

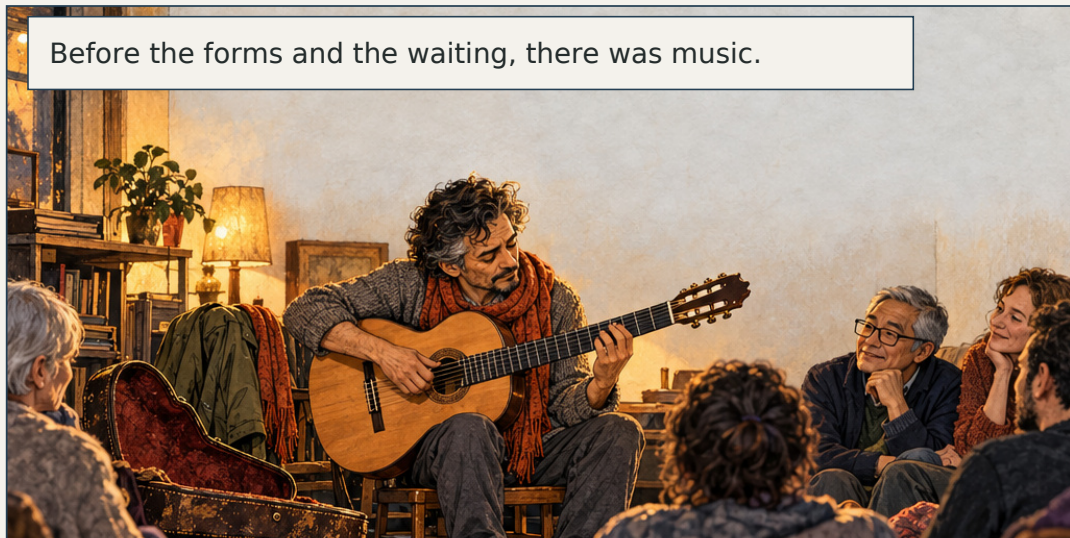
A GRAPHIC PREQUEL

A MOMENT OF QUIET

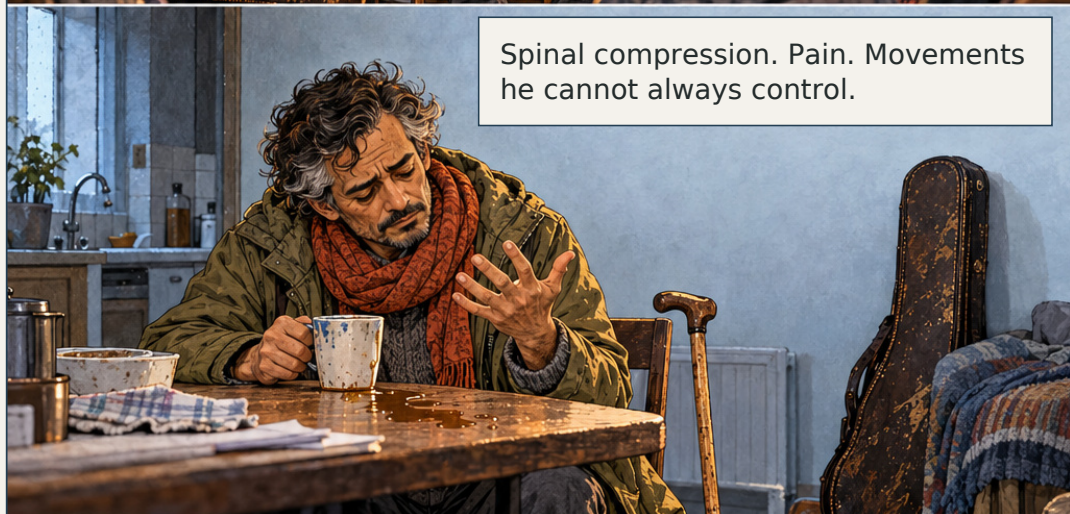
Before A Place to Begin



Before the forms and the waiting, there was music.



Spinal compression. Pain. Movements he cannot always control.



I need treatment. And someone to hear me.



Far-left authoritarianism.

Agree with us. We know best.



Far-right extremism.

