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Script

CHICAGO HOPE

"A Day In The Life"

Written by
Sara B. Charno

FILE
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Story #4632
First Draft

CHICAGO HOPE

"A Day In The Life"

CAST LIST

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| DR. AARON SHUTT..... | Adam Arkin |
| DR. PHILLIP WATTERS..... | Hector Elizondo |
| DR. DANIEL NYLAND..... | Thomas Gibson |
| DR. BILLY KRONK..... | Peter Berg |
| DR. DIANE GRAD..... | Jayne Brook |
| DR. KATHRYN AUSTIN..... | Christine Lahti |
| DR. KEITH WILKES..... | Rocky Carroll |
| DR. JACK McNEIL..... | Mark Harmon |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Tommy Wilmette..... | Ron Silver |
| Dr. Caroline Eggert..... | Sam Jenkins |
| Dr. Grace Carr..... | Vanessa Williams |
| Dr. Sean Underhill..... | John DiMaggio |
| Maggie Murphy..... | Maggie Murphy |
| Gloria Neal..... | Maggie Baird |
| Paramedic #1..... | Terence Mathews |
| Antonia White..... | Laurie O'Brien |
| Tracey White..... | Jannifer Aspen |
| Orderly Cortez..... | Benito Martinez |
| Dr. Douglas Russ..... | Lorry Goldman |
| Paramedic #2..... | Michelle Wolff |
| Jerry Cogdill..... | Rainbow Borden |
| Karen Wilder..... | Kathryn Harrold |
| Dr. Brooks..... | Brian Grandison |
| Dr. Hamano..... | Patty Toy |
| Dr. Lloyd Chernow..... | Stu Charno |
| Nurse..... | Linda Klein |

CHICAGO HOPE

"A Day In The Life"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

CHICAGO HOPE HOSPITAL

CORRIDOR

E.R.

E.R. CUBICLE

ELEVATOR

SCRUB ROOM

O.R.

STAIRWELL

M.R.I. ROOM

I.C.U./JERRY COGDILL'S ROOM

CORRIDOR OUTSIDE O.R.

POST-OP

NURSES' STATION

TRACEY WHITE'S ROOM

CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TRACEY WHITE'S ROOM

CORRIDOR OUTSIDE I.C.U

CHICAGO HOPE

"A Day In the Life"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. WILMETTE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

1

Dr. DANIEL NYLAND paces, waiting. After a moment, TOMMY WILMETTE bursts in, carrying traveling gear.

WILMETTE

Dr. Nyland. Thanks for meeting me late. My flight from Washington was delayed.

Wilmette drops his bundles, looks through messages.

NYLAND

If this is about my probation, my record has been spotless.

WILMETTE

You seem a little defensive.

NYLAND

Just tired of you bastards busting my hump. First you suspend me, then put me on probation--

WILMETTE

That's what I like about you, Dr. Nyland. You don't care who you piss off. An important quality for someone in power.

(beat)

I've got an offer for you.

NYLAND

The answer is no.

WILMETTE

So close minded.

NYLAND

Just smart. I recognize the symptoms of getting shafted.

WILMETTE

I know they cut your E.R. hours. I know you're pulling in less than half what you used to make.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

NYLAND

Make your pitch and let me go home. It's been a long night.

WILMETTE

Chicago Hope is paring down its staff, combining jobs. We need someone part-time in the Resource Management department. A doctor.

NYLAND

(laughing)

Whoa-ho! Bean counter. If it wasn't so funny, I'd be insulted.

WILMETTE

(laughing too)

Insulted? I'm complimenting you. You'll be helping maintain the financial integrity of Chicago Hope.

NYLAND

You want someone to limit the tests run and the drugs used, and throw out patients when the insurance companies refuse to pay.

WILMETTE

Someone who'll have a say in the treatment of every doctor's patient.

NYLAND

And who'll be hated by those very same doctors.

WILMETTE

Someone who will be entrusted with a powerful position.

NYLAND

How do you know I won't abuse that power?

WILMETTE

I'm sure you're smart enough to know how much abuse you can get away with. The business end of healthcare, Danny. Where all the money is. You want to spend your life patching people up for less

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

WILMETTE (CONT)
and less money?
(off Nyland's look)
We could make it very lucrative
for you... But it depends on how
well you do your job.

Beat as Nyland considers this bond with the devil.

NYLAND
I'll think about it.

WILMETTE
Good. You can start in the
morning.

With no more ado, Wilmette goes back to his paperwork. Nyland
watches a beat, then exits into:

2 INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

2

Nyland enters, closing door behind him. Slowly smiles.

NYLAND
Sweet.

On Nyland, pleased,

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

3 INT. CORRIDOR - EARLY MORNING

3

DR. PHILLIP WATTERS strides down the Corridor. Tagging along
is MAGGIE MURPHY, taking notes. Dr. KATHRYN AUSTIN runs to
catch up. Austin is in scrubs and lab coat. To Maggie:

WATTERS
Call ROBI and tell them to
contact the other recipients and
their doctors.

AUSTIN
Has the donor arrived?

WATTERS
They're transporting him from a
Critical Care Unit in Lombard.
This couldn't come at a better
time. Four of our patients are
waiting for transplants.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

AUSTIN

One of my patients is on her way.
Cystic fibrosis patient waiting
for a lung transplant. I'm going
to need an O.R.

MAGGIE

O.R. Three's ready for organ
recovery, I'll see how many other
O.R.'s I can clear for the
transplants.

On Maggie, Austin and Watters, as they enter:

4 INT. E.R. - EARLY MORNING

4

Busy. Nurses wheeling Patients into Cubicles, Doctors making
notes -- a lot of activity. Dr. KEITH WILKES approaches. To
Wilkes:

WATTERS

Any word?

WILKES

ETA five minutes. Who's
receiving?

WATTERS

I am.

(to Austin)

What's your patient's name?

AUSTIN

Tracey White.

