

**UNDER THE BRIDGE**

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TEASER

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. PATIENT EXAM ROOM - DAY (1999)

OVERHEAD SHOT: Five 20-somethings arranged *Breakfast Club* style, each of them holding an index card.

**KATE LANCASTER:** The A student. Curious, open, but never naive. Quietly ambitious. Confident and kind. A classic beauty.

KATE

(reading from her card)

"A nurse pages you in the middle of the night and tells you that your patient who just had hip surgery is feeling chest pain. What do you do?"

**DAN WILCOX:** The Tortured Artist. Gorgeous, dry, a tad broken. He works hard for everything, except sex. That comes easily.

DAN

Depends. How late is it?

**MICHAEL SHAPIRO:** The Class Clown who happens to be brilliant. Charming, affable, a natural leader who loves the limelight.

MICHAEL

And how cute is the nurse?

**AMENI RODRIGUEZ:** The Rebel. Sexy, sarcastic, and opinionated AF. Loud and fearless, she enjoys a good fight.

AMENI

So the nurse is automatically a woman?

**CHARLIE COLEMAN:** The Pragmatist. Thoughtful, deliberate and good. He worries but isn't neurotic. A cautious old soul.

CHARLIE

Could be a pulmonary embolism.

MICHAEL

Maybe the nurse is a cute guy. Dan swings both ways.

Dan rolls his eyes, unfazed. Used to Michael's ribbing.

KATE

"You get to the room. Patient BPM is 140. O2 tension low. What do you do?"

CHARLIE

Blood thinner, supplemental oxygen...

AMENI  
 Arterial blood gas...  
 (to Dan)  
 Are you really bisexual?

DAN  
 That's a personal question considering  
 you don't even know my name.

AMENI  
 He just said your name is Dan. You two  
 went to med school together?

MICHAEL  
 And high school. And junior high. This  
 guy won't stop following me.

CHARLIE  
 Does it specify what month we're in?

KATE  
 Would that matter?

CHARLIE  
 Hospital mortality rates spike in July  
 because of... well... because of us.

AMENI  
 Speak for yourself. I don't plan on  
 killing any patients my first month.

MICHAEL  
 (to Kate, genuine)  
 What would you do?

Kate considers; smart enough to know what she doesn't know.

KATE  
 I'd call a senior resident. In case  
 I'm missing anything.

Dan slips the card out of her hand, lightly brushing her  
 fingers, before reading the answer. She was right.

DAN  
 Guess I know who I'm standing next to  
 during rounds.

Oh, the eye contact. So fucking sexy. Kate blushes, attracted  
 to him. Now Michael rolls his eyes. He's used to this.

MICHAEL  
 Okay, okay. Next question!

Michael reads his index card, forcing all eyes back on him...

**BEGIN MONTAGE:** *You're My Best Friend*, by Queen.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - DAY

Our group, on the move, doing rounds in their scrubs. Their RESIDENT asks a question, all hands go up. Eager beavers...

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Our group sits together, taking notes during a lecture. Dan draws a cartoon of a boy holding flowers and gives it to Kate who smiles. Michael notices and plucks an ACTUAL flower from another STUDENT's hair. Kate laughs. A triangle forming.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - DAY

Ameni is having difficulty drawing blood from a patient. Kate gently assists. Ameni smiles, grateful. A sisterhood growing.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. ER - DAY

Michael, Dan and Charlie trying to restrain a CRAZY PATIENT who accidentally STRIKES Charlie in the face. Dan and Michael abandon the patient for their friend. A bromance expanding.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Michael holds court as the friends share a drink after work. Dan notices a PRETTY GIRL eyeing him. Kate clocks it.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY

Charlie, now a resident, schooling his own interns. He passes Ameni and her new interns. They high-five. Time flying...

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Out of surgery, Kate delivers bad news to a family. When she's done, Michael is there to hold her hand. She takes it.

EXT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. MORGUE - DAY

Kate wheels a BODY into the morgue. Suddenly, the body pops up from under the sheet revealing Michael holding an ENGAGEMENT RING! Ameni, Charlie and Dan emerge from their various hiding places. Charlie films the moment. Ameni cries. Dan smiles, graciously accepting defeat.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Ameni performs an emergency C-section. She delivers the baby and walks it over to the mom on the other side of the curtain. Reveal the mother is Kate. Michael by her side.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

A bottle of champagne is placed on the table. Michael pours as Charlie presents a mock-up of their new company logo for BRIDGE MEDICINE. Our friends toast their new partnership. Laughing, hugging, excited about the future.

ON Kate. Taking it all in. This life. These loves. As she wonders what will happen next...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - MORNING - **PRESENT DAY** (D1)

A now 40-something Kate sits at a conference table. The sparkle behind her eyes has dimmed. She's guarded. A little angry. An iPhone records the meeting for lawyer, GLEN HEATH.

MR. HEATH

Please state your name for the record.

KATE

Dr. Kate Lancaster.

MR. HEATH

And how long have you been a surgeon at Lakewood Hospital, Dr. Lancaster?

KATE

I started my residency in '99.  
Completed my fellowship in '07 --

MR. HEATH

In cardiothoracics, correct?

KATE

Yes, but I haven't practiced in over a year. Fourteen months to be exact.

MR. HEATH

(re: his notes)

It says here that you've taken a leave of absence, but that you still maintain privileges at the hospital. And you've kept a financial stake in your group practice, Bridge Medicine. Correct?

KATE

Yes.

MR. HEATH

So you are aware of the complaints filed against Dr. Michael Shapiro?

Kate noticeably tenses up. *Tread lightly, asshole.*

KATE

Yes. But my understanding is that the complaints were brought to Lakewood's HR department very recently. And since I haven't been there, I can't speak to the situation with any specificity.

(then, simply)

I'm not the best person to ask.

MR. HEATH

You must have an opinion.

KATE

(challenging)

Why? Because I'm a woman?

MR. HEATH

No. Because you're his wife.

Kate doesn't flinch. Neither does the lawyer. A standoff.

KATE

What's your question, Mr. Heath?

MR. HEATH

To be clear, the complaints do not indicate any predatory behavior. Nothing overtly sexual in nature. Dr. Shapiro is being accused of creating a toxic workplace environment for women.

KATE

Sounds vague.

MR. HEATH

Allow me to be more specific. According to the accuser, Dr. Shapiro consistently chooses male interns to scrub in on his surgeries. She mentions one in which an overweight woman was having a triple bypass, and Dr. Shapiro reportedly said, quote, "I told her to get rid of all the fattening food in her house. I didn't mean she should eat it." The laughter that followed at the patient's expense was, quote, "unbearable."

KATE

Unbearable to the patient? She was unconscious, I hope. If not, you've got a real lawsuit on your hands.

MR. HEATH

Unbearable to the woman who is filing the claim who was present at the time.

(MORE)

MR. HEATH (CONT'D)

This example is merely a representation of the "type" of humor Dr. Shapiro often uses. All of this combined with a general smugness --

But Kate has heard enough.

KATE

I get it. You can stop.

MR. HEATH

Do you disagree with the assessment of your husband's character?

Kate considers the question. Then, leaning ALL the way in:

KATE

This isn't about my husband. This is about a surgeon. One of the top ten cardiothoracic surgeons in California, according to US News & World Report. His jokes may not land him a spot on *The Tonight Show*, but they get him through his day. A day where, at any given moment, he may be holding someone's still-beating heart in his hands. A day most people - including you, Mr. Heath - will never comprehend. So if his sense of humor is offensive, we'll start recording Trevor Noah. I hear he's good. Regarding the preference for male scrubs, you may want to check the ratio of male to female interns currently employed by Lakewood. Can't blame Michael for not having enough cards in the deck. As for being smug? He's a surgeon. We're all smug.

(then)

Any other questions?

He shakes his head. Kate rises, grabs her leather jacket off the back of her chair, and WALKS OUT. The lawyer sighs.

MR. HEATH

God, I hate doctors.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

A sleek, black Audi cruises down the highway, recklessly ignoring the speed limit.

