

my time with **BETTY**

CASTING BREAKDOWN

BETTY

Female, 30s. Rugged and deliciously determined. Think Samantha Morton. She navigates the spectrum: from emotional horror to delicate tenderness. We trust her not because she proves sane, but because she's willing to take a chance on herself. It's not her mind that's trying to destroy her...it's what other people are doing to her mind. She got caught up here, but we're not really sure why. She was fractured at the time and it's hard to see past someone who becomes dark and lost. But Betty always had something in her...something true and worth holding onto. She's just needed someone to come along and believe in her and to see what's really inside.

DAN/DR. DAN

Male. 30s/40s. Tall, thin, kindly sort. There's a shadow beneath the surface, but he's definitely our hero. He sees past the obvious. He understands Betty. He's been there. He knows what it is to lose everything. He doesn't care what's in Betty's chart. He looks in her eyes and he trusts what he sees.

BUNNY SLIPPERS

Male. 20s. Lanky, tender and childlike. But also calm and a touch of the heroic. His parents turned him over to the system and never looked back. He frightened them, but only because he so desperately wanted to be loved and they had no love to give.

NURSE NANCY

Female, 30s/40s. Alone, hates her job and is tired of helping the "helpless." It's hard to believe she was ever in love, but she was...once. He made her believe anything was possible, and then he left, and she believed in less than she had believed in before.

PSYCHIATRIST 1

Male. 30s. He wanted to be a professor. The only real problem is he doesn't like people that much. But it's not because he doesn't want to. He just figures they all get around to hurting you someday, so what's the point?

PSYCHIATRIST 2

Female. 30s. Sincere. She doesn't get crushed under the weight of Betty, but she can't show her the way either. She's pretty new here and she won't last long. She never should have gotten this far. She'll go home and cry, every day.

PSYCHIATRIST 3

Male. Late 20s. He believes everything he reads and never follows his heart. He was the kid in class who laughed when he dissected a frog.

PSYCHIATRIST 4

Male. Just under 40. Cocky, passive-aggressive. Failed at life, ended up here. He doesn't like Betty because she sees right through him.

TWO COOKS

Male. 30s/40s. Just living their life. Ordinary, hard working, helpful. They go home to families.

TWO ORDERLIES

Male. 20s/30s. Young, military types. They let their basic hatred spill out. They have drinks after work, every day. Usually pick some fights.

TWO NURSES

One female. One male. Dead inside, flipping the switch for too long. Who knows how they got here, but they never knew what they were getting themselves into. It crossed their minds one day to stop; they even looked up at each other thinking the same thing at the same time...but they weren't sure what else they could ever do.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

Male. 50s. Obsessive, quiet and sad. Chews his fingernails. Never stops dreaming about the long train ride he took through the Swiss Alps when he was 20 years old.

CATATONIC WOMAN

Female. 40s/50s. She had an interesting life before this. She would have made a great teacher.

OLD MAN

Male. 60s. Talks to whoever will listen, which happens to only ever be the catatonic woman. They don't know one another but they are always together.

SOLDIER-PATIENT

Male/female. 20s. Wanted to change the world. Fought one war and came home hollow. First response is to kill. Can't remember the last time life felt good.

SUIT-PATIENT

Female. 30s. Seemed to fail at everything in life, ended up here. No one comes for visits...none of her friends want to make the drive.