WATTERS

How critical is she?

AUSTIN

She could go into CO2 narcosis
any day. Phillip, I'd like to
recover first.

WATTERS

(to Maggie)

Put Dr. Austin on top of the
list.

Maggie peels off.

AUSTIN

Thanks, Phillip.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

Wilkes, Austin and Watters walk away, passing Drs. GRACE CARR, CAROLINE EGGERT and SEAN UNDERHILL at Nurses' Station. While they chart, Carr and Underhill are laughing, apparently at Eggert's expense.

EGGERT

It wasn't funny. The circulation was poor. There wasn't enough air.

Eggert grabs a chart. Carr continues to laugh.

CARR

What about when you fainted debriding Dr. Grad's burn patient. Or barfed on that drunk with the gangrenous toe...

EGGERT

I had the flu...

CARR

The more you make excuses, the more you avoid the issue.

EGGERT

There is no issue. And who asked you, anyway?

As Carr walks off, she encounters SHANNON WHITE, forties, worn down. She pushes in wheelchair, TRACEY WHITE, early twenties, thin, eyes shining with the fierceness of someone who has to fight for every second of life. Baseball cap worn backwards, hooked to portable oxygen. Shannon stops Carr.

SHANNON

We're looking for Dr. Austin?

Austin comes walking forward.

AUSTIN

Here I am, Shannon.

(to Tracey)

Hey, Trace. Hell of an hour to come to the hospital.

SHANNON

We've been through this before. We know that call comes at any hour.

Tracey pulls softball from jacket, tossing it to Austin.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

TRACEY

I brought the ball.

AUSTIN

Wonderful.

(off Carr's look)

1990 Lung Association Picnic.

Patient/doctor softball game.

TRACEY

We were two down, bases loaded.

I came to bat and popped that bad
boy deep into left field.

AUSTIN

I was her pinch runner. Sprained
my ankle sliding home.

CARR

You batted wearing oxygen?

TRACEY

No biggie. All the C-F players
do it. Gotta keep the lines free
or you get tangled up.

Tracey breaks into hacking coughs that shake her whole body.
Austin and Shannon support her until she's done.

SHANNON

Tracey...

TRACEY

(breathless)

I'm okay.

SHANNON

Will it be much longer?

AUSTIN

We're waiting for the donor to
arrive from Lombard. Once he
comes in, we'll open him up,
recover the lungs, then they're
yours.

TRACEY

I could sure use 'em.

AUSTIN

(smiling)

Go with Dr. Carr, she'll draw

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

AUSTIN (CONT)

your blood.

(to Carr)

Full chem panel, CBC, PTT. Then
take the Whites to Admissions for
a room.

Carr nods, wheeling Tracey into a Cubicle. Shannon follows.
Tracey gives Austin a thumbs up sign, Austin gives one back.
As Tracey moves on, Austin hands the softball to a passing
Orderly.

AUSTIN (CONT)

Can you put this in my office?

PICK UP Watters, talking to Underhill, Eggert as they walk to
the receiving doors.

WATTERS

As receiving hospital, we have to
do a GCS on the donor, check the
chart, make sure all the blood
tests are there, then sign off.
Standard procedure. Take care of
that.

EGGERT

Yes, sir.

UNDERHILL

No problem.

A DOCTOR, looking like he's rolled out of bed, strides up,
slamming an ice chest down on Counter.

DOCTOR

Dr. Russ from County. Hear you
got a donor with corneas for my
patient?

WATTERS

Come with me. You can wait with
the other doctors.

Watters leads Doctor away.

EGGERT

Which blood tests?

UNDERHILL

HIV, Hep B & C, CMV, RPR,
toxicology...

Receiving doors burst open, PARAMEDICS wheel in JERRY COGDILL,
early twenties, Caucasian, slight build, bruised, neck a bit
too long, eyes closed. ET-tube hooked to a ventilator.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (4)

4

PARAMEDIC

We got an organ donor from
Lombard.

UNDERHILL

(taking bed)

I'll take him.

PARAMEDIC

You Watters?

WATTERS

I'm Dr. Watters.

Watters approaches. Austin comes up. Underhill and Eggert
wheel Cogdill over to a Cubicle. FOLLOW Eggert and Underhill.

EGGERT

Grace may be right. I keep
getting... affected by it all.

UNDERHILL

You have to develop a coping
mechanism, so all the pain and
misery won't bother you.

Underhill pulls out stethoscope, coolly takes a listen to
Cogdill's chest while Eggert check's the chart. We never see
Cogdill as a whole person, only the individual parts -- totally
depersonalized. Eggert shuffles through chart.

EGGERT

This chart's a mess. CBC... HIV
is negative... Where's the hep?

UNDERHILL

See, Carr's way of coping is to
depersonalize the patient.

Underhill calmly shines a penlight into Cogdill's eyes.

UNDERHILL (CONT)

Me? I see everything as some
kind of cosmic joke.

Underhill rubs Cogdill's sternum hard. Then, to Cogdill:

UNDERHILL (CONT)

Hey, you got a spot.
(chucks Cogdill under
chin)
Gotcha.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (5)

4

UNDERHILL (CONT)

(to Eggert)

They always fall for it. If things are too intense, I think of patients as a mass of tubes, organs and chemistry.

EGGERT

It seems so cold-hearted.

Austin pokes her head in.

AUSTIN

What's taking so long in here?

UNDERHILL

Finished.

EGGERT

Me, too.

Eggert hands Austin chart. FOLLOW Austin out of Cubicle, past Watters, who holds paperwork. A Paramedic, two Nurses stand next to him. To Watters:

AUSTIN

He's ready to go.

WATTERS

(signing paperwork)

Let's get him to Pre-Op.

Watters hands paperwork to Paramedic, as Nurses enter Cubicle. Carr approaches Austin.

CARR

A room's available for Tracey, but it hasn't been cleaned.

AUSTIN

Jeez. Do I have to make the bed myself?

