

“Trying to Get Sober” Documentary Treatment

GAVIN (23) wakes up and begrudgingly rolls of the bed. He rubs his brown, bloodshot eyes and then his head and looks around for a glass of water. He finds a half empty glass of water and grabs a small, palm-sized metal case on the bedside table, opens it up, grabs one of the small blue pills and walks to the bathroom. He hops in the shower, washes, and gets dressed. He dresses in corduroy navy blue pants, a patterned button up shirt, and a beige velvet blazer. He spends much more time on his hair than he should, and returns to his room with the door closed.

In his room, Gavin looks at the clock and stuffs his pockets in a hurry. A pack of cigarettes and a lighter inside the velvet blazer pocket. Pocket watch in the front left pocket of the jacket. Phone in the back left pocket of his pants. A small, beaten book written by Charles Bukowski gets tucked behind his back into his belt line covered by the blazer. And lastly, a small journal and pen gets placed hastily but carefully in his right back pocket.

Gavin leaves a house as he yells good-bye to the occupants of the house and hops into a beaten 1996 Toyota Camry parked on the street outside. The car is littered with wrappers and papers among other things and he rummages through it all to find a crumbled up joint. He lights the joint and reaches in his pocket for the metal pill container. He slips two more pills into his mouth.

Gavin is holding the journal we previously saw him put in his right pants pocket while sitting on the steps of the house we just saw him leave. He's holding it open and reading out loud to the camera dosages of oxycodone, adderall, marijuana, and alcohol

he has allowed himself to take each day in order to progress on his own path to becoming sober. He talks about his history with pills and substances and about how they affect him now.

His voice over continues as he parks his car in front of a large church. The Golden Gate Bridge pops in the background of the white sky. He proceeds to talk about his goal of sobriety and his failures in the past. He sits in his car and reaches in the glove compartment for a flask, takes a swig, then another, and puts it back. His audio continues about how his addictions affected his life as he shovels slices of pizza out of a sizzling oven, puts it on a tray, and hands it over a counter to a paying customer. He talks about how it has hindered his work, how it's affected his relationships.

He continues on the steps of the house with the journal as he talks about his attempts at sobriety. He talks about the lack of faith, the constant strive for enlightening knowledge, anything new that will lead him to where he wants to be in life, wherever that may be.

Gavin ends his long day of work as the city lights of San Francisco brighten the night sky. He goes to the bar next door and greets the bartender with a familiar nod. He orders his drinks as he talks to strangers and challenges them in eight ball.

His night concludes stumbling to his car, taking another pill, and driving home. He returns to his parents' house where they sit on the couch and he tells them of his adventures. His voiceover continues as he begins to speak about the confessions he's telling his loved ones. He speaks about how he returns every night to tell them about the fantastic day he had when he's striving for happiness.

He returns to the steps to conclude that he is better. He voices to the camera how he has progressed and is doing much better in life. He says how he is heading somewhere and reaching a goal. He admits his failure to do so in the past and claims he's now on the right track where he wasn't before. His sister behind the camera asks him, "Where are you now that you weren't before?"

He looks to his feet and ponders the question. He looks up at his sister with a drunken smirk, then at the camera in her hands and just shakes his head. He looks to his feet once again and says, "I'm trying."

Implied Themes:

- Actions speak louder than words
- Claiming enlightenment doesn't mean you're enlightened