

## Forever Yours A Complete Treatment

Neal Perry remembers during college eight years ago, of playing a very competitive basketball game at the local park with several classmates. Running and reaching for the sky to block a shot, the sweat pores down his face. Suddenly, he is interrupted by a knock on the bathroom door and the fond memory fades.

Since that beautiful spring day when Neal jumped to the basketball net, he has become paralyzed and now lives his life from a wheelchair. Life has moved on. After finishing his physical therapy in the rehabilitation hospital he completed college and successfully built his own software company. For the last nine months he has been involved with a wonderful and beautiful woman, Paige Logan. Paige has seriously fallen for Neal and has accepted his disability rather naturally. For her it's as if it couldn't be any other way.

Their devotion is confirmed as they stroll toward the parking garage for the van. A horse drawn carriage driver interrupts them with the question, "How about a romantic ride?" Before Neal can answer, Paige politely declines. Neal stops in his tracks and grabs Paige's hand. Worried she secretly wishes to go on the ride he confirms, "Are you sure?" The carriage driver motions to the other driver and states they can lift Neal up into the carriage. Paige replies that she is sure and that "It's romantic enough just being with you." Then Paige pulls Neal's hand, which forces his wheels to move away from the carriage as they continue joyfully hand in hand. Their love is magnified as their conversation has them asking each other why they seem to put the other's needs in front of their own.

After they arrive back at Neal's apartment, Paige stretches out comfortably on Neal's bed as he rolls into the kitchen to fill a glass with cold water. Neal strategically places the glass on his lap so he can use his hands to roll back into the bedroom. The conversation of their impending trip to meet her parents has Neal confidently stating how he can "handle anything." Paige jumps up on the bed, and speaking of herself playfully replies "Try and handle this!" Neal moves toward the bed and suddenly the glass falls from his lap spilling all over him. He catches the glass just before it hits the floor.

In frustrated anger, Neal throws the glass at the wall. Paige falls on the bed to take cover as the glass shatters into a million pieces. Staring at his hands Neal exposes a moment of vulnerability. He confesses that after losing the use of his legs he needs another set of hands to accomplish the smallest of tasks. Paige rushes to his side to console and explain she is always there to "help" and that her "hands" are there for him.

Neal makes it quite clear that the last thing he wants is to be "thought of, seen, or treated as some sort of child." Paige squarely looks into Neal's eyes and makes it known she never sees him like that and that helping each other is what loving couples do. Although appreciative for her support, Neal retreats to his independent spirit as he calmly replies "When I feel I need it, I'll let you know."

To lighten the mood, Paige boldly remarks on how there are many men that need disability parking plates due to their ego or stupidity, and she only wants Neal. Paige straddling Neal's lap moves her face into Neal's caressing hands as she proclaims, "I love these hands and they are worth helping."

The moments turned from serious, to mildly comedic, to romantic as their lips meet and Neal holds Paige tightly as he exclaims, "Well, let's see if I can keep you from falling off my lap!"

The next morning they're off on their trip to Paige's parents. Worried of her parent's reaction, Paige hasn't told them anything about Neal's disability. While waiting at the airport, Neal instructs his best friend and business partner, Bob Cross, to call him if anything goes wrong with the impending merger of his company and that of Gibson Software, the world's largest software manufacturer. Neal assures him that if he has to cut his trip short and come home he will. Bob interrupts knowing of Neal's trademark saying and completes his sentence, "I know, I know. Like you always say "deal with it." Neal and Paige say their good-byes to Bob and Paige's friend, Tammy Foster and board the plane.

Upon arrival, the joy of Paige's return home quickly turns awkward after the introduction of Neal, who waits at the bottom of the stairs that lead into the house. Having to be lifted up into the house is only the beginning of a difficult situation. Going into the living room Neal knocks over and breaks a semi-precious family heirloom. To smooth it over, Paige quickly cleans it up while a barrage of questions hits Neal about his disability. Momentarily saved by a ring of his cell phone, Neal returns to their attention only to have Paige ask him to explain how he became paralyzed.

Neal relives the account as he returns to the memory of that college spring day jumping and running as he played basketball. At the conclusion of his basketball game, Neal had to quickly say goodbye to his then girlfriend, Suzy Reed, to make it to his next class. Peddling as fast as he could, his attention was diverted from the road by the smile of a beautiful woman exiting a bookstore. When Neal looked forward a car parked along the curb opened his door. To avoid an accident, Neal quickly reacts by swinging wide into the left lane. A car already in that lane hits his brakes and lays on his horn as he nearly hits Neal. Neal turns to shake his fist at both drivers his attention is once again drawn from the road.

Meanwhile, a woman in a sport utility vehicle tries to calm her kids down as she drives quickly down the street. She turns her head to grab her son from jumping in the backseat. Just as Neal returns his focus to the front he is in the middle of an intersection where the woman in the sport utility vehicle plows into Neal. Neal is thrown from his bike across the street. As Neal's vision fades to black as the sound of large steel doors slam shut.

The ringing of Neal's cell phone breaks the intense silence in the living and again he must excuse himself from the conversation.

Later that afternoon, Neal, Paige's father, brother Trent, and young nephew Jarod, relax on the front porch. Here it is revealed that Neal's college girlfriend, Suzy, left him shortly after his accident and that Paige has a history of taking on "more than she can handle", along with the fact that she has a large "loving heart." The family members continue by sarcastically expressing their concern that it seems only logical that Neal be with "someone of his own kind." Mr. Logan concludes by coming directly to the point, "You say you've thought about her. Can you honestly say that Paige would be better off with you, happier with you, than say someone without a disability? How much do you love her?"

Those thoughts leave Neal pondering what's important for Paige. What does she deserve? And with feelings like she may be unintentionally bringing him home like a stray puppy.

Dinner conversation turns to Neal's successful company and the direction of being bought by Gibson Software. Upon revelation of the software Neal created, Trent rudely expresses his comments and it's discovered that Mr. Logan has a strong dislike with company mergers from his personal experiences.

Unable to win any points with her family, Neal is startled by the time on his watch. It is past his scheduled time to use the bathroom. He excuses himself to find that the doors to the only bathroom downstairs will not accommodate his wheelchair.

Neal turns his head to ask Paige for help, but resists as to not give the impression he is dependent on anyone for anything. Sitting in the hallway, Neal lowers his head into his hands and notices his lap is wet from his bladder leaking.

Neal refuses again to ask for help. He quickly wheels outside to find himself stuck by the stairs down the porch. Unable to easily get to his rental car and go to the hotel, Neal turns around and halts just short of reaching for the door to ask Paige to come to his rescue. Neal's independence, having a girlfriend or future wife becoming his nurse and what is all looks like, comes into question.

Determined to do it alone, Neal attempts to go down the stairs. Just as he starts, Neal loses his balance by an unseen toy on the porch near the stairs that causes him to fall to the ground unconscious.

After a brief visit to the Emergency Room to treat his mild concussion, Neal makes it clear he wants nobody's help as he forces Paige's hands off his wheelchair and he rolls out of the hospital alone.

Resting on his bed in the hotel room, Neal shuffles through some paperwork and comes across his plane ticket. Paige comes out of the bathroom, sits on the edge of the bed and lifts Neal's leg to do his exercises. Neal tries to separate himself and especially his needs by clearly stating "I don't need them done." Neal then confronts Paige with being a burden and how he doesn't want to contribute to her history of taking on more than she can handle. Paige continues to do his leg exercises when the situation finally blows up.

Neal pushes his leg back down on the bed and directly says; "I don't need them done. And I don't need a wet nurse." Thoroughly upset, Paige screams, "What do you need?" A pause in Neal's answer as he calmly looks at Paige, takes a deep breath and answers; "I need some rest." Neal rolls over in the bed away from Paige. Paige grabs her jacket and storms out. All alone, Neal looks deeply at his hands as he rubs them together.