Austin strides off, Carr trailing. Behind them, Nurses, Underhill, Eggert wheel Cogdill out toward Elevators. Carr shows Austin lab work.

CARR

Tracey's FEV-1 is 25%, CO2 levels are rising. And there's blood in her sputum.

AUSTIN

What's the white count?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (6)

4

CARR

Still waiting for results.

They enter into:

5 INT. CORRIDOR - EARLY MORNING

5

Austin and Carr run into Wilmette, toting briefcase. Austin doesn't break stride.

WILMETTE

Kate.

AUSTIN

I've got a procedure coming up, make it quick.

WILMETTE

I'm in business meetings all day and the nanny is sick. Could you take Sara after school?

AUSTIN

Three months ago you threatened to have my visitation yanked if I even looked at Sara without supervision. Now you want me to babysit?

WILMETTE

I can make an exception.

AUSTIN

What about the Illinois Custody Courts?

WILMETTE

Kate, work with me.

AUSTIN

Look, as much as I would die to spend time with my daughter, I'm not going to risk my visitation rights. You'll have to figure out the babysitter problems.
(walks away)

WILMETTE

At least give me Mrs. Pitka's number.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Austin stops. She hates helping this man, but it is her daughter. Taking the pen out of his pocket, grabbing his hand, Austin writes on the back of it.

AUSTIN

Sara hates Mrs. Pitka. Here's the name and number of the back-up sitter I use. If you can't reach her, let me know.

Austin walks away, Carr follows, they approach Drs. DIANE GRAD and BILLY KRONK at the vending machine. To Grad:

KRONK

I'm scheduled for two bowel resections, and an appendectomy.

GRAD

My day looks booked, too...

AUSTIN

(in passing)

Diane, you busy?

GRAD

I'm about to start rounds, why?

AUSTIN

I'm waiting for results on a patient, Tracey White. Who can I call to speed them up?

GRAD

Talk with Jimmey. He owes me a favor.

AUSTIN

Thanks.

Austin and Carr leave. Grad kisses Kronk on the cheek.

GRAD

See you tonight.

FOLLOW Grad as she walks off, surveying her purchase.

GRAD (CONT)

Stale donuts. Yuck...

Grad tosses donuts in trash, passing a door with the sign Resource Management, as Nyland and Maggie emerge. Nyland carries charts.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

NYLAND

Just have Admitting bill the recipients directly.

MAGGIE

Doesn't work like that. Chicago Hope foots the bill of the donor to keep track of the expenses. When everything's finished, we send the bill to the regional organ procurement agency. Then they bill the recipients.

NYLAND

Bureaucracy. Gotta love it.

Maggie peels off. Nyland continues, approaches Kronk, staring at the vending machine.

NYLAND (CONT)

You have to push the buttons before it does anything.

KRONK

Trying to make a choice here, Danny-boy.

(re: charts)

That's your case load?

NYLAND

Resource Management.

Kronk WHISTLES long and low, pushing a button.

KRONK

You got suckered into that job? They offered it to me, but I wouldn't touch it. You're asking for trouble.

NYLAND

What trouble? I look at a chart. I look at the insurance requirements. I make a decision.

Kronk grabs his purchase, laughing. What a putz. Off Nyland, "What's going on here?" As Kronk walks off, Dr. AARON SHUTT and KAREN WILDER pass, in the midst of an intense conversation.

SHUTT

...you strapped my patient, a quadriplegic, to a beach ball.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

KAREN

He was learning to crawl. The ball allowed him to mobilize his paraspinalis muscles without putting any weight on his limbs.

SHUTT

But a beach ball? What were you thinking?

KAREN

I was being creative.

FOLLOW Shutt and Karen as they walk to the Elevator where Dr. JACK MCNEIL is waiting, carrying a gym bag.

MCNEIL

Karen. What d'ya think of these?

McNeil pulls out a pair of expensive running shoes. Karen appraises them as Shutt pushes the button.

MCNEIL (CONT)

Ex-patient's a spokesperson.
Cost about two hundred. But I got 'em free.

KAREN

(admiring them)

Nice arch support.

SHUTT

Excuse me, Jack. But we were in the middle of a conversation.

KAREN

(handing McNeil back
his shoes)

Actually, we're through.

SHUTT

What's that supposed to mean?

Elevator doors open, McNeil, Karen, Shutt enter. As the doors begin to close:

AUSTIN (O.C.)

Hold it!

Shutt holds doors as Austin wheels Tracey into:

6 INT. ELEVATOR - EARLY MORNING

6

Shannon and Carr follow. Tracey sees McNeil.

TRACEY

Dr. McNeil.

MCNEIL

Hi, Tracey. How's the leg?

TRACEY

Much better. Gonna get
me some new lungs.

SHUTT

(sotto; to Karen)
What did you mean,
"We're through"?

MCNEIL

(realizing her
condition)
Great.

KAREN

(sotto; to Shutt)
It's not my treatment
methods that's upsetting
you. What's really
going on, Aaron?

TRACEY

After this operation,
Dr. Austin says I'll be
running bases in no time.

SHUTT

(sotto; to Karen)
There's nothing going on.

MCNEIL

(lame)
That's really... great.

Elevator doors open and Austin wheels out Tracey. Carr and
Shannon follow. As the doors close:

KAREN

Exactly. There's nothing going
on. We're through.

FOLLOW Austin, et al., as they walk.

CARR

What happened to your leg?

TRACEY

Pressure fracture last month.
Dr. McNeil set it. It's fine
now.

As they enter:

7 INT. PRE-OP - EARLY MORNING

7

A Nurse takes Tracey's wheelchair from Austin.

AUSTIN

They're gonna set you up for
surgery now. Ready, kiddo?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Tracey grabs Austin's hand.

TRACEY

I want to thank you...

AUSTIN

You can thank me after the surgery.

