

THE BEAST
"Pilot"

written by

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TEASER

OPEN ON BLACK

A filament crackles to life, glowing.

VOICEOVER

Eight Thousand, six hundred and forty --

The electrical current takes off at a dizzying speed.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

**That's how many people bite the dust,
kick the bucket, buy the pine condo in
this country every day.**

No matter how the current twists and swerves, beyond it lies only the black void.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

**Call it what you want, I just fucking
died. It all started with one little
mistake.**

The screen explodes in a burst of red and white.

EXT. L.A. STREETS - DAY

The swirling red and white light of an ambulance races down the street, weaving in and out of traffic.

VOICEOVER

A decision had to be made.

Through the side window, a Paramedic works on a patient.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

**No one knew it would turn out to be a
matter of life or death.**

The ambulance approaches an intersection as an Idiot on a cell phone floors it to make the yellow. He slams the brakes and the action switches to SLO-MO: The Paramedic in back looks out the side window, grimaces.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Heads you live.

The Idiot silently screams as his car continues to slide forward, his cell phone exploding against the windshield.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Tails you die.

BACK TO speed as the ambulance swerves sharply, narrowly avoiding the collision. The ambulance races onward, to --

EXT. DOCTORS' HOSPITAL ("BEAUTY") - DAY

The ambulance approaches an architectural marvel -- beautifully landscaped with fountains, trees and flowers -- a welcoming oasis in the concrete jungle.

VOICEOVER

Before it all went to hell, I was given one last shot.

The ambulance pulls up to a uniformed Valet.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Actually, three of us were. The other two lucky stiff's were saved... I drew the short straw.

PARAMEDIC

Patient insisted on coming here.
Where the hell's your E.R.?

VALET

We don't have one.

PARAMEDIC

Guy's having a heart attack, he's gonna die.

VALET

Then you better get him to the Beast.

The Paramedic PEELS off. He reaches the end of the drive, rolls directly across the street to --

EXT. CITY HOSPITAL ("THE BEAST") - DAY

A dilapidated monstrosity. The aesthetic opposite of Doctors' Hospital, to which it is connected by a third-story glassed-in walkway bridging the street between them. As the ambulance pulls up to the E.R. Receiving Bay --

VOICEOVER

One doctor was hellbent on saving all three of us...

BAM! It clips the side-view mirror of a merging, brand new Tesla. Out jumps --

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Dr. Jonah Preston.

Mid-to-late 30s, expensive suit, charismatic. He rushes to the ambulance as the back doors burst open --

INT. THE BEAST - E.R. - DAY

Preston rides the gurney through the receiving doors, administering CPR to the 65-year-old Male Cardiac Patient.

DR. PRESTON

Don't you die on me. Come on, breathe.

Paramedics push him past peeling, water-stained walls. Nurse Sally joins the train. Code alarms ring.

NURSE SALLY

We've got a pulse.

Preston dismounts, tearing a pant leg. Follows along.

VOICEOVER

That patient lived.

DR. PRESTON

Get him on a monitor, give him a baby aspirin.

NURSE SALLY

Who are you?

DR. PRESTON

Jonah Preston, your new Chief of Staff.

NURSE SALLY

You ripped your pants.

He looks down, noticing the rip for the first time.

NURSE SALLY (CONT'D)

You saved his life.

VOICEOVER

Wish it had been me.

DR. SORRELL

Out of the way.

VOICEOVER

**You never know when your number's up,
but if you pay attention, there are
clues...**

Dr. Sorrell rolls the patient into a room.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

**Death came for three of us. He could
only save two. No matter what Dr.
Preston does, one person he meets today
won't make it.**

Pull back from Preston, adrenaline still pumping.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

That person was me.

Off the bedlam as it swirls around him, and we --

END TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. CHIEF'S CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY**

Warped wood panelling, ratty rug, chipped conference table. From above, PAN across a tattered leather couch, starting on a man's cashmered stocking feet.

VOICEOVER

**It's an occupational hazard when a
doctor can't bear to see a patient die.**

Up his Zegna-suited pant legs (one torn)...

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Dr. Preston got too close to me.

An Hermes tie, a Prada-shirted torso...

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

He learned my darkest secret...

Come to rest on Preston's face, his unblinking eyes stare up at the ceiling; he doesn't appear to be breathing.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

And tried to use it to save me.

Administrative assistant Thelma Bigelow, 50s, a likable crusty, wearing a Bluetooth, has entered.

THELMA

I catch you at a bad time, Dr. Preston?

INT. THE BEAST - RADIOLOGY HALLWAY - DAY

Preston, now in a white lab coat labelled "Dr. R. Melman, Chief of Staff," on the move with Thelma.

THELMA

What were you thinking wearing your
good suit to this place?

DR. PRESTON

All I have are good suits.

They move past a long line of Patients on gurneys.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

How long will it take to fix the MRI?

THELMA

No idea. Tech support's not picking up
in India.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

Doctors' Hospital is right across the street.

THELMA

Beauty ain't taking 'em. Any of these folks look like they got insurance?

"The Funeral March" starts blaring. Patients react.

DR. PRESTON

Thelma, you gotta change that ringtone.

As Thelma answers, they pass Linda Hammond, 28, gaunt but kind face, a scarf on her bald head, holding medical files.

MANNY (O.S.)

Cut it off! Please!

Preston reacts, rushes through double doors to --

INT. THE BEAST - MAIN LOBBY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Jorge Zamudio, 30s, pushes a wheelchair through a bright sunbeam that illuminates Manny Perez, 14, crying.

JORGE

Cállate!

Preston runs past drip buckets under a leaking overhead pipe, sees a burlap bag tied around Manny's foot.

DR. PRESTON

What happened to his foot?

MANNY

It burns!

As Preston touches the bag it starts thrashing.

DR. PRESTON

What's in there?

MANNY

Diablo! He's killing me!

Preston pulls the bag off, revealing a foot-long Gila Monster, its jaws firmly attached to Manny's bare foot.

DR. PRESTON

What is that?

JORGE

A gila monster. Once they bite, they don't let go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As Preston pulls out his phone --

MANNY

Cut his head off.

JORGE

Don't hurt Diablo, he's my pet.

(to Manny)

I told you not to play with him.

He leads them down a hallway as he reads the Blackberry.

DR. PRESTON

Heloderma Suspectum... secretes venom...

MANNY

I'm gonna die.

DR. PRESTON

No, you're not.

(reading)

We can hold a flame under his jaw...or
submerge him in water -- he'll have to
let go to breathe.

Jorge grabs one of the drip buckets --

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Wait, that water's not clean.

Before he can stop him, Jorge shoves Manny's foot into the filthy water. Diablo splashes wildly; Manny screams.

MANNY

He's ripping my foot off!

He jerks his foot out of the bucket, Diablo-free, splashing Preston. Jorge grabs the bucket, pours Diablo into the bag. Manny's foot is swollen with bluish puncture wounds.

DR. PRESTON

Nurse! Take him up to Peds, clean the wound and probe for broken teeth.

As she wheels him off, he turns to see Jorge heading out.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

JORGE

Taking Diablo home.

DR. PRESTON

What about your son?

JORGE

He belongs to my girlfriend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON
(grabs bag)
Get her down here.

JORGE
Hey! That's mine.

Preston ignores, heads for the elevator. Thelma approaches.

THELMA
What's in the bag?

DR. PRESTON
Gila monster.

THELMA
(re: stain)
It pee on you?

DR. PRESTON
No. Do they have cages in the lab?

THELMA
I've got a baseball bat under my desk.

The elevator opens, revealing Jessica Neubauer, 23, pretty, in a wheelchair, wearing a torn black cocktail dress.

INT. THE BEAST - ELEVATOR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Preston and Thelma enter. An Orderly is with Jessica.

