

SCRIPT TITLE

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EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Hazel waits for her Mom's car to appear.

Across the parking lot, she sees Isaac (off camera) going at it with a redhead, MONICA (17), sucking face like there's no tomorrow against the door of her green Pontiac Firebird. Between kisses, we can hear them say "Always."

And Hazel hears:

GUS

Literally.

Hazel turns to find the Beautiful Boy, Augustus, standing right next to her.

GUS (CONT'D)

I thought we were in a church basement but apparently we were literally in the heart of Jesus.

HAZEL

Someone should probably tell him, don't you think? Jesus? Seems kinda dangerous keeping all these kids with cancer in your heart.

GUS

What's your name?

HAZEL

Hazel.

GUS

No your full name...

HAZEL

(confused)
Hazel Grace Lancaster.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

What?

GUS

I didn't say anything.

HAZEL

Why are you looking at me like that?

GUS

Because you're beautiful.

GUS (CONT'D)

I enjoy looking at beautiful people and I decided a while back not to deny myself the simpler pleasures of existence. Particularly given that, as you so astutely pointed out, we're all gonna die pretty soon.

HAZEL

(beat)
I'm not beaut --

A CUTE YOUNG GIRL walks past them.

YOUNG GIRL

Hey Gus.

GUS

Hey Alisa.

Hazel isn't surprised that other girls know Gus. She turns back towards Isaac and Monica (off camera) pawing at each other. She once again hears "Always."

HAZEL

Did they just say "always?" What's with the "always?"

GUS

"Always" is their thing. They'll "always" love each other and whatnot. Must have texted "always" to each other at least four million times this year.

They continue to watch the show.

HAZEL

He's gotta be hurting her boob.

GUS

Let's watch a movie.

HAZEL

Oh. Um. Uh... (yes!) Sure. Yeah. I'm... pretty free this week--

GUS

No I mean now.

HAZEL

What?

GUS

Hmm?

HAZEL

What do you mean "now?"

GUS

I've got a car.

He shrugs. Hazel has never seen someone so confident.

HAZEL

You could be an axe murderer.

GUS

There is that possibility.
(beat) Come on Hazel Grace... take
a risk.

As Hazel mulls this over, Gus reaches into his pocket and pulls out, of all things, a pack of cigarettes! Hazel is in disbelief. He flips the box open, puts a cigarette between his lips.

HAZEL

Oh my god. Oh. My. God. You're
kidding right? (off his look)
You just ruined the whole thing!

GUS

Whole thing?

HAZEL

What, you think that's cool? Oh you
idiot! There's always a hamartia,
isn't there? And yours is - even
though you had FREAKING CANCER you
give money to a corporation for the
chance to acquire EVEN MORE
CANCER!? Ugh. And you were doing so
well.

As she rants, Gus continues to look at her with that smile on his face. Hazel does not find it so amusing.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

Let me tell you... not being able
to breathe? Sucks. Totally sucks.

GUS

Hamartia?

HAZEL
A fatal flaw.

GUS
They don't hurt you unless you
light them.

HAZEL
Sorry?

GUS
I've never lit one.

Hazel turns back to him.

GUS (CONT'D)
It's a metaphor. See? You put the
thing that kills you between your
teeth. But you don't give it the
power to do the killing.

HAZEL
Metaphor.

Gus holds her gaze. Hazel's mother calls. She answers her
phone.

HAZEL (CONT'D)
Hey Mom-- No, I can't tonight. I've
made plans with Augustus Waters.