INT. KATE'S AUDI - DAY

Kate's Dita aviators mask her emotions. Her phone RINGS with an incoming call. She lets it ring twice before picking up.

KATE

Hey, babe.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - SAME TIME

Michael is finishing up in surgery, his gloved hands still inside a human body, but the hard stuff is finished. An overweight nurse, LINDA JENKINS, holds the phone to his ear.

MICHAEL

That was fast. How'd it go?

KATE

They have nothing.

MICHAEL

Of course they don't. This whole thing is ridiculous.

KATE

Which is exactly what I told them.

MICHAEL

Thank you for that. I still feel terrible that your entire day got ruined with this crap. Are you okay?

KATE

I'm fine.

He waits for more. Gets none.

MICHAEL

You sure? You sound upset.

KATE

I'm just late for a class...

MICHAEL

Go. I love you.

KATE

Love you, too.

She hangs up. We stay with Michael, trying to discern her tone. He can't. So he shakes it off, goes back to work.

MICHAEL

(re: phone)

Thanks, Linda.

(then)

Who wants to close?



INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

An upscale practice, with a fancy conference room to prove it. Charlie, Ameni and Dan sit with the lawyer, Mr. Heath.

DAN  
She walked out? Was she mad?

CHARLIE  
Of course she's mad.

AMENI  
Yeah, but at Michael. Not us. We didn't do anything.

DAN  
We made her talk to this asshole.  
(then)  
No offense.

CHARLIE  
We're just following protocol. The hospital requested depositions from all the partners. Kate is a partner.

DAN  
She's been on leave for over a year.  
We could have argued --

MR. HEATH  
It's better you didn't. The fact that Dr. Lancaster was upset may serve you well. She's in good standing at the hospital. If they know how fervently she supports Michael --

AMENI  
We don't know that she does.

CHARLIE  
He's saying we do.

AMENI  
How can she "fervently" support him when she doesn't have all the facts?

DAN  
What facts? There are no facts to this case. There isn't even a case.

MR. HEATH  
I've turned in my reports to HR. They'll forward the findings to you.

CHARLIE

Why would they send them to us?

MR. HEATH

So that you can determine the best course of action. The hospital is requesting that Bridge Medicine handle this internally.

Bomb. Dropped.

AMENI

So we decide what happens to Michael?

MR. HEATH

You present the hospital with a solution. They determine whether or not to go along with your proposal.

DAN

Meaning this is our mess, and they want us to clean it up. What a bunch of spineless, yellow-bellied --

Before Dan starts saying things like "shitsquib", Charlie graciously leads the lawyer out the door.

CHARLIE

Thank you so much, Mr. Heath. We have your card if we have any questions.

Once Mr. Heath is safely outside, we see their wheels start spinning. Ameni is intrigued. Dan is pissed. Charlie is doing his best to stay calm and remain pragmatic.

AMENI

Well this is an interesting twist.

DAN

What's so interesting? They're making us do their dirty work for them. It's a dick move.

CHARLIE

Or we can look at it another way. The hospital is giving us an opportunity to help our friend.

AMENI

Which means they trust us.

CHARLIE

I didn't say they trust us. But they're definitely testing us.

DAN  
And if we do nothing?

CHARLIE  
We fail the test. And they may decide  
to fire Michael.

We see that land on all of them.

AMENI  
I say we vote to suspend. Six months.

DAN  
Six months? Have you lost your mind? I  
was thinking a "slap on the wrist" --

AMENI  
Do you not see what is happening in  
the world right now, Dan?

DAN  
(to Charlie)  
If she says "Time's Up" --

AMENI  
Time is UP!

CHARLIE  
I mean, you basically *made* her say it.

AMENI  
We are in a unique position to be  
leaders here. To lend support to an  
entire movement in a meaningful way. You  
can't tell me that you've never  
witnessed sexual harassment at Lakewood.

DAN  
Of course I have. But I wouldn't  
consider what Michael does --

AMENI  
It's not about what you consider to be  
harassment. It's about what the woman  
accusing him felt.

CHARLIE  
We're veering off topic --

MICHAEL (O.S.)  
Maybe I can help?

All heads turn to reveal Michael, standing by the bagels. No  
clue how long he's been there. Ameni BLUSHES, sheepish.

AMENI

Michael...

MICHAEL

I didn't mean to interrupt. Surgery went great, by the way. That guy who had a tumor in his lung doesn't have one any more. So that's good.

He's doing his best to seem breezy without appearing smug. Not an easy dance, but he does a good job.

DAN

Hey, man. You just missed the lawyer --

MICHAEL

Lemme guess. They want us to handle this internally.

AMENI

We shouldn't have been discussing it without you. Sorry about that.

MICHAEL

Please, I'm the one who should be apologizing. I've put you in a crappy situation and I appreciate you guys trying to figure out the best move.

CHARLIE

Thank you, Michael. Obviously, we want your input --

MICHAEL

Whatever you need. Just remember, we can't make any official decisions without all the partners. We're gonna need to bring in Katie.

With that, Michael bites into his bagel and walks out, seemingly chill. We follow him into...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

His assistant, **MARISSA**, is hot on his tail, files in hand.

MARISSA

Your 4:30 is here, Dr. Shapiro.

Michael's blasé demeanor evaporates. Not angry, but hurt.

MICHAEL

I'm just curious, has everyone out there lost their goddamn minds?

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
I mean, is it just me, or has the  
world turned upside down?

MARISSA  
Permission to sing *Hamilton*?

MICHAEL  
Permission denied. I'm in a bad mood.

If Michael were a total asshole, his assistant wouldn't feel comfortable joking around with him.

MARISSA  
(handing him the file)  
Sabrina Singh is waiting in Exam 1.

As Michael takes the file, Dan pokes his head inside.

DAN  
Knock knock. Got a minute?

MARISSA  
He does not.

MICHAEL  
Go sing outside. I'll be right there.

Michael ushers her out, locks the door. Before he can ask:

DAN  
Linda Jenkins.

Michael takes in the name, shocked. Gut-punched.

MICHAEL  
Linda Jenkins? I don't believe it.

DAN  
That's what I heard.

MICHAEL  
Linda Jenkins, the nurse? She loves me!

DAN  
Apparently, she does not. But I do. So  
you got that going for you.

MICHAEL  
She's been in my OR for years. We've  
done hundreds of surgeries together...

DAN  
Were you expecting someone else?

It's a loaded question. Michael side steps it.

MICHAEL

I was expecting some millennial who thinks she deserves special treatment because she was born. I wasn't expecting a veteran nurse who's been around as long as I have. I can't possibly be the worst person that Linda Jenkins has ever worked with.

DAN

Maybe you're not the only person she's complaining about.

Michael nods, considering that. Lost in tortured thought...

DAN (CONT'D)

How is Kate handling all of it?

MICHAEL

She's pissed, same as me. But you know Katie. She plays it close to the vest.

Dan nods, wanting to ask more, but knowing better. As he makes his way out the door, Michael stops him:

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey, thanks for the intel. I owe you.

DAN

That's what 35 years buys you.

MICHAEL/DAN

That and a bottle of beer.

They clink imaginary bottles. An old routine. An old friendship. As Dan slips out, we stay on Michael, still struggling with the Linda Jenkins information.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

Expensive taste made to feel homey. Granada tiles, vinyl rugs, lots of art and enough of a mess to keep things honest. Kate prepares dinner. At precisely 6:30, her daughter **LOGAN** (16) walks in the back door, still in her soccer gear and texting. She's an upbeat kid. Kate adores her.

LOGAN

What's for dinner?

She pops a cube of mozzarella in her mouth and hops onto the island, still texting.

KATE

If you eat all the cheese there won't be any left for the ziti.

LOGAN

The ziti is already cooking, liar.

KATE

Is that how you talk to your mother?

LOGAN

When she's hoarding cubes of cheese  
for no reason? Yes.

Kate hands Logan the salad bowl in exchange for her phone. As they set the table for two, a dance they do...

KATE

So? How was the game?

LOGAN

We lost again. Carly sucks but coach  
won't pull her off the field because  
he's all Kumbaya-winning-isn't-  
everything, blah blah.