THELMA
Hope you're wearing your steel boxers.

DR. PRESTON
He can't bite through the bag.

Jessica recoils from the bag wriggling in her face.

THELMA
I'm talking about the ball-busters at the Joint Commission. I got a hot tip they're planning a surprise inspection.

DR. PRESTON
I just started.

THELMA
They don't give a crap. Boy did they hate the last Chief. Poor Dr. Melman.

She taps the "Melman" on Preston's lab coat.

THELMA (CONT'D)
If you last the week I'll order one with your name on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The doors open at Three; the Orderly pushes Jessica out.
As they wait for the doors to close --

DR. PRESTON
You need to call Public Health and
report Diablo.

A Naked Man streaks by laughing maniacally.

THELMA
There goes your predecessor.

DR. PRESTON
Hold this.

He hands her the bag, slips through the closing doors to --

INT. THE BEAST - NEUROLOGICAL WARD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Preston is knocked off his feet by Dr. Sutton Demarest, early 30s, blonde, gorgeous. Her glasses fly off as she lands on top of him. Nose-to-nose, both freeze.

DR. DEMAREST
I'm so sorry.

Staring into her eyes, he's speechless.

DR. DEMAREST (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

DR. PRESTON
I'm great.
(scrambling up)
Jonah Preston, new Chief of Staff.

DR. DEMAREST
Sutton Demarest, bad first impression.

DR. PRESTON
No, no, best one so far.

CRUNCH. They look down; he's stepped on her glasses. They bump as they bend to get them. He hands them to her.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)
They're broken.

DR. DEMAREST
I know, I'm vision-impaired, not blind.

DR. PRESTON
What?

DR. DEMAREST
I have macular degeneration.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

So I guess you're not a brain surgeon.

DR. DEMAREST

Neuro-psychiatrist. When your vision's
20-180 you become a great listener.

DR. PRESTON

Need a hand with your psychotic break?

DR. DEMAREST

Mr. Daly isn't psychotic, he was having
a gelastic seizure. It manifests in
uncontrollable laughter.

DR. PRESTON

They say that's the best medicine.

DR. DEMAREST

He suffers over a dozen seizures a day.
It's debilitating.

They round the corner, see a SECURITY GUARD with Mr. Daly,
who sits covered with a blanket on the floor, dazed.

SECURITY GUARD

Had to subdue your patient, Dr. D.

He holds up his taser. Demarest turns to Preston.

DR. DEMAREST

You want to fix this place, start by
banning tasers on our psych patients.

Demarest grabs a wheelchair. Preston helps load Mr. Daly.

DR. PRESTON

Good idea. The Dean asked me to form
an oversight team. Would you be on it?

DR. DEMAREST

Sure. We can call it Save the Beast.

She smiles. He melts. The door across the hall flies
open, Tech Beatrice Kim pokes her head out, shouts --

TECH BEATRICE

Patient crashed! I need a doctor!

INT. THE BEAST - CT SCAN ROOM - DAY

Tech Beatrice leads Preston through the control room.

TECH BEATRICE

ER sent up a mugging victim for a CT.

They reach Jessica Neubauer. Preston checks her pupils.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

We've got to reduce the swelling to her brain. Get me Mannitol and Decadron.

(off clueless Tech)

Now! You want to kill her?

TECH BEATRICE

I'm just a Tech, Dr. Melman.

DR. PRESTON

It's Preston and her brain's going to be sucked into her spinal cord.

Frustrated, he runs out to --

INT. THE BEAST - NEURO WARD -- DAY (QUICK CUTS)

Preston races down the hall. Breaks open a crash cart. Rips out drawers; contents go flying. Grabs syringes.

INT. THE BEAST - CT SCAN ROOM - DAY

Preston rushes back in, jabs each needle into her arm.

TECH BEATRICE

BP's dropping. One-forty over ninety.

She bursts into tears. Preston is thrown. Thelma enters.

DR. PRESTON

We saved her. She'll be okay now.

TECH BEATRICE

You...yelled...at...me.

THELMA

Don't take it personal, hon, all doctors are jerks.

(whispers to him)

It's not you. She's cra-zy.

DR. PRESTON

Who isn't around here?

THELMA

The lawyer who just slipped in the lobby. We ran out of buckets.

INT. THE BEAST - LOBBY - DAY

Preston and Thelma stand amongst a sea of drip buckets.

DR. PRESTON

Where's the maintenance crew?

THELMA

He called in sick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dr. Davey Tyler, late 20s, cute, earnest, enters through the front doors wearing khakis, carrying a huge duffel bag.

DR. TYLER

Thelma! I have returned.

THELMA

Oh, crap. It's been a month already?

DR. TYLER

Brought you a present from Mozambique.

He reaches them, hands Thelma a beaded bracelet.

DR. TYLER (CONT'D)

Made by AIDS orphans.

THELMA

You couldn't have built a clinic at one of those diamond mines, huh?

(introducing)

Dr. Davey Tyler, the man who would cure the world; Dr. Preston, here to save us from our own incompetence.

DR. PRESTON

I'm forming an oversight team -- Save The Beast -- I want you on it.

The Funeral March plays. Looks. Thelma takes the call.

DR. TYLER

Count me in. We'll show those money-grubbing weenies at Beauty that rich people aren't the only ones entitled to excellent healthcare.

DR. PRESTON

Actually, I'm one of those weenies.

(off his look)

I'll be doing plastic surgery there every Tuesday. It was part of my deal.

DR. TYLER

Oh. I guess someone has to lift all those spoiled butts and boobs.

DR. PRESTON

Those butts and boobs cover my overhead so I can work here.

THELMA

I hate to interrupt a pissing match, but the storm front just hit the chemo suite.

INT. THE BEAST - CHEMO SUITE - DAY

Patients on IV drips sit in ratty recliners. Preston stands on a chair wrapping surgical tape around a gushing leak.

LINDA (O.S.)

Uh oh.

It sprinkles the medical files beside Linda Hammond.

DR. PRESTON

I'm so sorry.

LINDA

They're okay. But you're soaked.

DR. PRESTON

Are those medical files?

LINDA

My whole life.

DR. PRESTON

You carry them around with you?

LINDA

I have to. I see so many doctors, they kept getting lost in the shuffle.

DR. PRESTON

What is it you're beating?

LINDA

Leukemia. I'm Linda Hammond.

DR. PRESTON

Jonah Preston.

He steps down. Water starts to spray around the tape.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

I'm better at fixing leaks in people.

INT. MEDICAL SCHOOL - DEAN WYCK'S OFFICE - DAY

Preston faces Dean Stanley Wyck, late 50s, severe.

DEAN WYCK

You look like crap, Preston. Beast more than you can handle?

DR. PRESTON

You told me there were a few problems. It's a calamity! And now inspectors are coming?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEAN WYCK

Better learn to tap dance, quick.

DR. PRESTON

You're making me your fall guy?

DEAN WYCK

I'm giving you a chance to prove yourself.

DR. PRESTON

You recruited me. I'm helping you out.

DEAN WYCK

You've got a lot of demons to work through. You and the Beast are made for each other.

That knocks the wind out of Preston. His pager beeps.

DEAN WYCK (CONT'D)

You gonna answer that?

INT. THE BEAST - LOBBY - DAY

Thelma nabs Preston as he comes through the door.

THELMA

Where the hell have you been? The place is lousy with inspectors.

DR. PRESTON

You said that was next week.

MAINTENANCE WORKER

So where's the leak?

DR. PRESTON

This way. Stall 'em for five minutes.

THELMA

No problem. I'll do a strip.

Preston leads the Maintenance Worker the other way.

DR. PRESTON

Worst leak's in the chemo suite.

He opens a door and a torrent gushes out. Off Preston --

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. THE BEAST - FRONT ENTRANCE - PICK-UP/DROP-OFF - DAY**

Dozens of gowned Patients on gurneys, in wheelchairs and on foot -- their slippers and pajama pant legs sopping wet.