Paige quietly sneaks in the back door of her parent's home only to be startled by her mother sitting at the kitchen table. Paige then joins her mom in reminiscing about all the good times they shared late night at this table. Working on the tough situations Paige got her self into and eating "ice cream and brownies sprinkled with powdered sugar snow." Mom then plainly states what everybody feels. "I think you're in over your head again." Paige comes back with, "I think of him as a man, as a person. I don't think about his disability that much." Her mother returns with, "You should think about it. Do you know how much time you're going to have to spend to take care of him?" Paige agrees and continues "I thought I did, until tonight. There's a lot more to learn, but he's going back home tomorrow." Paige continues by confessing, "I love him. Isn't that enough? I thought if you really love someone that's all it would take to overcome anything, but I'm not sure anymore. I don't know what to do." Paige drops her head and cries. Mom runs over and puts her arms around Paige.

The next morning as Paige and Neal drive to the airport, Paige questions Neal about why he is leaving early. Neal gives the excuses that Gibson Software has "agreed to the terms of the merger" and that one of his existing clients, "Mr. Howell, is having a get-together" later that night. Paige wonders out loud by stating that she thought Bob was handling all the small details. Neal replies "I have to work twice as hard at everything to prove I can do it as well as anybody else." Paige confirms that Mr. Gibson has already offered Neal and his whole

team new positions at his company after the merger. After Neal agrees, Paige searches for another reason to keep Neal there. Paige remarks, "I thought you were looking forward to showing off how you can water ski." Neal replies that he can water ski anytime and that he didn't need to show off for her family.

As they pull up to the airport and get out, Neal suggests that "It's just as well." When Paige questions to what that means, Neal plainly states, "It means, maybe your family's right and you'd be a whole lot better off with someone other than a gimp." Paige shocked, but somehow knew what's coming still questions, "What are you saying?" Neal wanting this to be as quick and painless as possible states calmly, "I'm saying you don't need me. We have run our course, so go have fun with your family. I'll call you sometime." Neal politely kisses Paige's hand and rolls off into the airport terminal. Paige stands there in complete disarray.

Before her return from the airport, Paige's mother secretly invites Paige's ex-boyfriend, Tony Moore, her high school sweetheart, to come over and pay a surprise visit. While in a daze, Paige continues to help pack all the necessary items for the family's day at the lake. A ring at the front door has Paige's mother rushing to answer it. When she returns to reveal it is Tony, Paige drops a glass dish on the floor. Her shock is doubled from the morning's events.

Tony, a very good-looking man with an athletic build, rushes over to greet Paige with a hug. After complementing Paige on her beauty, she notices the broken dish on the floor and bends down to clean it up. Tony quickly drops down to help. The awkward moment passes as they reminisce about the last time they saw each other about five years ago. Tony assuredly adds, "I've missed you." Just then Paige's father enters the kitchen and notices Tony. A happy reunion ensues as they head out to the garage. Paige remains in shock.

Upon Neal's return to his apartment, he is neither surprised nor seemingly offended by the mess in the living room. Neal loves things in order, but the recent events have him a little numb as he catches Paige's friend, Tammy rushing out of the hallway looking for her shoes. Tammy tries to give some lame excuse for being there, but it falls on deaf ears. Tammy leaves and Bob enters the room from the shower with a towel over his head. When he removes it he is quite shocked to find Neal home. Bob questions Neal. Neal says it's for "Paige's best" interests and then gives the same reply he gave Paige about the party and the merger being signed. Bob asks if Neal is going to say anything about the condition of the apartment. Neal responds, "...deal with it." Then get ready for this shin dig."

On the boat for Paige's family water skiing day, her brother, Trent and Tony help her father get the boat ready to go out. Trent encourages Tony to get back together with Paige. When Tony questions "isn't she with someone?" Trent humorously answers, "That depends on what your definition of the word "with"

is." They laugh just as Paige walks down the dock and climbs aboard the boat. The two of them shut it up. Paige's depressed look has Trent trying to cheer her up. Trent pokes her in the side to tickle her and after a few attempts it works.

Everyone climbs aboard as they get ready for the first skier. Tony jumps in the water to volunteer, but Paige's mother thinks it would be better if the ladies went first. Then Paige is nominated. She accepts and as she climbs down the small ladder on the end of the boat, Tony reaches up to touch her leg. It startles Paige and she falls backward into the water and Tony's arms. They float in a moment of comfortable familiarity. Not quite ready for a new relationship, even with an old beau, Paige swims away with Tony's assurance that if she ever needed or wanted him to just ask and he'll be there. Paige's mom predicts to Trent's wife, Ashley that Paige and Tony will be going out on a date that night. Even if it meant helping to make it happen.

Neal and Bob arrive at Mr. Howell's very-upper class home. Mr. Howell is eager to greet and thank Neal for the software he has created to help with his business and welcomes them into party. Mr. Howell excuses himself and Neal has Bob introduce himself to a potential new customer, Mr. Blankenship. After trying to fit into the crowd from his viewpoint in a wheelchair, Neal welcomes Mr. Howell's return.

Mr. Howell introduces his daughter, Aimee who is entangled with her friend. As she breaks her arm free to shake Neal's hand, her friend nearly falls into Neal's lap. To his amazement it happens to be Suzy Reed, his ex-girlfriend who left him when he lost his ability to walk. Suzy looks as if she just walked off the cover of Vogue magazine. Neal and Suzy walk to the patio and get reacquainted. Suzy explains that she is now an art dealer at a local gallery. When the two reach the end of the patio, Suzy sits down on a chair and crosses her legs. The high slit of her dress falls to reveal most of her leg. Mesmerized, Neal's eyes follow up her leg, body, neck and face. Suzy confesses "I don't think I realized how much I missed you, until now." Lost in the moment Neal responds "I haven't thought about it in awhile. What do you say we ditch this place?" Suzy places her arm on Neal's shoulder and smiles.

Meanwhile, Paige and Tony are out on the town at a dance club that's playing a night of seventies disco music. At the table Paige is surprised by the strange coincidence that Tony is an executive at Gibson Software. Tony says how he worked his way up by being on the road a lot and adamantly proclaims that now "it would take an awful lot to get me out of the Southern California area."

Paige wanting to dance drags the reluctant Tony out on the dance floor. As they step down the stairs to the dance floor, Paige naturally remarks how she can't believe they would have stairs there and how would anybody in a wheelchair get down there. Tony shrugs it off saying, "I doubt anybody in a wheelchair would

even come here?" Paige quickly responds while pointing to the stairs, "And that's why." While dancing Tony admits he isn't that good, but Paige explains that it isn't about being good or bad, but about having fun. Then as soon as the song ends a slow song begins.

Tony opens his arms to invite Paige to dance. Paige a little hesitant accepts. Tony talks about his new house and how he could use Paige's assistance in decorating. Paige tells of how Neal plans to get a house as soon as the merger goes through. Tony gets right to the point and asks directly, "Didn't you two break-up?" He pulls Paige closer and she pulls away. Flustered Paige answers, "Yes. I mean no. I don't know." Confused with thought, Paige leans forward back into Tony's arms to continue dancing. Tony consoles Paige saying, " Well, I have plenty of room and you're always welcome."

Neal and Suzy roll/walk down the lighted cement path along the beach toward the art gallery where Suzy works. They notice a young couple making out on the beach next to a fire. Suzy remarks how it wasn't that long ago when that was them. Neal agrees, "It seems like yesterday."

Just before they reach the retail shops on the opposite side of the beach, Suzy gets excited and fumbles for her keys as she races ahead to open the door. Neal stops to look at his reflection in the window of the shop before the art gallery. Neal enters into the gallery. The dim lighting falls from the lamps that hang over certain paintings and sculptures as Neal rolls forward. Suzy says, "Let me get that" as she slowly and seductively reaches over Neal to close the front door behind him. Neal closes his eyes and takes in a deep breath. The door closes and Suzy returns to standing in front of Neal, who opens his eyes and clears his throat.