KATE

Worst coach ever.

LOGAN

Exactly. How was your day? Oh! How'd  
the thing go? With the lawyer?

KATE

Who told you..?  
(then, realizing)  
I'm gonna kill your father.

LOGAN

What kind of stuff did they ask? Did  
you find out what he did? Was it bad?

KATE

Sweetheart, I don't want you worrying  
about any of this. Your father is  
going to be just fine.

LOGAN

I know he's gonna be fine. That's not  
what I'm asking.

KATE

What are you asking?

LOGAN

Should he be?

Kate looks at her daughter, unable to answer...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. EXAM ROOM - EVENING

Marissa closes the door as Michael warmly greets his patient SABRINA SINGH (19) and her father CHATI (50s).

MICHAEL

How is it that I get older and you stay exactly the same?

Michael pulls Chati into a hug. They're like family.

CHATI

If only. How are you, Doc?

MICHAEL

I'm fantastic.

(to Sabrina)

But aren't you supposed to be away at some fancy school?

CHATI

Berkeley. She's had a few fainting spells. Shortness of breath. And now there are these leg cramps --

SABRINA

I told you, those are from rehearsals.

(to Michael, proud)

I got a part in the school musical.

MICHAEL

Excellent. I bet they would prefer you don't pass out.

SABRINA

(to Chati)

Why couldn't you and mom have had me in America like normal people?

MICHAEL

Eh. Rheumatic fever happens here, too. Marissa, can you pull up the results from Sabrina's echo?

SABRINA

At least here you get antibiotics...

CHATI

Forgive me for not being born in this country. I'll try harder in my next life.

As Marissa loads the results of Sabrina's echocardiogram onto the computer, Michael does a basic checkup on Sabrina.



MICHAEL

School is good otherwise? Picked a major? Found a nice boy?

SABRINA

No boys. And no major yet since my Dad refuses to let me choose theater.

MICHAEL

Smart man. Anything else I should know? Aches, pains, increased amount of wine coolers to the system?

SABRINA

I get a little light-headed sometimes. But I don't drink enough water.

MICHAEL

(reading her echo)

Drink more water. And unfortunately, it looks like we need to schedule that surgery sooner rather than later.

Chati is immediately devastated, like any proper parent.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey. It's okay. We've known this day was coming.

SABRINA

Can we do it over break? I don't know how many rehearsals I can miss --

CHATI

Sabrina, please...

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I'm just asking, Dad!

MICHAEL

Based on what I'm seeing, I'm not comfortable waiting that long. The stenosis is getting worse. See how the leaflets in your mitral valve are starting to fuse together? It's decreasing your blood flow, which explains the fainting.

CHATI

Whatever you decide. We trust you.

MICHAEL

Good. Marissa will get you on the schedule right away.

As Michael closes his file, and rises to leave --

CHATI

Doc? I'm sorry. I know it's late and your family must be waiting for you...

Feeling Chati's anxiety, Michael sits back down.

MICHAEL

I got time. Ask me anything except my age. I'll never tell.

He WINKS at Sabrina, making her smile. His lame sense of humor on full display, but it puts them at ease. As Chati begins his long list of questions...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT (N1)

Michael walks into the dimly lit house and sees the dishes still in the sink. He goes to the cabinet and pours himself a drink, taking the bottle with him as he heads upstairs...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Opening the door to Logan's bedroom, he sees Kate sleeping in their daughter's bed, spooning in such a way that it obfuscates our view of Logan. He briefly considers waking her, then decides against it. We follow him into...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

... where he DOWNS his scotch and pours himself another. The day has taken it's toll. Maybe he's not Superman after all.

EXT. ECHO PARK - THE NEXT MORNING (D2)

Hip-hop pumps through Kate's AirPods as she runs around the lake. Hard. Fast. Like a woman being chased.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

Michael is pounding the last of his coffee when Kate enters the back door, sweaty from her run. As she stretches:

MICHAEL

Made you a fresh pot. What time you coming in today?

KATE

You said afternoon --

MICHAEL

I'm just asking.

They're both on edge, neither one of them looking forward to the day ahead.

KATE

Is this gonna be a whole discussion or are we just voting on something?

MICHAEL

Not sure. Charlie's running point. Although it feels like Ameni is dying to take over. She's pushing for a suspension, but Dan already said no --

KATE

A suspension? That's crazy.

MICHAEL

Does that mean I have your vote?

He's asking lightly, but Kate feels his vulnerability. She suddenly wants to wrap him in her arms and protect him from the world. Instead, she kisses him lightly.

KATE

You always have my vote.

Michael feels a little better as he gathers his things to go.

MICHAEL

Charlie is the question mark, as usual. How is it possible to know someone for fifteen years and still have no idea what they're thinking?

KATE

He's thinking about everything. That's why it takes him so long to decide.

MICHAEL

Oh! And did I tell you? It was Linda Jenkins who filed the complaint! Remind me never to buy her another birthday card. Ungrateful hag.

KATE

(warning)  
Michael...

MICHAEL

What? I'm kidding! I can't make jokes in my own home now either? Jesus.

It's a tight rope and they're both on it. Pushing down his irritation, Michael heads out. Off Kate, hating all of this.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. AMENI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ameni sits with her patient, LEANNE ELLIS (40s). A hippie from Topanga who also reads Goop. So yeah. She's annoying.

LEANNE

... My doula wanted me to ask if I would be able to hang curtains in the birthing room. Temporarily, of course.

AMENI

That's a hospital question. But I'm guessing probably no.

LEANNE

And we're still feeling like a hospital birth is our only option.

AMENI

It's the only option where I'm involved.

LEANNE

Such a shame. Home births could be a huge business for you. Moving on... These vitamins you have me taking. So, I was reading this blog --

Blog? Oh HELL NO.

AMENI

Before we do that, why don't we get your first blood draw out of the way? A lot may change if you wind up testing positive for gestational diabetes.

LEANNE

About that. I need to reschedule.

AMENI

Did you forget to fast again?

LEANNE

No, I fasted. Unfortunately, my schedule is at the mercy of my contractor these days, and we're meeting in an hour to go over the paint for the nursery, so --

AMENI

Choose a paint, then come back.  
(before she can argue)  
No buts. No blogs. Just be here.

Off Leanne, not thrilled...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATORS - DAY

Charlie waits, impatient. The doors open, revealing Kate. Charlie beams at the sight of her and pulls her into a hug.

CHARLIE  
You're here!

KATE  
I'm here.

CHARLIE  
It feels like I haven't seen you forever. How are you doing?

KATE  
Good, I'm good...

Charlie looks into her eyes, genuine. Kind.

CHARLIE  
No really. I'm asking.

Kate meets his gaze, struggling to remain casual and honest.

KATE  
You know. Some days are better than others. Today not being one of them.

CHARLIE  
I'm sorry this is happening.

KATE  
It's not your fault.

The doors start to close. Charlie really wants to talk, but:

CHARLIE  
I have to check on a post-op patient. Craniopharyngioma in a four-month old boy. The tumor even had teeth!

KATE  
Fancy. You gonna write about it?

CHARLIE  
I barely have time to operate these days, let alone publish. But maybe. It was an unusual case and the baby fully recovered, so --

KATE  
Of course he did. You were his surgeon.

Now Charlie smiles. A real one.

CHARLIE

God, it's good to see you. I'll be back as fast as I can. We'll talk before the big showdown.

KATE

It's gonna be a showdown?

Charlie offers her an exaggerated shrug as the doors close. Off Kate, dreading this more and more by the second...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

... and makes her way towards her office when Ameni walks up, thrilled to see her gal pal and not quite reading the room.

AMENI

Kate! You made it!

Another big hug. This time, Kate is visibly tense.

KATE

I was under the impression I didn't have a choice.

AMENI

Well, welcome back. You look great! Did you change your hair?

KATE

I'm not back. Just here to vote.

Ameni feels the chill. Never one to avoid conflict, she addresses it directly. Without attacking.

AMENI

Are you mad at me?

KATE

No. I guess I don't love the way you're handling this whole thing...

