

DEAD RINGERS

EPISODE ONE

Written by

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Based on

DEAD RINGERS by David Cronenberg

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We are close on a woman's face - FRANCESCA. She is mid-labour. She has been in labour for a long time, and active labour for several hours. She is exhausted - red faced, sweating, her teeth gritted as she roars.

FRANCESCA

Can't do it can't do it can't do it
can't do it can't fuuuuucking do it

-

ELLIOT (O.S.)

That's it -

CHRISTOPHER (O.S.)

You're doing brilliantly -

FRANCESCA

Shut the fuck up what would You
know about Birthing A Fucking -

ELLIOT (O.S.)

Okay Francesca, lie back, let's
take a second -

Francesca breathes heavily.

We remain on Francesca, her body and medical equipment - the shots are angles, compartmentalised and odd, not quite right somehow.

We might catch a glimpse of CHRISTOPHER, her husband - pale, tired, emotional - we see him trying to squeeze her shoulders, pinching the bridge of his nose, rubbing his cheeks.

We see the hospital floor, the strip lighting, the machines beeping.

We see the red gloved hands of the obstetrician ELLIOT (British, 40s, brilliant), and the ANAESTHETIST - CHARLIE and NURSES as they work around her, efficient and purposeful. Everyone wears bright poppy red scrubs - but we shouldn't see the faces of Elliot or the hospital staff.

The tiles of the floor are white, the equipment that beeps and flashes is all white.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Okay, we need to Progress a little
quicker now, Francesca -

FRANCESCA
The fuck does that mean -

ELLIOT
You've done brilliantly -

FRANCESCA
I'm not going Fast enough for you?

CHRISTOPHER
What's happening -

ELLIOT
Baby's in a little distress - can
we prep for a C section please -

Distress

CHRISTOPHER

Distress

FRANCESCA

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
Why're you saying Distress -

ELLIOT
You've been pushing for nearly
three hours -

FRANCESCA
Yeah I Know That -

ELLIOT
You've done Amazingly, but heart
rate is dropping -

CHRISTOPHER
Whose heart rate is dropping -

ELLIOT
Baby's heart rate is dropping -

FRANCESCA
Oh my God -

CHRISTOPHER
Don't - can you Not - focus on your
Breathing, you're on a Lake -

FRANCESCA
Shut up shut up now shut up faster -
oh my God -

BEVERLY MANTLE (Elliot's twin - also an obstetrician, equally brilliant) comes in, scrubs on and pulling a mask over her face. We shouldn't yet be able to tell that Beverly and Elliot are identical.

When Beverly comes in, the room begins a different kind of activity - the bed is put into recline, Francesca is moved onto a trolley bed.

BEVERLY
Hi, how're we doing -

FRANCESCA
Fuck -

BEVERLY
I'll bet -

ELLIOT
Moving to C -

BEVERLY
Okay -

ELLIOT
Dropped heart rate - did you speak
to the catering uh, I had, like Two
messages on my -

FRANCESCA
Please can someone -

CHRISTOPHER
You keep saying -

CHARLIE
(handing a form to
Francesca who is mid
contraction)
We just need to get a signature
here and here -

FRANCESCA
I don't -

BEVERLY
Yep, last night -

ELLIOT
What did they say, who's coming,
who's cooking, Francesca, this is
all going to be quite overwhelming
for you -

FRANCESCA

Yeah no shit -

BEVERLY

Baby's in distress -

CHRISTOPHER

You keep Using those words -

BEVERLY

I can use more medical terms if you'd prefer Christopher but I think you might find them a little alienating, Francesca you must be exhausted, you and your body have done Brilliantly and now we need to step in and help her out for this final phase, okay, which means we need to perform an emergency C section - you remember we discussed this as a possibility -

FRANCESCA

Okay -

BEVERLY

Luisa - the uh, the small round one. Dead husband, makes a killer tiramisu, with the the Hair -

ELLIOT

Italian?

BEVERLY

Yep -

ELLIOT

That's it, breathe, you're doing Wonderfully -

BEVERLY

So we're going to move to theatre -

CHRISTOPHER

Um -

ELLIOT

What's she making, I've completely forgotten what's on the -

BEVERLY

And we'll be with you the whole time, Dr Mantle and I will be performing the operation together -

CHRISTOPHER

Is she gonna be -

BEVERLY

Christopher will be next to you,
we'll have a screen up Christopher,
don't panic - we need to move a
little quicker please - there's um
some Veal - could you be less
obsessed with the food please -

Now on the trolley, they move out into the corridor, the team walking alongside.

2

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, CONTINUOUS.

2

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are either side of Francesca as they wheel her along the corridor. CHRISTOPHER jogs to keep up.

ELLIOT

- and then when you wake up you'll
have your daughter in your arms -
Veal? Veal Canapes are you serious?

FRANCESCA

Wake up?

BEVERLY

Jesus Christ - Veal with pancetta -
seven minutes please everybody,
we're dropping - um, some Burrata I
think?

ELLIOT

No fish?

FRANCESCA

What d'you mean wake up?

BEVERLY

Sea bass on blinis - Elliot - are
you hungry -

ELLIOT

Always - Francesca, Charlie's going
to administer the anaesthetic -

CHARLIE

Hi -

ELLIOT
 - as soon as we get into theatre
 okay, we'll count you back from ten
 -

BEVERLY
 And some kind of aubergine thing I
 think -

FRANCESCA
 I want to be awake -

BEVERLY
 - we have to move quicker than that
 Francesca, most important thing is
 that both you and the baby are safe
 -

ELLIOT
 I hate aubergines -

FRANCESCA
 I want to be awake -

They move into theatre.

3 INT. THEATRE, HOSPITAL. CONTINUOUS.

3

BEVERLY and ELLIOT roll FRANCESCA on the trolley into
 theatre.

BEVERLY
 The Parkers are sending someone
 from their Foundation - you like
 the baby aubergines with the walnut
 thing -

ELLIOT
 Do I? Their Foundation -

BEVERLY
 Exactly, their Foundation - She,
 Rebecca, called me personally -

ELLIOT
 Rebecca is the money -

BEVERLY
 Exactly, and Rebecca said that
 Susan -

ELLIOT
 Susan is the wife -

BEVERLY
Exactly, the Waify one -

ELLIOT
They're all waify, all of her wives
have been Waify -

BEVERLY
She's super waify though, the
Wafiest, and she said, Rebecca
said, that Susan hasn't stopped
reading the materials, the pitches,
that it's All she goes on about and
that she's Totally obsessed with
investing.

ELLIOT
Well that's fucking great -

BEVERLY
It's fucking Excellent -

Francesca is lifted from the trolley onto the bed.

FRANCESCA
I want to be awake -

ELLIOT
I've invited my chiropractor -

BEVERLY
She said they're really looking
forward to seeing the model and
hearing us speak and that they'd
love five minutes with us - can we
move a little quicker please
everyone -

CHARLIE immediately begins to fit a mask over Francesca's
mouth, she looks frightened.

Elliot holds her hand out for a second - everybody pause.

ELLIOT
Francesca. Everything's going to be
fine. You're going to wake up and
you're going meet your baby girl
and you're going to be a Mum. Okay?

Francesca pauses. Elliot squeezes her hand.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
You can do this.

Francesca takes a breath. Nods. Blinks.

Charlie places the mask over her mouth.

CHRISTOPHER grips Francesca's hand, strokes her forehead.

CHARLIE

Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven.

BEVERLY

Why did you invite your
chiropractor, is the chiropractor
incredibly fucking rich -

ELLIOT

Great job Francesca, obviously not -

Francesca's eyes start to close. A screen is erected across her body. Elliot and Beverly quickly begin to prep Francesca's body for surgery.

CHARLIE

Six. Five.

BEVERLY

Then -

ELLIOT

Because -

BEVERLY

Because he's fuckable - you okay
Christopher?

CHARLIE

Three. Two. One.

CHRISTOPHER

Yes. Yes, I -

CHARLIE

Francesca?

CHRISTOPHER

Will she -

CHARLIE

Okay, we're all good -

BEVERLY

You understand that if we get the
money then we -

ALL (CHARLIE, NURSE, ELLIOT, BEVERLY)
 Change The Way That Women Birth
 Forever -

BEVERLY
 (pleased)
 It's like we're a Choir -

CHRISTOPHER
 Is she going to be -

CHARLIE
 She'll be fine - we'll bring her
 around after the baby is here and
 we've finished the stitches -

Once ready, Beverly and Elliot begin making precise, quick
 and careful incisions across Francesca's abdomen and then
 uterus.

ELLIOT
 I mean. Yes. I'd say the
 chiropractor is fuckable, yeah,
 sure -

BEVERLY
 So I got the billionaire lesbians
 who want to Give us their money and
 you've invited a Chiropractor -

ELLIOT
 It's just One fuckable chiropractor
 -

BEVERLY
 Christopher do you need to take a
 second -

CHRISTOPHER
 I mean I. I don't. I feel a bit.

