

Flannel

By: Mandy Hutchings

Characters:

Edwin Gains, male, 70s to 80s. A general in the army. Walks with a cane thanks to a leg injury. Sweet but stern man. Lost son in war.

Dylan Carter, male, 17. Strong leader, stubborn, fighter, but he always looks out for everyone else. Deeply in love with Avery. During this play, he is out of it because of the injuries and surgeries he is overcoming. Stutters in his speech. Hard for him to speak.

Avery (no last-name), female, 16, Orphaned, Intelligent and plays piano. Mature for her age. Has a bullet lodged in her back so she walks a little funny. Loves Dylan too.

Peyton Tours, male, 13, Little smaller than the rest. Was also injured in the war but has recovered. Has been with Dylan and Avery from the beginning.

Newscaster: female, 30s to 40s, Professional-looking.

Setting:

In this world, child labor laws were never established. The economy is so bad that parents can sell their unwanted or trouble children into slavery. Dylan, Edwin, Peyton, and Avery are in a war against the government to stop the child slavery called the Heartland war. It's been a long and bloody battle.

A hospital room. There are two chairs by a door with a TV and a bed on the opposite side. On the end of the bed, there's a remote and patient info clip board with the name Joey Mane. Dylan is unconscious in the bed with an IV drip. Edwin is sitting in one of the chairs by the door with his head down and his hands on his cane.

Edwin is wearing Army fatigues with a ton of patches on it. Dylan of course is wearing a hospital gown. Avery is wearing black pants with Dylan's flannel. Peyton is wearing jeans and a hoodie. The Newscaster has a microphone and is wearing a dress or a blazer with pants.

LIGHTS UP. DYLAN, starts moaning and groaning in his bed.
EDWIN looks up from his cane and walks to the end of the hospital bed.

EDWIN: Ah. It's about time you came to.

(**DYLAN** tries to talk but he can't seem to)

EDWIN: Can you talk? Or did the cat get your tongue?
(laughs)

(**DYLAN** tries to open his mouth to speak but he just can't get the words out)

DYLAN: Ed...Ed..... (Shuts his mouth and grunts in frustration. He shuts his eyes trying to grasp what's happening to him. eyes still closed, thinking) Cage.....Zoo.....Wh

EDWIN: You're babbling boy.

DYLAN: (eyes open now, looking at **EDWIN**) Babbling

EDWIN: (Trouble by his answer) Dammit! I want the doctor in here. NOW!

DYLAN: (Tries to move hand in **EDWIN's** direction) nnnoooo.

EDWIN: I'm worried.

DYLAN: Immmmm.....ok.

EDWIN: (hesitant) If you say so.

(**DYLAN** looks at **EDWIN** waiting for more info. **EDWIN** walks towards)

EDWIN: (walking) First you were the Texas runaway, then you are a fugitive Dylan Carter, and now you're the hero (reads patient clip board) Joey Mane..

(DYLAN looks confused.)

EDWIN: Well you can't keep a fugitive name, can you?

DYLAN: *(thinks it over, but is still a little confused)* Joey

(EDWIN sits at end of bed. Both hands on top of cane)

EDWIN: *(pats DYLAN's leg)* I stitched you right up. Almost good as new. Of course, I had help.

DYLAN: Back together.

EDWIN: Yeah, that's the summary of it.

(DYLAN Nods a little, looks around the room and starts getting agitated.)

DYLAN: Piano.

DYLAN: *(frantic)* Limp.

DYLAN: *(more frantic)* Heart.

DYLAN: *(pause)* KISS.

(DYLAN pauses and looks like he's in a deep thought looking for the right words)

DYLAN: AVERY!

(Hidden away from the audience but in the room, AVERY appears. EDWIN smiles at AVERY and stands up from bed and moves out of the way for AVERY.)

AVERY: I'm here, Dylan.

(AVERY walks closer to the bed but still keep her distance. But DYLAN motions for her to come closer. DYLAN holds his hand out, AVERY grabs it and sits on bed. DYLAN winces a little because of the pain but still holds her hand tight. EDWIN sits back down in the chair. Avery has a limp)

AVERY: I'm so happy you're awake. We were all worried.
(small pause to help AVERY hold back tears) I was worried.
It's a miracle you're here.