AMENI

I don't know what the boys are telling you, but I'm just trying to make the best out of a crappy situation. I understand what you're going through --

KATE

No, you don't.

AMENI

Of course I do. I love Michael! But there's something larger at stake here. You must see that. As a woman --

KATE

I'm his wife, Ameni. And you have no idea what it is to be in a marriage. It's not just about committing yourself to one person. It's about choosing them over everything else, including some reductive concept of feminism.

Ameni reacts, stung. Kate realizes she crossed a line. Before she can apologize, Dan swoops in and pulls Kate into a hug, literally lifting her off her feet.

DAN

My mom's in the hospital. Come say hi.

KATE

Oh no! What happened to Pearl?

DAN

Hip replacement. She's fine. We'll be right back, Ameni. Don't pout.

AMENI

Whatever. Everyone hates me...

Ameni heads to her office, but Kate pulls her back. Sincere.

KATE

I don't hate you. I'm sorry. This is hard.

Ameni nods, feeling better. More like sisters than friends; they fight mean, but the bond is deep.

EXT. THE BRIDGE - DAY

An outdoor walkway connecting the medical tower to the hospital. Dan and Kate make their way across, arm-in-arm. Harmlessly flirting, as is their way.

DAN

You went blonde on me.

KATE

They're just highlights.

DAN

Well, they're the highlight of *my* day.

KATE

(laughing)

Oh my God. You're such a dork.

DAN

I know. I need new material.

KATE

You and Michael both, apparently.

And speaking of Michael, he's making his way across the bridge from the other side. As they meet in the middle, Dan tenses EVER so slightly.

MICHAEL

You two are going in the wrong direction. Our office is thatta way. Big vote happening. Can't miss it.

DAN

Gotta check on Mom. We'll be quick.

MICHAEL

Please do. I need this day to be over.

DAN

Yes, sir.

MICHAEL

And stop manhandling my wife!

He's teasing, but Dan still blushes. As Michael walks off, Kate and Dan continue towards the hospital entrance:

DAN

Only your husband could manage that much swagger with a lawsuit hanging over his head.

KATE

Potential lawsuit. And don't mistake bravado for confidence. This is killing him.

DAN

(more serious now)  
I know it is.

KATE

You heard it was Linda Jenkins?

DAN

I did.

Kate shakes her head, clearly upset.

KATE

I like her.

Which is a slightly different way to say "***I believe her.***" Dan picks up on it. Is she changing her mind? Before he can ask, Kate comes to an abrupt STOP at the ER doors.



DAN  
Whoa. Are you okay?

She's not okay. Her pulse is racing. Beads of sweat forming.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Katie? Have you been back to the  
hospital, since --?

She vigorously shakes her head no, not allowing him to finish  
the sentence. Oh fuck.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Okay, sweetie? Listen to me. You're  
having a panic attack.

She nods. She KNOWS this. But that doesn't mean she can make  
it stop. She feels the walls closing in... Fuck fuck fuck....

DAN (CONT'D)  
Breathe. I got you.  
(shouting)  
We need help out here!

Off Kate, heart pounding, as she begins to fall...

END TEASER

ACT ONEINT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. ER - DAY

Kate is in bed, trying to sit up as a young nurse, TORI BELL, (20s) approaches with water. She's sweet, if a little intimidated by Kate who is both defensive and embarrassed.

NURSE TORI

I brought you some water...

KATE

I'm fine.

Kate starts to get out of bed, wobbly but determined.

NURSE TORI

Dr. Wilcox said you should wait here until he gets back..?

KATE

I'm not a patient. I'm a surgeon.

NURSE TORI

I know. I'm sorry, Dr. Lancaster. He just asked me to make sure that --

But Kate isn't listening. Off Tori, watching her go...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Michael is sitting at the head of the table, Charlie on his left. Ameni is pouring herself a coffee as Kate hurries in.

MICHAEL

There you are. Where's Dan?

KATE

He's still with his mom.

Kate takes a seat next to Charlie who notices that something about her is off. He leans in, whispering:

CHARLIE

You're sweating...

KATE

I ran.

Ameni sighs, letting her frustration be known.

AMENI

Maybe we should do this later? My schedule is already backed up...

Hoping to ease the tension, Michael takes the floor.

MICHAEL

Can I say something? I would hope that after all this time I wouldn't need to go on record with anyone in this room about anything. But I can see there's a disconnect happening and I don't want to seem glib. We're living in a strange time. You guys know I've never been a very political person. Ameni, I know this drives you crazy, but it's just not who I am. I'm all about the work. So if I've missed some crucial sea change happening out there in the world, that's on me. But for what it's worth, I'm the same guy I've always been. I haven't changed.

Dan races in, causing everyone to turn away from Michael. If he wasn't finished, he is now.

DAN

Sorry, sorry...

He tries to make eye contact with Kate, who refuses to look at him. Her panic attack is not going to be made public.

CHARLIE

Go on, Michael.

MICHAEL

That's it. I'm done.

Charlie takes the floor, always the diplomat.

CHARLIE

All right. Well, the hospital is calling on us to make a decision. There are many ways we can approach it, but the notion of a limited suspension was introduced so maybe that's the best place to start. Unless anyone has any other suggestions?

MICHAEL

Works for me.

CHARLIE

Okay then. Given the sensitive nature of the situation, I was thinking we could write our votes down...

AMENI

C'mon, Charlie. Let's just do this the way we do everything.

CHARLIE

Now hold on. We're not arguing about wallpaper versus paint here --

MICHAEL

Ameni's right. Show of hands. We've all got patients waiting.

Realizing Kate is there, Michael backtracks.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

And Kate has places to be, too.

That made it worse. Now everyone is even more uncomfortable.

CHARLIE

All right. Show of hands. All in favor of a sixth month suspension.

Ameni raises her hand. Charlie takes a moment to raise his. Kate and Michael make a big show of how they are NOT raising their hands. But Dan... Dan's hand seems to be moving.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Dan?

Michael looks at Dan, only now realizing that he may be switching teams. Without looking up, Dan officially raises his hand. Kate is shocked. Michael is betrayed.

MICHAEL

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You are fucking kidding me... Let's everyone take a beat --

AMENI

The thing is, Michael, not changing isn't something to be proud of. We're supposed to *evolve* --

But Michael isn't about to get lectured. He bolts up --

KATE

Michael, wait --

But he's gone. The friends immediately start fighting and talking over each other:

DAN

Dammit, Ameni. You just had to showboat --

AMENI

Screw you, Dan --

DAN

What are you, running for office? Or do you just love quoting from Alyssa Milano's Twitter feed?

AMENI

Perfect reference from a guy who still wishes it was 1988.

DAN

Why wouldn't I? Things were a hell of a lot better then.

AMENI

Yeah, for you --

CHARLIE

Hey! SHUT UP!

They do. Because Charlie saying "shut up" is very weird.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You guys are killing me.

(deep breath, then)

Kate? Should I go talk to him?

All eyes on Kate, who has been noticeably silent as she mentally prepares for how to handle Michael.

KATE

I'll do it.

DAN

I'll do it --

Dan rises, but Kate stops him. DEAD SERIOUS.

KATE

Do not go in there.

Kate walks out. Off Dan, suddenly self-conscious.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate walks in to find Michael in a goddamn STATE. Kicking shit, slamming drawers, looking for something. Unhinged.

MICHAEL

What's the name of the guy? That guy we hired who did our trust?

KATE  
The lawyer?

MICHAEL  
Avery something. I took his card. It's  
here somewhere --

She approaches him, tenderly but with caution.

KATE  
Why do you need a lawyer?

MICHAEL  
They want to suspend me from my own  
goddamn practice? I'll sue them! Take  
them for every penny they have, I  
don't give a shit --

KATE  
Babe, take a breath --

MICHAEL  
They wouldn't even have this place if  
it wasn't for us! Have they forgotten  
where the seed money came from?

KATE  
They're overreacting. I agree. Let's  
go back in and have a discussion --

MICHAEL  
I'm not talking to them. I can't trust  
them anymore. You're the only person I  
trust. I need you, Katie.

KATE  
You have me.