VOICEOVER

The hopeless cases, Dr. Preston can accept.

Preston, bedraggled, walks with a scowling Lead Inspector.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

It's the needless deaths that drive him nuts. I accepted my fate, but Dr. Preston couldn't.

DR. PRESTON

Can't we reschedule? Obviously you caught us on a bad day.

LEAD INSPECTOR

I don't think you quite grasp the meaning of 'surprise inspection.' Do you have a contingency plan in place?

Preston points to Beauty, gleaming in the sunlight.

DR. PRESTON

I'd send them over to the country club across the street, but it's restricted. They don't admit the uninsured.

He spots Linda Hammond, tethered to an IV, sitting beside her files on the curb.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Give me one second. Linda, you okay?

LINDA

Never a dull moment, huh?

He sits next to her, pats her hand.

DR. PRESTON

Sorry for putting you through all this.

LINDA

I'm fine. But it looks like you've been through the wringer.

She wipes a smudge from his cheek as Tyler walks up.

DR. TYLER

You hitting on my girl, Dr. Preston?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Dr. Tyler!

She stands, hugs him. He pulls out a beaded bracelet.

DR. TYLER

Brought you a present. It was made by
AIDS orphans in Mozambique.

LINDA

It's beautiful.

DR. TYLER

Guaranteed to ward off evil spirits.

DR. PRESTON

Unless it emits radiation, you better
stick to your chemo.

DR. TYLER

Actually, Linda's at the end of her
protocol.

DR. PRESTON

I didn't know you were an oncologist.

DR. TYLER

I'm not, I'm her family doctor.

LINDA

He diagnosed me.

DR. TYLER

Did you have the new blood work done
last week?

LINDA

I'm still waiting for the results.

DR. PRESTON

Unacceptable. If no one in oncology is
quarterbacking her care, I will. Keep
me in the loop, Dr. Tyler.

Linda smiles at the two doctors vying for her attention.

LEAD INSPECTOR

Dr. Preston, my tour?

Preston turns, sees something, blurts out --

DR. PRESTON

What are you thinking?

He pushes past the Inspector, intercepts Manny as he exits
the hospital, sweating profusely, limping badly, in pain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Manny, you shouldn't be walking on that foot. What are you doing down here?

MANNY

Lookin' for a bus stop.

DR. PRESTON

Where's your mom?

MANNY

Jorge never called her.

DR. PRESTON

You need to stay here for a couple of days.

MANNY

(lying)

Doc upstairs said I was fine.

His knees buckle, Preston catches him.

DR. PRESTON

Manny, we need to get you back inside.

MANNY

No. I gotta get home.

He pulls away, takes a step...collapses.

INT. THE BEAST - LOBBY/HALLWAYS - DAY

Preston and Tyler make their way past Workers operating wet vacs, with Manny on a gurney.

DR. PRESTON

Manny, can you tell me what's wrong?

MANNY

I'm really dizzy.

DR. TYLER

Did you take any drugs today?

MANNY

I don't do drugs.

DR. PRESTON

He was bitten by a gila monster.

DR. TYLER

Oh, that's nothing. I treated a boy your age in Mozambique who was bitten by a black mamba.

As he takes Manny's pulse --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MANNY

Did you make him better?

DR. TYLER

He wasn't as lucky as you. Nearest hospital was two hundred miles away. Without antivenom a mamba's bite is a hundred percent fatal.

DR. PRESTON

(a scathing look)

A gila monster's isn't. He's just having a systemic reaction to the venom because he was ambulatory.

DR. TYLER

His pulse is thready. I think he's going into shock.

DR. PRESTON

Put him on fluids and dopamine and he'll be fine.

DR. TYLER

Don't worry, Manny, I'm gonna fix you right up.

DR. PRESTON

I got him from here.

He pushes the gurney through to the E.R. Off the double doors swinging in Tyler's face --

INT. THE BEAST - CAFETERIA - DAY

Demarest is at the frozen yogurt machine. Tyler comes up behind her.

DR. TYLER

Hey, Sutton, did you miss me?

He goes to hug her; she pulls back.

DR. DEMAREST

No hug for you. I can't believe you're back and didn't come see me.

DR. TYLER

(pulls out bracelet)

Made by AIDS orphans in Mozambique.

DR. DEMAREST

(slips it on)

I love it.

DR. TYLER

I like your new glasses.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. DEMAREST

They're my back-ups. Dr. Preston broke my good ones.

DR. TYLER

What a jerk.

DR. DEMAREST

It was an accident. Like you're having right now.

He follows her look to the overflowing yogurt machine. He quickly lifts up the lever, but the gush continues.

DR. TYLER

Nothing in this damn place works.

DR. DEMAREST

That's why you should play nice with Dr. Preston. He's trying to fix the place.

DR. TYLER

In his two thousand dollar suit? That guy doesn't fit in here.

DR. DEMAREST

(re: yogurt)

Let me staunch that bleed for you.

She stuffs a wad of napkins into the nozzle.

DR. TYLER

I wanna know why he'd leave a hoity-toity job at Harvard to come work in the trenches with us.

DR. DEMAREST

He's obviously got a savior complex.

Her pager goes off. She checks it --

DR. DEMAREST (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil.

INT. THE BEAST - NEURO WARD - DAY

Doctors Preston and Demarest with Jessica, now gowned.

JESSICA

Dr. Preston saved my life.

DR. DEMAREST

I guess we'll keep him. I just need to ask you a few questions, Jessica. What day of the week is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

Monday, dammit, I missed my mani-pedi.

DR. DEMAREST

Do you know what happened to you?

JESSICA

I was driving to an after hours club downtown and got lost. I pulled over to ask some guy if he knew where it was...that's the last thing I remember.

DR. PRESTON

You came in with a nasty blow to the head and no purse. He mugged you.

JESSICA

He didn't take my Lexus did he?

DR. DEMAREST

Her cognition seems to be intact.

JESSICA

My parents just gave it to me for my 23rd birthday. It's a custom color.

DR. PRESTON

We'll have the police take a report.

As they head out, Tech Beatrice enters with CT scans.

JESSICA

Can someone call my parents?

DR. PRESTON

Beatrice, can you help Jessica?

BEATRICE

Gee, I don't know, I'm such a moron.

Preston takes the CT scans, exits to --

INT. THE BEAST - NEURO HALLWAY - DAY

Preston on the move with Demarest.

DR. PRESTON

I never called that idiot a moron.

DR. DEMAREST

We don't get a lot of Ivy Leaguers come to work here... Why did you?

DR. PRESTON

Penance.

She raises an eyebrow as he slaps the CT on a light board.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Bone windows are clear, but she might have a hairline skull fracture by the right temporal lobe.

DR. DEMAREST

We should keep her overnight for observation.

He turns to her, their faces intimately close, back-lit by the head CT.

BONNIE (O.S.)

Jonah?

He looks back, surprised to find...

DR. PRESTON

Bonnie. What are you doing here?

Dr. Bonnie Preston, early to mid-30s, her name and "Department of Public Health" in script on her white coat, looks suspiciously from Preston to Demarest.

BONNIE

You called me. About a predatory lizard?

DR. PRESTON

Right, Diablo. Bite victim's family was keeping a gila monster as a pet.

BONNIE

Is the patient okay?

DR. PRESTON

Kid went into shock, but I fluid resuscitated him. You should check out his home to make sure it's safe.

DR. DEMAREST

Oh you're Public Health; we haven't met.

(squints at coat)

Dr....

BONNIE

Preston.

DR. DEMAREST

Oh, you're married.

DR. PRESTON

Separated.

That stings Bonnie; Preston gives her an apologetic look as Thelma joins the crowd around him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THELMA

Dr. Preston, you get my page?