ELLIOT
 Of course. It's an overwhelming
 experience for both of you.

CHRISTOPHER
 I just -

BEVERLY
 We need to get the baby out in the
 next Three minutes, okay
 Christopher -

CHRISTOPHER

Three. Oh my God. I - Three -

BEVERLY

And when Francesca comes around she will need you to be as Calm and as Resilient as possible, so why don't you go and take a moment, get a little air and pop back in to meet your daughter -

CHRISTOPHER

I -

He sees what they're doing. Looks like he's going to vomit.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

Oh my God - That's. That's her. That's. Insides and.

BEVERLY

She's going to be absolutely fine Christopher.

He nods.

He rubs his head. Leaves the room, slowly, in a daze. We remain on Francesca's abdomen as much as possible - we see in as much detail as we can, the procedure and the reveal of the baby in the sac.

ELLIOT

Do I Like Veal -

BEVERLY

You'll like this veal -

ELLIOT

Megan lost the plug -

BEVERLY

When -

ELLIOT

Heart rate still dropping - she texted around 11, she'd had a Pilates session and had gone to the loo and the plug was there - she sent a photo -

BEVERLY

She's had about Three Sweeps -
She's too Uptight, too Anxious
about the whole thing - you can
tell by her -

ELLIOT

Shoulders -

BEVERLY

Exactly, shoulders - always up by
her fucking ears, I just want to
Grab her and - how long was she
pushing -

ELLIOT

Three hours -

BEVERLY

Okay, we have a clear view now -

ELLIOT

Can we get Dad back in -

BEVERLY

Looking good, how's Mum -

CHARLIE

Yep, looking fine -

BEVERLY

Okay good -

Christopher comes back into the room, clearly trying to gear
himself up for the birth.

ELLIOT

Christopher -

CHRISTOPHER

Yep.

ELLIOT

You ready?

CHRISTOPHER

Um.

BEVERLY

Well. Sort of doesn't matter either
way. Here we go.

She looks at him. Looks at Elliot. This is perhaps the first time we see their faces. Reaches across and lifts the baby out of the womb.

As soon as she does, we:

CUT TO:

4 INT. SHOWER. A LITTLE LATER. 4

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are showering in neighbouring cubicles. Beverly is standing with her face up to the water, eyes closed, arms by her side, allowing it to wash over her.

Elliot is washing vigorously, under her arms, turning her body around, under the water.

5 INT. BATHROOM. A LITTLE LATER. 5

ELLIOT and BEVERLY are standing side by side in the bathroom. The room feels tired, old. There's a constant dripping noise, hair in the plugs of the sink, a light keeps flickering.

They're brushing their teeth, wrapped in towels.

Brushing their hair - Beverly is tying hers up. Elliot is blow drying hers, running product through it.

They're getting dressed. Beverly into gym wear - leggings and a baggy jumper.

Elliot is dressing in black jeans, heeled boots and a silk shirt. She applies red lipstick.

6 EXT. STREET. MANHATTAN. 3.30AM. 6

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are walking down the street, coffees in hand. Beverly smokes.

They walk in silence for a little while.

ELLIOT
Did you invite -

BEVERLY
Nope.

She shakes her head.

ELLIOT
What about -

BEVERLY

No.

Elliot nods.

ELLIOT

And what about the one who always wears -

Beverly shakes her head.

BEVERLY

No. No.

ELLIOT

You can't just say no to Everybody -

BEVERLY

You do understand that tonight is not about getting either one of us Laid, but about securing a shit ton of money for the thing we've been working our Asses off for fucking ages.

Elliot nods.

ELLIOT

Sure sure sure.

Beverly gives her a look.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I'm psyched. I'm really up for it.

BEVERLY

It's our Entire future Elliot -

ELLIOT

Sure -

BEVERLY

Everything. The Birth Centre, the Research that comes with it -

Elliot looks more excited at this -

ELLIOT

Yes. The fucking Research, now that's the bit -

BEVERLY

Exactly.

Elliot grins. They walk.

ELLIOT
But I do still Feel like You
definitely need to get -

Beverly opens the door to a diner, cutting her sister off.
Elliot smiles.

7 INT. DINER. A LITTLE LATER.

7

ELLIOT and BEVERLY are sitting opposite one another in a late night diner.

Beverly has a plate of eggs. She has a black coffee. She looks exhausted. She picks at her food. Moves it around her plate.

Elliot bites into a huge burger. Blood and ketchup dribble down her chin. She doesn't wipe them away. She chews with her mouth open.

A MAN in his late 40s at the next table looks over at them throughout, a leer on his face.

BEVERLY
Sixteen million.

ELLIOT
I have a headache.

BEVERLY
It's the last push -

ELLIOT
Do you find it absolutely essential
to make everything sound like
giving birth -

BEVERLY
D'you know how close we are -

ELLIOT
Now it's sex, now you sound like
you're talking about sex, could you
be Less obsessed with all things
Vaginal -

BEVERLY
Do you give a shit about this -

Elliot rolls her eyes. Puts her burger down. Wipes her mouth.

ELLIOT
 Beverly. It's all we've done for
 the last Six years of course I Give
 a shit - I'm just Saving my
 enthusiasm for tonight.

Beverly shakes her head - doesn't believe her.

BEVERLY
 I don't want to go back to just
 Delivering babies -

Elliot pulls a face.

ELLIOT
 I mean. We're literally building a
 Birthing Centre so we can deliver
 more babies -

Beverly rolls her eyes.

BEVERLY
 No, we're changing it, we're
 pioneering - we get the money, we -

ELLIOT
 Change The Way That Women Birth
 Forever -

BEVERLY
 You need to fucking focus -

ELLIOT
 Look at how fucking focused I am.

Beverly looks at her. She is pulling an intense expression.
 Beverly nearly smiles. But doesn't.

The MAN who was at the next table is suddenly leaning towards
 them. He's drunk, red in the face.

MAN
 Hey.

Beverly doesn't look at him. She looks out of the window,
 sips her coffee.

Elliot, her mouth full of burger and the contents dripping
 down her chin, turns and looks at him. Tips her head.

ELLIOT
 (mouth full)
 Hey.

He's undeterred. She chews.

MAN
You guys have got, like, exactly
the same face.

Elliot nods.

ELLIOT
(mouth still full,
chewing)
Yeah. No shit.

The Man smiles.

MAN
You like your meat.

Elliot swallows. Grins. Picks a bit of pickle out of her
teeth.

ELLIOT
Oh, I fucking Love my meat.

Beverly sips her coffee noisily.

The Man grins.

MAN
You uh. You guys ever.

He smiles, suggestively.

Elliot tips her head again.

ELLIOT
We ever...?

He pulls a face: Come on. Smiles.

MAN
You know.

Elliot takes another huge bite.

ELLIOT
Nope.

He shrugs. Smiles.

MAN
Two of you. Plus a guy. Just.
Having a nice time.

Elliot chews. Smiles.

ELLIOT
Having a nice time...playing
Scrabble? Sharing our dreams?
Doing...?

MAN
Each other?

He laughs. She laughs. Beverly does not laugh.

ELLIOT
Doing Each Other? That's wild.

MAN
How about it?

Elliot chews. Looks at him. Looks at Beverly.

ELLIOT
What d'you reckon Beverly? How
about it.

Beverly turns. Smiles.

BEVERLY
Oh sure. Yeah. Sure. Yes please,
let's go.

The Man looks between them, trying to figure out if they're winding him up.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
We love fucking each other. I love
putting my tongue on her tongue and
inside her cunt, I absolutely Love
doing that. And for a man's
pleasure? For your pleasure?
Please. That sounds Ideal.

ELLIOT
Perfect.

BEVERLY
We just cut a baby out of a woman's
womb - she asked us to, we didn't
just, like Do it - but what I'd
like to do now, the very next thing
I want to do - just after I've
finished these Eggs - is fuck my
sister. In front of you. And watch
your Incredibly small probably Fat
penis get all excited and dribbly -

ELLIOT
She's the funny one -

BEVERLY
What Is it exactly that appeals? Is
it the Maths of it? Is your
imagination so fucked that you need
to see everything Twice before your
dick can get hard?

MAN
Okay. I was just -

BEVERLY
You were just -

MAN
Messing around, I didn't mean to
cause any -

The twins look at him, waiting for him to finish.

MAN (CONT'D)
I mean.

They keep staring. He looks unnerved.

MAN (CONT'D)
It's just like. People Say, don't
they.

They blink in unison.

ELLIOT
What do people say, Larry?

MAN
That's not my name.

ELLIOT
You look like a Larry, I'm gonna
call you Larry.

She smiles.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Cos actually, I'm the funny one.
So. What do People say, Larry?

He looks amused, unnerved, confused.

MAN
Well. They say. Twins. You know.
Like. You wanna fuck them.

They stare at him. Elliot bites into her burger. Laughs.
Looks at Beverly.