As they move into the gallery they discuss the paintings, sculptures and artists that created them. Neal finds out that Suzy is paid a commission on all that sells. When Neal inquires as to how much a certain painting will make, Suzy replies that it depends on the highest bidder in their exhibition coming up this Friday night. Suzy sits on another chair and crosses her legs where once again most of her leg is revealed. Neal can't help but notice.

To change the subject Suzy asks, "Do you ever wish you weren't in that chair?" Neal looks away and responds, "Sometimes. Like every morning when I wake from a blissful dream to the cold reality of seeing my wheelchair waiting for me to climb into it."

Neal rolls to the nearest sculpture, that of a man in a broad stance with a clenched fist above his head. Neal reaches up and stops just short of touching it. Neal continues, "Or when my friends return from their hike up Pike's Peak and show me the video. I always know they wanted to invite me, but...This becomes

natural after a while. My chair is very much a part of me. I even forget about it most of the time."

Neal rolls toward the other wall of paintings. Suzy somewhat confidently says, "Most people seem to be understanding to those with handicaps." Neal sharply turns and looks at Suzy and replies "First of all, its disabilities not handicaps. The very origin of the word means, "cap in hand" or beggar. I don't need any handouts. Saying handicapped is like using a racial slur." Suzy turns away and apologizes. Neal slows down his defensive attack. "No. I'm sorry. It's just that most people are accepting, but they just don't think I could be their equal. Some don't mind those with disabilities, so long as they're kept at arms length."

Neal turns back toward the wall, looks up at a painting of a man and woman standing in a loving embrace in an open field. Suzy responds, "Sounds like you're talking from experience." Neal reaffirms his independence; "Some feel obligated to help all the time, as if we can't get through this life without them. I don't need anybody." Neal rolls around to face Suzy as she remarks, "You've come a long way since your accident and you got here all by yourself." "Exactly." Neal responds. Then he reflects for a moment as his voice lowers, Neal corrects himself. "Well, I guess that's not entirely true. My parents and my friend Bob stuck by me, helping me get where I am now."

Suzy struts over to Neal and tries to capitalize on Neal's vulnerable moment. "Let's not talk about need right now. Let's talk about wants. I know what I want." Suzy sits down sidesaddle on Neal's lap with her arms wrapped around his shoulders. Neal looks deep into Suzy's eyes and runs his hand along her exposed leg. Neal questions Suzy "You know how long I've dreamed of this, waiting to be with you again?"

The passion flares up and as their tongues dart in and out of each others mouths and their hands roam all over each others bodies, Suzy exclaims, "Oh, me...too." Neal responds, "I knew it...would be...great and I...couldn't stop thinking about it...until a few months...ago ...when I met..." Suddenly Neal is reminded of Paige. Suzy unbuttons Neal's shirt while kissing his neck.

Neal abruptly stops leans back in his chair and holds Suzy away at an arm's length. "Hold on. Let's slow down." Neal requests. Suzy breaks out of Neal's hold and says, "Don't be ridiculous. I want you." Suzy moves back toward Neal, who turns his head away with a look of deep thought and responds "Then why did you wait eight years to express that?" Suzy stands up off of Neal's lap.

Neal apologizes. "I'm sorry. Listen, I'm all for living for today, in the moment, but I think we ought to take this one step at a time." Slightly agitated, Suzy straightens out her dress and reluctantly agrees. Neal rolls over and offers a consoling hand

to Suzy and offers to take her out to dinner the next night. Suzy agrees and accepts his offer.

The next morning at the Logan's home, Paige and her mother get ready for the day. The conversation is on both Tony and Neal. Paige criticizes her mother that she "...judged Neal as one who'll always be a burden and Tony as some wonder boy." Mrs. Logan simply replies, "Well, isn't it true?" Paige jumps up from the chair and turns to face her mother to say, "No! It isn't. Tony's not what he once was and you don't know Neal." Quick with a reply, Mrs. Logan says, "I know that he left you here."

Paige storms over to the closet, pulls a dress off a hanger and quickly turns around and defends Neal, "Well, if you didn't pressure him so much." Mrs. Logan says she feels that if "he can't take it here, how would he handle it in the real world with you?" Paige sits back down in front of her mirror and applies facial powder. "All I know is we were doing fine until we came here." Mrs. Logan returns to say, "So, it's all our fault."

Paige confident replies, "Neal isn't another "cause" I'm trying to make better. He's not a part of some "Save the Disabled from permanent isolation" campaign. If anything, he's saving me. He's taught me that sometimes not helping is helping." Paige slips her summer day dress over her head. Mrs. Logan apologizes, "Helping is all I wanted to do. I didn't know bringing in Tony would be so difficult."

Paige calms down and replies, "I know. The whole situation's difficult. Neal once pointed out that from the time we're born we learn to be independent. We learn to tie our own shoes, make our own food, go to school and college to prepare to be on our own and independent. Then become debt free and save as much as we can so we can be independent well into our golden years. Then if something should happen along the way to take the slightest amount of our independence away, we'll fight to the death to keep it."

Mrs. Logan puts her hand on Paige's and responds, "Maybe he sees you as a threat to him proving his independence." Paige answers, "All I know is he's much more than he seems on the outside. He's done a lot, not just for himself, but also for me." Paige turns around and the two embrace.

Meanwhile, Bob enters Neal's office to find Neal frantically packing books and folders into boxes on his desk. When Bob inquires whether they are still having their secretary's brothers pack and move them to their new offices at Gibson software, Neal replies that they are, but that he can do his own work. Bob shakes his head in disbelief and responds, "If I did as much as you do everyday, I would have to have every other day off just to sleep."

The phone rings and interrupts their conversation. Neal leans back and a frown overcomes his face. Neal speaks with Mr. Turner at Gibson Software. The conversation heats up and after being told that Mr. Gibson is too busy, Neal slams the phone down as he hangs up. Bob immediately inquires what it was all about. Neal answers, "Gibson is shuffling me to start up a new sales office in Chicago. Cutting us out of the new product division all together."

Bob said that he thought that staying with the project was part of the merger contract. Neal explains "It was only a verbal understanding" and that he needs "to talk to someone that understands mergers." Frustrated himself, Bob inquires, "Who? We don't know anybody." Neal responds that he does know one, but is reluctant to call him. Excited by the prospect, Bob asks, "Who? And why not?" Neal confesses it's, "Paige's father, Mr. Logan."

Bob picks up the phone, hands it to Neal and says "Suck it up, cowboy. Obviously our lawyer didn't know much about mergers or else we wouldn't be worrying about this now." Neal calls Mr. Logan. After Neal requests a copy of the merger, Bob exits the office and enters the reception area where the receptionist, Brenda Thompson, hangs up the phone.

"What is it going to take to get him to slow down?" Bob asks. Brenda replies that it would take, "A miracle."

Neal enters with his briefcase. He sets it on Brenda's desk and opens it. Bob hands copies of the merger contracts to Neal and asks, "What did Mr. Logan say?" Neal responds, "He's going to call his lawyer friend and call me back on my cell phone. Meanwhile, I'm going to talk to Mr. Gibson."

Neal heads for the door as Bob promises to get to work on the Blankenship presentation and wishes Neal good luck. Neal responds abruptly, "Luck is created, not handed out or wished for. Also, I won't be back this afternoon, so hold down the fort."

Neal turns and leaves the office and Bob turns to Brenda sitting behind her desk to ask, "Where's he going?" Brenda answers, "He asked me to confirm this afternoon with Kyle." Bob shakes his head looking very concerned.

