

The Procedure
by David Kramer

INT. School cafeteria. Two boys talking: NEAL and GABE.

NEAL

You ever think about how easily headphones get tangled?

GABE

Yeah, and it's fucking impossible to get them undone. How does that happen?

NEAL

It's like a god damn medical procedure.

Dream sequence begins.

INT. Hospital, operating table. Three doctors performing surgery: KATE, PAMELA and NEAL. They are all panicking.

PAMELA

We're losing time! We need to hurry!

KATE

We're doing all we can.

PAMELA

Can you get the left half through the hole? Will it loosen?

NEAL

Nothing is working.

Flatline.

KATE

Time of death, 12:48 PM.

NEAL

Let's go tell him.

They walk outside of the OR, up to a man in the waiting room, GABE.

NEAL

Eric, I'm so sorry. We did the best we could. Your headphones
were...they were too tangled.

GABE (softly weeping)
My speakers don't even work. This is all I had.

KATE
We would love to help in any way possible.

GABE (still weeping)
Oh yeah, did you manage to save my child?

PAMELA
Your...uh. One second.

She runs off.

Dream sequence ends, back to the school cafeteria.

NEAL
Everything okay at home, man?

Blackout.