

CRIPPLED

Written By  
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Based on a Story By  
Will Stocker

1 INT. HALLWAY - EVENING 1

Will (our wheelchair bound protagonist, late 20's) sits, nervously waiting. He looks up at a clock just as the second hand lands on 6:00 pm. There is a knock at the door and Will turns to face it. The clock chimes.

2 INT. DOORWAY - EVENING 2

The NURSE (a large man, wearing gray scrubs) enters through the door in an annoyed huff. As he walks towards Will, he clumsily knocks a picture off the wall, breaking it. The Nurse pauses, examining it for a second, before bitterly continuing forward. In the background of the picture is a dark silhouette of a birdlike CREATURE.

3 INT. HALLWAY - EVENING 3

Will stares up as the Nurse approaches. He looks down at Will, and begins putting on his medical gloves. They snap beneath his fingers.

Will's MOTHER (sweet woman, mid 50's) enters the hallway to greet the Nurse. He smiles brilliantly at her arrival, making an attempt at professionalism. He gestures to the picture apologetically, but the Mother merely waves this away. She approaches Will, smiling down at him, adjusting his collar. The second her back is turned, the Nurse's face drops into a grimace.

Will looks through his Mother, a distant sadness in his eyes. She embraces him and turns to face the Nurse. The moment the Nurse makes eye contact, the act returns. She motions for him to take good care of her son. The Nurse reassures her.

4 EXT. HOUSE - EVENING 4

The Mother waves goodbye to her son and the Nurse, who stands in the doorway. We hear the car drive away as the Nurse's smile falls back into a grimace. He slams the door closed in a huff.

5 INT. HALLWAY 5

He slowly turns to Will and the two make eye contact. The Nurse sighs heavily. He walks past Will slumped over, Will follows.

6 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

6

Will stares hungrily down the long table. The Nurse approaches Will with a fork and shoves it in his hand.

It falls to the floor as Will protests, trying to explain the proper way to adjust his hand. The Nurse makes the proper adjustments with great disdain.

Will points out that he needs a clean fork now. The Nurse rolls his eyes and exits the room darkly. Will shakes his head in frustration. A shadow falls on Will. He turns, but nothing is there. The shadow disperses and Will returns to his state of annoyance.

7 INT. KITCHEN

7

The Nurse pulls out a new fork as the microwave beeps. He opens it to reveal a soggy paper plate covered in slightly under-heated spaghetti. The plate slips from his hand and he accidentally drops the food to the floor. The Nurse stares down at the food, sulking. His face transitions to slyness as he looks towards the dining room.

8 INT. DINING ROOM

8

The Nurse enters with the plate of spaghetti wobbling between his hands. He drops it before Will and roughly puts the new fork in his hand. Will calls to him as he turns to exit and sighing, he walks back to Will and adjusts the fork in one quick motion.

Will sighs in relief as the Nurse walks away. He begins to eat, but something is wrong with the texture. He looks down to see a maggot wriggling around in the food. Will spits out the pasta in disgust and screams for his Nurse. Will turns violently around and exits the room.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

9

The Nurse sits in a chair, reading "Meeting the Shadow" by Carl Jung. He looks up as Will screams and rolls his eyes. He puts down the book and walks away from the scene.

10 INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

10

Will turns a corner and sees his Nurse at the end of the long hallway. He calls to the Nurse but he merely shakes his head in contempt, refusing to look at Will. The Nurse exits through a door and slams it closed.

Will angrily drives to the Nurse's room as fast as he can. He calls for the Nurse who opens the door, feigning surprise. Will speaks angrily to the Nurse as he scowls. The nurse rolls his eyes and once more slams the door closed in Will's face.

Will's eyes glow red as he fumes silently in his chair. Out of focus in the background, a dark figure watches unnoticed. Will continues to yell for the Nurse.

11 INT. OFFICE ROOM - EVENING 11

The Nurse stares at the door as it reverberates from the impact of Will's chair. We see a Close Up of the Nurse as he turns to walk through another room.