MICHAEL  
No, I mean, I need you here. In the  
office. While I figure out our next  
move, I need you to come back to work.

Kate instinctively starts backing away. She wasn't expecting  
this and is definitely NOT prepared to have the conversation.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Take over my cases, maintain my  
reputation at the hospital --

KATE  
Michael. Wait. I understand you're  
angry and I want to help. I do. But  
that's not... I can't do that.

Michael dials it down to about an 8. Thinking he's hearing her, without realizing he's talking over her.

MICHAEL

We don't have a choice. Look, honey, I've given you as much time as I could. I would've given you another year if that's what you wanted, but they backed us into a corner here--

KATE

(caustic)

You gave me the time. You did that.

Michael stops what he's doing. Fuck. He just stepped in it. Kate's walls are officially up.

MICHAEL

No. That's not --

KATE

I never realized time was yours to give. You're quite powerful.

MICHAEL

(annoyed sigh)

You know that's not what I meant...

KATE

I think it's exactly what you meant.

MICHAEL

What do you want from me? What the hell does everyone want from me?!

He's screaming now. So fucking frustrated, so genuinely confused by what's happening to him, she almost feels bad for him. ALMOST.

KATE

Nothing. I don't want anything from you, Michael.

MICHAEL

Then help me fix this.

KATE

You're such a genius? Fix it yourself.

And with that, she walks out. Off Michael...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATORS

Kate stands at the elevators, keeping her anger in check as Dan approaches, anxious to catch her before she leaves.

DAN

Hey, wait up... Are you okay?

KATE

Are you kidding? Of course I'm not okay. You completely blind-sided us --

DAN

I'm talking about before. Your panic attack. Do you need me to write you another prescription?

For a second, Kate can't decide if he's an idiot or the kindest man she's ever known. Both may be true. Before she can respond, the elevator doors open and Chati emerges.

CHATI

Kate! Is that you?

KATE

Chati, hi. How are you?

CHATI

Sabrina is having surgery, so... I'm picking up her prescriptions and realized I had a few more questions. Is the Doc around?

KATE

Michael's in a meeting, but Dr. Wilcox here can help you. He's our internal medicine specialist.

CHATI

You're not a surgeon?

DAN

Not anymore. These days, I'm the guy that keeps you out of surgery.

KATE

He'll be able to answer any questions. It was good to see you, Chati.

With that, Kate steps into the elevator, leaving an ill-prepared Dan to deal with Chati. The implications of the decision they just made landing squarely on his shoulders.



INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Ameni is readying the glucose test for Leanne, who is VERY anxious. Ameni's mind is elsewhere so she misses the signs.

LEANNE

Dr. Rodriguez? I was thinking maybe we could split the test up.

AMENI

Excuse me?

LEANNE

I didn't realize it would take over three hours and I just don't have that kind of time. So maybe we do one blood test today and another one next week --

Ameni's patience has run out. For many, many reasons.

AMENI

Listen, Leanne. I know you're an extremely busy woman, but this test is not optional. Gestational diabetes is very serious. The extra glucose in your bloodstream can trigger your baby's pancreas to make too much insulin which could cause her to grow so large that she gets wedged in your birth canal. Which means, goodbye doula, hello C-section. Early labor could also put your baby in respiratory distress.

LEANNE

Obviously, I don't want to hurt my baby. It's just --

AMENI

Then let's take the test and see where things stand. I'll be right back.

We exit the room with Ameni...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

NURSE CAROL prepares the tray of needles. Ameni eyes Michael's office, his door still closed.

AMENI

Maybe I should go apologize.

NURSE CAROL

He already left.

Ameni sighs. *Shit*. She grabs the tray and heads back into --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- which is now empty. Leanne totally bolted. Womp, womp.

AMENI  
Seriously?!

EXT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. BACKYARD - DUSK

Kate is pulling weeds from the garden, trying to practice her mindfulness as Michael approaches. Hat in hand.

MICHAEL  
I'm an idiot.

Kate doesn't look up. She's still pissed.

KATE  
No argument from me.

He kneels beside her, in the dirt, getting on her level.

MICHAEL  
You were right. I was angry. I wasn't  
thinking things through. But I am now.

She looks at him, knowing this isn't just an apology.

KATE  
And you still want me to come back.

MICHAEL  
The hospital is assigning Sabrina's  
valve replacement to Wallace.

Kate cringes, instinctively.

KATE  
I *hate* that guy.

MICHAEL  
Me too. This is what I'm worried about.  
Not just losing patients, but the  
people who put their trust in me.  
Sabrina deserves better than some third-  
rate cowboy who doesn't give a crap  
about her.

KATE  
Of course she does.

She's softening. He can feel it.

MICHAEL

I'd never ask you to rush into anything if I didn't know that you could handle it. But you're ready, Katie. I really do think it's time.

Now would be the moment for Kate to mention her panic attack. But she doesn't. Maybe it's easier to lie. Or maybe she's just tired of fighting.

KATE

I'll help you with Sabrina.

Michael is too relieved to notice her trepidation. He pulls her into a hug.

MICHAEL

Thank you. And you know what? You're right. Let's just take it one case at a time. But I know the minute you're back in the OR, you're gonna realize how much you miss it.

KATE

I'm not so sure about that...

MICHAEL

I am. It's not healthy the way you've been holding onto all this guilt. Thinking everything was your fault, like you could have saved her --

But Kate isn't ready to have this conversation. She rises to her feet as she wipes the dirt off her hands.

KATE

Send me Sabrina's file.

MICHAEL

You want to go through it together now? I can bring you up to speed --

KATE

I have to make dinner for Logan. Just e-mail me whatever you think I need.

Michael watches as Kate walks towards the house, the sun setting behind her. So many things he wants to say...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. FRONT DOOR - MORNING (D3)

Charlie pulls out his keys, ready to open the office for the day but it's already unlocked. At 5:00 am? Unusual.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - MORNING

Charlie walks down the hall and sees Kate in her office, on the computer. She feels his eyes on her and looks up:

KATE  
I'm taking over Michael's valve replacement.

CHARLIE  
(hopeful)  
Does this mean you're coming back?

KATE  
It's only temporary. Would you mind closing my door? I have to prep.

Oh yeah. She's icy. Without argument, he does. Fuuuuuuck.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. BREAK ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Charlie is making a pot of coffee when Dan walks in, confused.

DAN  
Is Kate in her office?

CHARLIE  
She's taking over Michael's valve replacement.

Dan beelines for her door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
I wouldn't go in there.

DAN  
She should not be back in the OR.

CHARLIE  
We don't tell Kate what she can or cannot do. Remember when she wanted to run the marathon in her third trimester?

DAN  
I'm serious. She's not ready.

CHARLIE  
You may be right. Unfortunately, it's not our decision to make.

DAN  
But suspending Michael was our decision. I'm just trying to follow your logic here.

Dan is trying to pick a fight, but Charlie refuses to engage.

CHARLIE

Nobody forced your hand, Dan. You cast your vote all by yourself.

DAN

Could've been handled better.

CHARLIE

You wanna take over the managerial aspects of this practice? Be my guest.

With that, Charlie heads into his office. Dan stares at Kate's door, conflicted and concerned.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATOR - MORNING

Ameni steps off the elevators, determined to have a better day. A bounce in her step as she walks in the front door --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- past the reception desk --

AMENI

Good morning, Carol!

Before Ameni can step into her office:

CAROL

Leanne Ellis left a message for you.

Ameni pushes down a sigh, refusing to get upset. She grabs the message, reads it, and is immediately INFURIATED.

AMENI

You have GOT to be kidding me!

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Charlie is at his computer when Ameni bursts in:

AMENI

My patient is requesting her records be transferred to a different doctor.

CHARLIE

Again, I'm not actually an administrator here. I'm a neurosurgeon.

AMENI

She's dumping me! The crazy lady who believes in the power of celery juice but won't take a stupid diabetes test.

CHARLIE

I cut into people's brains. It's a very serious job...

AMENI

I'm not doing it.

