley, Timothy sitting. Ms Morgan comes in)

Ms Morgan:
Mr and Mrs Hill, I'm glad you could make it.

(Ms Morgan sits)

Ashley:
It’s no bother Ms Morgan. What is this about?

Ms Morgan:
Unfortunately Timothy has *not* been performing as well as we'd all like him to.

Ashley:
What?

Ms Morgan:
He is a constant distraction in class, never turns in his homework, is always late, lazy, and to be frank, quite rude to his peers. As far as I’m concerned, this is not only in Biology, but in all his other subjects as well.

(parents shocked as they hear this)
(Andrew looks at Timothy)

Andrew:
What's going on Tim?

Timothy:
Nothing.

Ashley:
Clearly something *is* going on. Why are you doing this?

Timothy:
Why the hell would I need Biology, or anything for the matter? All of this is stupid. The only thing that these classes would be good for is for a job in teaching!

(Ms Morgan interrupts)

Ms Morgan:
Mr and Mrs Hill. Perhaps Timothy is acting out because of problems at home? Is everything alright?

Andrew:
We try to support him as much as possible. I don't know what's happening...

(Ms Morgan stands up)

Ms Morgan:
I'll leave you to sort everything out. Hopefully everything will be worked through by our next meeting.

(Ms Morgan leaves)

Andrew:
Son, tell us what's happening. We’re here for you.

(All stand up and leave as a family)

ACT II SCENE IV
FLASHBACK: CHRISTMAS

(allcast around a table holding hands)

Andrew:
Okay... time to dig in everyone! Cheers everybody!

Timothy:
I want to add something in...if that’s okay... I’ve never really done this before but I.. I don’t know I’d like to thank you all for this amazing Christmas, it’s been amazing spending time with you guys... thank you.

All:
Cheers!

ACT II SCENE V
FLASHBACK: TUTORING

Timothy:
Now, you know how I was in the gutter with my grades? Well, anyone with a right mind would’ve gotten straight to it and get on revising... but me? Let’s just say that I shouldn’t have bought the new Call of Duty game... Man, I wish I could have made better choices.

Andrew:
Come on Tim! Let’s start with Biology, it’s simple.

Timothy:
*Biology?* I’m pretty sure that it’s not simple. And what would you know? Everything’s probably updated since you were in school.

Andrew:
Give it a try! Let’s see...

(opens book)

Andrew:
The integumentary system seems easiest. What are the three layers of the skin?

Timothy:
Um... I don’t know.

Andrew:
First off, the top layer is epidermis, then dermis and subcutaneous.

(Timothy is nodding his head until sub)

Timothy:
Sub- what? Dad, this is useless! I’m going.

(Timothy stands up Andrew stops him)

Andrew:
Oh sit down. Sub*cutaneous*. It is the important “line of defense” in the body. It insulates the body. How?

Timothy:
Oh I know this! With fat. And I think blood vessels.

Andrew:
Right! It can also be called the hypodermis.

ACT II SCENE VI
FLASHBACK: PTC (GOOD)

Timothy:
I was so lucky that I had a dad like mine who did what he did to right my wrongs. If he hadn’t helped me out, I would’ve failed my GCSE’s flat out..and God knows where that would’ve gotten me!... Thanks Dad.

Ms Morgan:
Mr and Mrs Hill! I am *so* glad to see that Timothy’s behavior has drastically changed for the best!

(Andrew is proud of his son)

Ashley:
That’s great! We’ve had a talk, and even touched on his career aspirations.

Ms Morgan:
Not only has he started to turn in his assignments, but his punctuality is impeccable! I’m glad to say that I’ve seen a massive improvement. This past week, we’ve had a dissection lab, and he didn’t even throw any chickens!

Andrew:
We’ve been working on homework for an hour each day, I’m glad it’s working out.

Ms Morgan:
There’s a school charity festival next month, and I’ve put in a good word with the head for Timothy to be a director. I think that it’s a great opportunity for him. What do you think Tim?

Timothy:
I’m really excited Ms Morgan! Sheila and I have actually been talking about it!

Ashley:
I’m so happy that this is all getting on so well. Thanks ever so much Ms Morgan.

ACT III SCENE I
TESTS

(Tim and Holly walk on stage)

Holly:
In here.

Timothy:
Do I have to?

Holly:
Yes, please sit on the chair.

(Timothy sits)

Holly:
Timothy, I’m going to have to ask you to roll your sleeve up please.

(Tim rolls sleeve up)

Timothy:
What are you doing?

Holly:
I’ll be drawing blood so that the lab can assess if your liver and kidneys are healthy. Chemotherapy affects the liver so it needs to be strong enough. We’ll also be checking your blood cells count. It needs to be high enough because your treatment will reduce the number drastically.

(Holly takes out needle. Tim pulls away)

Holly:
Timothy...

Timothy:
I don’t want to.

Holly:
You have to.

(Holly reaches for his arm)
(Tim yanks hand away and screams)

Timothy:
I DON’T WANT TO

(Tim starts crying)
(Ashley comes running in)

Ashley:
Tim, it’s alright honey, I’m here. Go ahead nurse.