Austin squeezes Shannon's shoulder in assurance then moves off as Nurse wheels Tracey away. Austin takes off her lab coat, hanging it up, then Carr follows Austin into:

8 INT. SCRUB ROOM - EARLY MORNING

8

Austin and Carr enter, putting on cap, booties.

CARR

She hurt her leg playing softball?

AUSTIN

Walking down the stairs.
Patients with cystic fibrosis
often suffer from osteoporosis.
(starts to scrub)

CARR

If Tracey needs a lung so badly,
why didn't her mother donate
hers?

AUSTIN

Already did, to Tracey's sister.
She had cystic fibrosis, too.

CARR

Wait a minute. The chances that
two children in one family will
be effected are...

AUSTIN

...improbable, not impossible.
This family's really been through
it.

CARR

What happened to her sister?

AUSTIN

I did the transplant four years
ago. Died after six months. She
wasn't strong enough.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Although Austin is casual, the memory still haunts her. They enter into:

9 INT. O.R. - EARLY MORNING

9

Austin walks into her gown, slips into gloves. The Residents, Anesthesiologist, Dr. LLOYD CHERNOW, stand by.

AUSTIN (CONT)

What are you doing here, Chernow?
I asked for Carranza.

CHERNOW

On vacation. They called me in.

AUSTIN

(sotto)

Just my luck.

(normal)

Okay, let's get moving. There's a patient waiting for these lungs.

(steps up to table)

So, how'd this guy break his neck? Motorcycle?

CHERNOW

Chart says Mr. Cogdill fell out of a condemned building.

AUSTIN

(clucks her tongue)

What a waste.

(all business)

Okay. Once we recover the lungs, call Watters, tell him the liver's his.

Austin glances outside to see Doctors standing around with their ice chests, waiting, like vultures.

AUSTIN (CONT)

Gotta move fast. Lot of people waiting.

CHERNOW

Morrow and Hamano have dibs on the kidneys. Jablonski's here from St. Joe's for the pancreas, County the corneas. Schapira's the heart. This guy's a veritable smorgasbord.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

AUSTIN

Can we have a little respect
here? People's lives are going
to be saved through this man's
generosity. Scalpel.

She begins her incision.

CHERNOW

(alarmed)

Hold it! B.P.'s just
skyrocketed.

AUSTIN

(so?)

See. This is why I never ask for
you, Chernow. It's a reflexic
response. He must have one or
two nerve tracts intact.

CHERNOW

Where's the chart?

Nurse hands Chernow the chart.

AUSTIN

Do we have to do this? My
patient's been on the list for
six months, I'm not going to have
her wait while you pull one of
your power-trips...

CHERNOW

(scanning chart)

I never trust other hospitals.

AUSTIN

You really think the Critical
Care Center would ship him here
for organ recovery if they
weren't sure?

CHERNOW

They didn't do a toxicology.

AUSTIN

Let me see.

Chernow shows her chart.

AUSTIN (CONT)

So they didn't do a tox. The
damned EEG is flat as a pancake.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

CHERNOW

(standing)

Nothing's being done until I'm
certain of this guy's status.

Austin flashes the light in the patient's eyes.

AUSTIN

No pupillary response.

(rubs sternum)

No response to pain.

(in patient's ear)

Hey!

(to Chernow)

No response to sound. His status
is dead, dead, dead.

CHERNOW

Then how come his B.P. rises
everytime you say he's dead?

AUSTIN

You're pissing me off, Chernow.

CHERNOW

I am not going to allow anyone to
cut on this man until we get the
results from that test.

On Austin, as she steps back, throwing off gloves in disgust,

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 INT. O.R. - MORNING

10

Later. The Residents, O.R. Team look in from next O.R. as Austin and Chernow argue. Watters, in scrubs, hears them out.

AUSTIN

He fell out of a building. His spinal cord is completely severed at C-1. What are the chances this kid is going to be alive?

CHERNOW

If he took any kind of sedative, it would lower his Glasgow Coma Score and depress his EEG. He'd appear dead.

AUSTIN

The guy's head is off his neck.

WATTERS

Okay. Okay. I have six doctors breathing down my neck, waiting for organs. How long before we learn the test results?

CHERNOW

Two hours.

Austin groans with impatience. Watters considers. Then:

WATTERS

Draw the blood, then put Mr. Cogdill in an I.C.U. room. Kate, tell your patient there's been a delay.

AUSTIN

Great.

Austin stalks out of the O.R. into:

11 INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

11

Where Underhill and Eggert stand. Austin turns to Eggert.

AUSTIN (CONT)

You said you checked the chart.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

EGGERT

I'm sorry I must have missed--

AUSTIN

Your "sorry" is going to cost us
two hours.

Austin walks off, leaving Eggert crushed. FOLLOW Austin into:

12 INT. PRE-OP - MORNING

12

Austin enters. Tracey, on gurney, uncomfortable, breathing
shallowly. Shannon hovers, anxious.

SHANNON

They told us there was a problem?

AUSTIN

It's a matter of paperwork.

(to Tracey)

How are you holding up?

SHANNON

Her chest feels tight.

TRACEY

And my back is spasming from the
last coughing fit.

AUSTIN

We have some time. Let's take
you down to P.T. for massage to
stop the spasming.

As Orderly helps Austin maneuver gurney into:

13 INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

13

Watters joins Austin and the Whites. They walk to the
Elevator. To Tracey:

AUSTIN (CONT)

Take it easy. Shallow breaths.

(sotto; to Watters)

I can't believe you let Chernow
get away with that.

WATTERS

The anesthesiologist can stop any
procedure at any time.

Elevator doors open, REVEALING McNeil, Kronk, and Wilkes.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

WATTERS (CONT)
Going down?

MCNEIL
Yeah.

(sees Tracey)
Here. Let me give you some room.

McNeil steps out as Austin, Orderly push Tracey into:

14 INT. ELEVATOR - MORNING

14

Watters and Shannon join them. Tracey breathes shallowly.
Austin pushes a button.