ELLIOT
(mouth full)
I genuinely didn't know people said
that about twins. Did you?

Beverly smiles. Shrugs. Shakes her head.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
That's fascinating. So. Absolutely
everybody goes around hoping to
fuck a set of twins, do they? I
feel like I've just discovered a
superpower. How Brilliant. How
Useful. How Exciting. Thank you
Larry.

She grins.

8 EXT. DINER. A LITTLE LATER. 8

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are hugging goodbye outside the diner. The
sun is coming up. Beverly kisses the top of Elliot's head.

BEVERLY
Be good.

Elliot smiles.

9 EXT. STREET. MANHATTAN. LITTLE LATER. 4.30AM. 9

BEVERLY is walking home, slowly. She has sunglasses on. She
yawns a big yawn, pulls her keys out of her pocket.

10 INT. NIGHTCLUB. SAME. 10

ELLIOT is standing at a busy bar. She leans over it, holding
an empty glass, smiling to get the BARTENDER's (20s, tattoos,
baby faced) attention. She grins at her.

The Bartender raises her eyebrows.

ELLIOT
(grinning, holding out her
glass)
Can I get a vodka. Ice. Please.

11 INT. NIGHTCLUB. A LITTLE LATER. 11

ELLIOT is dancing on her own. The dancefloor is quietening down - a few people remain, dancing in groups, or couples kissing messily, drunkenly.

Elliot is completely unselfconscious and comfortable in her body and her movements. She sweats. She dances hard.

12 INT. NIGHTCLUB. A LITTLE LATER. 12

ELLIOT is standing at the bar. She's finishing a drink. Vodka and ice. She shuts her eyes, pulls a face - it's strong. Shakes her head a bit, shaking it out of her body.

She swallows. Looks around at who's left.

Her eyes scan the room. A YOUNG WOMAN, asleep on the bar, her hair lying in a sticky pool of liquid. She smiles, watching as the BARTENDER gently moves her hair off the bar.

She moves her eyes quickly across the MEN who are left, assessing their faces, their bodies, their hands, their clothes.

She shakes her head as she looks across the room at the prospects, before landing on a guy in his 30s called RYAN. He's conventionally good looking, a little forgettable probably. He's with some friends, nursing a drink at the bar. She thinks about it.

He turns. Catches her eye. She looks at him. Smiles a small smile.

13 INT. GYM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. 5.15AM. 13

BEVERLY is running on a treadmill in a penthouse apartment overlooking Central Park.

Puccini plays loudly.

Behind her are huge crittal doors, where some of the apartment is visible. A large kitchen and a big dining table can be seen. Vases containing huge bunches of flowers sit on every surface. Scented candles are lit. Art hangs on the walls.

In the kitchen we can see GRETA (30s). She's juicing fruit and vegetables, tidying up, making avocado on toast. She sings along to the Puccini every so often - loudly and on the sections that are particularly high or low pitch.

She gestures wildly. We can't really see her properly - she is always in the background.

Beverly runs hard, sweat drips down her face. Her expression remains focused but something is distracting her - it's not quite working.

She shouts in frustration.

14

INT. NIGHTCLUB. SAME.

14

ELLIOT is sitting next to RYAN at the bar. She's eating olives and drinking a vodka. He's not drinking.

RYAN

Go on -

ELLIOT

No. I can't tell you -

RYAN

I won't be offended -

ELLIOT

I mean, you definitely would be -

RYAN

Come on. I'm pretty secure. I feel pretty good, pretty confident about how I look -

ELLIOT

You absolutely should -

RYAN

I get regular compliments -

ELLIOT

You deserve them -

RYAN

I can totally take it. Come on. Who do I look like?

She looks at him. Assesses his face.

ELLIOT

Honestly?

He nods.

RYAN

Bring it.

She blinks.

ELLIOT

Hitler.

He looks totally taken aback. Blinks. Laughs. Then stops laughing.

RYAN

Excuse me?

ELLIOT

I knew you'd be offended -

RYAN

Hitler?

ELLIOT

It's just, like, from a certain Angle -

RYAN

As in, Adolf?

ELLIOT

There are just some Similarities, a sort of Similar Vibe -

RYAN

Vibe, I have a Hitler Vibe -

ELLIOT

Everyone always focuses on the moustache, right, but if you Remove the moustache and actually Think about his Face -

RYAN

I mean -

ELLIOT

There are a couple of images of him where he's um, he's Topless and he actually had a really Good physique -

RYAN

You should stop talking now -

ELLIOT

It's just like, a little bit Hitlery. It's a really good face.

She smiles. He laughs.

She looks at him.

He takes an olive. Drops it. Picks it up again. She raises her eyebrows.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
I live three blocks away.

He looks at her. Nods. Slow.

RYAN
Nice neighbourhood.

She's still assessing him. He notices.

ELLIOT
Trying to decide if you're violent.

RYAN
Thanks?

ELLIOT
Capable of murder.

He frowns.

RYAN
Excuse me?

ELLIOT
You understand that the fucked up
shit your kind have been doing for
centuries to My kind means that
that's a necessary consideration,
right?

He chews the inside of his cheek, smiles a bit apologetic.
Nods.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
If you Were thinking about it, you
should know that I'm quite
important. People would notice.
Really quickly.

He frowns.

RYAN
Okay?

He pauses, trying to figure her out.

ELLIOT
I delivered a baby this morning.

He nods, slow.

RYAN
Delivered, as in -

ELLIOT
Cut it out of a woman's uterus.

He raises his eyebrows.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
I decided on the Precise moment
that that baby should take its
first lungful of air. I Decided
when that Life should begin.

He blinks.

RYAN
Wow.

ELLIOT
I get a bit wired afterwards. Can't
come down. Don't want to come down.
Can't sleep. Don't want to sleep.

RYAN
Right.

She finishes her drink. Looks at him.

ELLIOT
I find fucking really helps.

Keeps assessing him.

RYAN
Okay.

15 INT. BEVERLY'S BEDROOM. SAME.

15

BEVERLY is sitting up in a huge bed. The sheets are white, crisp. The room is simple, uncluttered. The lights are low. The sun is streaming in through the window.

She's working on her laptop, an eyemask pulling her hair back.

15 She takes a sip of herbal tea. Puts it back down on the side table.

GRETA comes in. She pulls the blinds down, closes the shutters.

BEVERLY

One second -

Greta shakes her head.

GRETA

Nope.

Beverly types faster, trying to get a task finished as Greta approaches.

Greta takes some lavender spray, gently and wordlessly lifts Beverly's head and back from her pillows and sprays them. Beverly resists a bit, but Greta is forceful.

BEVERLY

It's - can we not -

GRETA

It's good for you -

BEVERLY

Makes me Sneeze -

GRETA

It's Calming -

When she has finished, she leans Beverly back, who puts her head on the pillow and pulls her eye mask down.

Greta takes the laptop from the bed, shuts it, and puts it under her arm. She turns on a sound machine - rainforest noises fill the room. She lights candles.

BEVERLY

Can we -

GRETA

It's Calming, Beverly.

BEVERLY

I don't Feel fucking -

GRETA

Calming.

She turns the lights down.

She sprays the room with more lavender before she leaves.

Beverly tries to settle down. Rolls her neck a little. She moves around a little. Lifts her eye mask.

GRETA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (through the door)
 Sleep well, Beverly.

Beverly chews the inside of her cheek. Pulls her mask down. Moves onto her side. Takes a deep, shaky, inhale. She can't settle.

16 INT. ELEVATOR. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. SAME. 16

ELLIOT and RYAN are standing side by side in the lift. He looks a little awkward. She does not.

She is checking emails.

RYAN
 So -

She holds up a finger.

ELLIOT
 One second.

He looks more awkward. Nods.

17 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 17
 MOMENTS LATER. 6AM.

The elevator opens onto the main room of the apartment.

The Puccini has been replaced with something calmer, Tracy Chapman or similar, on a low, background volume.

GRETA is brewing coffee and pouring a smoothie into a glass. She looks up and clocks RYAN following ELLIOT out of the lift. She takes another glass from the side and pours a second smoothie and a second coffee.

She looks at the two of them - Ryan looks completely out of his depth, Elliot still finishing an email.

GRETA
 Good morning.

Elliot doesn't look up from her phone.

ELLIOT
 Morning Greta. This is Ryan.

Greta nods at Ryan. He holds a hand up in a kind of wave. Elliot looks up briefly. Grins.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Was that a salute?

He blushes, drops his hand.

GRETA
Are you guys ready to eat?

Ryan blinks, confused. Elliot shakes her head. Grabs an apple. She bites into it.

ELLIOT
Uh uh. Not yet. After.

She looks up. Glances at Ryan who looks completely unnerved.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Grab a coffee. I'll be two minutes.

He nods, his mouth a little open.

RYAN
Oh. Okay.

Elliot leaves.

GRETA
She's sleeping -

ELLIOT
Uh huh.