In a restaurant set up as an exact replica of Rick's Cafe in the movie, "Casablanca", Paige sits at a table next to Tony, Mr. and Mrs. Logan, Trent, and Ashley. Trent and Ashley explain they are leaving after lunch for a conference in San Francisco and asked Paige if she was going back up there to her home any time soon. Paige raises her eyebrows to say "maybe." Mr. Logan interjects that "There's no need for Paige to rush home. I'm sure she'll like to stay awhile longer."

Trent pipes up stating that Paige would "probably like to spend some time here with Tony." Paige takes a bite and looks sternly at Trent.

Tony slides his hand unnoticed under the table and on to Paige's leg. Paige drops her fork as her knee bumps the table. Mrs. Logan asks, "Are you okay?" As Paige pushes Tony's hand away he looks innocently to the rest of the table and she replies that she "will be."

Mr. Logan continues "You know, Princess, you don't have to stay with us." A sigh of relief overcomes Paige as she explains that she "really should go." Mr. Logan misunderstands what Paige means and replies "We understand you wanting to go away and spend quality time with Tony." Paige looks surprised as Tony quickly tries to capitalize on the situation by saying, "I'll show you my new house, which could be ours, if you just say the word."

Paige slams down her fork and stands up asking, "What's wrong with you? With all of you? No offense Tony, but we were what we were and were not that anymore." Paige wipes her mouth with her napkin as everyone's attention focuses on her. Paige continues "I love Neal, regardless of his physical limitations. I can't help but think of him, about how every time we kiss, it's like the first time. How he cares about me, asking my opinions on issues that I never even thought about before. And helping me get through the mundane, by slowing down enough to show me how the smallest things in life, are actually great, big, wonderful miracles."

Paige shoves her chair toward the table as Mrs. Logan reaches to hold Paige's hand. Paige concludes, "I love him so much. I don't know why I let him go so easily. I know where he fits in my life." Paige clenches her fist and covers her heart. "I just have to find out if I still fit in his life." Paige leaves the restaurant.

At a local area lake, Neal wheels down the dock, with an adapted water ski on his lap, next to a very nice ski boat. Neal's friend and fellow paraplegic, Kyle Hesson wheels to the controls of the boat. Don Timersen, a possible client of Neal's and two very attractive women wearing bikini's, Lynn and Laura situate themselves on the boat.

Don steps over toward the dock where Neal rolls to and inquires if he can help in anyway. Neal thanks Don, lowers himself down out of his wheelchair onto the dock and pushes his chair over to Don, who quickly grabs it and puts it on the boat. Neal puts on his life jacket and swings his legs over and into the water as he sits on the edge of the dock.

Neal exclaims, "What a perfect day for this." While Lynn applies sun tan lotion to Don's shoulders, Don says "There's nothing like mixing business with pleasure. How did you know last week that today was going to be a perfect day for water

skiing?" Neal shrugs his shoulders and replies "As my grandma used to say, "I must be living right."

Kyle rolls to the back of the boat to get everyone started. Neal throws a prescription bottle to Kyle and then pushes himself into the water. A Dockhand, already in the water, grabs the ski off the edge of the dock and helps Neal maneuver to secure himself on it.

Curious about the drug bottle Don has to ask Kyle, "What is that?" After Kyle tells him that they're painkillers, Don asks if Neal needs them to ski. Kyle chuckles and replies, "For most of us it's twenty-four/ seven. The only thing that changes is how intense the pain is at that moment. Usually, it's focused at the point of injury." Kyle then hits Don on the back with a karate chop and moves to the boat's cockpit seat to position the boat away from the dock. Don tosses the ski rope to Neal.

Meanwhile, small crowds of On-Lookers gather near the dock to watch and see if Neal is able to water ski. Neal gives the thumbs up and the boat takes off. Neal gets his ski up on the surface of the water then loses his grip of the rope and falls over.

The small crowd of On-Lookers sigh. On the boat Kyle turns his head back toward Don to find out if Neal's all right. Don says that Neal's signaling to have the rope again. Kyle moves the boat around.

Neal gives the thumbs up to Kyle. The boat takes off and just as Neal gets up he falls over again. The On-Lookers let out another big sigh. Two of the On-Lookers, both men in their early 20's stand near the dock. The first one digs in his wallet looking for some cash and offers a counter bet, "Triple or nothing he makes it this time." His buddy accepts the bet thinking he'll surely win.

Back on the lake, Neal takes a deep breath and gives the thumbs up. Kyle hits the accelerator and the boat takes off. Neal stays in the water a little low looking like he's being dragged, but still holds on. Slowly he raises up a little higher and a little higher and then he's up and skiing like a pro.

The crowd goes wild with cheers as Neal does his own slalom, jumping the wakes of the boat. After a short celebration with the ladies, Don turns back around and notices Neal trying to say something.

Raising his arms to his head, Don cups his ears and yells over the loud noise of the engine to question Neal. Neal holds the ski handle with one hand and uses the other to point up ahead. Don looks ahead of the boat and spots the ski jump. Don immediately tells Kyle "I think he wants to jump." Kyle confirms "Are you sure? He always passes on the jump." Don double checks with Neal by putting

his arms in the elongated triangle shape of the jump and asking, "Do you want to jump?" Neal shakes his head "yes" and gives the thumbs up. Surprised Kyle responds, "Something must be wrong, or he's really got something to prove to himself today." Kyle smiles as he moves the boat into position.

As Neal races toward the jump, his heart beats faster. He thinks to himself "I can do this. So I've never done it on this ski. It can't be that different from when I was able bodied. Yeah, you go up, your blood is pumping, you fly through the air and the exhilaration is intense. Then you come down. Oh, yeah, you come down!"

Neal's only two seconds from hitting the jump. He yells thinking to himself, "Too late now !!! Ahhhhhhhhhhh!" Neal hits the jump and flies through the air and lands perfectly! Neal beams with pride.

Everyone on the boat celebrates with joy. Back on the dock the two strangers now has the first guy gladly accepting cash from his buddy, as he puts it into his once empty wallet.

In the reception area of the Gibson Software's Los Angeles office, Tony enters from the hallway and greets Mr. Logan. The two of them walk back to Tony's office. As they enter Mr. Logan raises his eyebrow in admiration of Tony's large and exquisitely furnished office. Tony closes the door behind Mr. Logan. And offers him a seat as he questions what has brought him in.

Tony sits on his desk edge as Mr. Logan hands him a stack of papers clipped together and explains that he left them at the restaurant earlier that day. Mr. Logan then inquires deeper as he asks Tony, "I also wanted to see if you know anything about the merger of Neal's company."

A bit uncomfortable, Tony stands up and as calmly as he can responds, "Who me? No, I don't really know. I mean, I don't work in that department." Tony's computer monitor, which sits on a table against the wall and clearly seen from the whole room, flickers until Mr. Gibson's image interrupts, "Tony. What's going on?"

Mr. Logan stands up. Tony turns to face the computer. "What do you mean, Sir?" Anger surrounds Mr. Gibson's face as he says, "You said a close family friend told you that Neal Perry wanted out. He was here this morning and threatened to take his patented software to the grave if we didn't keep him and his entire staff here on the project. I want to see you here in San Francisco, first thing in the morning." Mr. Gibson's video transmission ends.

Tony quickly turns around to explain, "That was not..." Mr. Logan cuts him off. "That was you? You were behind this. I can't believe you lied, and you used us. Is that how you got all of this?" Mr. Logan motions around the office.

Tony gives his selfish excuse, "I couldn't leave L.A. again. It was just business." Mr. Logan with disappointment expresses, "Business? Successful people, obviously like Neal, look out not only for their own best interests, but also for those who helped get them where they are. So don't talk to me about business." Mr. Logan shakes his head in disgust and storms out of the office.

