Doctor 1
(Dr. Fine)

DOCTOR FINE

The pink ones are taken with food but not with the white ones. The white ones are taken with the round yellow ones but not with the triangle yellow ones. The triangle yellow ones are taken with the oblong green ones with food but not with the pink ones. If a train is leaving New York at a hundred and twenty miles an hour and another train is leaving St. Petersburg at the same time but going backwards, which train...

(Dan walks back out to the car.

Doctor Fine fades as Dan sings.)



DOCTOR FINE

The round blue ones with food but not with the oblong white ones. The white ones with the round yellow ones but not with the trapezoidal green ones. Split the green ones into thirds with a tiny chisel.

(He continues, if necessary, until Diana interrupts.)

[Use a mortar and pestle to grind into a fine powder and sprinkle the powder over a bowl of ice cream...]

Doctor 2 (Dr. Madden)

DOCTOR MADDEN

Diana? This way, please.

(She walks past him into his inner office, studying him. Once she's past him—

#11a – Doctor Rock

< All spoken as dialogue

A CHORD, lights hit, and he's briefly a rock star.)

YEAH...

DIANA

(spins around; lights restore)

What did you just say?

DOCTOR MADDEN

(a doctor again:)

I said welcome. Have a seat. It's nice to meet you.

(Watching him suspiciously, she does. She sits, turns, and another CHORD and he's a rock star again:)

LET'S GET IT ON NOW, BABY...

DIANA

Excuse me, what?

DOCTOR MADDEN

(now not a rock star:)

I said, let's get started. Are you...nervous, Diana?

DIANA

I am, a little. A bit out of breath. Tingly, actually. Now you go.

DOCTOR MADDEN

Well, let's start by getting to know each other a bit. Psychotherapy and medication work best in tandem, but we can try the first alone, and see how far we get. Why don't you tell me—

(A sudden CHORD and he's a rock star again.)

(DOCTOR MADDEN)

BAY-BEE...WHAT'S YOUR HISTORY?

WHERE'D YOU GO AND WHO'D YOU SEE? YEAH...

(And just like that he's not a rock star.)

Doctor 2 (cont.)

DIANA

Um. My history?

(He nods mildly.)

Well—I was diagnosed bipolar, um, wow, sixteen years ago? But it turned out bipolar didn't totally cover it.

DOCTOR MADDEN

Often the best we can do is put names on collections of symptoms. It's possible bipolar has more in common with schizophrenia than depression.

DIANA

When I was young, my mother called me "high-spirited." She would know. She was so high-spirited they banned her from the PTA.

DOCTOR MADDEN

Sometimes there's a predisposition to illness, but actual onset is only triggered by some...traumatic event.

DIANA

I never know what to say when I have to go over all this. It starts to sounds like some story I tell that's about some other person entirely.

DOCTOR MADDEN

Why don't you tell me about the last time you truly felt happy.

(She has no answer for him.)

Were you happy when you got married?

DIANA

I thought I was.

DOCTOR MADDEN

There's a difference between being happy and just thinking you're happy?

DIANA

Most people who think they're happy just haven't thought about it enough. Most people who think they're happy are actually just stupid.

DOCTOR MADDEN

I see. Were you happy when your son was born?

(MUSIC CHANGES.)

DIANA

My son?

(Gabe appears, watching.)

DOCTOR MADDEN

Tell me about him.

DIANA

About my son?

DOCTOR MADDEN

Why is he still around? Who is he? What is he?

(Diana does not answer. Gabe sings.)

Doctor 3

(DOCTOR MADDEN)

ECT is indicated.

(Dan joins him, at the hospital.)

DAN

Wow. I mean—they still do that?

DOCTOR MADDEN

We do, yes. It's the standard in cases like this. She's got a long history of drug therapy and resistance, she's acutely suicidal—it's really our best option.

DAN

That's kind of terrifying.

DOCTOR MADDEN

It's not. The electricity involved is barely enough to light a hundred-watt bulb.

DAN

(wry)

Oh, if it's just a hundred-watt bulb...

DOCTOR MADDEN

It's safer than crossing the street, and the short-term success rate is over eighty percent.

DAN

I thought she was better...

DOCTOR MADDEN

Sometimes patients recover just enough strength to follow through on suicidal impulses, but not enough strength to resist them.

DAN

Well, that seems very...fucked.

DOCTOR MADDEN

Yes.

(hands Dan a clipboard)

Legally, we need her consent. Hospital policy is we need yours, too.

DAN

I don't think she's gonna go for this.

DOCTOR MADDEN

Mister Goodman, we can administer the ECT and you can bring her home in ten days. Or we can keep her sedated for forty-eight hours, then discharge her and wait for her to try again. Look—go home. Take the night. We'll talk to her in the morning.

(MUSIC CHANGES.