18 INT. BEVERLY'S ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

18

ELLIOT steps into Beverly's bedroom. BEVERLY is still, the eyemask down, the rainforest noises on.

Elliot watches her for a moment, the rise and fall of her chest even and steady.

When Beverly speaks, it is sudden, she looks as though she is still fast asleep.

BEVERLY
What's he like?

Elliot shrugs. Nods.

ELLIOT
Yeah. He'll do.

BEVERLY
Good.

Beverly turns over. Elliot goes to her.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
Can you turn that noise off.

Elliot pauses. Strokes Beverly's hair.

ELLIOT
Greta says you have to.

Beverly tries to get comfortable. Makes a noise of frustration.

Elliot kisses her forehead, gentle.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Sleep well.

19

INT. ELLIOT'S BEDROOM. A LITTLE LATER.

19

ELLIOT and RYAN are fucking.

Her bedroom is bigger than Beverly's - it's messier, more cluttered.

Ryan is on top. It's good - but it's not brilliant. She kisses him, and pushes him down, moving to get on top.

She reaches for something from her side table - a vibrator.

ELLIOT
This okay?

RYAN
Uh huh -

She shifts her weight a little, pushing it up inside her. He makes a noise and a face of surprise.

ELLIOT
Good?

RYAN
Uh huh -

His eyes widen.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Fuck -

ELLIOT
Yeah -

Fuck - RYAN

Yeah - ELLIOT

FUCK - RYAN

20 INT. DELIVERY ROOM, HOSPITAL. SAME. 20

The empty delivery room. The lights are off. Something bleeps, low and persistent.

21 INT. ELLIOT'S BEDROOM. A LITTLE LATER. 7AM. 21

ELLIOT and RYAN are lying in bed together. He's sleepy. She's still wide awake. They are lying on their sides, facing one another.

ELLIOT
Did you have to travel lots?

He yawns, nods.

RYAN
Wherever he was stationed.

ELLIOT
Do you have siblings?

He nods, his face a little sombre.

RYAN
Two brothers. And a sister, but she. Died. When I was a baby.

She nods. Holds his face, very intimate.

ELLIOT
Do you crave stability? Or run away from it?

He frowns, thoughtful. Half smiles. Looks at her.

RYAN
Yeah. I guess I crave it.

She nods.

22 INT. GYM, BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. 10AM. 22

ELLIOT is doing yoga. She works through a complicated routine, focused and steady.

We can see BEVERLY through the crittal doors, sitting up at the kitchen counter, working at her laptop. She eats toast, drinks black coffee.

RYAN comes out of the bedroom and into the kitchen, shirtless and looking bleary eyed and flustered. He is talking to Beverly in what looks like a panicked way. Elliot doesn't notice.

Beverly is shaking her head at Ryan, not really looking up from her laptop. She just points her finger towards where Elliot is.

He seems confused, looks at her, then follows where her finger is pointing and looks at Elliot, confused.

23 EXT. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. 10.30AM. 23

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are leaving their building and walking to the office. Beverly shuts the door behind her, takes a swig of a green juice in a bottle and pulls a face.

BEVERLY
This is disgusting.

ELLIOT
You don't get enough greens.

BEVERLY
I eat peas.

ELLIOT
You're a child -

Elliot swigs from her own bottle.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
And this is delicious.

As they turn the corner they pass a HOMELESS WOMAN - AGNES (30s / 40s) who is sitting on the pavement, looking tired. Elliot doesn't look at her as she hands her a \$20 bill.

BEVERLY
I had this dream.

BEVERLY

No sign of you anywhere. I kept diving and diving down to the bottom - this really tastes like fucking asshole, it tastes like the Inside of someone's Arsehole - and I was using All of my breath, but the water was So clear and you weren't anywhere -

ELLIOT

How d'you know what Arsehole tastes like - hang on a second -

Elliot stops by a pretzel cart, handing over the cash in exchange for the pretzel.

BEVERLY

And then I came up for air, and I'm Panicking, I'm having a full on Anxiety attack -

They start walking again.

ELLIOT

(taking a bite)
Yes, of course -

BEVERLY

And then there you were. Spread out on the boat. Totally oblivious. Like a shark.

ELLIOT

Well thank God for that -

BEVERLY

No, you've misUnderstood the dream -

ELLIOT

I haven't misunderstood at all - I'm a terrible person and I take up all the space - he was sweet, no?

BEVERLY

I think it's more complex than that - did you Want sweet -

ELLIOT

Of course it's complex, you're a Very Complicated Person, don't worry - there's always room for sweet. It's just now, I definitely want savoury -

BEVERLY
Did he look quite a lot like -

ELLIOT
Yeah -

BEVERLY
Just without the -

ELLIOT
Exactly.

24 INT. RECEPTION, MANTLE CLINIC. MOMENTS LATER.

24

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are walking into the reception of the clinic.

RORY (20s, sweet faced, hapless), is sitting behind the desk, talking to a woman in her 30s who we will come to know as GENEVIEVE. She's striking, serious looking and has a huge, convincing fake scar down the side of her face.

There are several other WOMEN sitting in chairs and on comfy looking sofas, reading tablets and magazines.

Elliot heads behind the desk to pick up some files, Beverly has her head down, reading something on her phone.

ELLIOT
(to Rory)
Morning -

RORY
Morning -
(to Genevieve)
We have Monday morning if that's
any good?

Genevieve looks through a little black diary.

GENEVIEVE
Uh huh, what time?

Elliot grabs a pile of medical files and heads towards the door where Beverly is standing, her head still in emails. On her way past Genevieve, she double takes at the scar.

ELLIOT
Jesus, are you okay, that looks
awful.

Genevieve looks at her, a little surprised.

GENEVIEVE

Are you Supposed to say that to patients?

Elliot pauses for a moment - frowns, momentarily pissed off. She recovers quickly, smiles.

ELLIOT

Are you a patient?

Genevieve smiles.

GENEVIEVE

Potential patient.

Elliot nods.

ELLIOT

You're quite right. I'm very sorry. I'm awful. Are you okay?

Genevieve blinks. Grins.

GENEVIEVE

It's fake. I'm an actor.

Elliot is surprised. She laughs. Starts walking away.

ELLIOT

Oh wow.

GENEVIEVE

Currently playing a victim. Obviously. I forgot it was there.

ELLIOT

(over her shoulder)

That's wild. Rory, make sure you give her to me.

She grins and she and Beverly are nearly at the office when MEGAN, 9 months pregnant and in the early stages of labour, and FELIX intercept them. Genevieve clocks Beverly and does her own double take - clocking that they're identical.

Beverly shakes her head.

BEVERLY

Go home Megan, you're not ready yet

-

MEGAN

It's starting, it's definitely starting -

Elliot smiles, looks at Felix, who looks sheepish.

ELLIOT
Contractions?

FELIX
Um. We thought so?

ELLIOT
Right?

BEVERLY
Go home and Rest, Megan -

MEGAN
I feel like it's starting -

BEVERLY
It's not.

MEGAN
I lost the plug - did Elliot show
you the picture of the plug -

BEVERLY
She did, it's a beautiful mucus
plug congratulations, go home
Megan, it's not happening yet.

Megan looks upset.

ELLIOT
One of the nurses can have a look
at you - go check in with Rory -

MEGAN
But -

BEVERLY
See you in about 12 hours Megan.

She smiles and goes into her office. Elliot looks at them. An apologetic smile.

25 INT. ELLIOT'S OFFICE, MANTLE CLINIC. A LITTLE LATER. 25

ELLIOT is sitting behind a desk. In front of her sit LARA (40s, elegant, rich, permanently pissed off) and NICKI (late 30s, kind faced, serene looking).

ELLIOT

I do understand that Lara, but it's just not something we can Negotiate

-

LARA

I fundamentally disagree.

Elliot smiles. Shrugs.

ELLIOT

Theeeeen. We're sort of at an. Impasse.

LARA

Good word -

ELLIOT

Isn't it -

LARA

But -

ELLIOT

Because I'm saying that this isn't even up for Discussion, and You're saying -

LARA

That yes it fucking is.

Lara smiles. Elliot chews the inside of her cheek, containing her own grin.

ELLIOT

Lara.

LARA

Elliot.

ELLIOT

I'm going to have to ask you not to swear at me.

LARA

You're Going to as in you're About to ask me not to swear at you or you're currently in the process of -

ELLIOT

In the process of, exactly -

LARA

Fuck off Elliot.

Elliot grins.

ELLIOT
Mrs Alexander -

LARA
Oh Wow -

ELLIOT
This is one of those instances -

LARA
Are you Serious -

ELLIOT
Where, frankly, I Agree with you -

LARA
Perfect -

ELLIOT
If you're happy -

LARA
I am -

ELLIOT
And, crucially, if Nicki is happy -

LARA
Nicki's happy aren't you Nicki -

ELLIOT
Lara -

LARA
Tell her how happy you are Nicki -

NICKI
I'm very happy -

ELLIOT
Then, personally speaking, as far
as I am concerned, that's good
enough for me -

LARA
Fantastic -

ELLIOT
But -

LARA
No -

ELLIOT
It isn't that straightforward -

LARA
Make it straightforward then.