DYLAN: Miracle.

AVERY: It's going to be hard at first. To move. Or even think. You'll need rehabilitation. But I know you'll be back to your old self in no time.

DYLAN: No time

(AVERY smiles a little. DYLAN starts thinking about where he was before his coma)

DYLAN: *(starts Breathing heavily, freaking out a little)*
Bullets flying! Blood everywhere!

(AVERY holds DYLAN'S hand closer to calm DYLAN)

AVERY: Shhhhh all in the past. You're here, with me. *(Pauses)*
What's the last thing you remember?

(DYLAN thinks it over for a few seconds)

DYLAN: *(frowns)* Am.....ambush.

AVERY: Yes, during the ambush you were shot 6 times. You've been in a coma for 2 weeks.

(DYLAN'S eyes get big)

AVERY: But it's all over, the war, the bloodshed, it's over. They all turned on each other. Best of all they finally signed the treaty that gives kids and teens the freedom that they always deserved. And you, Dylan Graham, or should I say Joey Mane, you made it possible.

EDWIN: Indeed *(Stands back up)* The best way to save humanity is to turn the monsters against one another.

AVERY: And that awful woman that shot me she's being charged with crimes against humanity. They're calling her a she-demon, I can't think of anything more fitting.

(Knock at the door, EDWIN opens door, PEYTON enters)

PEYTON: *(closes the door behind him)* Hey, I heard Dylan *(cough)* sorry *(With air quotation)* Joey was awake.

(PEYTON makes eye contact with DYLAN)

PEYTON: Hey buddy, how are you doing?

DYLAN: Alive.

(PEYTON chuckles a little)

PEYTON: Still a kidder aren't you.

DYLAN: *(smiles)* mmmmmmm.

PEYTON: Avery, did you see the news.

AVERY: No *(Speaking to PEYTON, but still sitting holding Dylan's hands)*

(PEYTON grab remote a "turns" TV on. NEWSCASTER enters. Everyone looks to TV)

NEWSCASTER: Today history was is made when the newly elected president signed the Freedom Act of 2027 which makes it illegal for children of all ages to be sold or work for no pay. Thanks to the heroic acts of Joey Mane who is recovering from gun shots sustained in an ambush during the Heartland War. This is certainly a day to remember.

AVERY: *(looks to DYLAN)* Oh my god. *(turns back to TV)*

NEWSCASTER: After an internal investigation on Capitol Hill it was found that money has been hidden from the American people for at least 75 years and there was never a need for child labor. This plan was more cost effective than programs for troubled youth.

(PEYTON, DYLAN, and AVERY look at each other. NEWSCASTER exits. PEYTON "turns" TV off. puts hand on AVERY's shoulder. AVERY looks up and smiles at PEYTON.)

PEYTON: Yup, you've had one hell of a life.

EDWIN: You all have.

PEYTON: We are the Dream Team.
(Both AVERY and DYLAN giggle)

EDWIN: You should all be proud of yourselves. You have changed the world forever, for your generation and future generations.

(DYLAN looks at AVERY's shirt. He points to it. AVERY Looks down at the shirt and then looks up at DYLAN)

DYLAN: mine?

AVERY: Yeah.

(DYLAN smiles)

AVERY: *(Blushes) What? (Folds arms together as if hugging self) It smells like you.*

(DYLAN closes eyes. Takes a deep breath in)

DYLAN: Fireplace, Cocoa, Blanket.

AVERY: Are you cold?

DYLAN: *(Opens eyes. Smiles a little) No. Safe. Grateful.*

(AVERY Smiles back. DYLAN smiles even more and moves AVERY'S hand closer to him now)

DYLAN: Love.

AVERY: *(smiles contently) I love you too Dylan.*

(AVERY leans down to kiss DYLAN but before their lips touch the lights fade to black)

CAST

EDWIN: Cody, Alex / Ethan

DYLAN: Gavin, Grayson

AVERY: Elaina, Mandy, Marie

PEYTON: Blake, Cade, Sebastian / Tyler

NEWCASTER: Amanda, Marie, Jasmine, JJ, Rachel

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