At a local video store, Paige follows Bob around the aisles as he desperately looks for a video. Paige exclaims, "It's all my fault. I should've never told Tony about Neal." Bob adamantly denies it's her fault for anything and that although Neal has been acting strange the past couple of days, "he'll get it together."

Paige questions if Bob knows how to get a hold of Neal. After Bob explains he doesn't know, he asks if he can ask a question. Paige complies and Bob asks while trying not to refer to Tammy, "What would someone like you like to snuggle up on the couch and watch tonight?"

Slightly annoyed, Paige looks at the video shelf. After a quick moment, she picks one and hands it to Bob. Bob smiles with gratitude and then looks at the video. "When Harry Met Sally"? This ought to be on the Classic Film Channel." Paige shakes her head and walks past Bob. Bob races up to Paige with the video in hand and consoles her. "Hey, I know he cares a lot for you. Do you really love him?" Paige stops and looks sincerely at Bob and answers, "Of course I do. I never thought I would fall in love, let alone for someone in a wheelchair. But now that I have, I can't imagine living without him. Until the last couple of days and it's killing me."

Bob and Paige get in the checkout line. Bob explains "Then tell him that and if you want I'll talk to him too." Paige perks up. Bob continues, "But, he'll only listen to me so much. You're going to have to find him, tell him how you feel." Paige kisses his Bob's cheek and thanks him. Paige excitedly runs out of the store.

Bob steps up to the counter and hands his video to the Video Clerk who looks at the video and then to Bob and asks, "My, oh, my. Have a date tonight?" Bob responds positively and the Clerk states, "You know this isn't the only romantic comedy ever made?" Bob shoves money at the Video Clerk, who puts it in the cash register and replies, "I know that."

The Video Clerk hands Bob his change and puts the video in a bag. Bob wondering if he made the right decision reluctantly grabs the bag and walks out of the store. The Video Clerk smiles at the next customer and pries into her rental saying, "What are we getting today?" as he reaches for her video.

At the City Park, eight paraplegics, using wheelchairs, including Neal, play basketball. Neal sweats as he rebounds, shoots and scores. The other team takes the ball out as they all scrambles for the other net.

Bob walks up and takes off his sunglasses. The other team scores a basket and they all take a time out for water and Gatorade. Bob walks over to Neal at the sidelines and inquires how Neal's doing. Neal responds, "Not bad, but we're up only by four."

Bob sits down on the bench next to an ice cooler and thanks Neal "for getting our jobs back at Gibson." When Neal says the credit goes to Mr. Logan for helping with his attorney friend, Bob expresses that "Paige is more involved than even she realizes." Curious Neal asks Bob to clarify. Bob explains, "Tony Moore, Mr. Gibson's right hand man when we went to sign the contracts, is the one who tried to stab us in the back. He happens to be Paige's ex-boyfriend."

Neal shakes his head. Bob continues with the real purpose of why he came. "Speaking of Paige, she's been trying to get a hold of you." Neal shrugs it off to being lazy by saying; "I haven't checked my messages in awhile." Bob picks up a basketball from under the bench and says that he should.

A little agitated, Neal sets down his water bottle and asks, "What's up with you?" Bob quickly responds, "Real question's, what's up with you? I think you need to quit acting like you're able bodied."

Neal angrily staring at Bob says, "Able bodied? I've come to terms with my disability a long time ago." Bob stands up and throws the ball at Neal, telling him, "Then let everyone else come to terms with it, too."

Neal throws the ball back at Bob twice as forceful and asks, "What the hell do you know?" Bob answers, "I know you try too hard at always proving you're as good, if not better than every able bodied person around you." Neal proudly states, "And I know that I can't live with people's sympathy and I'm not somebody's inspirational story. This is my life."

Bob dribbles the basketball and gets right to the point. "Then live it. Don't over do it or you'll miss it. No man is an island, but you make it as if you were the only one. I mean, even Robinson Crusoe had Friday. We all have to accept help from time to time."

One of Neal's teammates yells to Neal, "Come on Neal, we need to finish this game before it gets dark." Neal turns his head and points his finger to have them wait for a minute.

Bob continues, "I needed your help getting me where I am today. We all have different needs. I have different needs than you and as you've said before, you have different needs than even other wheelers, like those on the court. Right now, they need you and you need them to still play basketball."

Neal quickly responds defensively, "Yeah, I still play basketball and do everything I used to. It's just twice as hard as before and I don't think it's fair to subject Paige to that kind of lifestyle."

Bob rolls the ball back under the bench and tells Neal, "Then I guess you should stay with someone like, Suzy. She'll get what she wants and you'll get what you want."

Neal shakes his head and responds; "I don't think so. I got everything I needed with these." Neal lifts his open hands in the air toward Bob.

Bob recognizing the significance then calmly asks, "What are you afraid of losing? The appearance of independence or the best woman you'll ever find? I think it's your turn to "deal with it." Deal with Paige otherwise you're going to lose her, forever. Before last weekend you were afraid her parents would be making up her mind for her on who she should see."

Neal quickly responds, "And I don't like anybody making up my mind or telling me what to do either." Bob then brings up the obvious. "Then, why are you making up Paige's mind for her?"

Neal looks visibly angry and points his finger at Bob and forcefully claims, "I'm not telling her..." Neal drops his finger as he reflects.

Bob plainly states. "Yes you are. You're not letting her decide if being with you is too much." Bob realizing there isn't much else to say digs in his pant's pocket for his car keys as he walks toward Neal. Neal trying to remain independent states, "Don't worry, I'll "deal with it" in my own time." Bob concludes, "You better soon, or you'll lose her forever." Bob puts his sunglasses on and his hand on Neal's shoulder as he walks by and back to his car.

Neal's Teammate throws the basketball at Neal. Neal turns around and proclaims, "Alright let the whooping commence. I've got dinner plans." Neal throws the ball back as he rolls out on the court.

At a local nightclub hangout called "On the Rocks," Neal sits at a long table with Suzy, Don, Kyle and the two ladies, Lynn and Laura, from the skiing boat. An open dance floor area separates the crowded tables and an informal stage that's lifted up only six inches. A small band plays on the stage. A banner sign hangs over the stage, which reads "Open Mike Night. All Welcomed."

Suzy leans on Neal and thanks him for the promised dinner and then asks him, "Whom else can we invite to the Art Gallery Friday night?" Neal a little disgusted with the topic, replies "Can't we discuss who's in my Rolodex later?"

Don leans over to Neal and states "You know you didn't need to schmooze me today. I was already going to buy five hundred copies of your software." Neal smiles with confidence and replies, "Yeah, but I thought what the hell, we could use a day of playing." Don laughs, leans back and looks at Lynn as she puts her arm around his shoulder.

Trent and Ashley walk up to the table. Neal looks surprised as Trent explains they were there for a conference down the street and came in to have some fun. The coincidence has Trent and Ashley inviting them selves to the table as they pull up chairs and sit down. Neal makes the proper introductions and states he had talked to Mr. Logan earlier that day. When Trent says that he knows, Neal asks how. Trent responds that his father had "called wondering if we had seen Paige. He was trying to tell her something about, Tony."

Neal nearly chokes on his drink. Suzy hands him a napkin. "Tony Moore?" he asks. Ashley inquires, "You know him?" Neal says that he "met him once." Trent looks surprised to Ashley.

Up on the stage the Emcee jumps up to the stage, with a lot of enthusiasm as the crowd applauds. The Emcee thanks the band for their participation and introduces the next group.

Ashley turns toward Trent and says that he should've brought his guitar. Embarrassed, Trent claims he doesn't " play that much anymore." After Ashley squashes that lie and with some encouragement from the rest of the table to go up on stage, Trent remains too embarrassed to accept the challenge.

Kyle looks to Neal to say something. Neal pipes up, "Have you ever played in front of a crowd before?" Trent tries to ditch the questions, but Ashley explains he did a lot in college and does back at home.