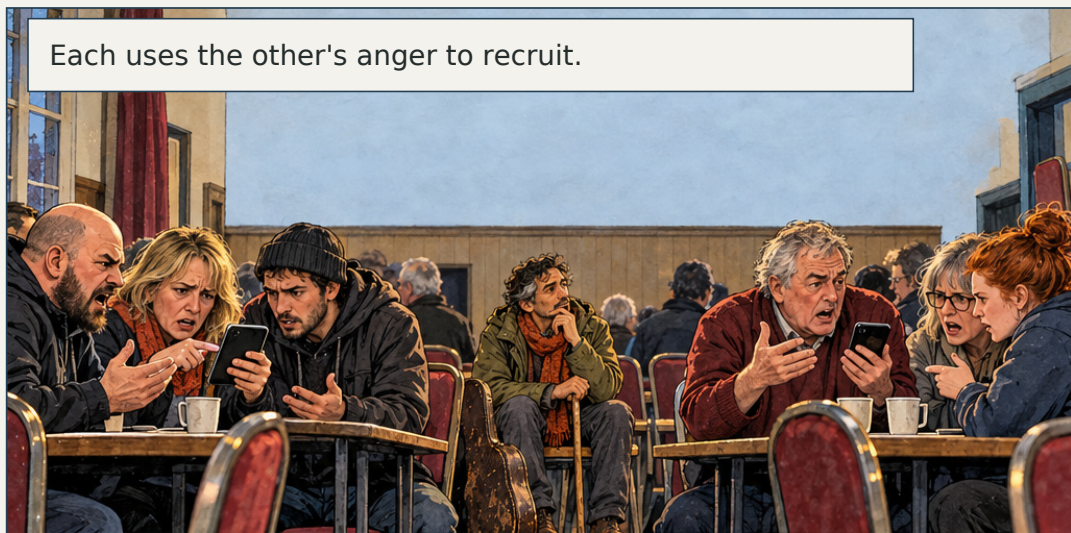
Blame outsiders. Only we can protect you.



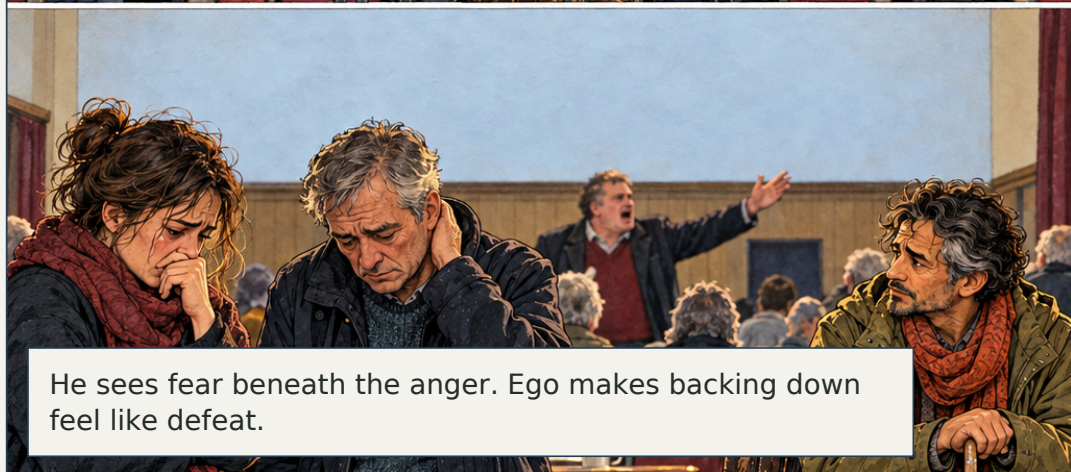
Where is the part where you listen?



Each uses the other's anger to recruit.



He sees fear beneath the anger. Ego makes backing down feel like defeat.