TRACEY
S'okay, Dr. McNeil.
You can ride with us.

KRONK
Phillip. Just the
man we wanted to see.

MCNEIL
I'll take the stairs.

Tracey shoots a look at her mother. "Was it something I said?"
Shannon gives her a reassuring look. Elevator doors close.

KRONK
This bed situation's a nightmare.

WATTERS
I know things are a little
tight...

KRONK
A little? You need a reservation
to check into this hospital.

WILKES
The floor that you've closed is
available, why can't we--

WATTERS
We can't afford to re-open that
floor for one patient.

KRONK
This is crazy. You close a
floor, you cut down Personnel.

Elevator doors open, REVEALING Nyland, who waits to get on.

WILKES
They tried to get me to work for
Resource Managment.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Nyland hears this. What the fuck? Austin, Shannon, Watters and Orderly wheel Tracey out. As Nyland steps onto Elevator:

NYLAND

Keith. Wilmette asked you to work for Resource Management?

WILKES

Yeah. As if I was stupid enough to take the job.

Elevator doors close. Watters walks off. FOLLOW Austin et al down:

15 INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

15

Austin, Orderly push Tracey's gurney, Shannon walks along, holding Tracey's hand.

SHANNON

Should we wait in Tracey's room after Physical Therapy?

AUSTIN

Hopefully she'll be in surgery by then.

TRACEY

If not, can we go to Maternity and see the babies?

SHANNON

You need to rest.

TRACEY

Dr. Austin, you think I'll be able to have kids when gene therapy is perfected?

AUSTIN

Tracey, gene therapy is a ways off.

TRACEY

I know. But these lungs will buy me that time.

SHANNON

(uncomfortable with the topic)

Tracey, let's not talk about this now. Just lie still.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

They stop in front of a door marked Physical Therapy. Orderly opens the door. As they enter, Wilmette and Watters cross. STAY WITH Watters and Wilmette, reading a chart:

WILMETTE

You pulled me out of a very important meeting, Phillip. This better be good.

They enter:

16 INT. STAIRWELL - MORNING

16

Watters and Wilmette climb stairs, Wilmette looks at chart.

WATTERS

His name is Jerry Cogdill. He was pronounced dead but it may have been premature.

WILMETTE

Kate almost took out his lungs. This could be a hell of a lawsuit. We should contact the family right away. Do some damage control.

WATTERS

There is no family. Parents died when he was young. No siblings. No living relatives.

WILMETTE

Thank God for small favors.

They exit into:

17 INT. I.C.U. - MORNING

17

Watters and Wilmette make their way through the crowded Corridor.

WILMETTE (CONT)

If Mr. Cogdill is alive, I'll need to talk with him as soon as he's awake.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

WATTERS

That may not be possible.

(off Wilmette's look)

If he is alive, we won't know his mental status. He may not regain consciousness.

WILMETTE

Non compis mentis. Better for us.

WATTERS

Is it?

Watters and Wilmette approach Grad at the Nurses' Station, who gives orders to Eggert.

GRAD

As soon as Dr. Shutt's finished examining him, I want an eggcrate mattress on Jerry's bed.

WATTERS

Isn't that going a little far? This patient may be dead.

GRAD

But if he's alive, I don't want him developing decubitus ulcers.

(off Wilkes' look)

He's my patient, Phillip. You referred him to me.

Eggert walks off as Nyland approaches.

NYLAND

Phillip. About this head in a bed. If the guy isn't dead, he can't be a donor.

Watters, Grad, Wilmette and Nyland proceed to Cogdill's Room.

GRAD

D'ja learn that in Med School?

NYLAND

(ignoring her)

If he's not a donor, then ROBI's not going to pick up the cost. We have to eat the expenses. And we don't have the stomach for that.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

They arrive at Cogdill's Room as Shutt emerges. We can see Cogdill through the window.

WATTERS

So?

SHUTT

You know, the guy looks... dead.
But we won't know for certain
until we get back the test
results.

NYLAND

Chief of Neurosurgery and that's
the best you can do?

GRAD

Can you lower your voice? If
he's in a coma, he could still
hear us.

NYLAND

Come on, Diane...

Watters leads the Doctors and Wilmette away from the door.

WILMETTE

So this guy could be in a coma?
He could recover?

SHUTT

Unlikely. Statistically, with
this kind of injury, patients
don't. If he's not dead, he's
probably in a persistent
vegetative state.

GRAD

We won't know that for at least
a month. Some say we should wait
a year...

NYLAND

We don't have the time nor the
money.

Wilmette's beeper BUZZES. He looks at it.

WILMETTE

Can we wrap this up?

Wilmette proceeds to Elevators. Everyone follows.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

NYLAND

There are cases where the hospital has stopped treatment on patients in persistent vegetative states in the absence of surrogates. We can petition to remove his life support.

WILMETTE

(punches Elevator button)

All very legal.

GRAD

Some would say that's tantamount to murder.

WILMETTE

Look, let's make this quick. As doctors, your job is providing beneficial treatment. Notice I say beneficial. If a treatment has no effect, than it is not beneficial, but futile.

(Elevator opens)

Which means you're under no legal obligation to provide it. Now, if you'll excuse me.

Wilmette enters Elevator. As the doors close, Watters and Others proceed back to Cogdill's Room.

GRAD

What about moral obligation, Phillip? You're talking about someone's life.

SHUTT

Why are we discussing this now? Shouldn't we wait until we know his status?

Austin walks up.

AUSTIN

What's the status of Jerry Cogdill?

GRAD

We don't know.

NYLAND

He's dead.

GRAD (CONT)

They want to take him off life support if he's alive.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (4)

17

WATTERS

Only if we determine that he's in
a persistent vegetative state.

AUSTIN

But that means taking him off the
vent and that will compromise the
oxygen flow to the organs. He'll
be no good as an organ donor.