Neal turns himself to squarely face Trent and asks Trent, " Close your eyes just for a minute." After an initial reluctance, Trent agrees. Neal proceeds, "Good. Now shut out all the sounds of this busy gin joint. Forget about work. You don't ever have to go back. Forget about your family. They're out and won't be back for hours. Forget about money. All your needs are taken care of...Now, where are you at and what are you doing?"

The blank look on his face turns to a large smile as he leans back in his chair and he responds, "I'm in my living room, sitting on the couch and playing my guitar."

Neal continues, "Completely undisturbed, uninterrupted. You're lovin' it." Trent agrees as he moves his hands in the air as if he was holding and playing his guitar.

"Then don't let circumstances stand in your way of what you are all about. Grab onto life and live it." Neal then inquires of Trent, "Can you, for just this brief moment in time, be yourself and create a memory that you'll never forget?" Trent, with eyes still closed, nods his head, "yes." Neal concludes asking, "Can you forget about the crowd, step on that stage and play like you're in your living room?"

Trent smiles from ear to ear. Everyone at the table smiles and shakes their head to agree with Neal. Trent's smile quickly turns to a straight face as he opens his eyes and answers a resounding, "No." Trent shakes his head back and forth as everyone else sighs with disappointment.

Neal leans back in his chair as Ashley playfully slaps Trent's shoulder and asks "Why not?" Trent smiles, stands up and says he will only if "Mr. Motivational speaker over here comes up with me." Trent raises one eyebrow looking slyly at Neal.

Everyone at the table encouragingly claps. The singing act on stage ends and everyone else claps as well.

Not to be out done or have his independence attacked, Neal says "Sure, but what am I going to do? I don't play an instrument." Trent quickly responds, "Paige told us you sing in the car all the time!" Trent smiles as if the mouse caught the cat. Not to be outdone, Neal smiles confidently back and agrees.

Neal wheels back out from the table as Trent walks around to join him. Suzy reaches over and kisses Neal on the cheek as Ashley excitedly states, "Now there's a man who talks the talk and walks the wal..."

Embarrassed, Ashley quickly slaps her hand over her mouth where it stays for a moment. Everyone else freezes in place. Neal starts to laugh and says that he knew what she meant.

Kyle reminds Neal of his own words as he repeats, "Yeah, just "be yourself and create a memory you'll never forget." Everyone at the table laughs as Neal replies, "I'll never forget this that's for sure!"

As Neal and Trent move toward the stage, Trent continues with reminding Neal of his words by stating, "Close your eyes and remember to "forget about the crowd." Neal joins the kick at his expense by saying, "Okay, but I've never been "in your living room!"

Trent walks to the previous act and borrows their guitar as the Emcee assists the reluctant Neal up onto the stage.

A drummer sits down and Trent plugs in the guitar. The three talk to themselves as the Emcee lowers the mike stand and announces to the crowd, "Alright, we have a brand new group tonight, so let's hear it for the "Dreamers."

The crowd applauds. Ashley whistles with excitement. The Emcee hands the mike to Neal as they get into position. Neal makes it clear to the audience "For the record, I'm NOT the "Wedding Singer." There's a small laugh from the crowd. Neal looks to Trent as he situates the guitar. Neal states, "This is the only song all three of us know. So, if you know it, please sing along. That way not everyone has to hear what it sounds like in my shower."

Trent looks at Neal and shakes his head that he's ready. A little nervous, Trent closes his eyes and plays the Steeler's Wheels song "Stuck In the Middle with You." The pace starts a little slow. The drummer lays back and waits to start. Neal places the microphone back in the stand and starts to sing, "Well, I don't know why I came here tonight. I got this feeling that something ain't right. I'm so scared in case I fall off my chair."

Neal animated to the lyrics, rocks in his wheelchair from side to side as he continues, "And I'm wondering how I'll get down the stairs. Clowns to the left of me. Jokers to the right. Here I am stuck in the middle with you."

As the drummer catches the beat, the crowd swings in their seats, left and right in unison with the beat and lyrics. "Clowns to the left of me. Jokers to the right. Here I am stuck in the middle with you."

Neal rolls, with the microphone in his hand, next to Trent. Trent opens his eyes and smiles as he nods his head to the beat. Neal looks at Trent as if he's singing these lines to him. "Well you started off with nothin' and then found that you're a self-made man. And your friends they all come crawlin', slap you on the back and say..."

Neal, now next to Trent, slaps him on the back and moves the microphone over toward Trent, who leans over. They both sing with smiles of fun on their faces. "...Please...Please..."

Neal smiles and moves back to center stage. Ashley blows Trent a kiss. Neal catches Suzy in his sight as the lyrics make him think. Suzy responds excitedly. "Well, I'm tryin' to make some sense of it all, but I can see it makes no sense at all. Is it cool to go to sleep on the floor? I don't think that I can take anymore."

The crowd continues to swing back and forth while they elbow each other to the left and right, at the appropriate times, and bang into their significant other as the words "in the middle with you" are sung. "Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right. Here I am stuck in the middle with you."

The focus shifts to Trent during the guitar solo, as he smiles real big toward Ashley.

Just outside the club, a couple exits the front doors. Paige hurriedly walks up and grabs the door before it closes and walks in.

Paige walks a couple of steps inside. She spots Neal and Trent on stage. Paige stops and smiles with joy.

On stage, Trent opens his eyes and moves next to Neal as he finishes his guitar solo. Neal picks up the lyrics, "Well, I don't know why I came here tonight. Got this feeling that something ain't right. I'm so scared in case I fall off my chair. And I'm wondering how I'll get down the stairs. Clowns to the left of me. Jokers to the right. Here I am stuck in the middle with you."

Trent kneels down and leans into the microphone that Neal gladly shares to sing the last lines. Neal's unconscious attempt to win Trent over from the past weekend's prejudices has obviously worked.

Trent points his guitar to Ashley as the line "stuck in the middle with you" repeats. As the song ends, everyone applauds and cheers. Suzy runs to the stage and jumps on Neal's lap. Ashley rushes up to embrace Trent.

Back at the table, Don leans over to Kyle while he continues to clap and asks, "Is Neal going home with her tonight?" Kyle says he "don't know, why?" Then Don tries to ask the inevitable question, "Just curious that's all. You know, if he or you can still, you know?"

Kyle smiles knowingly as he bites his lower lip and rocks back and forth in his wheelchair. "You mean, do it. Have sex?" Kyle says. Don embarrassingly, shakes his head "yes." Kyle answers, "Of course we can still "do it." And thanks to that little blue pill..." Don interjects, "Viagra?" Kyle responds, "Yeah, now physically we're always up to it."

Laura leans forward and adds, "And he spends a good amount of time with what he can feel." Laura raises her hands and randomly moves her fingers while she bites on Kyle's ear.

Don continues with his curiosity. "And without feeling, down there, do you still have the desire to "do it?" Kyle leans toward Don and replies, "Not as often as

Laura would like. There's no miracle pill for that. But, if you had her in your bed, would you need help with desire?" Kyle motions to Suzy. Laura slaps Kyle on the arm.

Suzy continues to kiss Neal. As soon as their lips part, Suzy says, "That was great. Maybe you and Trent can do this at the Gallery Friday night. I was talking to Don and he said he was coming."

Suzy kisses Neal's cheek as he purposely looks away. He looks up toward the front door and notices Paige.

Paige ends her clapping as her smile disappears. Nearly in tears she turns and runs out the front doors.

Neal pushes Suzy off his lap. Suzy falls as he rolls to the edge of the stage. "What was that for?" Neal turns his head to look at Suzy and replies; "All you ever talk about is selling art work at the gallery. What are you going to do when my resources dry up?" Suzy quickly responds, "Check the resources' resources. It's called networking, Neal." Neal convinced of Suzy's motives says, "That's all I am to you. A resource in your network."