12 INT. HALLWAY 12

Will yells from the other side of the door, waiting for some form of acknowledgement(add knock). The camera racks from Will to the top of the stairs where we see the Nurse quickly walk by on the 2nd floor. Will turns just in time to see the Nurse pass the stairway and hide behind a wall.

13 INT. TOP OF STAIR 13

Will stares crestfallen from the bottom of the stairs.

CUT TO:

14 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 14

The Nurse stares in annoyance as he washes Will with a shower head. He seems bitter about his job and barely looks at Will as he works. Will spits out water from his mouth as soap leaks into his eyes. He squints, scolding for the Nurse. He responds, breathing in heavily and raising a washcloth to Will's face. He rubs aggressively and Will is left in great pain. Will tries to address this abuse, but he goes unnoticed as the Nurse raises a giant loofah and begins rubbing Will with even more aggression. Will yells.

As Will finishes the shower, the Nurse takes out a bottle of hand sanitizer and pours an excessive amount into his hands. Will rolls his eyes at this.

15 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 15

Will is slowly lowered onto his bed from a hooyer lift. The Nurse bends over Will like a mad scientist. The Nurse stands up and Will is now wearing a breathing mask. The Nurse turns off the light before exiting the room. Will stares up at the ceiling, contemplating and breathing deeply before finally drifting off to sleep.

As Will's body relaxes, we see his back lower onto his breathing tube, constricting the air. Will chokes. He wakes gasping, attempting to call his Nurse.

16 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 16

The Nurse is hypnotized by the television, food dripping from his mouth. He turns to the door at the sound of Will's muffled noises.

(BEAT)

He shrugs and turns back to his show, shoving spoonful after spoonful of slop into his mouth.

17 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 17

Will is slowly losing consciousness. In a flash of lightning a shadow begins drifting over Will.

The CREATURE (a dark figure with a birdlike face wearing a black robe) appears from the darkness. He drifts to Will and looms over his body like a ghost. Will rocks his head back and forth, struggling for air.

Finally, with one large jolt, the breathing mask comes off his nose. Will breathes in violently, slowly recovering. The Creature cocks his head at this.

As Will's breath returns to normal he looks down in confusion as his hand slowly becomes enveloped in a dark black goo. The bed has become a pool of water and slowly, Will is lowered into its depths. From the water, we see Will's face submerge. The Creature watches as his head disappears and bubbles start rising to the water's surface. The bubbles dissipate after a moment and the breathing mask floats to the top.

18 INT. POOL 18

Will falls through the dark pool, hair floating and billowing around him.

19 INT. VOID 19

Will lands in his chair at the bottom of the blackened pit with a thud. Will looks for any means of escape, but darkness is all he can see. He begins to drive, searching for a way out.

20 INT. VOID (STAIRS) 20

He comes across a large staircase and stares up at it. We see the silhouette of the Nurse through a doorway at the top of the stairs. Will calls to him and the door closes with a loud boom.

Shadow covers Will as he looks down to the ground in dismay. The Creature stands behind him.

21 INT. CURTAINED PIT 21

The Creature watches Will. The void is now covered in black curtains. The Creature reaches down and begins petting Will on his head. Will looks up, frozen in fear. The Creature raises his hand and a wall appears from behind the curtain. He raises his other hand and a second wall appears. Both walls float towards Will as the Creature drifts away. The walls begin to close in on him. Will tries to drive away, but his chair won't move. He looks down to see that his wheel is stuck in a puddle of black goo.

The Creature gestures with his hand and Will is left suspended several feet off the ground by the two walls. He motions again and the walls force Will towards the Creature. The Creature stares at Will, trapped between the two walls. He points again to the curtains and EVIL WILL now appears (eyes of pure white, Will's emotional shadow).

Will stares in horror as Evil Will rolls forward to face him. Evil Will opens his mouth and a single ladybug crawls from it. Then, 100 ladybugs cover Will like a virus as the two stare at each other in profile.

The Creature gestures back to the curtain and Evil Will returns. Wind begins to howl, blowing the curtains back and forth dramatically. Will's body falls to the floor. The Creature turns back to the curtains and they open, revealing a nightmarish flashback of Will in the hallway.