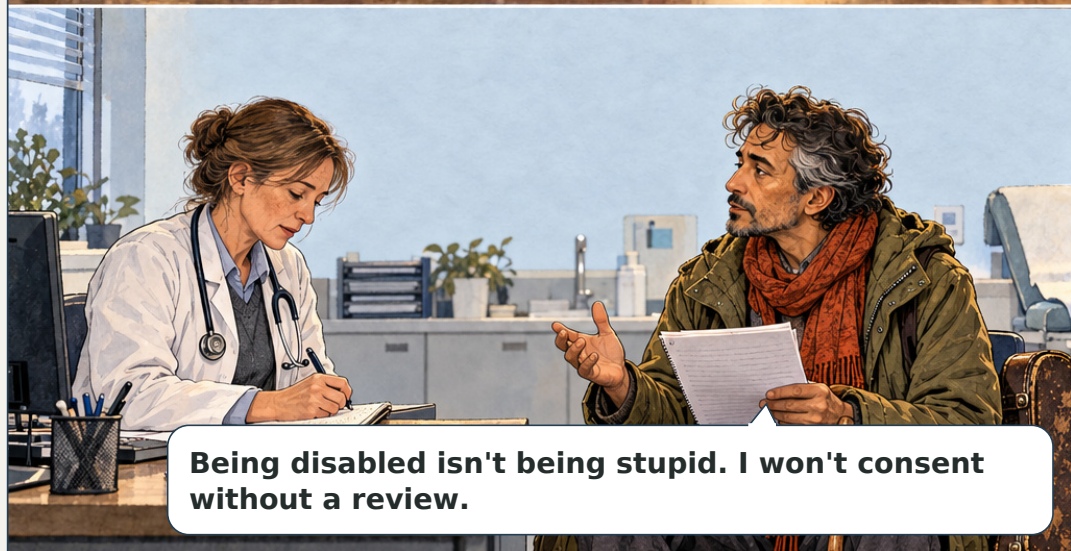
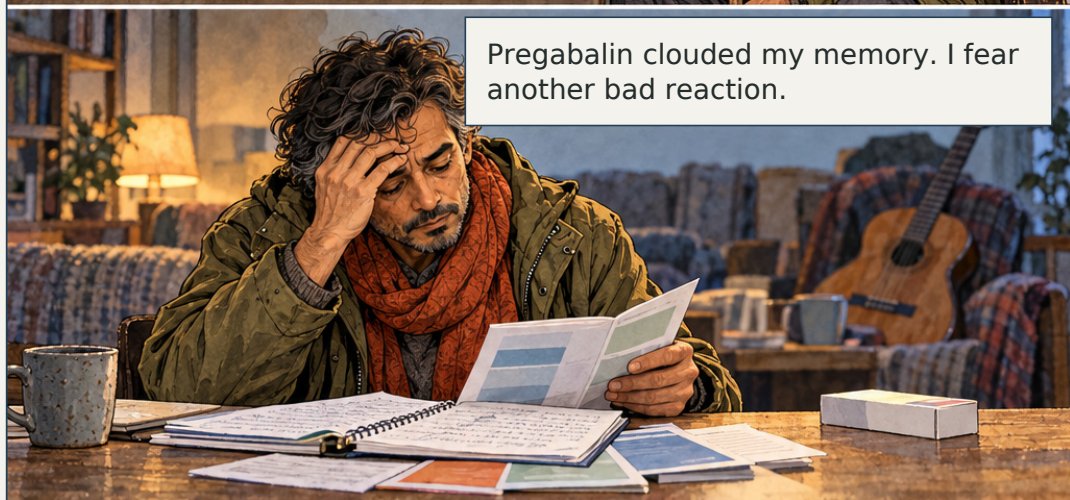


Your fear does not give you ownership of me.



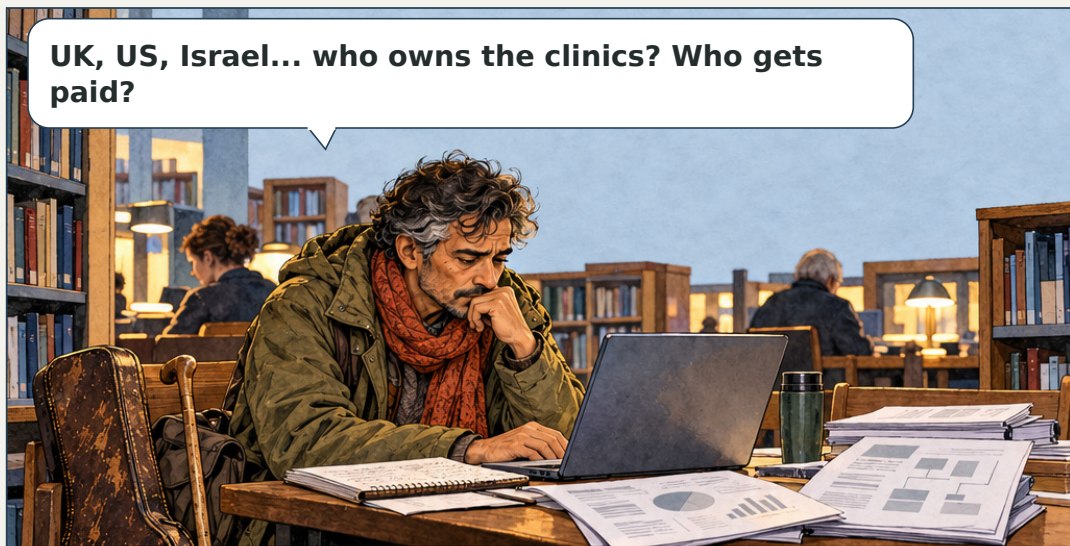
An opioid? Pregabalin?

Explain the risks.