Elliot looks at Lara. Tilts her head.

ELLIOT
Nicki has been your surrogate for
all five of your children.

LARA
Precisely.

ELLIOT
Your youngest child isn't yet one.

LARA
I like a small gap.

ELLIOT
Clearly.

Lara raises her eyebrows.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
There are regulations.

Elliot shrugs.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
My hands are tied.

Lara stares at Elliot. Narrows her eyes. She inhales through her nose. Closes her eyes for a moment. The light through the window is on her face. She opens her eyes.

LARA
You have your Benefit this evening,
I think.

Elliot suppresses a smile. Nods.

LARA (CONT'D)
Your fundraiser.

ELLIOT
Yep. Yep.

She nods. Looks at Lara. Lara touches the corner of her eye.

LARA
Yeah.

She tilts her head.

LARA (CONT'D)
You do know how supportive I've
been, don't you?

Elliot blinks. Looks a little blank. Recovers.

ELLIOT
Absolutely. Very. Supportive.

Lara nods.

LARA
Yeah, I'm. I'm not gonna be able to
come anymore.

Elliot blinks. Nods slowly, understanding.

LARA (CONT'D)
And I think that, like, maybe I
know some More people who aren't
gonna be able to make it anymore.

She pulls an 'I'm sorry' face. Stares at Elliot.

26

INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE. SAME.

26

BEVERLY is sitting behind her desk.

A couple - MAX (40s) and THERESE (40s) are sitting on the
other side of her desk. Therese is about three months
pregnant - perhaps she is just showing.

Beverly is uncomfortable and also increasingly pissed off.

THERESE
I just feel like. Everything. Keeps
going Wrong for me and, like. What
have I done to Deserve this, you
know? Like, I'm a Good Person.

Beverly blinks.

THERESE (CONT'D)
I just. You have an Image, you
know?

MAX
Yes.

THERESE
Of your Family -

MAX

Mmm.

THERESE

And. It feels like we're being
Punished, I think - I think I just
feel like we're being Punished -

BEVERLY

Punished?

Therese wells up. Nods. Max grips her hand.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

This Scan. At this Early stage is
primarily to detect any
Abnormalities.

Therese swallows. Dabs at her eyes.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

You have a Healthy baby.

Therese nods. Takes a deep breath.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

All of the evidence, This far,
suggests that you are carrying a
Healthy baby.

Max narrows his eyes.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

How are you being Punished exactly?

They stare at one another.

MAX

We had an Idea of what our family
would be.

Beverly blinks.

MAX (CONT'D)

We were hoping for a boy. We had
our hearts set on a boy.

Beverly looks at them like they are nuts.

BEVERLY

Sure.

MAX

We feel like we've essentially
ended up with the Opposite of that -

BEVERLY

That's Ludicrous, do you have Any
idea how fucking Lucky you are?

There's a pause - Beverly has lost her temper and they are
staring at her - appalled.

There's a knock at the door. Beverly pauses.

27

INT. BATHROOM, MANTLE CLINIC. MOMENTS LATER.

27

ELLIOT and BEVERLY are in the bathroom. Beverly is washing
her hands. Elliot is snorting a line of coke from a
neighbouring sink.

ELLIOT

I mean I kind of see her point.

Beverly watches Elliot snort the line. She comes up, looks at
her reflection, fluffs her hair a bit.

BEVERLY

Are you kidding?

Elliot blinks. Doesn't look at her.

ELLIOT

What has it actually got to do with
us? Really?

Beverly stares at her.

BEVERLY

Medically? A lot, it has a lot to
do with us -

ELLIOT

I just. I feel like a Man. I feel
like a Man Doctor, I feel like I've
got a dick between my legs and not
in a good way, I feel like I'm
Telling her no because some Men
made up some rules and -

BEVERLY

You sound about five years old -

ELLIOT
If they're happy, we're happy, I
mean, I just -

BEVERLY
She's Buying that woman's uterus
and treating it like it's a fucking
factory -

ELLIOT
You permanently sound like you're
fifteen -

BEVERLY
What did she say to you - did
she start twatting on about
money again and Waving her
chequebook around like she
invented money -

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Like you're fifteen and you
Just got high and then you
Just read the Communist
Manifesto and like, you're
the one who discovered it,
like No One else has realised
capitalism is a bit of a shit
to poor people -

BEVERLY
You know she hasn't Actually
donated that much money -

ELLIOT
She has -

BEVERLY
How much money has she given us?

Elliot thinks. Scrunches her nose up.

ELLIOT
A lot.

Beverly shakes her head.

BEVERLY
Fifty Thousand. Barely.
Comparatively, it's pennies. And
she knows it is.

Elliot blinks.

ELLIOT
Still.

BEVERLY
Still nothing.

ELLIOT

She's threatening to keep other people - other investors away.

Beverly rolls her eyes.

BEVERLY

Bullshit. She doesn't know anyone.

Elliot looks unsure.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

It's fine Elliot, you don't know the fucking numbers -

ELLIOT

I know the numbers - I can give you numbers -

BEVERLY

Go on then -

ELLIOT

Fifty four - Fifty Four is a number, I can say numbers Seven Thousand -

BEVERLY

You're a Tit -

ELLIOT

Fine, I don't know The numbers who says The numbers -

BEVERLY

I do I say The numbers -

ELLIOT

Sixteen Million - you said Sixteen Million, see I fucking listen -

BEVERLY

You can't seriously believe that she is in the right here?

Elliot pauses. Wrinkles her nose.

ELLIOT

You know I do.

Beverly pushes her tongue against the inside of her cheek.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

She wants babies, we can put babies
In the woman she is Paying to House
her babies -

BEVERLY

(disengaging with her)
Right.

ELLIOT

Yours want a Boy and not a fucking
girl, so what, why Shouldn't they
want what they want -

BEVERLY

Uhhh, it's not a fucking Food Order
-

ELLIOT

You want to have your baby on a
Wednesday, you want it to have blue
eyes, you want it to be incapable
of catching a fucking cold Ever,
you want twins, triplets, quads,
you want to stop the menopause, you
want Men to lactate, you want me to
tighten your vagina whilst I pull
your baby out of your belly button,
bring it fucking on - let's do the
research, let's make Anything
fucking happen -

BEVERLY

That is not what we Do, Elliot -

ELLIOT

That is not what You do. I will be
doing Some of that.

Beverly frowns. Chews the inside of her mouth.

BEVERLY

99 per cent of that is illegal. And
immoral. And bullshit.

Elliot smiles. Holds her sister's face in her hands. Kisses
her.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

None of that's in your speech
tonight. Right?

Elliot smiles. Holds her face still.

ELLIOT

You're so perfect. You're so deliciously perfect. Where do you come from? Roses round doors and white picket fences and women with long flowing hair - everyone looks like Eve -

Beverly rolls her eyes. Smiles in spite of herself. Elliot kisses her nose.

Elliot grins.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Swap?

Beverly looks at her.

28 INT. ELLIOT'S OFFICE, MANTLE CLINIC. MOMENTS LATER. 28

BEVERLY is sitting in Elliot's office. She stares at Lara. She smiles.

BEVERLY

How much money you generously donate has no relationship to the kind of treatment you receive under our care.

Lara pulls a face.

LARA

I mean. I distinctly hope that's not true.

Beverly looks at her.

LARA (CONT'D)

I don't donate to your cause out of altruism Beverly, I do it so you dedicate more time to me than your other patients.

Lara smiles. Beverly does not. Lara tilts her head.

LARA (CONT'D)

I'd hate to be able to miss your event this evening.

Beverly nods.

BEVERLY

That's fine, you don't have to come.

Lara blinks. Looks at her.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

You've got loads of kids. Evenings are hard. We get that.

LARA

You do.

Beverly nods.

BEVERLY

Sure. If neither you. Nor any of your rich friends can't make it, we understand.

She looks at her. Smiles.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

And I want you to know. That we'll be Absolutely fine.

Lara stares back. Pinches her lips together.

29

INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE. SAME.

29

ELLIOT is sitting on the desk, much closer to MAX and THERESE. She's holding a box of tissues, her expression is sensitive - understanding. Therese is still tearful, but both of them are nodding, listening.

ELLIOT

Gender disappointment is Incredibly common.

They nod.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Everyone has an idea of what the baby that they carry will look like - what the family portrait will be above the fireplace -

THERESE

Exactly - I think that's what it is.

Elliot nods, compassionate.

ELLIOT

Your feelings are entirely normal,
and completely valid. You imagined
a little boy -

Therese blinks, wiping away tears. Elliot nods.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

You just need to give yourself time
to Adjust. To begin imagining who
this little girl - this healthy
baby girl - is.

Therese manages a tearful smile. She nods. Max looks at
Elliot, earnest.