She dumps the message onto his desk. Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE

Ameni. If your patient wants to see another doctor --

AMENI

My patient is a moron. She doesn't want a doctor. She wants a *doula*. You can forward her records to a midwife!

With that, Ameni storms out.

CHARLIE

(calling after her)

I don't forward records! I'm a surgeon! I'm very important!

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. KATE'S OFFICE - MORNING

Kate is only half-listening to the hullabaloo outside. Sabrina's file with Michael's notes is in front of her, but her eyes are drawn to the framed photo on her desk.

A family photo of Michael, Kate and Logan on the beach.

Kate smiles at the memory, picks up her phone to call her daughter. It goes straight to voicemail. "***This is Logan. Leave me a message and I'll probably call you back.***" As it BEEPS, there's a KNOCK at Kate's door. She hangs up as Michael's assistant, Marissa, pokes her head inside.

KATE

Heading over now. Thanks, Marissa.

Marissa shuts the door behind her. Off Kate, deep breath...

INT/EXT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

Michael is on a ladder, installing a Nest camera - one of those items men keep on their To-Do list for a rainy day - when Dan walks up. Michael stiffens.

DAN

We gotta talk.

MICHAEL

I have nothing to say to you.

DAN  
Fine, I'll talk. You listen.

MICHAEL  
You can go to hell.

Michael climbs down the ladder and heads inside --

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dan follows him, refusing to be ignored.

DAN  
Kate should not be operating.

MICHAEL  
I love how you *still* think you know my wife better than I do...

DAN  
She's not ready.

MICHAEL  
Get out of my house --

DAN  
She had a panic attack yesterday. Walking into the hospital. She couldn't breathe, man.

This stops Michael. But he refuses to let Dan see it.

MICHAEL  
I said get out of my house.

DAN  
Did you ever stop to think that maybe I'm trying to protect you?

MICHAEL  
From what?

DAN  
From yourself! Goddamit, Michael. Get your head out of your ass!

MICHAEL  
I haven't done anything wrong.

Dan steps closer, changing the tone. Not angry. Devoted.

DAN  
You sure about that?

Michael won't flinch. Dan walks out. Off Michael, unsettled.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. SCRUB ROOM - DAY

ON KATE, meticulously scrubbing her hands as she remembers:

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - FLASHBACK

In fragmented imagery we see:

BLOOD on Kate's hands as she repairs a damaged heart.

The land line RINGING in the OR.

Kate's SCALPEL dropping to the floor.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. SCRUB ROOM - DAY

Fuck, fuck, fuck! And *breathe...* Refusing to succumb to another panic attack, Kate recuperates as she heads into --

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- where Sabrina Singh lies on the table, prepped and ready.

KATE

Hi, Sabrina. I'm Dr. Lancaster. We spoke on the phone last night? Dr. Shapiro sends his regards.

SABRINA

I'm sorry about his flu. Tell him I hope he feels better.

Kate nods, only now realizing the nurse standing beside her is none other than Linda Jenkins. *Shit.*

KATE

Hello, Linda.

NURSE LINDA

Welcome back, Doctor Lancaster.

It's clear that Linda has no idea that Kate knows. *Awkward.* Kate nods to the ANESTHESIOLOGIST, signaling she's ready.

KATE

Sabrina, I'm going to ask you to count backwards. Starting from ten, okay?

SABRINA

Ten... Nine... Eight...

And she's out. Nurse Jenkins removes the modesty sheet, which is when Kate sees GIANT BRUISES on her upper thigh.



KATE

What are these? Are they in the notes?

NURSE JENKINS

I don't think so. It looks like she  
fell down a flight of stairs...

KATE

Or she was hit.

As Kate inspects the bruising, we hear loud BEEPING coming  
from the monitor.

NURSE JENKINS

Blood pressure is spiking.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

She's going into respiratory  
failure.

KATE

Bring her back. NOW. Let's go, let's  
go!

As the team jumps into action to save Sabrina...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. NURSES STATION - DAY

Kate is looking over Sabrina's chart as Charlie emerges from the patient's room.

CHARLIE

I'd like to run a few more tests, make sure there are no signs of neurological damage. But it's good that you got her out as quick as you did.

KATE

It doesn't make sense. Nothing in her workup or medical history suggests a perioperative stroke would be likely.

CHARLIE

Sometimes they just happen.

KATE

I'm not putting her back on the board until I have more information.

CHARLIE

I thought the valve replacement was time-sensitive.

KATE

It is. So I better figure this out quickly.

For the first time, Kate seems energized. Engaged. Charlie notices, but is afraid to mention it. Instead, he heads off:

CHARLIE

I'm here if you need me...

KATE

Hey, Charlie? Thank you.

It's not a huge moment, but it's enough. Charlie continues on his way as Kate goes back to the chart, determined.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. RECEPTION - DAY

Charlie walks in, just as Ameni exits her office and is intercepted with a message from the RECEPTIONIST:

RECEPTIONIST

Leanne Ellis called again. That's three times in the last two hours.

Ameni takes the message and pointedly TEARS IT UP.

CHARLIE

You're not even curious why she's requesting another doctor?

AMENI

I told you. She's crazy.

CHARLIE

Or maybe she's scared.

AMENI

Of what?

Charlie treads lightly, knowing Ameni can be sensitive.

CHARLIE

How does the test for gestational diabetes work again? Humor me.

AMENI

You take a blood test. Drink the gross drink. And then you take three more blood tests over the next three hours.

CHARLIE

That's a lot of blood tests.

AMENI

Yeah? So?

CHARLIE

So maybe your patient is afraid of needles. It's a legitimate phobia...

AMENI

Why are you bugging me about this?

CHARLIE

Because you're angry, Ameni. And I understand, I do. Cheryl walks around all day screaming at the TV --

AMENI

God, I love your wife.

CHARLIE

No one is saying you aren't entitled to your rage. But it's seeping into your work and you're better than that.

Ameni takes this in, realizing he may be right.

AMENI

Fine. Let's say my patient has a phobia.

CHARLIE

As bad as your fear of snakes.

Ameni instinctively recoils.

AMENI

Ew! No! Why you gotta bring up snakes?

CHARLIE

Because it's your phobia. Which is why you won't hike Runyon with me anymore.

AMENI

Hell no, I won't hike Runyon!

CHARLIE

Which seems crazy...

AMENI

I mean, we barely made it out of there alive, but fine. I get it. Phobias are real. And maybe hers is needles. But I still have a job to do, so...

CHARLIE

So find a different solution. One you can both live with.

Off Ameni, considering Charlie's wisdom.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. RECEPTION - DAY

Michael walks in, uncomfortable as Marissa, Carol and other STAFFERS eye him. He's not supposed to be here.

MICHAEL

Just need to talk to Katie. She's in her office?

Marissa nods, feeling badly for him.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. KATE'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate is working at her desk when Michael walks in.

MICHAEL

Hey, you. I didn't think you'd be out of surgery so quickly...

KATE

Why didn't you mention Kate's bruises to me earlier?

MICHAEL

What bruises? I never saw --

KATE

On her upper thighs. They look like... I'm not sure. But I'm wondering if she might be in an abusive relationship. Which wouldn't cause a stroke, but--

MICHAEL

Sabrina had a stroke? What happened?

KATE

(slightly annoyed)

I have no idea, Michael. That's what I'm trying to figure out.

MICHAEL

Okay, well, Sabrina doesn't even have a boyfriend so you can rule out whatever weird road you're going down.

KATE

How do you know that?

MICHAEL

(with a shrug)

I asked her.

Kate shakes her head, amazed and yet... not surprised.

KATE

You asked your nineteen-year-old patient if she had a boyfriend. And you wonder why HR is after you.

MICHAEL

I didn't come here to fight --

KATE

Why did you come here?

MICHAEL

I wanted to talk to you, but now I think we need to focus on my patient --

KATE

MY patient. She's mine now, remember?

She's unraveling. He feels it. He takes a beat.

MICHAEL

Okay. Hey. I'm sorry. Talk to me.

KATE

I can't. I have to make dinner...

MICHAEL

No, you don't.

KATE

Why? Are you gonna do it?

Michael hesitates. Unable to look at her. Kate nods, steely.

