

And Hazel hears:

**GUS**

Literally.

Hazel turns to find the Beautiful Boy, Augustus, standing right next to her.

**GUS**

I thought we were in a church basement but apparently we were literally in the heart of Jesus.

Hazel smiles.

**HAZEL**

Someone should probably tell him, don't you think? Jesus? Seems kinda dangerous keeping all these kids with cancer in your heart.

Gus laughs.

**GUS**

What's your name?

**HAZEL**

Hazel.

**GUS**

No your full name?

**HAZEL (CONFUSED)**

Hazel Grace Lancaster.

Gus nods to himself, smiles. Still fixated on her.

**HAZEL**

What?

**GUS**

I didn't say anything.

**HAZEL**

Why are you looking at me like that?

**GUS**

Because you're beautiful.  
Hazel is taken aback. No one's ever said that to her before.

**GUS**

I enjoy looking at beautiful people and I decided a while back not to deny myself the simpler pleasures of existence. Particularly given that, as you so astutely pointed out, we're all gonna die pretty soon.

**HAZEL (BEAT)**

I'm not beaut –

A CUTE YOUNG GIRL walks past them.

**YOUNG GIRL**

Hey Gus.

**GUS**

Hey Alisa.

Hazel isn't surprised that other girls know Gus. Of course they do. She turns back towards Isaac and Monica pawing at each other. She hears:

**HAZEL**

What's with the "always?"

**GUS**

"Always" is their thing. They'll  
"always" love each other and  
whatnot. Must have texted "always"  
to each other at least four million  
times this year.

They continue to watch the show. It's pretty gross. Isaac squeezes Monica's breast like a clown horn.

**HAZEL**

He's gotta be hurting her boob.

**GUS**

Let's watch a movie. Hazel is again surprised.

**HAZEL**

Oh. Um. Uh... (yes!) Sure. Yeah. I'm... pretty free this

**WEEK--**

**GUS**

No I mean now.

**HAZEL**

What?

**GUS**

Hmm?

**HAZEL**

What do you mean "now?"

**GUS**

I've got a car.

He shrugs. Hazel has never seen someone so confident.

**HAZEL**

You could be an axe murderer.

**GUS**

There is that possibility. **(BEAT)**  
Come on Hazel Grace... take a risk.

As Hazel mulls this over, Gus reaches into his pocket and pulls out, of all things, a pack of cigarettes! Hazel is in disbelief. He flips the box open, puts a cigarette between his lips.

**HAZEL**

Oh my god. Oh. My. God. You're kidding right?  
(off his look) You just ruined the whole thing!

**GUS**

Whole thing?

**HAZEL**

What, you think that's cool? Oh you idiot! There's always a hamartia,

isn't there? And yours is – even though you had FREAKING CANCER you give money to a corporation for the chance to acquire EVEN MORE CANCER!? Ugh. And you were doing so well.

As she rants, Gus continues to look at her with that smile on his face. Hazel does not find it so amusing.

**HAZEL**

Let me tell you... not being able to breathe? Sucks. Totally sucks.

**GUS**

Hamartia?

Hazel folds her arms and turns away from him.

**HAZEL**

A fatal flaw.

Gus takes a beat and then moves to face her, the smile still etched on his face.

**GUS**

They don't hurt you unless you light them.

**HAZEL**

Sorry?

**GUS**

I've never lit one.

Hazel turns back to him.

**GUS**

It's a metaphor. See? You put the thing that kills you between your teeth. But you don't give it the power to do the killing.

Hazel is floored. And impressed.

**HAZEL**

Metaphor.

Gus holds her gaze. And it's at this point Frannie pulls up.