MAX

Thank you.

Elliot looks back at him. Her eyes briefly flick down. He
notices. She smiles. Pushes her tongue against her teeth.

ELLIOT

You're so welcome.

30

INT. EMPTY HOSPITAL ROOM. LATER. 1PM.

30

ELLIOT and BEVERLY are sitting in a huge, empty space. It's
clearly a hospital, but is mid building project.

They're sitting on the floor, eating their lunch. Elliot eats
hungrily. Beverly picks at a bag of salad and a punnet of
strawberries.

BEVERLY

D'you know what you're going to
say?

Elliot eats.

ELLIOT

Course.

BEVERLY

You've read through the notes?

Elliot stuffs crisps into her sandwich.

ELLIOT

Uh huh.

Beverly looks around the room.

BEVERLY
Can you imagine?

Elliot chews.

ELLIOT
Yeah. Pretty much.

She pauses.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
I always get what I want.

Beverly thinks.

BEVERLY
You do.

31 EXT. STREET, MANHATTAN. LATER. 31

BEVERLY is walking along the street, headphones in, rucksack on her back.

32 EXT. STREET, MANHATTAN. SAME. 32

ELLIOT is walking along a different street. She hails a cab.

33 INT. TRAIN, SUBWAY. LATER. 33

BEVERLY is sitting on a fast moving train in the subway. She has her headphones in. She looks straight ahead, doesn't clock the MAN opposite her, checking her out.

34 INT. CAB. SAME. 34

ELLIOT is sitting in the back of a cab. She looks at emails on her phone. She chews a nail. She looks up.

ELLIOT
Here - yep, just here is good.

The taxi pulls in.

35 EXT. STREET. HARLEM. A LITTLE LATER. 35

BEVERLY is walking down a busy street in Harlem. It's run down - we're in a different part of New York. She has her headphones in, her backpack on still.

36 INT. LAB, HOSPITAL. SAME. 36

ELLIOT is working on her own in what looks like a lab. It feels like a completely different space to one we have seen before - she's got safety goggles on, the white coat etc.

She's doing something that looks much more scientific than we have seen - she's working with petri dishes and pipettes.

Working alongside her is TOM (40s, bored, skinny).

They don't talk.

37 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, HARLEM. A LITTLE LATER. 37

BEVERLY is walking through a hospital in Harlem. It has none of the shine or polish of the medical scenes we've seen thus far.

It's busy, loud, traumatic. Beverly walks through.

38 INT. LAB. SAME. 38

ELLIOT is pulling her gloves off and leaving the lab. TOM, who was engrossed in his work, notices her leaving.

TOM
Where're you going?

ELLIOT
Need to get back.

She leaves, going into the corridor.

39 INT. CORRIDOR, LAB. CONTINUOUS. 39

ELLIOT is hanging her lab coat up, getting her jacket from a hook.

TOM comes out. Lifts his goggles.

TOM
Drink?

She shakes her head.

ELLIOT
Got a patient. And this. Fundraiser thing.

He nods, slow, remembering.

TOM
Oh yeah. Your incense and yoga ball
birthing centre.

She grins.

ELLIOT
Yeah. That's why we've raised
hundreds of millions of dollars.
For some yoga balls.

He smiles. She starts to walk away.

TOM
Is there gonna be food?

ELLIOT
You're not coming.

TOM
I could come. For a bit -

ELLIOT
No. Are those ski goggles -

TOM
They're comfier - I could meet your
sister -

ELLIOT
You're not meeting my sister -

TOM
Is there going to be tiny food? I
love tiny food.

She's leaving.

ELLIOT
(not turning around)
Don't fucking come Tom.

He smiles. Watches her go.

40 INT. CUBICLE, HOSPITAL, HARLEM. LATER.

40

BEVERLY is sitting opposite CAMILA in a cramped cubicle.

Outside is a busy waiting room of pregnant teenage girls with
varying sized bumps.

Camila is 14, heavily pregnant, Hispanic. She looks frightened. Beverly looks at her notes. Then up at her. She smiles, kindly.

BEVERLY

How are you feeling Camila?

Camila stares back at her, wide eyed, looking very young.

41 INT. PRIVATE ROOM, HOSPITAL, MANHATTAN. SAME. 41

ELLIOT is standing. FRANCESCA is lying in bed, holding her BABY.

CHRISTOPHER is sitting on the edge of the bed. They both look tired and happy and emotional.

FRANCESCA

I feel fine. Good. Amazing.

ELLIOT

That's wonderful.

Elliot smiles at them.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

And you've managed to feed.

FRANCESCA

Yes -

CHRISTOPHER

She's been incredible -

ELLIOT

Any pain?

FRANCESCA

A little, but just in the way you described -

ELLIOT

Good. When is your lactation consultant coming?

FRANCESCA

Tomorrow. As soon as we're home.

ELLIOT

And your placenta?

Francesca holds up a bright pink smoothie. Elliot smiles.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
How is it?

FRANCESCA
Honestly? It's pretty good.

ELLIOT
And baby?

Francesca looks up at her. Tears in her eyes. She goes to say something and can't. Smiles. Tries again.

FRANCESCA
Wonderful. She's just wonderful.

They both gaze at Elliot.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
Thank you so much. For everything.

Elliot smiles.

42 INT. CUBICLE, HOSPITAL, HARLEM. AS BEFORE.

42

CAMILA is lying down. BEVERLY is listening to the heartbeat. Outside, someone is screaming. They both manage to ignore this.

BEVERLY
Good. Nice and strong.

She smiles.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
Can you hear that?

Camila pauses. Nods.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
Okay. Let's sit you up.

Camila pulls her top down. She sits up, slowly. Beverly sits down. Looks at her notes.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
So we need to talk a bit about the birth, Camila.

Camila swallows. She's pushing her nails into the palms of her hands. Beverly watches this. Watches the nail go right into the skin. She moves her own hands into a fist. Swallows. Looks back up at her face.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
We talked about macrosomia last
time, didn't we?

Camila just looks at her.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
Because you didn't present until
you were 30 weeks -

Camila frowns.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
Because we didn't Meet you before
then - your blood sugar levels have
been high and we haven't been able
to control that.

Camila nods, just a little.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
So the baby is measuring large -
particularly the upper body.

Camila blinks.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
Which is what we call macrosamia.

Camila nods again.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
And so that means that it might be
difficult for the baby to enter the
birth canal, okay?

Camila chews her lip. Beverly watches.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
So we're going to look at cesarean.
Do you know what a cesarean is?

Camila looks at her.

CAMILA
You cut it out.

Beverly blinks. Nods.

BEVERLY
That's right.

Camila stares.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
It's okay to be nervous.

CAMILA
I'm not nervous.

Beverly looks at her.

BEVERLY
I'd be nervous.

Camila looks impassive. Shakes her head.

CAMILA
I don't want it.

Beverly nods.

BEVERLY
I know.

CAMILA
I don't want it in me.

Beverly swallows.

BEVERLY
I know.

CAMILA
So you can cut it out. I don't
care. Cut it out and do what you
like with it.

Beverly looks at her.

43 EXT. STREET. MANHATTAN. A LITTLE LATER. 43

ELLIOT is walking at a comically slow pace along the street.
She has sunglasses on. She looks so tired.

44 INT. TRAIN, SUBWAY. SAME. 44

BEVERLY sits on the train. She presses a fingernail into her
wrist. She stares straight ahead - she doesn't seem to notice
she's doing it.

45 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 45
MOMENTS LATER.

ELLIOT is stepping out of the elevator and into the apartment. She's exhausted.

The room is a hub of activity. GRETA is arranging huge bunches of flowers and moving furniture around. A woman - LUISA (50s) is cooking in the kitchen.

A young MAN - MIKEY (20, baby faced) is polishing glasses. Elliot still has her sunglasses on.

ELLIOT
(tearful - like a child)
Greta, I need a bath.

GRETA
Running one already.

Whilst her and Greta talk, Elliot stands still and Greta undresses her like a child - taking her coat and shoes off and then her clothes until she's down to her underwear. Luisa doesn't seem bothered. Mikey blushes bright red and doesn't know where to look.

ELLIOT
I'm really tired Greta, I'm really
really tired -

GRETA
You work very hard.

ELLIOT
I do, I work really hard and then I
get Burnt out and Tired -

GRETA
I'm not surprised -

ELLIOT
I need a Holiday - I'm cold, it's
Cold in here -

GRETA
It's at the correct temperature,
let's get you in the bath -

ELLIOT
I'm just very chilly and I don't
feel like I can Do tonight -

GRETA
You're going to be great -

ELLIOT
With all the People and the Money
stuff -

GRETA
You'll be fantastic -

ELLIOT
Did you put Lavender in the bath -

GRETA
Yes of course -

ELLIOT
Are there anchovies? I feel like I
can Smell anchovies -

GRETA
Luisa, there are no anchovies are
there -

LUISA
No anchovies -

GRETA
I'll make a hot water bottle -

LUISA
No anchovies on Anything -

GRETA
Arms up -

Elliot lifts her arms up. Greta pulls her top over her head so she is standing in her bra and pants and sunglasses in the kitchen. She looks at Mikey.

