

**Josiah Lawson** (24, M, Black)

Josiah Lawson is a 24-year-old resilient and determined man with a strong physical presence. His military training and unwavering determination have shaped him into a survivor. Throughout the story, Josiah's courage is tested as he confronts the aftermath of a life-altering event, battling not only physical but emotional scars.

Character Traits: Resilient, Determined, Courageous, Disciplined

**Dr. Henry Floyd** (40, M, Black)

Dr. Henry Floyd, a 40-year-old medical professional, possesses a no-nonsense demeanor. Deeply committed to uncovering the truth behind Nolan's traumatic experiences, Dr. Floyd employs a methodical and determined approach to solve the mystery, making him a central figure in the investigation.

Character Traits: Methodical, Determined, No-nonsense, Committed

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Nolan sleeps soundly while Josiah confronts Dr. Henry Floyd.

JOSIAH  
(agitated)  
It's obvious that you've missed something.

DR. FLOYD  
(slowly)  
What are you not hearing?

JOSIAH  
(confused)  
What?

DR. FLOYD  
(serious)  
I know how unsettling it is to hear a diagnosis contrary to what you want to hear.

JOSIAH  
(irritated)  
You're not really saying anything.

DR. FLOYD  
Nolan's not sleeping. He's-

JOSIAH  
(interrupting)  
- What are you talking about? He's sleeping all day long.

Dr. Floyd raises his hand for him to stop talking.

DR. FLOYD  
Nolan's not sleeping; he's in a state of depression.

JOSIAH  
(defensive)  
Do you blame him?

DR. FLOYD  
(gently)  
Josiah...

JOSIAH  
(passionate)  
If someone raped, imprisoned, and brutally beat you down, you would be depressed too!

DR. FLOYD  
That's not why he's depressed.

JOSIAH  
(insistent)  
He's in pain!

DR. FLOYD  
I agree, but his mental pain is overshadowing his physical pain.

JOSIAH  
(defensive)  
He's not gay!

DR. FLOYD  
(cautious)  
I wasn't questioning his sexuality.

JOSIAH  
(angry)  
No, but you were tapping around it!

DR. FLOYD  
Why specifically is his face not injured?

JOSIAH  
(frustrated)  
Oh my God! When you're black, they always look for ways to blame the victim.

DR. FLOYD  
I'm not clear if he was a victim.

JOSIAH  
(outraged)  
What?!

DR. FLOYD  
I believe that Nolan may have been a willing participant.

JOSIAH  
Are you fucking crazy?!

DR. FLOYD  
No.

Overwhelmed with helplessness and frustration, Josiah's emotions surge, bringing him to tears.

JOSIAH  
(tearfully)  
He's dying right in front of us. Can you  
please help him?