(Holly draws blood)

Holly:
We’ll also need to do a CAT scan.

Ashley:
What’s it for?

Holly:
The scan will provide a reference point to identify the progress of chemo. It’ll also help identify what type of chemotherapy will be best.

Timothy:
Mom, I’m so scared.

Ashley:
It’s alright sweetheart, it’ll be just fine.

(Timothy lies down on the table)
(blackout)

ACT III SCENE II
END

(Timothy on bed, unconscious)
(all cast around him)
(heart monitor going off)

Medic #1:
He’s not breathing, code blue! Commencing chest compressions!

(Medic #1 chest compressions)
(everybody wears gloves)
(parents are extremely panicked)
(push the parents off-stage)

Dr O’Brien:
Someone get them out!

Andrew:
Timothy...

(Andrew pacing Ashley sitting nervously)
(Medic #2 enters)
(Ashley stands up)

Ashley:
Is he going to be alright?!

Medic #2:
We’re not sure yet, the cancer caused a metastatic tumor, which caused a severe case of arrhythmia.

(heartbeat soundtrack)
(fade out)
(fade in)

Medic #1:
Patient unstable, start manual respiration

(medic #1 starts respiration)

Holly:
We’re losing him!

Medic #2:
Increase ventilator rate!

Dr O’Brien:
Do a pulse and rhythm check

Holly:
Stats not looking good

Medic #2:
No pulse

Holly:
Resume CPR

Dr O’Brien:
Charge to 200 joules

(medic #1 pushes down)

Medic #1:
Shock delivered, CLEAR.

Medic #2:
Patient not responding. Injecting PT.

Holly:
No pulse, resume CPR

(medic #1 resumes chest compressions)

Dr O’Brien:
Recharge to 200 Joules.

Medic #1:
Charge delivered, CLEAR

Medic #2:
No response

Dr O’Brien:
COME ON!

Holly:
Faint heartbeat.

Medic #2:
Quick! We’re losing him again!

Dr O’Brien:
Recharge!!

Medic #1:
Charged delivered. CLEAR

Holly:
Nothing

Medic #1:
PLEASE!

(heart monitor dead)
(blackout)
(3 beats)
(lights fade on)
(medical team in a line)
(Timothy center upstage)

Timothy:
I know I swore I wouldn’t give up on living, but the doctors won’t even tell me if I still have a chance anymore! When the nurse comes in she smiles, but it never reaches her eyes!

There was so much that I had planned on doing in my lifetime! I was going to go sky diving and bungee jumping! I was going to run the marathon! None of that even matters now! After all, I can barely walk. What am I supposed to tell my friends? I’m expected to tell them I’m dying? I want to believe that by some miracle I might get better, but it’s kind of hard to have faith in something like that when you are bound to a single room! It’s four simple walls! As far as I’m concerned it may as well be a card board box! It leaves me feeling so trapped! These walls slowly close in on me more and more every day! I’m beginning to forget how to breathe!

I’m done being miserable! I’m ready to leave this sad place! I’m ready for a real life. I’m going home!

Medic #2:
The EKG does go flat. It happens. This boy was strong, he fought for his life.

Medic #1:
The entire time, I could see the parents through the window in front of me, so I *had* to keep pushing for their son’s life.

Dr O’Brien:
It was a close one. Thankfully our medical team was equipped and prepared for these sorts of situations.

Medic #2:
Thankfully his heart started to beat again. It was a miracle.

(medical team off-stage)
(family on-stage)
(family in a line)

Timothy:
Everything hurts so bloody much.

Ashley:
I’m so glad Tim’s here with us.

Andrew:
I couldn’t bear losing my only son. I’m going to make every day count with him from now on.

Sally:
When he was just a kid, I once snuck him off to the park without his parent’s knowledge. Boy did Ashley and Andrew freak! Tim was so apologetic, even though it wasn’t his fault. All I’m saying is... Timothy is a sweet boy. He still is. Sure, he’s had some rough patches, but he loves his family.

Grandmother:
I was just being strong for the family; I honestly didn’t think he would make it. But, he’s done it. He is my only grandson, I couldn’t have beared to lose him. I always thought that I would be the first to go. But... Timmy’s proved to us that life is unpredictable.

Ashley:
He fought *so*hard, and it was worth it. He did have to be homeschooled for a while, missing out on his high school years, and is on tablets for the foreseeable future, but he’s content. We are so grateful to have him with us

Timothy:
This has been such a struggle. But, I wouldn’t wish for a different turn of fate. My experience has reminded me that I have the most wonderful family and friends. I wasn’t looking back thinking about all the time I spent on Call of Duty, or arguing with my parents because I was too lazy to study. I was looking back thinking: “Hang on, I need my family and spend more time with them and the people I love”, not my game console or mobile phone. I finally realized why they nag, why they ban us from doing things that we think are perfectly reasonable. Because they want us to live a full life and grow up to be a happy and fulfilled adult. This realization was my motivation to fight for survival.

The rows.The rows with our friends, family and lovers. What are they about? What do they change? The fact is, nothing has been changed. Don’t waste your precious time. Enjoy and appreciate everyone close to you. And enjoy your life. We don’t all get a second chance.