NYLAND

This is no longer about organ
donation.

Watters, Austin, Grad, Nyland and Shutt enter into:

18 INT. I.C.U./JERRY COGDILL'S ROOM - MORNING

18

Eggert is trying to put an eggcrate mattress onto the bed.
Something about Cogdill upsets her. It's obvious by the way
she stiffly touches him. Sotto:

EGGERT

Organs, tubes, chemistry...

AUSTIN

There are seven recipients
waiting to hear...

GRAD

Can you keep it down?

NYLAND

(sees Eggert)

An eggcrate? You know how much
those cost?

GRAD

I'm his internist and...

GRAD (CONT)

...until it is proven
that Jerry Cogdill is
dead, I am going to
provide the best care.

NYLAND

You're spending
money that could
be used on a patient
with a better prognosis.

NYLAND (CONT)

(to Eggert)

Put away the egg crate.

GRAD

(to Eggert)

Put it on the bed.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Eggert, uncertain what to do, stands there.

NYLAND
We should make him DNR.

GRAD
I strongly disagree...

EGGERT
(softly)
Excuse me.

NYLAND
If he develops complications,
pneumonia or a heart arrhythmia
during this waiting period...

GRAD
We should treat him.

SHUTT
Diane, if he's alive, this guy's
quality of life is going to be
questionable at best.

EGGERT
(louder)
Excuse me.

GRAD
Who are we to decide that?

SHUTT
What kind of existence will this
boy have if keeping him on a
respirator will do nothing but
prolong his dying?

NYLAND
Face it. Your patient is dead.

EGGERT
(loud enough)
Hey!

All turn. Eggert gestures to Cogdill, eyes open. Not the dull
open of someone barely conscious, but alive open. "What the
hell is going on here" open.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

EGGERT (CONT)
(holy shit!)
I think this patient's alive.

The Doctors look at Cogdill, stunned. On Cogdill, freaked,

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19 INT. I.C.U./JERRY COGDILL'S ROOM - DAY

19

Watters, Shutt, Grad, Wilmette, Nyland and Eggert stand around Cogdill's bed. As Watters speaks, everyone considers the prospect of Cogdill's future in their heads. What if it was me?

WATTERS

You understand what I've explained to you? The extent of your injuries?

GRAD

(as Cogdill blinks twice)

Yes.

WILMETTE

(sotto; to Watters)

This is ridiculous. Are you sure this guy understands what you're saying?

GRAD

(sotto; to Wilmette)

He's "locked in". He may have no speech or motor function, but he can think, reason. He's aware of himself and his environment.

WATTERS

(to Cogdill)

You understand that there is no chance of being able to use your limbs unassisted?

GRAD

(As Cogdill blinks twice)

Yes.

Cogdill's POV: Watters' face stares down at Cogdill.

WATTERS

That you will have to be hooked to a ventilator in order to breathe?

As if Cogdill blinks twice, the screen goes BLACK twice, quickly.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

GRAD (O.C.)

Yes.

WATTERS

That you may not recover the ability to swallow or talk?

GRAD

(Cogdill blinks twice)

Yes.

WATTERS

Jerry... Because of your situation, there's a chance you may have serious, life threatening complications. If you go into a crisis, would you want us to use extreme measures to save your life?

There's a pause. Cogdill blinks once. Then... again.

WILMETTE

Was that one "yes" or two "no's"?

WATTERS

Jerry?

Cogdill blinks twice quickly.

GRAD

He wants to be resuscitated.

WATTERS

You understand these measures can sometimes cause more problems. Surgeries, cracked ribs, drug complications...

Cogdill blinks twice.

GRAD

He understands.

This isn't what Watters expected. He takes a deep breath.

WATTERS

Jerry. There's a surgery that we have to perform, to stabilize your head. Do you want that surgery?

Cogdill blinks twice. Watters sighs.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

WATTERS (CONT)

Dr. Shutt, go over the consent form with Mr. Cogdill, then schedule the stabilization surgery as soon as possible. Dr. Eggert, this man needs a trach. He may be on the vent a long time. Someone inform Austin -- she'll need a new donor.

WILMETTE

Phillip, we've got to talk...

Watters leaves the room. Wilmette, Grad and Nyland follow, leaving Shutt and Eggert.

20 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

20

Wilmette, Nyland and Grad dog Watters.

WILMETTE (CONT)

We have to transfer this patient as soon as possible. I'm sure we can provide a little financial incentive for County to take him now...

NYLAND

Actually, we can't transfer him until he's stable.

WILMETTE

Did I ask you?

GRAD

Phillip, this should not be about money...

WILMETTE

Dr. Grad. We're talking hundreds of thousands of dollars. His drugs, his surgeries, his therapies...

Watters stops, causing Wilmette and Grad to bump into him.

WATTERS

What would you have me do? The man said he wants to live. He's made his choice.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

WILMETTE

We can't afford to pay for his choice.

WATTERS

I know.

Watters walks off. Grad shoots Wilmette a triumphant look and walks off. Wilmette's BEEPER GOES OFF. He looks at it, walks past Shutt, on the phone at the Nurses' station.

SHUTT

See if McNeil can help me on this Cogdill fixation. Move up Mr. Hillyard's appointment. And see if you can schedule Bob Braunstein for tomorrow.

(beat)

His headache's that bad? Have him come in tonight.

Shutt hangs up as Karen walks up.

KAREN

You paged me?

SHUTT

There's a patient I want to refer to you. Atlanto-occipital dislocation.

KAREN

What's the level of disability?

SHUTT

Nothing below C-1.

KAREN

And he's still alive? I've never seen anyone like that. I won't be able to sit him up without his B.P. falling. How do you want me to handle this?

SHUTT

(brusquely)

Be creative.

Shutt peels off, leaving Karen. FOLLOW Karen as she enters:

21 INT. STAIRWELL - DAY

21

Karen makes no noise, but her mouth is moving as she mutters to herself, obviously pissed. Carr and Austin come bounding past Karen.