ELLIOT
Hi.

He blushes.

MIKEY
Uh. Hi.

ELLIOT
Who does this child belong to?

MIKEY
I'm -

GRETA
This is Mikey -

ELLIOT

Is Mikey your child Greta? Did you have a child? Congratulations on your child.

GRETA

He's a waiter, he'll be serving this evening -

ELLIOT

Are you twelve, Mikey?

Mikey looks flustered.

MIKEY

No.

Elliot looks up. Stares at him. Runs her tongue along her teeth. Looks him up and down, her head tilted.

She smiles. He blushes.

ELLIOT

Okay. Hi Mikey. I'm Elliot.

46 INT. SHOWER. LATER. 46
BEVERLY is in the shower. She holds her face up to the water.

47 INT. BATHROOM. SAME. 47
ELLIOT is in a deep bath. There's fresh lavender and candles everywhere. Huge piles of bubbles. She still has her sunglasses on.

BEVERLY (O.S.)

How was this afternoon?

Elliot pauses.

ELLIOT

Fine. Boring. Fine. Just patients. You?

There's a small pause.

BEVERLY

Yeah. Good. Sad.

ELLIOT

Don't talk about it please. It's too sad I can't bear it.

She sinks under the water.

48 INT. BEVERLY'S BEDROOM. A LITTLE LATER. 48

ELLIOT is asleep, wrapped in a towel Beverly's bed. Her hair is wet.

BEVERLY is getting dressed. She's wearing black. She looks at her reflection in the mirror. At Elliot on the bed.

She looks back at her reflection. She has scars - faint - on her arms. She blinks. Rolls down her sleeves.

49 EXT. LAKE. DAY. 49

We are high above a lake, just for a second. There is a little boat bobbing in the middle of it. BEVERLY is swimming towards it.

50 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 50 LATER.

The room is a busy hum of well heeled, professional, *rich* looking people. GRETA, RORY, BEVERLY and ELLIOT are in the room. We also spot LARA, on her phone, not eating, batting away

Other guests are eating canapes, served by MIKEY and other WAITERS. The lighting is beautiful, the music has a deep, low beat. Conversation is flowing, Elliot is circulating, laughing, putting her hand on everyone's arms as she talks to them. Her tongue is on her teeth, her eyes widen - she is absolutely masterful at making each individual feel special and noticed.

Beverly watches her, holding a glass of wine. She's anxious, a little uneasy.

51 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 51A LITTLE LATER.

ELLIOT is laughing as she talks to a smart looking COUPLE (40s).

ELLIOT
- absolutely. No, Absolutely.

She touches them both on their arms and turns away, holding up an empty glass.

She walks away, in search of a refill, stopping at a bunch of yellow flowers. All of the other flowers are lilac and white.

GRETA is next to her.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Where did these come from?

Greta looks at them.

GRETA
From Ryan.

Elliot pulls a face, frowns.

ELLIOT
Who the fuck is Ryan?

GRETA
(without pausing)
Your guest this morning.

Elliot thinks.

ELLIOT
Ohhhh.

She looks at the flowers.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
(disappointed)
Oh.

Elliot looks across at her sister, who is being talked At by a MAN. They catch eyes. Smile at one another for what feels like a moment too long.

52 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 52
LATER.

ELLIOT is standing near a presentation board that has the Mantle Clinic logo on it, and a picture of a woman holding a baby. There's some text that we can make out - Mantle Birthing Center.

The room is quiet, facing her, listening to her talk. BEVERLY stands at the side, watching her.

As Elliot talks, we scan the room, close on faces. Sweat on a forehead, a fine layer of powder on a woman's cheekbone, saliva pooling in someone's mouth as they smile.

ELLIOT

- and that Maternal Instinct has been Eroded over the last few decades. That Primal, powerful experience is being ignored and replaced with machines and tests, equipment and noise. We are making things less natural, but crucially, far less Safe for women as we push forward in structures conceived and built by men. Men, who have, as far as I know, No idea what it is like to birth a child.

A ripple of smiles around the room.

We continue to scan the room as Elliot speaks.

A MAN with his arm around a WOMAN's waist. He is pinching her skin. Her smile remains plastered on.

A WOMAN laughing a little too hard has very visible signs of cocaine around her nose.

A LITTLE GIRL plays on an iPhone in the corner. She eats a strawberry. A MAN stares at her.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

We want to Empower women. To Choose the birth that They want. To recognise the power that is inbuilt into their body, their structure, their bones.

Elliot smiles, looking around the room.

A WOMAN - SOPHIE (late 40s) is staring at Beverly. Beverly smiles. Sophie smiles back. Beverly looks away, but when she glances back, Sophie is still looking at her.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

And that's why we're working towards opening the new Mantle Clinic Birthing and Research Center. A space that will offer an entirely bespoke service in a Safe environment that can be Responsive to every woman's needs.

(MORE)

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Whether that's working with our in house nutritionists, chefs, photographers and doulas, Or about being in an environment where we have the means and ability to move from a birth centre to a hospital environment with ease and speed. This is about recognising each woman as an individual, and doing Everything we possibly can to support and empower her -

A MAN is tapping his foot, energised and wired, apparently unaware of the sound he is making.

A WOMAN stuffs a large blini and caviar into her mouth. The black covers her teeth.

Beverly can feel Sophie staring at her still. She tries to refocus her attention back to her sister. She rubs the back of her neck, feeling Sophie's eyes on her.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

- alongside a research centre that promises to be Genuinely Pioneering in fertility research. Meaning that Nothing - Nothing - should stop men and women having the babies that They want -

Beverly frowns at this - this is way off script. She looks at her sister, who looks momentarily disturbed as she notices TOM at the back of the room. He raises two small canapes at her, grinning.

53 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 53 LATER.

Everyone is milling around, eating food, talking, drinking vodka and wine.

ELLIOT is talking to TOM, looking pissed off, gesticulating firmly. SOPHIE is still watching BEVERLY, who is pouring herself a drink, watching her sister, curious.

ELLIOT comes over, puts her hand on her neck and kisses her.

ELLIOT

I got you a present.

BEVERLY

Is it fifty million dollars.

ELLIOT

Almost.

BEVERLY

(nodding towards Tom)

Who was that man?

Elliot pulls a face.

ELLIOT

Oh. Bad date. Won't take the hint.

Beverly frowns.

BEVERLY

He is Hoovering the canapes.

ELLIOT

He's poor. Poor people go nuts for tiny food.

Beverly raises an eyebrow.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Anyway. Your gift.

Elliot kisses her on the cheek and slings her arm around her neck. She looks at Sophie, who was looking at them, but quickly looks away. Elliot grins.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I'd put a bow on it, but I don't know how she'd feel about that.

Beverly rolls her eyes.

54 EXT. BALCONY, BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. A LITTLE LATER.

BEVERLY is smoking. The party is still going on inside.

SOPHIE steps out onto the balcony. Beverly gives her a small smile. Sophie watches her smoke for a moment.

BEVERLY

D'you want one?

Sophie swallows. Shakes her head. Looks out at the park.

SOPHIE

I didn't know that Elliot had a twin.

Beverly nods.

BEVERLY

(flat)

Ta da.

Sophie smiles. Doesn't look at her.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

There's usually some plan if she didn't disclose that.

Sophie nods, slow.

SOPHIE

Yes.

Beverly inhales.

BEVERLY

How do you know her?

Sophie looks at her.

SOPHIE

I'm her chiropractor.

Beverly frowns, momentarily confused. She nods, slow.

BEVERLY

I thought her chiropractor was a man.

Sophie raises her eyebrows.

SOPHIE

I feel like I should be very offended. Is that based on a description or -

Beverly laughs.

BEVERLY

No, she just. My mistake.

Sophie looks at her.

SOPHIE

Can I have one actually?

Beverly nods. Passes her the packet and some matches.

Sophie lights up.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I think she thought I was attracted
to her.

Beverly widens her eyes. Inhales. Shrugs.

BEVERLY

Possible. Probable.

Sophie keeps her eye on Beverly.

SOPHIE

I mean. I was.

BEVERLY

Right.

Beverly smiles.

SOPHIE

I just assumed she was straight.

Beverly nods.

BEVERLY

She is.

Sophie inhales.

SOPHIE

But you?

Beverly smiles. Pauses.

55 EXT. BALCONY, BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. MOMENTS LATER 55

BEVERLY is masturbating SOPHIE. Sophie is close to orgasm, Beverly watches her face, her mouth is a little open, she can see the saliva beneath her tongue.

SOPHIE

Fuck.

Sophie moves her hands towards Beverly, but she pushes them back, watching as Sophie arches her neck, tipping her head back, on the verge of cumming, when we:

CUT TO:

56 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 56
SAME.