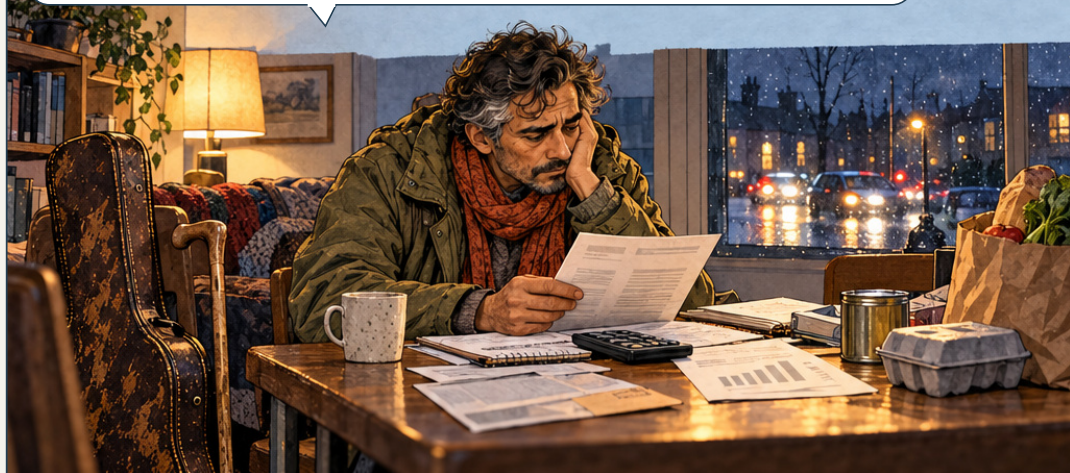
UK, US, Israel... who owns the clinics? Who gets paid?

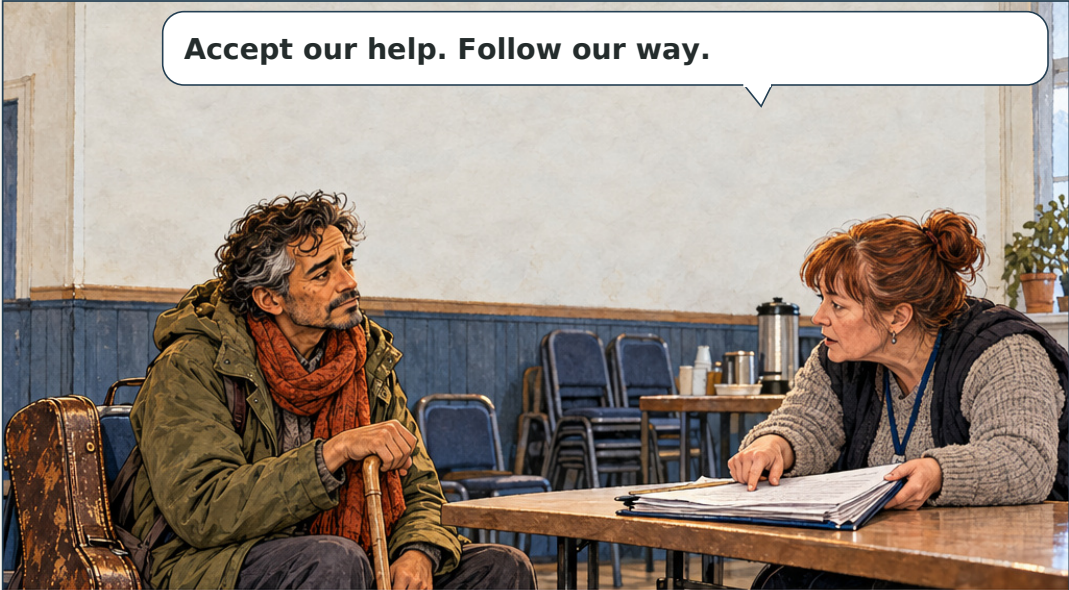


Can we learn from countries that widened access?



Is care about need, or ability to pay?





Accept our help. Follow our way.



Can we just talk?

I'm listening.



We can disagree and still care for each other.

The middle ground he seeks begins with listening.

He sells what he can. Keeps the guitar.



The future has shrunk to a question.

Where can I sleep and feel safe?