- 22 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 22
- A horrified Will stares at a GIANT clock, just as it strikes Midnight. The doorbell rings like a gong and Will turns to face the front door.
- 23 INT. DOORWAY - NIGHT 23
- The Nurse enters violently through the door, knocking several pictures onto the floor. The Nurse creeps towards Will, breaking a vase. A flower dies as the Nurse passes.
- 24 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 24
- Will backs away as the Nurse continues forward, knocking item after item onto the ground.
- Will backs up against the wall, unable to move as the Nurse comes within breathing distance. He raises his hands to Will's throat and begins choking him to death.
- Will slowly slumps over, unconscious. The Nurse steps away in anticipation. Will's eyes roll to the back of his head, transforming him into Evil Will. Evil Will smiles maliciously.
- 25 INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT 25
- Evil Will stares down at a platter as the silver lid is removed, revealing a plate of blackened pasta covered in maggots and various rot. Evil Will smiles and eats the slop with delight as the CREATURE watches.
- 26 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 26
- Evil Will is wheeled into the an eerie bathroom, naked except for the towel wrapped around his waist.
- The light flickers as the Creature walks to the other side of the bathroom. He pulls out a fire hose and sprays Evil Will. Evil Will struggles, nearly drowning from the pressure. The Creature turns off the hose for a moment, giving Evil Will the chance to breath. Evil Will smiles and the spraying continues.
- 27 INT. STAGE 27
- Evil Will (naked) is wheeled out onto a stage by the Creature.

The Creature gestures to Will, presenting him to an audience of white masked faces. They stand applauding as Evil Will beams.

28

INT. VOID

28

Will is now laying on the ground like a helpless turtle. The curtains close on the scene and begin to billow wildly. On the curtains surrounding Will, the silhouette of the Creature appears.

MONTAGE BEGINS

Light slowly shifts onto Will (shutter effect). From the darkness, mannequin hands, arms, and legs start appearing in flashes of light. They cover the floor around Will and circle around him, before returning behind the curtain.

Dark images start projecting onto the curtain (think the boat ride in Willy Wonka). Two lungs struggle to breathe and are stabbed with a pair of scissors. The flesh of a skeleton begins to melt, revealing bone. The image fades to the face of the Creature. He pulls out a small bust of Will's head. The Creature crushes the head and it dissolves like it is made of sand. Eyes begin appearing one by one, onto the curtains around the Creature until they fill the void.

The eyes stare down at Will, who tries to meet their gaze, but he is unable to do so. Slowly the eyes fade and are replaced by the faces of the masked figures from the theatre.

29

INT. PIT

29

Will is laying on the ground crying silently. Evil Will and the Creature appear from behind the curtain. The Creature reaches towards Will, patting him on the back. In one quick motion, his hands slash at Will's chest, piercing his flesh. Will cries out in pain as the Creature reaches into Will's ribcage. He removes Will's heart, leaving a large bloody hole in the middle of his chest.

The Creature throws Will's heart down and it splats onto the ground. Will's flesh begins to bubble and rot.

Twenty different hands appear suddenly from the curtains and descend upon Will, molesting and squishing him. Will turns to goo as the hands tear him apart like the bust. We see his remains drip across the floor past the heart. Black goo gushes from it. The remains turn to ash and blow away into the wind. The Creature raises a hand and the ash gets sucked up into the air, like a spirit.



- 30 INT. VORTEX 30
- Will's spirit sits in his chair as a black and white vortex spins around him. His hair blows backwards wildly and he begins to grow transparent, as if fading from existence.
- As Will zips through the vortex, he comes across a floating television set. Will stares at the screen as it flickers with images of his past.
- 31 EXT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK) 31
- A house sits in the middle of a field. Everything is at peace and the image is in full color.
- 32 INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK) 32
- Through the window, we see Will in front of a canvas. He is painting a magnificent abstract of orange and purple. A helping hand adjusts the brush for Will. Will smiles at the act of kindness.
- 33 INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK) 33
- Headphones are placed on Will's ears. He closes his eyes and an array of color dances in front of him. (on couch)
- 34 EXT. PARK - DAY (FLASHBACK) 34
- Will is surrounded by his 3 best friends. His friends laugh as they throw a frisbee around and goof off out of focus. Will smiles and watches his friends from a distance.
- 35 EXT. PIER - DAY (FLASHBACK) 35
- Will stares out at a setting sun on a beach. He breathes in heavily, truly content. A pair of hands come up to him and pats him on the shoulder. Will looks up, to see the hands belonging to his Mother.
- 36 INT. VORTEX 36
- Will watches the image of his Mother on the pier with his former self.