ELLIOT is talking to a woman - FREYA in her late fifties. She's wearing an expensive looking suit. They are standing next to a 3D model of the birthing centre. Elliot is playing with the people as she talks.

ELLIOT

- and then Remove a portion of the ovaries, cryogenically freeze it - and when you Reach an age where the menopause might start to kick in - the tissue is Thawed and re-implanted in order to restore the Younger, Natural hormones -

BEVERLY

(sitting down)

Yes, but no one knows the Longterm effects of what that might Do -

FREYA

I mean, Seriously? When has that ever been an argument?

Beverly looks momentarily surprised. Elliot laughs.

FREYA (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Hi -

BEVERLY

Hi, sorry, Beverly -

FREYA

Of course -

ELLIOT

This is Freya -

BEVERLY

Hi -

ELLIOT

Freya is an Architect -

FREYA

I was admiring your model -

BEVERLY

You like it?

FREYA
 You can tell a woman designed it. I
 like Leonie's work.

Beverly nods. Smiles.

FREYA (CONT'D)
 (lifting up a figure)
 I think you'll want more light
 though. Here.

Beverly looks. Smiles. Drinks.

ELLIOT
 Where've you been?

Beverly is looser, more relaxed, energised than we have seen
 her.

BEVERLY
 Outside -

FREYA
 We were talking about -

FREYA (CONT'D)
 Delaying the menopause -

BEVERLY
 Delaying the menopause, yes I
 got that -

FREYA
 You object -

BEVERLY
 It's Frankenstein shit -

FREYA
 As opposed to all the super natural
 baby making shit you do -

BEVERLY
 I'm not necessarily a champion of
 those processes -

FREYA
 Though you do them -

BEVERLY
 Some of them -

FREYA

Despite the fact that the planet is
horrifically overpopulated and
doesn't Need any more upper east
side white people to make more
babies.

Beverly grins.

FREYA (CONT'D)

Your sister was talking to me about
some of the Research that you guys
might be able to do once you open -

Beverly pulls a face, looks at Elliot.

BEVERLY

I mean. Not anything to do with
menopause delay, certainly -

ELLIOT

Well, that's not Necessarily -

BEVERLY

Illegal? And, something we have
discussed -

ELLIOT

I think it's Fascinating -

FREYA

So you think it's yet another
Necessary pain women have to endure
for no reason?

BEVERLY

I think it's complicated.

ELLIOT

Bullshit.

FREYA

You know, if Men went through this -

BEVERLY

Sure, we'd have fucking Eradicated
it - but that argument is like the
the the mentioning Hitler in debate
argument -

ELLIOT

That guy again -

FREYA
 Godwins law -

BEVERLY
 Exactly - it's pointless. It's boring. The world would be Completely different if men experienced the same things women experience, we're agreed, the patriarchy fucking sucks, I'm on board, you don't have to recruit me - it doesn't mean I think we should endlessly fuck with nature.

Freya smiles. ELLIOT smiles.

FREYA
 Well. I'd be thrilled to hear about the research should you change your minds.

ELLIOT
 Absolutely.

Beverly blinks. Looks at Elliot who is looking across the room at TOM, who is looking over at them. Beverly looks a little confused / perturbed.

BEVERLY
 Well. When we're up for losing our medical licenses for that particular cause, we'll give you a call.

Freya smiles.

57 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM, BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 57
 LATER.

BEVERLY is talking to a lesbian couple - REBECCA (50s) and SUSAN (30s).

ELLIOT is pushing TOM out of the apartment. Beverly is focused on her conversation.

SUSAN
 It was Awful. It was The most Awful experience of my life and we have Money, you know.
 (MORE)

SUSAN (CONT'D)

We are able to Pay our way out of that experience - I can have counselling, personal trainers, I can Eat well, I can rest as much as me and my body Need to and I still feel traumatised by what should have been the most wonderful experience of my life.

Beverly nods, moved, but serious.

BEVERLY

That's why we're doing this. So that Nobody - and that's why the Medicaid component is so essential, I mean, this is a Business venture, absolutely - but we're Doing this because Nobody should have the experience you had -

Susan nods. Rebecca looks a little bored.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

And I am So sorry that you did.

Susan nods again.

SUSAN

We want to invest.

She looks at Rebecca.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Don't we?

Rebecca smiles - Rebecca is clearly the money.

REBECCA

We do.

SUSAN

We've been looking for something that could Mean something to us, and we want to write you a cheque to make this happen Beverly, and to make it happen Fast. People Need this. Women Need this. You are Needed.

Beverly smiles. Closes her eyes for a moment. Opens them, emotional. Nods.

BEVERLY
That would mean. Everything to us.
Everything.

Rebecca nods, she smiles. Embraces Beverly. They laugh.

58 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 58
MOMENTS LATER.

BEVERLY is standing at the kitchen. She knocks back a drink.
She is wired, emotional - she fucking did it.

ELLIOT, across the room, sees this. She comes to her. Puts
her arms around her neck, her mouth close to her ear.

ELLIOT
And?

Beverly closes her eyes. Smiles.

BEVERLY
We did it.

Elliot spins her around so that they are forehead to
forehead.

ELLIOT
The Parkers?

Beverly nods.

BEVERLY
They just wrote us a cheque. For
Sixteen Million Dollars.

Elliot closes her eyes. Blinks.

ELLIOT
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

She kisses Beverly.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
You fucking angel.

Beverly grins.

Elliot embraces her, hard.

59 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT 59
LATER.

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are in the kitchen. They are sitting on top of the table. Elliot drinks vodka. Beverly drinks tea. MIKEY and LUISA are tidying up. Elliot eats tiramisu from a large dish.

GRETA is standing by the elevator. The doors open.

RYAN is there.

Elliot looks at him. He looks at her. He's awkward - already this is not the reception he was expecting. Elliot spoons more tiramisu into her mouth. Looks at Mikey, then at Ryan.

ELLIOT
This is Mikey.

Ryan looks at Mikey. Slightly confused.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
We had a party.
(to Luisa)
This is fucking delicious.

He nods.

RYAN
Okay.

ELLIOT
She makes the most incredible
tiramisu. Want some?

He pauses. Shakes his head. Takes a breath.

RYAN
I've been thinking about you.

She blinks.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Did you get the flowers.

She nods.

GRETA
They were yellow.

Ryan looks at her, surprised. Nods.

RYAN
Yeah, I. Wanted something cheerful.

Greta winces slightly. She calls the lift. Ryan is awkward.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I had a really nice time. With you.
I haven't. Talked like that. With
anyone. For. Like, a really long
time.

Elliot nods.

ELLIOT

I'm a. Hungry person. That's what
Beverly says.

Beverly looks up. She gets off the table.

BEVERLY

She likes to Feast on a person.

Ryan looks at her. Confused.

RYAN

Okay?

BEVERLY

But just once.

Elliot looks at Mikey. Smiles.

ELLIOT

(leaving the room)
Night.

Ryan watches her go. Mikey does too.

Beverly gives him a quick, sympathetic smile.

BEVERLY

Night, Greta.

Greta smiles. Beverly leaves the room, following her sister.

Greta looks at Ryan.

GRETA

I'll show you out.

He looks at her, totally confused.

60 INT. ELEVATOR. BEVERLY AND ELLIOT'S APARTMENT. MOMENTS LATER.

GRETA and RYAN are in the elevator. Greta is on her phone.
Ryan is looking a little winded.

RYAN

Were the flowers being Yellow a mistake?

Greta doesn't look at him, she keeps texting.

GRETA

It was all a mistake. All of your actions have been a mistake.

He blinks.

61 INT. BEVERLY'S BEDROOM. A LITTLE LATER.

61

BEVERLY and ELLIOT are curled up in bed together, wrapped around one another. Elliot is falling asleep. Beverly strokes her cheek.

BEVERLY

We did it.

ELLIOT

We did it.

BEVERLY

We fucking did it.

ELLIOT

Can't sleep.

BEVERLY

Nearly there.

ELLIOT

Don't want to.

BEVERLY

Nearly there.

ELLIOT

Did you like your gift.

BEVERLY

Mmm.

ELLIOT

Did you cum.

BEVERLY

None of your business.

ELLIOT

Everything's my business.

Beverly pauses.

BEVERLY

I know.

Elliot pauses.

ELLIOT

We did it.

BEVERLY

We fucking did it.

We look down at them, wrapped around each other. It's quiet. Too quiet.

62

INT. NICU. LATER.

62

We're in the NICU where rows of BABIES are sleeping in their little cribs. We stay on them for a moment.

VOICE (O.S.)

Doctor Mantle?

We cut to BEVERLY, in her scrubs, staring down at the babies.

BEVERLY

Yes.

VOICE (O.S.)

Megan's here. She's 7 centimetres.

BEVERLY

Okay.

Beverly keeps looking at the babies.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

I'm ready.

She smiles.

Then turns and leaves. We stay on the babies, the steady sound of the monitors, the hum of the hospital far away.