

MILLION DOLLAR BABY  
FRANKIE & MAGGIE

INT. HOSPITAL

Frankie sits next to Maggie's hospital bed reading. Maggie sees Frankie as she begins to wake up.

MAGGIE  
Growing a beard, boss?

FRANKIE  
Yeah, I thought it might help me  
with the ladies.

MAGGIE  
Can't say it does.

FRANKIE  
How ya doin', darlin'?

MAGGIE  
Well, you know, they got tubes stickin'  
up me in places I'd rather not think  
about.

FRANKIE  
Found two good rehab clinics. You want  
to hear about them?

MAGGIE  
...Sure.

FRANKIE  
There's a real good place in Kansas  
City, only couple hours from your  
momma's house. Thought you might like  
that.

MAGGIE  
Where's the other place?

FRANKIE  
Downtown L.A.

MAGGIE  
I'd rather go with you, boss.

Babcock Studios  
Scene used for educational purposes

FRANKIE

Good.

MAGGIE

You ever heard of dysreflexia, boss?

FRANKIE

Can't say I have.

MAGGIE

It's somethin' that happens real quick, like when you get a kink in your pee tube? Gets your heatbeat all rushin'.

FRANKIE

That happen to you?

MAGGIE

Last night.

FRANKIE

(rising)  
I'll talk to the doctors.

MAGGIE

No, sit down.  
Awful as it is when your heart's fixin' to explode, it made me happy, boss. 'Cause I thought I'd be free of this mess. I almost made it, too. Then they brought me back to bein' this same old snowman, same old twisted-up snowman wishin' to God it was July.

FRANKIE

Ah, Jesus, Maggie. I knew I was wrong to train you.

MAGGIE

Don't say that. Don't you ever say that. Workin' with you was the only time since Daddy passed I had respect. You'd take that away from me?

FRANKIE

. . . No.

MAGGIE

They took my leg, boss.

FRANKIE

It'll be okay. You hear me?

MAGGIE

Always hear your voice, boss.

FRANKIE

You need anything?

MAGGIE

Need to know what Mo Cuishle means.

FRANKIE

You didn't win, don't have to tell you.

MAGGIE

You're the meanest man I ever met, no wonder nobody loves you. You remind me of my daddy.

FRANKIE

He musta been a good looking man.

Frankie goes back to reading.

MAGGIE

You ain't gonna make me talk more Yeat's, are you?

FRANKIE

No, I was...looking at this catalogue from City College. I thought I'd get you a wheelchair, maybe the...the kind that operates by blowing through a straw. I thought maybe you'd like to go back to school.

MAGGIE

I got a favor to ask you, boss.

FRANKIE

Sure. Anything you want.

MAGGIE

Remember what my daddy did for Axel?

FRANKIE

Don't even think about that.

MAGGIE

I can't be like this, Frankie.  
Not after what I done. I seen the  
world. People chanted my name.  
Well...not my name, some damn name you  
gave me. But they were chanting for me.  
I was in magazines. You think I ever  
dreamed that'd happen?  
I was born two pounds, one-and-a-half  
ounces. Daddy used to tell me I fought  
to get into this world...and I'd fight  
my way out. That's all I want to do,  
Frankie. I just don't wanna fight you  
to do it.  
Only two people in this world I ever  
wanted to be proud of me. You are one.  
You proud of me, boss?

FRANKIE

You have to ask?

MAGGIE

I got what I needed, boss. I got it  
all. Don't let 'em keep taking it away  
from me. Don't let me lie here till I  
can't hear those people chanting no  
more.

FRANKIE

I can't. Please. Please don't ask me.

MAGGIE

I'm askin'.

FRANKIE

I can't.

Frankie realizes what he has to do.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

All right.  
I'm gonna disconnect your air machine,  
then you're gonna go to sleep and  
you'll...stay asleep.

She blinks and offers a small smile. He flicks off the alarm on her monitor. He asks himself again if he can do this. She gives him a smile. He leans in close to her ear and whispers.

FRANKIE

"Mo cuishle"...means "my darling, my  
blood. "