CARR

I was bringing Tracey back from P.T. when she started coughing blood.

AUSTIN

She must have blown a vessel in her lung. Do we have an O.R.?

CARR

Three's red-lined.

Austin and Carr quickly run into:

22 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE O.R. - DAY

22

Austin and Carr run, dodging gurneys.

AUSTIN

We'll have to do an angiogram to find the injured vessel, then pack it with gelfoam. And pray it holds.

Austin and Carr approach a frantic Shannon, blood streaking her blouse. Carr continues down Corridor as Austin takes a moment with Tracey's mom.

SHANNON

Do something!

AUSTIN

We're going to take Tracey in to try and stop the bleeding.

Shannon grabs Austin. With the deadliness only a mother can muster for her child.

SHANNON

You don't let her die. You don't let her!

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Austin takes Shannon's hand -- a gesture of comfort.

CARR (O.C.)

Ready?

On, Austin,

CUT TO:

23 INT. O.R. - DAY

23

Madame Butterfly PLAYS "Waiting Song" on CD. Austin supervises Carr, threading a catheter from Tracey's groin up to her lungs, guided by the Fluoroscope.

AUSTIN

Yeah. Let's inject some dye.
Good placement. I'll take over.

Austin takes over the controls.

AUSTIN (CONT)

Gelfoam.

CARR

Tracey lost a lot of blood.

AUSTIN

Yeah, but she's a fighter.
(removing catheter)
Okay. We've got the bleed.
Let's close. Tracey, we bought
you some more time.

Austin hopes it's enough time. PAN TO Scrub Room where Watters and Nyland stand:

24 INT. SCRUB ROOM - DAY

24

Watters and Nyland watch Austin perform surgery.

NYLAND

I can't get this kid Medicaid
until I submit his Social
Security number.

WATTERS

And?

NYLAND

He doesn't have a Social Security
number.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Nyland follows Watters into:

25 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

25

Watters and Nyland dodge various Patients entering and exiting O.R.'s.

WATTERS

Isn't it on his driver's license?

NYLAND

Michigan license.

They hit the Elevators. Watters presses the button.

NYLAND (CONT)

Which means he's out of state.
Which means a call to Michigan to
apply...

Elevator doors open. Wilmette's inside a crowded Elevator.

WILMETTE

They told me I'd find you here.

Watters and Nyland enter. Elevator doors close.

26 INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

26

Watters, Nyland, and Wilmette huddle in the crowded Elevator.
Watters pushes button.

WILMETTE (CONT)

We're in trouble. Cook County
and St. Joe's are holding us
responsible for the expense of
bringing their transplant
patients in to wait for this
donor.

WATTERS

The Critical Care Unit made the
mistake in the first place.

WILMETTE

Yes, but we didn't catch it.
That makes us just as libel. And
we have more money.

Elevator doors open, Nyland steps out.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

WILMETTE (CONT)

We're looking at footing a
massive bill, here, Phillip.

Doors close. Nyland exits into:

27 INT. I.C.U./JERRY COGDILL'S ROOM - DAY

27

DARK. Nyland enters. The only illumination is the LIGHT over
Cogdill's bed. Eggert, green but determined, has a trach tray
laid out. Cogdill's eyes are filled with fear. What the hell
is going on?

NYLAND

What are you doing?

EGGERT

Dr. Watters told me to trach him.

(sotto)

Okay. I start with Lidocaine,
three milligrams.

NYLAND

(stepping up)

He's got no feeling past his
cheeks. You don't need an
anesthetic. Besides, Lidocaine's
three dollars a pop.

Eggert fumbles a bit, not wanting to do this. To Cogdill,
stalling:

EGGERT

You know, things aren't so bad
for people in... your situation.
There's new discoveries in spinal
research, new gadgets...

NYLAND

(whispers)

I wouldn't tell him that. False
hope.

(off her look)

Medicaid is not going to pay for
all the gadgets.

Eggert picks up a Betadine sponge.

EGGERT

Okay, Jerry, I'm going to swab
your throat...

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

NYLAND

(sotto)

If you give a blow by blow it'll
take forever.

Intimidated, Eggert starts to swab. Cogdill's eyes go wide.
This is a nightmare.

EGGERT

Should we drape his face?

NYLAND

Drapes cost five dollars each.
If you do it quick, he'll be
fine.

Eggert nods, hands shaking, picks up scalpel. She palpates the
neck then makes the mistake of looking at Cogdill's face. He's
seen the scalpel. He's freaked.

NYLAND (CONT)

The longer you take the more
upset they get.

Eggert places the scalpel at the neck. She can't do it. She
drops the scalpel, running from the room. Sotto:

NYLAND (CONT)

For Christsakes...

Nyland goes to tray, grabs gloves, opens a new scalpel.

NYLAND (CONT)

Four dollars a scalpel.

Nyland bends over Cogdill, about to make the first cut,

CUT TO:

28 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

28

Eggert leans against the wall, she had a task to do and she
choked. She's never going to be a good doctor. She walks off,
passing McNeil and Karen. Karen holds McNeil's new shoes.

KAREN

I can use the conventional
splints to prevent foot
contractures, but, I don't know.
The shoes would support his foot
better. Besides, splints are so
medical. Shoes are familiar.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

KAREN (CONT)

They boost a patient's morale.
And they fit him perfectly.

MCNEIL

There you have it. Anything
else?

KAREN

You have reflectors on your
rollerblade wristguards, don't
you? I could use them for hand
splints. That way he can see
where his hands are in the dark.
He won't feel so disembodied.

MCNEIL

Karen. My wristguards are your
wristguards.

Karen kisses McNeil on the cheek.

KAREN

Jack McNeil, you are...

CUT TO:

29 INT. O.R. - DAY

29

Shutt and McNeil work on Cogdill who is face down, in a
halocast. Eggert assists. She is pale, but holding on.

