Dr. James types and text reads:

"The Stroop Test.

Volunteers view trigger words but name only the color in which the word appears. Subject takes longer to distinguish the color of words that are psychologically relevant or troubling to them."

Various words appear on the screen in color. Tristan and Connie (separately in theory) have been naming the colors they appear in.

During above, as needed: "BEAUTY" (yellow). "CHAIR" (white). "TEST" (red).

"GUILTY" (Green): Connie names the color after Tristan.

"BABY" (Blue): Together.

"FATHER" (White): Tristan after.

"JOY" (Green): Together.

"DIET" (Yellow): Connie after.

"LONELY" (Red): Beat. Together.

"BREASTS" (Purple): Tristan after. He's amused.

"MEMORY" (White): Together.

"BLUE" (in yellow):


She corrects herself. Tristan gets it right.

DR. JAMES. It's okay. It's not that kind of test.

[CONNIE. Dr. James.

It is now just Connie and Dr. James.

Sorry, I don't know if it matters. But I know about the Stroop Effect. That it's how long it takes to say the color, the more meaningful the word. I don't know if it matters. If you know.

DR. JAMES. No.

CONNIE. Oh. I thought knowing might make me try to...beat it.

DR. JAMES. In most cases being aware of your own bias doesn't actually mean you can affect that bias.

CONNIE. Really?

DR. JAMES. Yes. It's one of life's tragedies. Do you want to hear this story again? You can hear it a total of two times.

CONNIE. Okay.

DR. JAMES. You open up a dry cleaners. On the border between two towns. Your business is the only one of its kind in the surrounding area. You prosper and reactions from your customers indicate the cleaning is of good quality.

CONNIE. Okay.

DR. JAMES. You hire more staff which is an outlay but improves customer service, and you wonder about applying to the bank for a loan to open up a chain. As you had expected the bank approves the loan.

CONNIE. Go me!

DR. JAMES. Now a quick memory test, can you tell me the nature of your business. Was it A) A florist or B) Dry cleaners.

CONNIE. B.

DR. JAMES. And where was the business set up was it A—

CONNIE. On the border / between two towns.

DR. JAMES. / In the center of town or B) On the border between—yes. And the reason for your business success was it A) Lack of competition or B) A good business plan?

CONNIE. (Thinks.) Sorry, what?

DR. JAMES. The reason for your success—

CONNIE. You didn't say. So am I me? Am I now a dry cleaner?

DR. JAMES. Remembering the story I told you, What was the reason for your success?

CONNIE. It's impossible to say. Is this a test of memory?

DR. JAMES. This is the last question.

CONNIE. Afterwards will you tell me why?

DR. JAMES. Why?

CONNIE. I'm a psychology student.

DR. JAMES. Then you can figure it out yourself. What was the reason for your success?
CONNIE. (A shrug somewhere.) A) Lack of competition. There'll be like a hundred factors in this fictional town's economy.

DR. JAMES. Okay.

CONNIE. So if I'd said my business plan.

DR. JAMES. Then what?

CONNIE. Then I'd be taking responsibility for the success—

DR. JAMES. Right...

CONNIE. So what's that got to do with the trial?

DR. JAMES. People prone to depression, Connie, they tend to attribute success to external causes and failure to internal ones.

CONNIE. So if I do well it's because of something outside of me, but if I do badly it's my own stupid fault.

DR. JAMES. Exactly.

CONNIE. What would a "normal" mind do?

DR. JAMES. Well a so-called "healthy" mind, the healthiest mind would think if things go well it's down to me, / I did that—

CONNIE. / (I'm amazing)

DR. JAMES. —and if it goes badly—

CONNIE. They've been unlucky.

DR. JAMES. Victim of circumstance, yes. You're studying psychology?

CONNIE. (Nod.) And social science.

DR. JAMES. Wow. Never too late to become a real doctor, you know(!)

CONNIE. Yes, and depression.

DR. JAMES. Mother or father?

Beat.

Sorry. My background's in psychotherapy.

How do you feel?

CONNIE. A bit awkward.

DR. JAMES. No I mean physically.

CONNIE. Oh. Fine. A bit tense you know "up" like, something's going to happen. I keep thinking my hearing's really good, that's crazy isn't it?! But Tristan said the same.

DR. JAMES. Well the agent's designed to increase levels of dopamine—

CONNIE. Okay.

DR. JAMES. And that's what's stimulated by new, exciting experiences generally so...

There's an old joke actually. How does it go. So. There's this medic at a conference and he's fallen for a girl there who hasn't looked at him twice. Now he knows dopamine is the initial trigger in falling in love but also that dopamine is stimulated by new, exciting experiences. So to try and get the girl he arranges for them to go bungee jumping together, try to set up his own chemical reaction. So the instructor ties them together and they stand over this incredible valley and he's got his arms round her and they fall headlong into this incredible, adrenaline-filled rush—their dopamine levels go wild. And eventually, they get lifted back onto the bridge, they get their breath back and he looks into her eyes and says, "Wasn't that amazing?!" And breathlessly she answers, "Yes! And isn't the instructor handsome!"

Beat.

It's a sort of a science joke so...

CONNIE. No, I like it. Cos it's the instructor...

DR. JAMES. Yes, that she's...yes. 

Beat.

Toby enters, perusing medical records Dr. James has given him.

TOBY. This is great, isn't it.

DR. JAMES. I'm not sure it's good or bad it's just the case.

TOBY. Nice work.

Different from what you're used to I bet.

DR. JAMES. Different.

TOBY. Easier.

DR. JAMES. Different.

TOBY. Elevated mood.

DR. JAMES. Yes.

TOBY. Increased energy levels.

DR. JAMES. Yes.

TOBY. Weight loss(!)

DR. JAMES. Mm-hm.