KATE (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

MICHAEL

Katie...

He steps in her path. Kate **SHOVES** him out of her way with surprising force as she races out the door.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

CAMERA is framed exactly as it was in the teaser with Kate at the stove, preparing dinner. At precisely 6:30 pm, the door opens and Logan walks in.

LOGAN

What's for dinner?

Before Kate can answer, she hears the front door open. Panicked, she turns her head as Michael walks in --

KATE

No, no. Please don't be here. She won't stay if you're here...

She turns again, and Logan is gone. Which is how we finally understand - she was never here at all.

KATE (CONT'D)

Logan...!

Kate begins to sob. Michael puts his arms around her. If he holds her tight enough maybe he can save her. Save them.

MICHAEL

Tell me what to do and I'll do it.  
Just tell me what to do.

KATE

Bring her back.

MICHAEL

I can't. I wish I could.

KATE

When I walked into that OR today... I froze. All I could think about was the last time I was there. I remember the phone ringing. I remember racing out to meet the ambulance. By the time I got there, she was gone. She was already gone...

Michael just holds her tighter, trying to absorb her pain, but unable to feel his own.

MICHAEL

It's okay, baby. It's okay...

KATE

I know you think I'm crazy --

MICHAEL

I don't --

KATE

Making dinner every night for someone who isn't coming home.

MICHAEL

If that's what your counselor told you to do. If it's helping --

KATE

Is it helping? I don't know.

MICHAEL

Then why do you do it?

KATE

Because...

(trying to explain)

You don't understand. I don't feel guilty that I couldn't save her life. I feel guilty because I wasn't there when she was alive.

MICHAEL

Oh, Katie...

KATE

I should have been making her dinner all along. That's what moms do. They make meals for their children... they make time. Maybe if I had done that. If I were home that night --

MICHAEL

Don't do that. You were the best mother in the world. You showed Logan what it was to be passionate about your work. To care about other people. Our daughter didn't just love you. She wanted to be you.

Kate shakes her head, refusing to believe it.

KATE

If we were closer she wouldn't have lied. She would have told me where she was going that night instead of getting into that car --

MICHAEL

Teenagers lie to their parents. It's in their DNA. Think about the lies we used to tell our parents at that age.

Kate smiles, allowing herself to feel better for a moment. She's also slowly realizing something else. Michael sees the gears in her brain shifting.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

KATE

When you did your intake with Sabrina. Was Chati in the room with you?

MICHAEL

Of course.  
(then, realizing)  
You think she lied about something.

KATE

I'm not sure. But those bruises...

MICHAEL

You should go talk to her.

KATE

Come with me.  
(before he can argue)  
You're her doctor. She trusts you.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

We catch up with Sabrina, Michael and Kate mid-conversation. Chati is asleep on a nearby cot. Sabrina is officially looking worse for the wear. Extremely run-down and having difficulty breathing.



SABRINA

... I don't know why I lied about having a boyfriend. I guess it's just automatic at this point? Like, it's the only way to have any privacy. My dad is on my case about everything.

KATE

I understand. But I have to ask... the bruising on your thighs --

Sabrina blushes, deeply embarrassed.

MICHAEL

The marks are very specific.

KATE

You're in a safe space, Sabrina. Anything you tell us --

Sabrina realizes what they're asking without asking. Now she's even MORE humiliated.

SABRINA

Oh God, no! It's nothing like that. I swear. They're from...

She hesitates. This is so fucking embarrassing.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I had my fat frozen.

MICHAEL

You did what?

KATE

By a doctor --?

SABRINA

They're not doctors. They're like, trained technicians or something. It wasn't surgical so I didn't think I had to mention it.

(then, admitting)

Also, my Dad would kill me if he knew how I spent my dorm food money.

MICHAEL

But why? You're a perfectly healthy weight, Sabrina.

SABRINA

Healthy is just a nice way of saying "fat." And my costume for the play... the skirt is really short...

Sabrina starts coughing. Her phone DINGS with a text. All this exertion is getting to be too much.

KATE

Get some rest. I'll be back to check on you in a bit.

Sabrina picks up her phone as Kate and Michael step outside --

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- where they can speak semi-privately. Nurse Tori is at the nurse's station nearby, glancing at them every-so-often.

MICHAEL

The fact that she thinks she needs to freeze her fat --

KATE

I know. It's crazy...

But Michael is in his own head right now. Suddenly and acutely aware of his mistakes, and feeling guilty.

MICHAEL

I make bad jokes. I shouldn't say the things I say.

Kate places her hand on his shoulder, intimate. Affectionate.

KATE

So stop saying them.

Michael nods. It's not the same as apology, but it might be more important. It's recognition. It's taking responsibility.

Suddenly, we hear that damn BEEPING again. They look into Sabrina's room. Her phone crashed onto the floor. Her body appears lifeless. Kate calls over to Nurse Tori --

KATE (CONT'D)

We need an OR! NOW!

As Kate and Michael race to save Sabrina...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOURINT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. SCRUB ROOM - NIGHT

Kate is scrubbing her hands, preparing for emergency surgery when Michael rushes in.

MICHAEL

I checked Sabrina's blood work. The labs showed abnormal antibody proteins.

KATE

I know. But we already tested for Hep C. It came back negative --

MICHAEL

Maybe an autoimmune disease? We can run a few more tests...

Suddenly, the light bulb goes off --

KATE

Cryoglobulinemia. Think about it. You can go your whole life without presenting symptoms and it's not dangerous, unless you subject yourself to unusually low temperatures --

MICHAEL

-- which she did when she froze her fat. The clumps of insoluble proteins didn't melt the way they were supposed to. Instead, they created clots.

KATE

Which would explain the stroke.

And THAT is what teamwork looks like. From inside the OR, the anesthesiologist signals they are ready for Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)

(thinking quickly)

We can use a mild hypothermic CPB to bring her esophageal temperature down to 34 degrees. Unless you think we have time for a plasma exchange?

MICHAEL

I don't think you do.

KATE

(fuck)

I don't either.

For a split second, Kate hesitates. Michael faces her.

MICHAEL

Just get in. Get out. You got this.

Kate nods. Michael pulls up her surgical mask as she heads into the OR, determined.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate marches into the OR and quickly delivers orders to her staff, back in the groove. Her confidence renewed.

Michael watches the artist at work from behind the glass. Relieved. Proud. And clearly in love.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. AMENI'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ameni is getting ready to leave when there is a knock on her semi-open door. She looks up to find Leanne.

LEANNE

I got your text.

AMENI

Leanne. Come on in.

Leanne does, but she's nervous. Not sure where this going. Ameni takes a seat beside her, changing her approach. Her tone is much gentler. Her demeanor, more open.

AMENI (CONT'D)

I'm working on a theory that I'm hoping you can either confirm or deny. It has to do with you and blood tests.

LEANNE

I'm terrified of blood tests.

AMENI

Theory confirmed. Why didn't you tell me this before?

LEANNE

I don't know. It's embarrassing? Also, you're kind of intense.

AMENI

I am that. But I'm also your doctor. At least, I'd like to be.

LEANNE

I'd like that, too. Especially since you won't release my records.

Ameni smiles; maybe Leanne isn't such an idiot after all.

AMENI

I guess I'm a little confused. We've done blood draws in the past and they never seemed to bother you.

LEANNE

They always bother me. Most of the time, I can't get through one without fainting. That's why I always have to lie down. But the thought of having FOUR in a row made me so anxious, I thought I might have a miscarriage.

AMENI

I know the feeling. Try hiking Runyon Canyon during a heat wave.

Before Leanne can question that one, Ameni reaches into her desk drawer and pulls out a GLUCOSE MONITOR.

AMENI (CONT'D)

How would you feel about having your finger pricked?

LEANNE

(hopeful)  
Seriously?

AMENI

The machine costs about sixty dollars. You can find it at any pharmacy, but insurance won't cover it --

LEANNE

I don't mind.

AMENI

And we'll still have to do one proper blood draw. But after that we can use this to check your levels. Okay?

LEANNE

Thank you so much, Dr. Rodriguez.

