

# IMPRINT

By Tom Smith

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## **CHARACTERS**

Mark	30s-40s
Jason	30s-40s

## **TIME/PLACE**

A hospital room.  
Today.

Imprint

*A hospital room. JASON in bed, hooked up to a lot of machines. MARK enters, cheery.*

MARK

Happy Death Day!

JASON

There you are!

MARK

I brought you a gift.

*(Hands over a suit in a garment bag.)*

I figured it's the only present you can still use.

JASON

My very first suit. I thought I'd be able to go my entire life without ever having to wear one.

MARK

You will.

*(Beat.)*

How was breakfast?

JASON

Well, you know, they're very accommodating here. I was able to talk them into giving me red Jell-O instead of orange.

MARK

Lucky.

JASON

Coffee's still crap but I guess beggars can't be choosers.

MARK

You should talk to your insurance company and ask them which plan comes with lattes.

(Beat.)

JASON

You're late.

MARK

I know.

JASON

Twenty minutes.

MARK

I know. Sorry.

JASON

They'll be here soon.

MARK

I called ABC. They wouldn't tell me anything.

JASON

Nothing at all?

MARK

Nope. I even figured out how to get a hold of the head writer. It took me all day yesterday...

JASON

Did you tell them—

MARK

I don't think it was the first time they heard that excuse.

JASON

But it's probably the first time it's true.

MARK

Yeah.

JASON

I guess I'll never know what happens then. How it all plays out.

*(Beat.)*

You should cut your hair. I like it when it's really short.

MARK

I will. This summer.

JASON

You look so conservative.

MARK

I am conservative.

JASON

I know. When did that happen?

MARK

Patrick's the one who buys me this stuff. I'm happy in a t-shirt and jeans.

*(Beat.)*

Do we really have to do this?

JASON

What?

MARK

Bullshit about soap operas?

JASON

I like soaps. You did too. Before Patrick.

MARK

Is this really how you want this to go?

JASON

I had hoped we'd've gotten through the bullshit earlier. But you showed up late...

MARK

I wouldn't miss this. I mean, I wasn't trying to not be here.

JASON

I know.

MARK

I just wanted to...not be here for all of it. For the banter. The distraction.

JASON

Can you sit down? You're making me nervous.

MARK

No! I mean... I can't.

JASON

Ok.

MARK

Can we just talk about something else? Something important?

JASON

More important than Jell-o and "One Life to Live?" Because, frankly, they've been the most significant things in my life for the past three months. Which is a little sad...