DR. PRESTON

No.

He searches for it -- no pager. Thelma hands it to him.

THELMA

Dr. Tyler needs to see you A-sap. He's giving someone the ol' 'sorry, but you're not gonna make it' speech.

DR. PRESTON

The kid? Manny?

Visibly upset, he starts for the elevator --

THELMA

He didn't mention a Manny. Something about keeping you in the loop.

INT. THE BEAST - DR. TYLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Wall-to-wall photos of Tyler at disaster sites. He sits across from Preston and Linda.

DR. TYLER

Linda, the leukemia has relapsed. You're in blast crisis.

LINDA

(dazed but stoic)

So... more chemo?

DR. TYLER

I'm afraid that's not working. You're drowning in white cells.

DR. PRESTON

(to Tyler)

But we do have another option. A bone marrow transplant.

DR. TYLER

I already checked the registry. Linda has a rare HLA type; there's no match.

DR. PRESTON

Then we need to screen her blood relatives.

LINDA

Both my parents are dead.

DR. PRESTON

Do you have siblings... children?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

It's just me and my husband.

She tears up. Preston takes her hand.

DR. PRESTON

There are new donors every day.

LINDA

If you find one, what are my odds?

DR. PRESTON

Excellent.

Tyler shoots him a look.

DR. TYLER

Linda, you asked me always to be straight with you. In your case, we're looking at a 25 percent survival rate.

Linda is visibly shaken.

LINDA

How do I tell my husband? I've already put him through so much.

DR. TYLER

We have a therapist the two of you should talk to.

LINDA

He took out a second mortgage to pay for all this. Now he could lose the house and me.

DR. PRESTON

No one's losing you. We are not going to let you die.

INT. THE BEAST - NEURO WARD - DAY

Demarest at Jessica's bedside as she picks at Jello.

JESSICA

My parents are going to kill me. The cop said Lexi was probably stripped and shipped already. They'll be furious.

DR. DEMAREST

They'll be thrilled you're alive.

MRS. NEUBAUER (O.S.)

Jessica? Where are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA
(brightening)
In here, Mom.

Mr. and Mrs. Neubauer, late 40s, filthy rich, enter.

MRS. NEUBAUER
Oh, you poor thing.

Jessica's smile fades as Mrs. Neubauer beelines for her;
Mr. Neubauer sits on the other side.

MR. NEUBAUER
Hey, Kiddo, you okay?

MRS. NEUBAUER
How could she be? Imagine waking up in
this god-forsaken place.

DR. DEMAREST
Jessica has received excellent care.
From the Chief-of-Staff himself.

MR. NEUBAUER
Isn't this where some poor shmuck had
the wrong leg amputated?

DR. DEMAREST
This is where Dr. Preston saved your
daughter from becoming a vegetable.

Mrs. Neubauer puts her arm around her; Jessica stiffens.

MRS. NEUBAUER
Can we take her home now?

DR. DEMAREST
We need to keep her overnight for
observation.

MRS. NEUBAUER
My best friend had elective surgery
across the street at Doctors'. It's so
much nicer. I want her transferred.

DR. DEMAREST
Dr. Preston and I both have privileges
there so it shouldn't be a problem.

MRS. NEUBAUER
Tell her that's what you want, Dear.

She pats her arm; Jessica looks scared to death.

MRS. NEUBAUER (CONT'D)
Is something wrong, Jessica?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

Where are my parents?

MR. NEUBAUER

We're right here, Kiddo.

MRS. NEUBAUER

(to Demarest)

What have you done to her?

Before she can answer, Jessica flings the food tray, scrambles out of bed. Demarest grabs her arm.

DR. DEMAREST

Jessica, what's wrong?

JESSICA

Those people aren't my parents.

She pulls free, runs out of the room. Off reactions, we --

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. THE BEAST - MRI ROOM - DAY**

Preston lies on his back in a claustrophobic tube.

DR. PRESTON

This is the first peace and quiet I've found since I got here.

THELMA (O.S.)

You know, you do have an office.

He lifts his head, sees Thelma peering in at him.

DR. PRESTON

It's full of inspectors.

Thelma, holding a bag and notepad, pats the old MRI.

THELMA

This hunk-a-junk can't be fixed, huh?

DR. PRESTON

No. A new MRI is two million bucks and they tell me we don't have it. Why did I take this job? What do I do, Thelma?

THELMA

What am I, your shrink? Come out of there and eat your lunch.

Thelma holds out the bag as he pulls himself out.

THELMA (CONT'D)

From Benny's down the street. Second best car wash/taco stand in town.

DR. PRESTON

Thanks, Thelma. Any calls?

THELMA

Let's see...a-hole, s-head...oh, Dr. Demarest called. I hear she really fell for you.

(Preston chokes)

I meant on you. Don't tell me you got a crush on Dr. Magoo like every other hormone case around here.

DR. PRESTON

No. I mean, she's lovely...

THELMA

She doesn't date. Not since she broke off her engagement three years ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

What happened?

THELMA

Thirty-eight counts of racketeering.
Shyster's doin' five-to-ten at Folsom.

DR. PRESTON

What did Dr. Demarest want?

THELMA

An honest man, but good luck.

DR. PRESTON

No, I mean when she called.

THELMA

Oh... She lost a patient.

Off Preston, alarmed --

INT. THE BEAST - HALLWAY - DAY

Demarest on the move with Preston.

DR. DEMAREST

No one died. I meant lost as in
missing. Jessica Neubauer ran away.

DR. PRESTON

From what?

DR. DEMAREST

Her parents. She doesn't recognize
them.

Demarest's pager goes off. She holds it up, squints.

DR. DEMAREST (CONT'D)

Why'd you go and break my good glasses?
What does this say?

He leans in awkwardly; their shoulders brush.

DR. PRESTON

'Beasty loose in Beauty. Pick up,
stat.' What does that mean?

DR. DEMAREST

Border patrol must have caught another
patient sneaking across the bridge.
It's gotta be Jessica.

She heads off. Before he can follow --

LEAD INSPECTOR

There you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nine inspectors cut off Preston, circling him as he watches Demarest continue down the hall.

INT. BEAUTY - CONCIERGE DESK - DAY

Beautiful but color desaturated (tints of silver and blue); "Beauty" looks more like a spa than a hospital. Dr. Eugenia Avery, 30s, African-American, brilliant, watches disdainfully as Nels Halverson, 30s, Nordic, sits behind an ornate desk listening to Jessica, dressed in scrubs.

JESSICA

I just need you to call a car service for me. My parents will pay for it.

NELS

I'm sorry, but, as I've said, Concierge services are for our patients only.

Demarest approaches.

DR. DEMAREST

Jessica, what are you doing in scrubs?

DR. AVERY

I knew it was one of your patients. Locked wards mean locked doors.

DR. DEMAREST

Oh, congratulations, Eugenia, they finally promoted you to hostess. Could you show Ms. Neubauer to a suite?

DR. AVERY

How sad for you. It's not just your vision you're losing.

DR. DEMAREST

Nels, Jessica's filthy rich parents would like her transferred here.

NELS

My pleasure.

He turns to the computer. Demarest leads Jessica past a huffy Avery towards the elevators.

JESSICA

You said you talked to my parents? Are you sure it was really them?

DR. DEMAREST

I checked their drivers' licenses. They look a lot like the couple who came into your room.

The elevators doors open just as they reach them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

That's what's so scary. They look and sound exactly like my real parents. But they're not. They're impostors.

Demarest nods with concern as the shiny doors close --

INT. THE BEAST - PEDIATRIC WARD - DAY

A Nurse yanks open a dirty cloth curtain, revealing a ward full of Children. Bonnie sits beside a lethargic Manny.

BONNIE

Gila monster's a pretty cool pet.