Neal shakes his head, lifts his front wheels, looks closely at the floor and rolls off the stage to the front door. Rushing toward the door, Neal jams his thumb on his wheelchair. He shakes his hand and quickly continues to the door.

Outside, Neal busts through the doors looking both ways down the street, unable to see Paige. Neal raises his hands, looks at the blood on his thumb. He stares at his opened hands, clenches them into fists as he lays them on his lap.

The next morning Neal rolls up to Paige's apartment door and knocks. Tammy opens the door. Neal asks if Paige is home only to find out that she left back to her parents whom are having some big Anniversary party later that night.

Bob pulls the door from Tammy and opens it all the way. Neal surprised at them being together again asks, "You two? Again?" Bob looks uncomfortable standing in only his boxer shorts and explains; "We were just watching a movie that's all." Bob hands the door back to Tammy and hides back in the apartment.

Neal questions Tammy "Do you know where the party's at?" Tammy only knows that it's "Near her folks house. She was in a hurry and all she said was that she had to talk to some guy named Tony."

Neal looks worried and asks, "Talk? About what?" Tammy didn't know but concluded saying, "it seemed pretty important." Neal turns and hurries back down the hallway. Neal thanks Tammy as she wishes him good luck.

At the Crescent Restaurant's banquet room, Mr. and Mrs. Logan accompany Paige as they enter the beautifully decorated room. A large banner reads "Happy 30th Anniversary." Nearly one hundred guests, dressed in informal eveningwear, socialize.

The entry into the Banquet room sits on a platform, two steps higher than the rest of the floor. An old friend and the restaurant's host, Phillip Bowden rushes up the stairs to greet the Logan's. "Welcome and Happy Anniversary, Mr. Logan and Mrs. Logan." Mr. Bowden continues, "Mrs. Logan you look like the soft cool rain during a heat wave in the tropics." Mr. Bowden reaches for and kisses Mrs. Logan's hand.

Mrs. Logan thanks Mr. Bowden stating, "You have out done yourself." Mrs. Logan motions to the room. A glass-framed south wall shows a lighted water fountain sitting in the middle of the semi-covered courtyard.

Many of the guests, mingling inside and outside turn to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Logan with applause. Mr. and Mrs. Logan and Paige walk into the room and greet friends.

At the airport, Neal looks up over the counter to the Ticket Agent. The line behind Neal grows impatient as he begs the Agent, "Come on, you have two hundred flights from the Bay area to L.A. everyday. I've been on stand-by all day. I don't care if you don't have a disabled seat available. I'll sit on the floor. Just get me on a flight."

The Ticket Agent acts annoyed and starts on her computer all over again. The crowd moans and groans.

Back at the Anniversary Party, Paige walks over to a table where Trent and Ashley sit. Trent moves a chair out from the table. Paige sits down and confesses that she and her parents are late because they "got involved in a long conversation about Neal." Ashley expressing her concern inquires "How are you doing?" Paige shrugs it off and asks, "Has anyone seen Tony?" Trent moves a little closer to Paige, puts a consoling arm around her and says, "We haven't. Do you want me to go look for him?" Paige says that it's okay, she's sure she'll find him later.

They all look around the crowd in the room as Trent's curiosity has him ask Paige, "So what about Neal?" "What about him?" Paige answers. Ashley looks concerned as she adds, "It shouldn't really matter if someone's a little different. I mean we're all a little different in one way or another." Ashley smiles to break the tension. Paige continues to look serious as she says, "Some feel that being different is wrong, or at least it isn't right."

Trent sits up in his chair as he confidently states, "It's right to be who you are. A little lesson I was taught last night." Paige gives off a reflective sigh. Then exclaims, "If nothing else, Neal has taught me a lot. I've learned that the world's the same as it was before I met him. I just see more of its imperfections, from a different perspective."

Neal's perspective is demonstrated at the Airport gate as the last of the airline crewmembers walk up the airplane gate ramp. At the bottom of the ramp, Neal struggles to roll up the steep grade all alone.

At the top, Neal takes a quick breath and notices the sign for "Marathon Car Rental." Neal's noticeably weakened, but races over to it.

Again looking up to the standing Rental Agent, Neal waits while the Agent punches the keyboard of his computer. A line of impatient customers wait their turn behind Neal. The Rental Agent finally states, "I'm not finding any others available." Frustrated Neal responds, "Come on. I've waited for over a half an hour in line just to find you don't have any with hand controls? Where's the Monte Carlo I rented last weekend?"

The Rental Agent throws his arms up in the air and confesses he has already rented that car. Neal questions how that can be when he stated earlier that the hand controls for the car were behind the counter. The Rental Agent picks up the hand controls from under the counter. They rattle as he lifts them up and states, "We took them off for someone who didn't need them. Now we have cars, but they're not able to have these controls hooked up to them."

Neal shakes his head in disappointment as he rolls to the front doors he notices and yells for a Taxi.

Neal arrives at the Anniversary Party enters rapidly through the front doors. Mr. Bowden quickly steps up the stairs and with his arms out wide to cut off Neal. Mr. Bowden explains, "I'm afraid this is a closed party." Neal looks around Mr. Bowden as he tries to explain, "I know, I'm just here to see someone." Trying to remain polite and discreet, Mr. Bowden says, "Sir, it's not that I wouldn't let you in, it's just that you can't go in like that." Neal, very agitated looks directly at Mr. Bowden and responds, "Oh, like this. Listen, I'm only going to be a minute. You know the same minute that you tell yourself when you take a disabled parking spot at the grocery store."

Mr. Bowden looks guilty of the charge, Neal continues, "It's because I'm like this, that I can't visit a friend or a new friend who I've just met, because they happen to live on the second floor in a apartment complex with no elevators. Of course,

that's my fault or theirs for moving into such a place. I'm sure the person I never met before, should've known better."

Mr. Bowden tries to break into the conversation, but Neal continues, "Or maybe it's because I'm like this, that many places, constructed before the Americans with Disabilities Act became law, refuses to put in accessible ramps, so I don't make their guests uncomfortable. You must be afraid that no one will know how to, or they'll be frightened to talk to the disabled man. Is that what you mean?"

Mr. Bowden explains, "No, Sir. I mean, you'll need a coat and tie. I can't let you in like this." Neal looks down at himself to realize he's wearing denim jeans and an Oxford button down shirt. Mr. Bowden snaps his fingers to a Door Assistant behind Neal.

Neal looks through the glass wall and notices Paige at one end of the Courtyard and then spots Tony at the other. The Door Assistant hands Neal a jacket and tie. Neal quickly ties the tie as Mr. Bowden helps with the jacket. "There you go. Now, welcome."

Neal rolls to the stairs and stops as he looks down at them. Mr. Bowden apologizes, "I'm terribly sorry about this. Here let us help." Neal quickly pops up on his two rear wheels and freezes.

After a moment of thought, Neal lowers his chair and turns to Mr. Bowden and says, "Thanks, I could use some help." Mr. Bowden waves over two Door Assistants, who lift Neal and lower him to the main floor. Neal makes his way through the crowd to the Courtyard.

On the Courtyard, a twelve-piece band plays soft romantic music. On the stage stands a large blank television, sitting on a stand about six feet tall. Paige continues her conversation with Trent and Ashley. To finish their conversation on perspective, Ashley adds, "I know after Trent and I married, we had a lot more to learn about each other's perspective." Trent nods his head to agree and confesses, "After last night I certainly felt we gave Neal a bad shake last weekend." Trent slightly hangs his head as he shakes it back and forth.

Paige lightens up a bit as she says, "Really? I was going to explain everything to him last night. Until I saw her there." "Her, who?" Ashley inquires. Paige squints her eyes with distaste as she answers, "Suzy. I saw her there at the club with you guys." Trent looks to Ashley with an "Oh" look and adds "But right after the song, he had a few words with her and we didn't see her again." Surprised Paige says, "You're kidding." Ashley confirms saying, "Then he rushed out of the club and we didn't see him again either." Paige smiles with some relief.