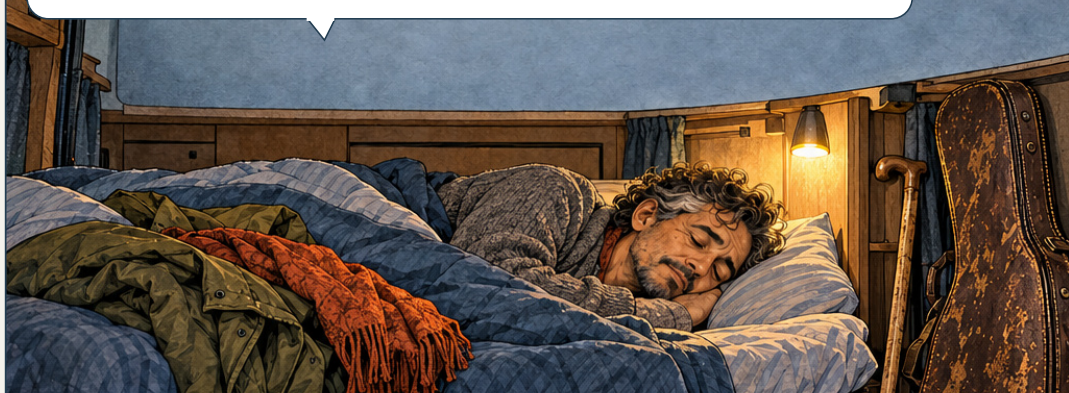
A friend drives. He needs rest.



A place to stop. A door he can close.



No shouting. No demands.



Safe enough to sleep. For tonight.

This fictional prequel draws on an anonymous personal account. Its character describes symptoms, barriers and adverse effects. These scenes are not a medical record or a finding about any real clinician. His need to be heard is the centre of the story.

Legal does not always mean accessible

The UK allowed specialist prescribing of qualifying cannabis medicines from 1 November 2018. NHS access remains limited; the NHS describes insufficient evidence to recommend cannabis medicines generally for long-term pain. Private prescribing is a separate payment route. A private offer does not show that the NHS is funding it. [1, 2]

Experience, benefit and harm

He reports relief from cannabis and memory problems with pregabalin. Cannabis can also cause harm; reported relief does not establish a cure for spinal compression. Pregabalin is used for nerve pain and other conditions; it is not an opioid. It can cause memory problems. MHRA warnings cover dependence, withdrawal and infrequent severe breathing problems, sometimes without opioids. [2, 3, 4]

Opioids are a class of different medicines, not a synonym for heroin. No heroin/diamorphine prescription is identified here. Opioids can relieve severe pain, while prolonged use can cause dependence and addiction even at prescribed doses. Risks require individual assessment and informed discussion. Changes to ongoing medication need a prescriber-supported plan; abruptly stopping pregabalin can cause harm. [4, 5]

Loss of movement needs assessment

New or worsening weakness or loss of movement needs urgent medical assessment. Back pain with new bladder or bowel problems or numbness around the groin or bottom requires emergency assessment. Symptom relief does not remove spinal nerve compression. [6]

[1] UK Government: specialist prescribing, 1 November 2018

[2] NHS: medical cannabis and access

[3] NHS: pregabalin and memory problems

[3] NHS: what pregabalin is used for

[4] MHRA: dependence and withdrawal warnings, January 2026

[4] MHRA: pregabalin and severe breathing problems

[5] MHRA: opioid medicines, dependence and addiction

[6] NHS: spinal compression and emergency symptoms

Care without coercion. A safe place to rest.

The factions are fictional. Their cycle of fear, ego and escalation is a dramatic interpretation of authoritarianism and extremism. It does not describe every person on the left or right. Here, the middle ground means listening, evidence, consent and equal dignity.

A person remains a person

Disability does not determine intelligence or worth. NHS guidance starts from a presumption that adults can decide about their own treatment. People may need support to understand or communicate; dignity does not depend on income, paid work or independent speech. [7]

Ownership and public accountability

Curaleaf documents a US-linked group with a UK clinic founded with NHS doctors. Kanabo's 2024 issuer report describes Treat It and its Israeli R&D subsidiary. These records establish business connections at stated dates; they do not prove improper NHS payments, corruption or a motive to harm. [8, 9]

Learn from different rules

Germany changed its rules to allow specified adult possession and cultivation, with restrictions. That is different from a right to a prescription, free care or importing medicines. The character asks why fair access remains out of reach for him. [10]

[7] NHS: consent and decision-making capacity

[8] Curaleaf: corporate structure and clinic history

[9] Kanabo: issuer annual report, 30 April 2024

[10] German Health Ministry: Cannabis Act questions

His search continues in **A Place to Begin**, the graphic adaptation of Population, Permission and Sustainability.

Concept: The Green Tank. AI-assisted adaptation and lettering; AI-generated ink-and-watercolour illustrations. Fictional cast; no real personal names or likenesses. First prequel edition, 15 October 2026. Sources checked on that date.