As she gives Ameni a giant hug --

LEANNE (CONT'D)

But still a "no" on home birth?

AMENI

Don't push your luck.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. FRONT DOOR - THE NEXT MORNING

Again, Charlie assumes he is the first to arrive. Again, he's wrong. The door is already unlocked. He heads inside...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Kate is rinsing out her coffee mug, still wearing the same clothes she had on the night before. But instead of looking tired, she seems invigorated. The adrenaline still pumping.

CHARLIE

Did you sleep here last night?

KATE

Sabrina went into cardiac arrest.

(before he can ask)

Everything's fine. Surgery went really well. She should be back to school in a week or two.

Charlie nods, tries keep it light in case she's still mad.

CHARLIE

That's great, Kate. It's nice to have you back. Even if it's only temporary.

KATE

Actually, I might be coming back for good. I think I'm finally ready.

Charlie does his best not to explode with happiness.

CHARLIE

Really? That's fantastic!

KATE

And Michael is going to be coming back, too.

CHARLIE

Of course he is --

KATE

Tomorrow.

Charlie reacts, *say what now?* Just then, Ameni walks in, having caught the last snippet of this conversation.

AMENI

Who's coming in tomorrow?

KATE  
 Michael.  
 (then, noticing)  
 Morning, Dan.

Kate walks out of the break room--

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- past Dan, who has just arrived wearing his gym clothes.  
 Ameni and Charlie are hot on Kate's tail.

DAN  
 Not sure what's happening, but I'm not  
 here yet. This is me going to the gym --

AMENI  
 You're not going anywhere.  
 (then, gently)  
 Kate. Michael is on suspension.

KATE  
 I know. We discussed that.

CHARLIE  
 And..?

KATE  
 We reject your suspension.

Kate walks into her office. The rest of them stand in  
 confused and utter shock.

DAN  
 Now *this* is an interesting twist.

As they all head inside --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. KATE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

-- where Kate is gathering her things to leave.

AMENI  
 Um... Kate? You can't just reject a  
 suspension after we've all voted. It  
 sort of flies in the face of our  
 previously established guidelines...

KATE  
 You mean the guidelines we came up  
 with ten years ago? The ones we wrote  
 down in crayon on a Chili's napkin  
 while getting wasted on Watermelon  
 margaritas?

DAN

Ooof. I remember those margaritas.

CHARLIE

I don't. Although I vaguely remember the fried pickles...

AMENI

You *guys*...

KATE

I promise you, Ameni. We're not ignoring the issue. Michael knows he's made mistakes and we discussed some possible solutions. We're looking into a sensitivity class, and he may go back to therapy --

DAN

Back to therapy?

AMENI

But we've already spoken to HR. How is it gonna look?

CHARLIE

I can call them.

KATE

I'll call them. I have to let them know that I'm coming back anyway, so --

DAN

Wait, you're coming back? For good? Are you sure you're ready?

KATE

I'm sure.

(before he can argue)

I know you're all worried. About a million different things. But instead of fighting and taking sides, let's go back to talking and figuring things out together. Isn't that why we started this practice in the first place? We're not just business partners. We're supposed to be friends.

DAN

We are friends --

KATE

(kind, but firm)

Then act like it.



With that, Kate walks out. This time, Ameni and Dan don't follow. But Charlie does...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATORS - MOMENTS LATER

Kate presses the button as Charlie approaches.

CHARLIE

You're right. We should have worked harder to find a different solution. One that we could all live with.

KATE

So why didn't you? How did suspension even get on the table? I know Ameni is on a mission and I don't blame her. Her heart is in the right place. But I rely on you to be level-headed --

CHARLIE

(cutting to the chase)  
The hospital approached me about acquiring our practice.

The elevator doors open. Kate does not step inside.

KATE

When?

CHARLIE

A few weeks ago.

KATE

Does Michael know?

CHARLIE

Nobody knows. I wanted to talk to you first because you're the only person here who actually appreciates my careful deliberation process.

She would argue, if that weren't totally true. And now his behavior is starting to make more sense.

KATE

Is that why you voted to suspend? To make us more attractive to the buyers?

CHARLIE

I'm trying to keep our options open. I know we've talked about this before --

KATE

We have. I don't think anyone is interested in going corporate.

CHARLIE

They weren't five years ago. Times have changed.

KATE

How? It's still letting other people decide how we work, when we work, how we treat our patients --

CHARLIE

And for that, we never have to deal with the insurance companies or any other administrative crap. Plus, the offer on the table is substantially larger than it was before. I know that doesn't affect you and Michael, but the rest of us are still paying off student loans. Cheryl hasn't gone back to work since Otis was born --

He stops himself, suddenly uncomfortable.

KATE

You're allowed to talk about your son in front of me, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I know...

Kate smiles sadly. She knows how difficult this is for him. The sweet, old soul.

KATE

I saw the picture Cheryl posted the other day. I can't believe how big he's gotten.

CHARLIE

I think about you... I pick up the phone to call and check in but I always hang up because I have no idea what to say. I can't imagine what it's been like for you.

KATE

You don't have to say anything. You can just call and hang up.

Charlie laughs, the tension finally lifting.

CHARLIE

I know it's selfish, but I've missed having you here.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Not just because it takes some of the burden off me, but... I miss you. My friend. I just wish I could get the old Kate back.

Kate wraps her arms around her friend.

KATE

Me Too.

**MUSIC UP:** *You're Missing*, by Springsteen.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. FRONT DOOR - EARLY EVENING

Kate walks in the front door. Her arms laden with grocery bags, dry cleaning, and the mail.

KATE

I'm home.

She drops the mail and the clothes on the entrance table as she heads towards...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She stops when she finds Michael at the stove, preparing dinner. She looks at the table and sees place settings are set for three. She looks at her husband, afraid to ask.

MICHAEL

Watching you last night... the way you faced your fear and conquered it. It made me realize, I've been afraid, too. It's easier for me to go to work. Push it down. Not feel anything --

KATE

I know --

MICHAEL

But I don't want to do that anymore. I want to try. I want to heal. I just... I don't know how.

KATE

I can help you.

Kate helps Michael bring the plates of food to the table. They sit down together. Michael follows Kate's eyes to the door as they wait for it to open. After a beat, Logan enters.

LOGAN

What's for dinner?

The music continues as we...

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Dan takes a seat at the bar, orders his standard:

DAN  
Club soda with lemon.

He eyes a PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN sitting across the way. She smiles at him. He nods to the seat beside him. Knowing this is how he's going to spend tonight. For better and for worse.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie watches TV on the couch with his eight-year-old daughter, ELLA. His two-year-old son, OTIS, plays on the floor with the dog as his wife, CHERYL, carries in a bowl of popcorn. This is the first time we've seen him fully relaxed. Welcome to Charlie's happy place.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

Back to Kate, Michael and Logan, sharing a meal. This small, shattered family taking a step towards healing together...

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. CAFETERIA

Ameni sits alone at their old cafeteria table, picking at a salad while scrolling through her smart phone. After a beat, Nurse Tori approaches:

NURSE TORI  
Hey, Dr. Rodriguez. You're working late tonight.

AMENI  
Unfortunately, babies don't keep regular hours.

NURSE TORI  
Mind if I sit with you?

Ameni shrugs, too tired to argue. It soon becomes clear that this isn't a casual meal. Tori has something on her mind.

NURSE TORI (CONT'D)  
Can I ask you a question about Michael?

Ameni looks up. The fact that she's calling him "Michael" already isn't a great sign.

AMENI  
You mean Dr. Shapiro?

NURSE TORI  
Yeah. Sorry.

AMENI  
Whatever you're about to say, you  
should probably take up with HR --

NURSE TORI  
It's not like that. I mean... that's  
the thing. I don't really *know* if it's  
like that or not.

Ameni sighs. Not enjoying this, but if she's the goddamn  
savior of all women she can't very well ignore this one.

AMENI  
What is it, Tori?

NURSE TORI  
The thing is... Michael and I... we're  
kind of together.

Off this bombshell, we --

**SMASH TO BLACK**

END OF PILOT