

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

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

CHARACTER

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. But this? No amount of acting classes prepared me for this. *(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 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?