MANNY

Yeah.

BONNIE

Does Diablo have a girlfriend at home? Or any babies?

MANNY

Why, you wanna buy one?

Bonnie pulls a small notepad and pen out of her purse.

BONNIE

I do. What's your address?

MANNY

One-oh-six 91st Street, apartment 3-G.

Marisol Perez, 32, wiry, tattooed, enters.

MARISOL

Why you telling this lady our business?

MANNY

She wants to buy a gila monster, *Mami*.

BONNIE

I hear you breed them in your home.

MARISOL

You heard wrong. *Levantate, Manny, necesitamos salir.*

MANNY

My head hurts.

MARISOL

Ahora!

BONNIE

Wait, what are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARISOL

Taking my kid home. You got a problem with that?

BONNIE

I'm afraid I can't let you take him back into a dangerous environment.

Marisol slaps Bonnie's face. She's stunned.

MANNY

Mami... I don't feel good.

MARISOL

Let's go. Now.

Marisol grabs Manny; Bonnie grabs Marisol's wrist.

BONNIE

Try taking him, I'm calling security.

MARISOL

Bring it on, bitch.

Off Bonnie, caught in a stand-off --

INT. THE BEAST - HALLWAY - DAY

Preston walks with the Lead Inspector and his Minions.

LEAD INSPECTOR

Next we'd like to tour the ORs, then audit your Medical Records department.

DR. PRESTON

We were supposed to keep records?
(off dead stares)
Right this way.

The Security Guard approaches.

SECURITY GUARD

Dr. Preston, we got a situation.

DR. PRESTON

Can you excuse me one second?

LEAD INSPECTOR

No, I'd like to hear this.

SECURITY GUARD

Uh...when you saw me with that psycho this morning, was my gun in my holster?

Before Preston can find his tongue --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAD INSPECTOR

He lost his gun. Your security guard
lost his gun.

A alarm blares, a wall light flashes. Over the P.A. --

P.A. VOICE (O.S.)

Code Blue to Pediatrics, Ward Two.
Code Blue to Pediatrics.

A Nurse rushes past them with a crash-cart.

DR. PRESTON

I'll be right back.

He runs, following the cart to...

INT. THE BEAST - PEDIATRIC WARD - DAY

The crash-cart bursts in, followed by Preston. Marisol frantically shakes Manny as Bonnie tries to pull her off.

MARISOL

Wake up, *mi hijo*, wake up.

DR. PRESTON

(grabbing her)
Bonnie, what did you do to him?

BONNIE

Nothing. He just stopped breathing.

Preston looks to Manny, unconscious, lips blue. As the Nurse opens the crash-cart, Marisol turns to him, pleads --

MARISOL

Do something.

BONNIE

Jonah -- intubate him!

DR. PRESTON

Give me a pediatric ET tube.

Marisol, crying, prays in Spanish as the Nurse preps.

HIGH ANGLE FROM ABOVE (M.O.S.)

Bonnie positions Manny's head...

VOICEOVER

Dr. Preston tried so hard to save me...

...Preston inserts the tongue blade...

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

But there were other complications.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bonnie stares at her ex as he inserts the intubation tube.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

A family member was hurt...

Preston looks up, locks eyes with Bonnie. A beat. He pulls out the stylus, hooks him up to the respirator.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Others were affected.

END HIGH ANGLE and back to SOUND --

MARISOL

Is he breathing?

DR. PRESTON

The vent is breathing for him.

MARISOL

Is he going to going to die?

Bonnie looks to Preston. Off the whoosh of the respirator --

INT. DR. DEMAREST'S OFFICE - DAY

Demarest sits across from Linda and her distraught husband, John Hammond, mid-30s, blue collar, wound tight.

JOHN

My wife is not going to die.

DR. DEMAREST

No one has given up on Linda. A donor could still turn up.

JOHN

It's not fair.

DR. DEMAREST

I understand your anger, Mr. Hammond.

(to Linda)

All your blood relatives have been screened?

LINDA

I'm the end of the line.

JOHN

(fighting tears)

No, you're not.

LINDA

What?

JOHN

You got pregnant in college.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

No, I didn't.

JOHN

You had a daughter eight years ago.
You gave her up for adoption.

LINDA

That's not true.

JOHN

Your mother told me. So I wouldn't
marry you. You know she hated me.

Linda begins to cry.

LINDA

Why didn't you tell me?

JOHN

Because it didn't matter then. But it
does now.

(to Demarest)

This girl could be a match, right?

DR. DEMAREST

She'd definitely be a viable candidate.

LINDA

No. I don't have a right to ask her
for anything. I gave her up.

INT. THE BEAST - HALLWAY - DAY

Preston and Bonnie push Manny, hooked to a portable
respirator and monitors, on a gurney down the hall.

BONNIE

Look at us, together again. Weird we
both ended up here, huh?

DR. PRESTON

Sorry I snapped at you.

BONNIE

Sorry I pushed you. It's not like I
have any unresolved issues with you.

DR. PRESTON

(re: Manny)

There are no reported cases of
respiratory arrest from gila venom.

BONNIE

Why didn't you call when you got to
town?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

It was only three days ago, Bonnie.
(re: heart monitor)
EKG's normal. One bite victim did have
a myocardial infarction.

BONNIE

Charlie's birthday is coming up.

DR. PRESTON

I know. I gotta get a cardiac consult.
God, I hope it's not his heart.

He stops at the elevators, pushes the button.

BONNIE

We should have a party.

DR. PRESTON

I can't deal with this now.

The elevator arrives. Bonnie holds it open for him.

BONNIE

I'm busy myself. I have ten
restaurants to inspect and a herd of
gilas to round up.

She lets go. The doors close between them.

INT. THE BEAST - ELEVATOR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Preston, alone with Manny, pushes "6." An alarm starts
beeping. He spins around.

DR. PRESTON

No.

The respirator flashes red. He whacks it -- it shuts off.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

No! Don't do this to me.

He disconnects Manny from the vent, attaches an ambu bag,
starts squeezing. Air hisses out through a hole.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Dammit!

The elevator doors open on "4." A Nurse starts to step on
as the defective ambu bag whizzes past her head.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Get me an ambu bag that works.

She exits. He blows into the tube protruding from Manny's
mouth. Stretching out his leg, he misses; the doors close.

INT. THE BEAST - ICU - DAY

Elevator doors open. Preston, still blowing into the tube, rolls the gurney out. He lets go to shout --

DR. PRESTON

I need a vent.

He takes a deep breath, resumes blowing into the tube as Tyler approaches, grabbing an ambu bag off a cart.

DR. TYLER

I got you a bag.

DR. PRESTON

I don't need a bag, I need a vent.

He attaches the bag, starts squeezing.

DR. TYLER

ICU's full. No beds.

DR. PRESTON

Just get me a respirator.

DR. TYLER

Which patient would you like to unhook?

He scans the vented Patients through glassed-in cubicles --

EXT. THE BRIDGE - DAY

TRACK along outside the glassed-in walkway with Preston hand-bagging Manny and Tyler pushing the gurney.

INT. BEAUTY - ICU - DAY

Gleaming machines support well-tended Patients, including Manny. Marisol prays next to him. Outside his cubicle, Preston is confronted by an irate Avery.

DR. PRESTON

It was a life or death emergency.

DR. AVERY

We don't have an E.R. for a reason.
They're a magnet for the poor. We
don't take emergencies.

DR. PRESTON

Law says you have to once they're here.
I unhook him, he dies.

Demarest, holding a file, approaches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. AVERY

I'll give the boy two hours. Then back to the Beast.

Demarest grabs Preston by the arm, pulls him down the hallway, calling back to Avery --

DR. DEMAREST

I'm using one of your lab rooms to test Jessica. Thanks.

DR. PRESTON

Is Jessica still delusional?