37 EXT. PIER - DAY (FLASHBACK) 37

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small ball of light and inserts it into Will's head. It glows for an instant before it disappears. He smiles. The screen changes to a closeup of the Mother smiling directly at Will through the television screen.

38 INT. VORTEX 38

Will looks taken aback as she pulls out a tiny ball of light (the size of a marble) and raises it to her face. She winks and after a moment's hesitation, her hand reaches through the screen into the void.

Will eyes the hand skeptically. After a deep breath, he finally nods. The hand lifts the ball to his forehead and inserts it into his third eye. Immediately, the vortex begins to transform. Color sprays against the background as the television fades away. Will seems to gain control. He drives the other way through the now rainbow colored vortex.

39 INT. PIT 39

Blood from the floor flows towards the decomposing heart. As a droplet hits the heart, a red flower begins to grow from its remains. The Dust reverses, blowing the other direction and Will's body begins reforming from ash to flesh.

Will turns to his side to stare at his heart. As the flower finishes growing, it forms into a giant ball of light. The Creature hides his face from the glow. The light dims and we see the heart has transformed into a prism. The Creature glares at his victim. He tries to take a step forward, but is unable to move forward. His head darts from his feet to Will in disbelief.

Light begins to refract from the prism in several directions. Will's hand lifts from the floor and his body begins to ascend.

40 INT. STAIRCASE 40

A mysterious hand pulls a lever and the stairs fall before Will, turning into a giant ramp. Will smiles and begins to ascend.

- 41 INT. BEDROOM - DAWN 41  
Will rises from the black pool of goo that was his bed and is completely dry.
- 42 INT. BATHROOM - DAWN 42  
Will reclaims his body and shakes his head, mentally knocking the firehose towards the Nurse. The Nurse chokes in the water.
- 43 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY 43  
Will regains control of his body and spits out the pasta. He turns to his Nurse. The Nurse falls and is magically forced out of the door, knocking the vases and picture frames back onto the walls.
- 44 INT. BLACK VOID 44  
Will is floating, rising to the top of the curtain pit. Evil Will and the Creature stare in confusion. A light emanates from Will's eyes and begins to engulf the room.  
  
Evil Will hisses, backing away from the light and returning to the curtain. The Creature shields his body with his caped arm. His arm falls and we see the face of the Creature is projected onto the face of the Nurse. The two fade from existence. Will has won.
- 45 INT. THEATRE - DAWN 45  
Will's eyes return to normal. One by one, the audience members begin removing their masks. Each person smiles up at Will and begins to applaud. The curtains close and white light fills the scene.  
  
FADE TO WHITE
- 46 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING 46  
The Light fades.  
  
The Nurse is standing over Will administering CPR. Will's eyes blink open and he begins inhaling deeply. The Nurse smiles, satisfied.

47 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 47

We see the Nurse sitting down, staring at the clock. It chimes and he gets up. He walks out of the front door. He pauses at the door, turning to look back, before sighing with relief. He exits the house, slamming the door behind him.

48 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 48

The world is back to normal and in full color. Will closes his eyes in relief. His Mother enters through the front door, slightly tired from her night out, and walks to greet Will. She smiles down at him and he smiles back with gratitude. She walks over and hugs him and Will accepts the embrace. She exits the room and Will is at peace.

A loud ring goes off and Will looks to the clock in disbelief (6:00 AM).

49 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 49

A mysterious knock sounds on the front door at the end of the Hall.

50 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 50

Will stares at the door, unsure what to expect. Droplets of black and white fall onto him like tears, slowly removing the color from his face and the scene.

CREDITS