

P.O. Box 686
Valdez, AK 99686-0686
Phone: 517-614-9445
Email: kwalker2525@gmail.com

“My Next Cue”
from *Fall Leaves*
by Kyle Walker

CHARACTER – male or female, ages 18-20s.

It’s not what I thought it was going to be, you know. In the movies, on stage, it’s always the same. They give you six months to live and you either beat the odds and overcome it or you die with a better understanding of life. That, I can deal with. That, I can rehearse for. I can create a character that is stronger than the cancer. But this? No amount of acting classes prepared me for this. Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma. A highly treatable but somewhat rare type of skin cancer. I didn’t even need Chemo. But the cancer is always here. Waiting. *(beat)* And this is why I didn’t tell you. Because of right now. Because of the way you’re looking at me. Like I have an expiration date on my forehead. Someone shouts “smoke,” you look for fire. Someone shouts “cancer,” you look for death. I don’t want to look, ok? I don’t want anything! I just want to go onstage. I want to say my lines. I want to exit stage left and wait for my next cue. I don’t want to talk! I just want to be left alone! So yes, I’m hiding. I’m pretending. Isn’t that what actors always do?