DR. DEMAREST

There may be an organic cause.
(hands him scan)

I ran a PET scan and found a lesion that didn't show up on her CT.

DR. PRESTON

(off scan)
Between the temporal lobe and amygdala.

DR. DEMAREST

It's cutting off the pathway that sends visual images to the area that processes emotion.

DR. PRESTON

She recognizes her parents, but has no feelings for them, so her damaged brain tells her they must be impostors.

DR. DEMAREST

It's called Capgras Syndrome. Come help me confirm it.

INT. BEAUTY - NEURO-PSYCH TESTING ROOM - DAY

Preston sits with Jessica, now calm, at a table. A large mirror is mounted on the wall opposite them.

DR. PRESTON

I want you to listen to something.

She nods. Through a speaker --

MRS. NEUBAUER (O.S.)

Jessica? Can you hear me?

Jessica reacts immediately, smiles.

JESSICA

Mom? Where are you?

INT. BEAUTY - NEURO-PSYCH OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mr. and Mrs. Neubauer stand at a microphone with Demarest. Through the one-way they see Jessica and Preston.

MRS. NEUBAUER

I'm in the next room, Sweetheart.

JESSICA

People were pretending to be you and Dad. I thought they had done something to you. Are you okay?

MRS. NEUBAUER

We're fine. We're coming in now.

Demarest switches off the mike.

DR. DEMAREST

No, you can't.

MR. NEUBAUER

But she knows us. She's better now.

DR. DEMAREST

She's not. The auditory pathway is separate from the visual. She only recognizes your voice.

MRS. NEUBAUER

Trust me she'll know her own mother.

She pushes past Demarest, rushes into --

INT. BEAUTY - NEURO-PSYCH TESTING ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Neubauer enters; Jessica screams --

JESSICA

Get away from me.

MRS. NEUBAUER

Jess, honey, it's me. I was just talking to you.

Preston jumps up as Jessica pulls out a gun tucked into her waistband, points it at her mother.

DR. PRESTON

Jessica, don't.

He rushes toward her, she jerks her hand back and...BANG. Jessica drops to the floor. Preston, blood-spattered, is stunned. Off blood flowing from Jessica's head --

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. THE BRIDGE - DAY**

Preston rushes Jessica to the Beast. Mr. Neubauer follows.

MR. NEUBAUER

Why are you taking her back there?

DR. PRESTON

They have a trauma center. If there's one thing they know at the Beast, it's gunshot wounds.

MR. NEUBAUER

Where the hell did she get a gun?

INT. THE BEAST - DR. PRESTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Boxes everywhere. Preston sits on one. Thelma paces.

THELMA

I told 'em to fire that idiot security guard the day he was hired.

DR. PRESTON

What am I supposed to tell the inspectors? 'He was just taking a little catnap in the supply closet.'

THELMA

How was he to know a mental patient would sneak in and snatch his gun?

DR. PRESTON

Don't bother unpacking, Thelma. They're gonna fire me.

THELMA

They can't fire you. Every qualified doctor already turned the job down.

Bonnie makes her way through the maze of boxes.

BONNIE

Don't torture him, Thelma. He's very gullible when he's in neurotic mode.

(to Preston)

I'm sending you my dry cleaning bill. I'm covered in prairie dog piss.

THELMA

Try club soda and vodka.

BONNIE

That gets it out?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THELMA

No, but after two or three, who cares?

DR. PRESTON

You found prairie dogs at Manny's?

BONNIE

And ferrets, snakes, gilas. They're running a black market in exotic pets.

DR. PRESTON

It wasn't the gila venom -- he was infected by one of the other animals.

BONNIE

Could be Brucellosis, Leptospirosis... prairie dogs carry tularemia.

He heads out the door; Bonnie follows --

BONNIE (CONT'D)

But there'd be a rash...

INT. BEAUTY - ICU - DAY

CLOSE ON Manny's rash-covered torso.

DR. PRESTON (O.S.)

He didn't have a rash when he came in.

Preston and Bonnie examine Manny, still on a respirator.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

This infection's been brewing for days.

BONNIE

No other cuts or scratches on his leg.

DR. PRESTON

I found the nidus.

He shows her a cut on Manny's finger as Avery enters.

DR. AVERY

Come to collect your patient, I see.

DR. PRESTON

Draw cultures, start him on Unasyn.

DR. AVERY

He's not my patient. I just let you double-park him here. Get him out.

BONNIE

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. AVERY

Who are you?

BONNIE

Public Health. This boy is too sick to be moved. He's not going anywhere.

INT. THE BEAST - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Tyler and Demarest sit alone at a long table.

DR. TYLER

Where is he?

DR. DEMAREST

First day of school is always tough for the newbies. Cut Preston some slack.

DR. TYLER

Are we the entire committee?

DR. DEMAREST

I know he invited Fartak, but tonight's his spinning class.

DR. TYLER

Least he has his priorities straight.
(holds up her hand)
Where's the bracelet I gave you?

DR. DEMAREST

On half the nurses I've seen today.

Preston rushes up, notices as Demarest pulls her hand away.

DR. PRESTON

Sorry I'm late. We just got Manny stabilized. How's Jessica?

DR. DEMAREST

In Recovery. Fortunately, the bullet didn't penetrate her skull.

DR. TYLER

Beauty's first shooting. They finally got their cherry popped.

DR. PRESTON

It's a miracle she's alive. First order of business -- stop the madness.

DR. DEMAREST

This'll drive you crazy. Linda Hammond gave up a baby for adoption. She refuses to track her down, even though she could be a match.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

We need to call the adoption agency.

DR. TYLER

Linda said not to.

DR. PRESTON

She's making a bad decision.

DR. DEMAREST

And throwing away her only chance.

DR. TYLER

It's her choice.

(standing)

We need to honor it.

EXT. MULHOLLAND DRIVE - NIGHT

"The Black Parade" by My Chemical Romance plays as Preston's Tesla (side mirror duct taped) speeds along a winding stretch, the city twinkling below.

VOICEOVER

Why was he so driven to save me? I told him to stop.

INT. TESLA - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Preston, now in a clean suit, accelerates along with the song's tempo as it switches to an upbeat refrain.

VOICEOVER

But Dr. Preston believes that to make things right, sometimes you need to break the rules.

He turns up a drive. PRE-LAP a doorbell chiming...

INT. WINSLOW BEL AIR MANSION - NIGHT

Preston stands at a massive door, opened by Bethany Winslow, late 20s, long hair, willowy body, equine face.

BETHANY

Yes?

DR. PRESTON

I'm looking for a co-worker, Dr. Tyler?

BETHANY

I never get to meet his friends. Come on in. I'm his girlfriend, Bethany.

(calling)

David, company.

As he follows her through the opulent grand entry --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

How long have you two been together?

BETHANY

Since freshman year. He was wearing a hairnet when I met him. He had work study in my dorm cafeteria --

DR. TYLER

(enters)

Dr. Preston, I didn't know people still dropped by without calling first.

DR. PRESTON

Your cell phone's off.

DR. TYLER

I'm not on call tonight. What are you doing here?

DR. PRESTON

Reassessing your salary. Nice digs.

DR. TYLER

It's Bethany's house. But I'm sure you're not here on a social visit.

DR. PRESTON

Actually it's about a patient.

BETHANY

(leaving)

I understand. Confidentiality.

DR. PRESTON

I found the adoption agency Linda went through, but they won't tell me anything about the daughter.

DR. TYLER

I thought we agreed to respect Linda's wishes.

DR. PRESTON

That's your hang-up. I'm getting those records. I need you to help me.

DR. TYLER

Are you high? You want to commit a crime?

DR. PRESTON

No, I just need you to sweet-talk the info out of the adoption agency lady.
(off look)

I've seen you in action.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. TYLER

Screw you.

He heads for the door, Preston follows.