Back in the main room, Neal rolls around the crowd toward the Courtyard doors.

Half-way there he's cut off by a intoxicated young man, Darren, who inquires, "Whoa, man. What happened to you? Vietnam?"

Neal looks around him but doesn't see Paige. Neal responds to Darren, "Negative, dude. I wasn't "Born on the Fourth of July" and I'm not "Coming Home" from "The Other Side of the Mountain." So, please, excuse me." Neal goes around Darren.

Neal notices Mr. and Mrs. Logan standing to the left. Mr. Logan turns in front of him. "I'm glad you're here." Mr. Logan states, "There's something we'd like to say to you." Mr. Logan reaches to put his arm around Mrs. Logan who turns to smile at Neal. Neal cuts them off saying, "Listen, I know how you both feel about me and about me being with Paige but I..."

Mrs. Logan tries to get a word in edge wise, "Neal, we just want to say..." Neal narrows his eyes as he defensively responds, "I know what you want to say and all I can say is, is it fair? I've been very lucky. First, to still be alive after my accident then I got to go back to school and create a great career, but is that all life has to offer? Or is that all it has to offer those of us with disabilities?"

Mr. Logan tries again, "Neal we're trying to say..." But again Neal cuts him off. "That you want the best for your daughter. I understand and believe me, I want the best for her too."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Logan pull up and sit on nearby chairs to talk to Neal at eye level. Neal calms down and Mr. Logan finally gets to finish, "Neal we understand. We too were deeply in love once. And we still are. It's what's gotten us through thirty years of marriage. Through the good times and the bad times."

Mrs. Logan adds, "And we know that's what we see in Paige when she's with you. A deep concern, a deep love." "And a big void without you," Mr. Logan interjects, "as we've noticed the last couple of days." Mr. and Mrs. Logan stand up and push the chairs out of the way. Mr. Logan concludes, "You both deserve a chance and we're sorry for ever getting in the way."

Neal looks surprised and grateful toward both Mr. and Mrs. Logan as he extends his hand to shake. Neal wheels toward the glass doors.

In the Courtyard, Neal wheels through the crowd searching for Paige. Unfortunately he is unable to see far because everyone is standing. Neal notices Tony from behind and "unintentionally" runs into him forcefully. Tony kneels down to grab his heel and cries, "Ouch. Oh, Neal." Neal sarcastically remarks, "Oh, Tony, if you think that hurt, I suggest you never get in my way again." Tony confesses, "I'm sorry Neal. As a matter of fact, I snuck in here to apologize to everyone and to say good-bye."

Neal leans forward in his chair. "Good-bye?" Tony stands up and explains, "Mr. Gibson decided to send me to start up an office in Brazil." Neal smiles and gladly adds, "Well then, good luck and good-bye." Neal continues to wheel through the crowd.

The music stops and a Band Member steps up to a microphone to apologize and explain, "We're sorry that our singer couldn't make it tonight. But through the power of modern technology, we're honored to play along with the late, great Louis Armstrong."

The Band Member turns on the TV that plays a video tape recording of Louis Armstrong. Suddenly the crowd parts and Neal spots Paige still engaged in conversation. Paige turns her head and she notices Neal coming to her. Without turning back around to Trent and Ashley, Paige excuses herself, smiles and walks toward Neal.

Paige meets Neal near the center of the courtyard. The band plays "Only You (and you alone)." Neal apologizes, "I'm terribly sorry. I have no excuse. I've been a complete idiot lately." Paige agrees, "That's true. What about Suzy?" Neal explains, "She's nothing. Part of a past life. I'm not that person anymore." Paige quickly questions, "Who are you now?"

Neal humbly looks at Paige and confesses, "I'm an independent person. Who needs another set of hands, once in awhile." Paige smiles and Neal grins back as he extends his hands. Neal inquires, "My lady. May I have this dance?" Paige sits sidesaddle on Neal's lap and puts her arms around his shoulders.

Neal gently rolls around the floor and occasionally turns in circles as they dance to the music.

The music continues as the Louis Armstrong video plays. "Only you, can make this world seem right. Only you can make the darkness bright. Only you and you alone, can thrill me like you do, and fill my heart with love for only you. Baby, only you can make this change in me..."

Some of the guests join in the dancing, while others gather around the makeshift dance floor.

Neal continues to roll as they smile and look deep into each other's eyes. Neal brings up the obvious point "You know it isn't going to be easy." Paige smiles as she gently shakes her head "Yes" and replies "Nothing's easy, and I'll deal with it." Neal smiles with love as he uses both wheels to dance in a larger circle.

Neal continues "I may not be able to cross the rivers, swim the oceans, climb the mountains or swing through the jungle vines." Neal slows down and looks deeply into Paige's eyes. "But, I would die trying if it meant being with you."

Paige places her hand gently on Neal's face and commits to Neal "Whether you're sitting, standing, sleeping, eating, driving, working or playing. I'll always be forever yours." Neal stops, smiles, puts one arm all the way around Paige and lays her back in their own "dip."

Neal kisses her neck and then uses his free hand on his wheelchair's armrest to return them to an upright position. They engage in a deep kiss as Louis Armstrong continues "Only you, can make this change in me. Baby, it's so true, you are my destiny. When you hold my hand, I understand the magic that you do. Baby, you're my dream come true, and one and only you."

The guests applaud as Neal and Paige suddenly gets embarrassed and embraces tightly.

In front of a large church, the Logan family and friends, dressed in formal dresses and tuxedo's, exit quickly, followed by Paige in a wedding dress and Neal. Confetti and rice flies through the air as they race toward the limousine.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan stand in the background on the steps. They proudly smile at each other as Mr. Logan hugs Mrs. Logan. The limousine, with the words "Just Married" painted on the rear window, drives away. Bob and Tammy stand next to Trent and Ashley as they wave to Neal and Paige.

One year later at the family picnic area of their annual water skiing lake, the Logan family and friends busy themselves around the picnic tables and boat dock.

Neal and Paige, coming from their van, go toward the tables. Paige holds twin babies in her arms. Mrs. Logan rushes to meet them. "Here, here let me have one of them." Mrs. Logan grabs one of the babies.

Relieved Paige says "I wish I could've let you have one of them during the nine months I was pregnant!" Her mom points out that she was big but that now she looks great. Neal interjects "Well, Mom, you wanted more grandchildren, so we thought you'd love getting two for the price of one...even if that's far from the truth. Two is a lot more expensive!" Mrs. Logan chuckles.

On the boat, Mr. Logan stands on the boat and yells toward the tables. "Who wants to go first?" Everyone starts running to the boat.

Neal gets excited. "I'll show them how it's done this time!" Neal kisses Paige and quickly wheels down to the boat.

Mrs. Logan and Paige sit down, next to each other, at the table while holding the babies. Paige exclaims "It's easy to see where we'll be this time every year...I must say, Mom, you're right about one thing. I usually do get in over my head. Sometimes in really deep waters. But, that's when I feel I'm most alive and I must thank you."

While smiling at the baby, Mrs. Logan questions "For what? I wasn't very supportive in the beginning." Mrs. Logan looks directly at Paige. Paige adds a small and sincere smile. "But, all those years growing up and all the deep water I got into, your help certainly taught me how to swim."

Paige looks at Mrs. Logan as they smile at each other. Their heads come together and Mrs. Logan uses her free hand to embrace Paige's head as she adds, "You've always done quite well on your own! Despite how deep it is, and I must admit, this time you've made a great choice, Paige, a great choice."

Mrs. Logan and Paige look down to the dock where everyone rushes to get aboard the boat. Neal looks up and waves to Paige. He puts on his life jacket and transfers down onto the dock.