DR. PRESTON

I thought you were the big idealist.
You go to the ends of the earth to save
lives -- why won't you go through one
pair of panties?

DR. TYLER

Because the patient doesn't want me to.

INT. THE BEAST - MEDICAL RECORDS - NIGHT

Preston waits at a counter below the "Medical Records"
sign. A clerk returns with a file.

CLERK

Here's the birth record you ordered.
Linda Ferguson. Sign here.

DR. PRESTON

No need. I just want to check one
quick thing...

INT. THE BEAST - HALLWAY/PATIENT ROOM - DAY

Demarest with an irate Mr. and Mrs. Neubauer. Jessica,
asleep, is visible through an open door.

MRS. NEUBAUER

I want to see my daughter right now.

DR. DEMAREST

She's still asleep.

MRS. NEUBAUER

I want to be there when she wakes up.

DR. DEMAREST

She can't take that kind of stress in
her condition.

MRS. NEUBAUER

This is your fault. What kind of
hospital leaves guns lying around?

MR. NEUBAUER

Carolyn, stop. She's telling us not to
go in. If you'd listened the first
time, this wouldn't have happened.

MRS. NEUBAUER

Are you blaming me for this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. NEUBAUER

I'm saying we need to do what's best
for Jessica.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Daddy?

They see Jessica's awake. Mrs. Neubauer tries to rush in.

MRS. NEUBAUER

We're here, Sweetheart.

JESSICA

Mom, Dad, come here...

Mrs. Neubauer breaks away, runs into the room, followed by
her husband and Demarest.

DR. DEMAREST

Wait. Jessica it's okay --

She stops as Mrs. Neubauer takes Jessica's hand.

MRS. NEUBAUER

Baby, don't be scared, it's me.

Jessica stares up at her.

JESSICA

Mom, thank God you're here.

MR. NEUBAUER

She knows us again.

DR. DEMAREST

Is that true, Jessica?

JESSICA

I know their voices, but I can't see
them. I can't see anything.

She starts crying. Off reactions --

INT. BEAUTY - ICU - DAY

Manny's cubicle is filled with four Gangbangers, Marisol,
Orderlies who unhook a still-unconscious Manny, and Avery.

DR. AVERY

I can't have this many visitors in the
room. Manny's being transferred; you
all need to leave now.

MARISOL

Dr. Preston said Manny couldn't be
moved --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. AVERY

Until they found a vent for him. Which they have. Next door where he belongs.

The Orderlies connect Manny to a portable vent.

MARISOL

Dr. Preston said he belongs here.

DR. AVERY

Dr. Preston isn't the boss at this hospital.

(to Orderlies)

Move him.

The Orderlies push Manny's gurney. Marisol blocks them.

MARISOL

I told you, he's not goin' anywhere.

Gangbangers join Marisol, forming a blockade. Avery turns, seemingly to leave, but hits a button by the door. She turns back, removes her diamond loop earrings.

DR. AVERY

You've got about ten seconds before Security gets here.

GANGBANGER

You ain't moving this kid.

Marisol pushes the gurney, knocking it into an Orderly as six Security Guards swarm in.

DR. AVERY

That woman just assaulted an employee. Call the police, have her arrested.

Security pulls Marisol away, screaming --

MARISOL

You can't do this.

Marisol struggles as she and the bangers are pulled out.

MARISOL (CONT'D)

Please! He needs me. I'm his mother!

Avery, unflinching, stares down Marisol as the Orderlies push Manny past her, down the hall, and we --

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. THE BEAST - CHIEF'S CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY**

Preston enters to find Mr. and Mrs. Baker, 30s.

DR. PRESTON

Mr. and Mrs Baker, thank you so much for agreeing to do this.

MR. BAKER

The adoption agency wasn't happy that you found us in Zoey's birth records.

DR. PRESTON

I understand, but this is a matter of life and death.

(looking around)

Where is Zoey?

MRS. BAKER

She was getting restless. Dr. Demarest took her to the playroom.

MR. BAKER

She wanted to do a psych screening --

MRS. BAKER

To make sure Zoey understands what's being asked of her if she's a match. She is, isn't she.

DR. PRESTON

The blood test confirmed it. I'd like to talk to her now if that's okay.

Looks.

MR. BAKER

We told Zoey last year she was adopted.

MRS. BAKER

She had trouble accepting it. She'd like to meet Linda first.

DR. PRESTON

No problem.

INT. THE BEAST - PLAYROOM - DAY

Filled with cheap, well-used toys and games. Demarest works a jigsaw puzzle with Zoey Baker, 8, adorable.

DR. DEMAREST

Zoey, do you have any questions before you meet your birth mother?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZOEY

Why did she give me away?

DR. DEMAREST

(weighs answer)

Linda was very young when she had you.
She did what she thought was best for
you.

ZOEY

She wants to see me now 'cause I can
make her better.

Preston enters with Linda, who wears a colorful scarf.

LINDA

Zoey?

(eyes moistening)

You're more beautiful than I imagined.
I'm Linda.

Zoey, frightened, moves behind Demarest.

ZOEY

You look like a monster.

DR. PRESTON

That's because she's sick. Remember we
talked about how I need to take cells
out of your bone to give to her?

ZOEY

Will it hurt? Like the shot before?

DR. PRESTON

A little, but this one will be in your
back. You won't even see it.

ZOEY

I hate shots. I don't want to do it.

DR. PRESTON

Zoey, if you don't, your birth mommy
won't get better.

ZOEY

She's not my mommy.

She runs for the door, Preston grabs her hand.

DR. PRESTON

She's very nice, just talk to her.

ZOEY

(hysterical)

No! I hate her. I'm glad she gave me
away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Zoey, I'm so sorry.

DR. PRESTON

Please, just listen to me --

ZOEY

No! I want my mom.

He takes her by the shoulders, emphasizing --

DR. PRESTON

If you don't do this, she'll die.

ZOEY

Mommy!

She starts to cry. Linda puts her hand on Preston's arm.

LINDA

Stop. Please don't torture her.

Zoey pulls loose, runs out the door. Demarest follows.

DR. PRESTON

I need to talk to her parents. They'll convince her.

LINDA

Zoey doesn't want to do it. She doesn't owe me anything.

DR. PRESTON

I need to make her understand.

Tyler sticks his head in the room, informs him --

DR. TYLER

Manny's crashing.

INT. THE BEAST - ICU - DAY

Preston and Tyler burst into Manny's cubicle -- monitors are blaring, Nurses surround him in a frenzy.

DR. PRESTON

I left him at Beauty --

DR. TYLER

Avery dumped him back here.

NURSE VICKI

BP's crashing. Eighty-five over sixty.

They reach Manny, his hands and legs bluish and swollen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

Oh my God, he's septic.
(yells at Nurse)
Did you give him antibiotics?

NURSE VICKI

Yes. And we've been pushing fluids but
we can't get his pressure up.

DR. PRESTON

Call the lab, check the blood cultures.

Nurse Kelly runs to the phone as Tyler palpates Manny.

DR. TYLER

Jesus Christ, his hands are turning
gangrenous. What the hell is going on?

NURSE FRANK

Urine output's diminished -- is he in
renal failure?

DR. PRESTON

He's in toxic shock.

PUSH IN on Preston as --

NURSE KELLY

Lab says it's strep pyogenes.

DR. TYLER

Give him penicillin.

PUSH IN on Manny's face, still intubated --

NURSE FRANK

He's in DIC.

DR. TYLER

His capillaries are leaking, he's gonna
bleed out.

NURSE VICKI

This kid's dying. Where's his family?

NURSE FRANK

That bitch Avery had her arrested.

PUSH IN on Preston --

NURSE KELLY

Pressure's still dropping. Dr.
Preston, what do you want to do?

DR. TYLER

Give him dopamine and Levophed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Preston snaps out of it.

DR. PRESTON

No! That'll cause vasoconstriction.

DR. TYLER

If we don't give him pressors, he'll die of heart failure.

DR. PRESTON

If we do, you'll cut off blood to his extremities -- he'll lose his hands and legs.

DR. TYLER

Better than his life.

DR. PRESTON

Put him on TNX.

DR. TYLER

We don't have that here. We can't afford it.

As Preston races out the door --

DR. PRESTON

I'll be back. Keep pushing fluids.

INT. THE BRIDGE - DAY

Preston hauls ass, dodging Nurses. He stops momentarily, spotting Mr. and Mrs. Baker below, carrying Zoey out of the hospital. He pounds on the window, but they can't hear him. Preston is torn, takes off for --

INT. BEAUTY - EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE LAB - DAY

Beethoven's Ninth plays as Avery pipettes fluid into a tray of beakers. Preston bursts through the door, rushes her.

DR. PRESTON

Where's your TNX?

DR. AVERY

What's wrong with you?

Preston starts scanning the glass medical cabinets.

DR. PRESTON

I've got a boy dying alone because you had his mother arrested.

DR. AVERY

She attacked one of my employees.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PRESTON

Where is it?

DR. AVERY

TNX isn't approved for use in children.
And besides, there's a risk of
bleeding.

He finally spots the TNX in a locked cabinet.

DR. PRESTON

Open it.

DR. AVERY

I'm not risking a lawsuit because you
misdiagnosed an illegal gangbanger.

Preston kicks in the glass.

DR. AVERY (CONT'D)

Have you lost your mind?

He grabs several vials, takes off --

DR. PRESTON

Probably.

INT. THE BEAST - ICU - DAY

ON A needle, REVEAL Preston injecting Manny's IV line. He
stares, fighting tears, at Manny's face. MATCH CUT TO:

INT. THE BEAST - CHIEF'S CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Preston stares straight ahead, still fighting tears.

DR. PRESTON

I made a mistake coming here. I
thought it would help, but it's like
reliving the nightmare over and over
and over again...and the outcome's
never any different. Why can't I save
them? Manny's dying, Linda's dying...
Jessica almost splattered her brains
all over me. I give up. Nothing I do
will ever make it better -- will it.

REVEAL he's talking to Bonnie on FaceTime.

BONNIE

Jonah, you're a good doctor.

A tear slips.

DR. PRESTON

Then why couldn't I save him?

INT. THE BEAST - HALLWAY - DAY

Preston on the move with Demarest.

DR. DEMAREST

Zoey was hysterical. I couldn't stop the Bakers from leaving.

DR. PRESTON

They gave me their consent. Zoey's a minor; we can compel her to do the transplant.

DR. DEMAREST

They withdrew their consent. They had no idea it would be so traumatic.

DR. PRESTON

Linda still has some time. I'll convince them.

Demarest gives him a look as they arrive outside Jessica's room. Through the glass, Jessica, flanked by her parents, sits in her bed, laughing and chattering away. Surprised --

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Did the gunshot wound cure her?

DR. DEMAREST

It caused a subdural hematoma that's impinging on her occipital cortex.

DR. PRESTON

She's blind.

DR. DEMAREST

Temporarily. As the swelling subsides, she'll slowly regain her vision.

DR. PRESTON

Then she'll be right back where she started. She's only accepting her parents because she can't see them.

DR. DEMAREST

If she could see them now her brain would fight it. This buys her time to re-establish an emotional connection.

Off Jessica, laughing --

INT. THE BEAST - ICU - DAY

Manny lies in bed, breathing on his own. Tyler is with him.

MANNY

What happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. TYLER

You almost died. We tried a new
medicine on you -- luckily it worked.

MANNY

My hands are really sore.

DR. TYLER

That's a good sign. Means they're
healing.

He looks up, sees Preston entering with Marisol.

DR. TYLER (CONT'D)

Here's the doctor who saved your life.

MANNY

Mama.

MARISOL

(to Preston)

Thank you.

She rushes to Manny. Tyler joins Preston.

DR. TYLER

You bailed her out?

DR. PRESTON

Yeah.

DR. TYLER

Heard Avery filed a complaint against
you. Claims you trashed her lab, stole
meds.

DR. PRESTON

(off Manny)

And I'd do it again.

EXT. THE BEAST - PATIENT PICK-UP - DAY

Preston stands with Linda.

LINDA

Why can't you let this go?

DR. PRESTON

If I do, you'll die.

LINDA

It's okay.

DR. PRESTON

No it isn't. I'll convince the Bakers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

Don't. I can't put Zoey through this.

DR. PRESTON

She's your daughter.

LINDA

But I'm not her mother.

DR. PRESTON

You are. You think you're protecting her now but when she grows up she'll know she could've saved your life but didn't and she will never get over it.

LINDA

Dr. Preston, everybody dies. People get over it. They go on.

DR. PRESTON

I haven't.

(off her look)

A year ago, I came home from a very long day. I left my medical bag by the door, went upstairs and fell asleep. I woke up to my wife screaming. I ran downstairs, my son Charlie had gotten into the bag, swallowed all the meds.

LINDA

What happened?

DR. PRESTON

I kept breathing into his mouth until they pulled me off him. I begged, just one more breath, he had to start breathing... but he never did. I killed my son.

Linda stares at him, frozen.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

One little mistake. Why did I leave my bag there...? Please let me make Zoey help you.

LINDA

How old was your Charlie?

DR. PRESTON

In a week he would have turned four.

As her husband pulls up in a truck, Linda hugs Preston.

LINDA

I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She gets into the truck. Preston watches them drive away.

INT. DR. PRESTON'S DOWNTOWN LOFT - NIGHT

A wall of windows overlooks the lights of downtown.
Reflected in them are Preston and Bonnie at a table.

VOICEOVER

Did you know it would be me who died?

On the table is a birthday cake with four lit sparklers.
Across it, Bonnie and Preston share a bittersweet look.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

It all started with one little mistake.

BEGIN MONTAGE (from previous scenes):

JOHN (LINDA'S HUSBAND)

You got pregnant in college.

VOICEOVER

A decision had to be made.

JOHN

You had a daughter eight years ago.
You gave her up for adoption.

VOICEOVER

**No one knew it would turn out to be a
matter of life or death.**

DR. PRESTON

But we do have another option. A bone
marrow transplant.

VOICEOVER

Heads you live.

The Voiceover morphs into...

LINDA (V.O.)

Tails you die.

INT. THE BEAST - MORGUE - NIGHT

Linda Hammond lies on the slab.

LINDA (V.O.)

**He learned my darkest secret...And
tried to use it to save me...**

Preston stands over her, unable to forgive his failure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA (V.O.)

I told him to stop...I accepted my
fate, but Dr. Preston couldn't.

INT. THE BEAST - LOBBY - DAY

Preston, affected, walks off the elevator.

LINDA (V.O.)

I never got to thank him.

Thelma meets up with him, hands him a new white lab coat
with his name embroidered on it.

THELMA

Enjoy it while you can. Inspectors'
report came in. You got six months to
fix the joint or they're shuttin' us
down.

Dazed, he puts on the coat as he continues walking.

DR. PRESTON

I'm going home.

THELMA

Hell's bells, what now?

They approach the exit where a SECURITY GUARD attempts to
shoo out a limping dog.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Damn mutt came in through the automatic
door. I can't get him to leave.

THELMA

Pretty smart. His leg's hurt, he came
to a hospital. Not the best hospital,
mind you...

SECURITY GUARD #2

Dogs aren't allowed in here.

DR. PRESTON

He came in, he's a patient...

He scoops up the dog.

DR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Which means we do everything we can for
him.

Off Preston, turning around, heading back in with the
grateful dog as we --

END OF EPISODE