MCNEIL

...something else. Karen wants
to put posters up on the ceiling
so Jerry will have something to
look at.

(to Cogdill)

What's your pleasure, Jerry?
Pamela Lee?

(to Shutt)

Personally, my favorite has
always been Raquel Welch. One
Million Years, B.C. Pedicle
screw.

SHUTT

(to Nurse)

Help me with this wire.

(baiting)

So, I guess there's a conflict of
interest here.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

MCNEIL

Hey, I have no problem with this
guy using my shoes.

SHUTT

I'm talking about your other
patient. The girl who was going
to get his lungs. The girl in
the Elevator. What's her name?

There's a palpable change in McNeil's mood.

MCNEIL

Not my patient.

SHUTT

No? Sounded like she was.
(no response)
She seems nice.

MCNEIL

(to Nurse; avoiding
Shutt's comments)
Adjust this light.

SHUTT

(to Nurse)
More retraction.
(to McNeil)
So she's not nice?

Shutt realizes McNeil clearly doesn't want to talk about this.
A beat. Then, mimicking McNeil:

SHUTT (CONT)

Actually, Aaron, she's a very
nice patient.
(own voice)
What she in for, Jack?
(McNeil's)
I'm not sure, Aaron.

MCNEIL

Do you mind? I'm trying to work
here.

Grad sticks her head in, holding a mask to her mouth.

GRAD

How's it going?

SHUTT

Oh we're having a great time,
aren't we, Jack?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

MCNEIL

Lavage.

Grad exits into:

30 INT. SCRUB AREA - DAY

30

Moving past scrubbing Doctors, Grad's BEEPER GOES OFF. As she checks it, enters into:

31 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

31

Austin talks with Watters. Livid:

AUSTIN

(to Watters)

What do you mean ROBI's moved
Tracey to second slot?

WATTERS

Apparently, someone more critical
was put on the list.

AUSTIN

Phillip, her CO2 is fifty-nine,
FEV-1 is 15%. It'll be a miracle
if she makes it to tomorrow.

(to Grad)

Diane. What's Jerry Cogdill's
status?

GRAD

He is using his lungs, Kate. He
is not a donor.

AUSTIN

(wait a minute)

Hey! I almost took that kid's
lungs. Can't I be concerned?
And if it wasn't for Chernow...

Grad brushes past Austin. Austin looks at Watters. What
crawled up her butt?

CARR (O.C.)

Dr. Austin!

Austin and Watters runs into:

32 INT. POST-OP - DAY

32

Tracey lies on gurney, gasping for air. Carr listens to Tracey's chest with a stethoscope. Austin whips out her stethoscope to listen as Watters watches. Tracey grabs Austin.

TRACEY

(weakly)

Chest hurts.

CARR

She went into respiratory distress.

AUSTIN

Trachea's shifted to the right. We got a pressure pneumothorax, left lung. I need a chest-tube tray.

WATTERS

Kate, do you need help?

AUSTIN

I got it.

(to Tracey)

Trace, your lung collapsed. We're gonna put in a chest tube.

TRACEY

(weakly)

Wait...

AUSTIN

We can't wait, Tracey. You need to breathe or your CO2 will go too high.

Tracey grabs Austin.

TRACEY

Promise. No vent.

AUSTIN

We're a long way from that, Tracey. It's a chest tube to help ease your breathing. Okay?

Tracey nods, weakly. Carr comes running in with a chest tube tray and begins Betadining Tracey's back. Austin slaps on gloves, as Carr anesthetises Tracey's back. To Tracey:

AUSTIN (CONT)

Once we have the chest tube in, you've got to take deep breaths.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

AUSTIN (CONT)

Even though it hurts. Can you do that?

TRACEY

Try.

Carr slaps the scalpel in Austin's hand, begins to cut. Watters watches a beat, then exits into:

33 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE O.R. - DAY

33

Grad is finishing up on the phone.

GRAD

Start Mrs. Rodriguez on Benzthiazide one-hundred-fifty milligrams. Tell her I'll be up in a minute.

Grad hangs up, as Watters approaches.

GRAD (CONT)

You know, I'm sick and tired of everyone treating Jerry as if he were a cadaver.

WATTERS

I know this is a difficult case--

GRAD

(defensive)

He has a right to his decision.

WATTERS

Calm down.

Eggert and Nurses wheel Cogdill's gurney out of O.R., Shutt approaches Grad and Watters.

SHUTT

He's going into post op. So far, things look pretty good.

Shutt moves out of earshot to Nurses' Station, begins to chart.

WATTERS

Every once in a while, you get a patient where, despite all your training and wisdom, the only thing you can do for them is hope. Cases like that -- well,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

WATTERS (CONT)

they're easy to take personally.
To get hurt. And they're hard to
let go.

Grad notices Carr, Austin and Nurse, wheeling Tracey's bed out
of Post-Op. To Carr:

AUSTIN

Take her up to I.C.U., start her
on Morphine, 2.5 milligrams.

Austin goes to the Nurses' Station to chart. Watters and Grad
move off. Re: Tracey:

GRAD

Is she going to make it?

WATTERS

She's got Kate Austin in her
corner. Counts for something.

STAY WITH Austin and Shutt. Frustrated. It's been a hell of
a day.

AUSTIN

(exhausted)

Is this day over with, yet?

SHUTT

(looks at his watch)

Not by a long-shot.

Shutt leaves. Austin takes a beat.

EGGERT (O.C.)

I need help.

Austin turns, sees Eggert, leaning out of Post-Op.

EGGERT (CONT)

Jerry Cogdill. He's crashing.

Austin runs into:

34 INT. POST-OP - DAY

34

Austin runs in, sees Cogdill's heart monitor going wild.
Eggert's panicked.

EGGERT (CONT)

He went into v-fib. What should
we do?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

Austin looks at Cogdill, while a Nurse runs in with crash cart.
Eggert is confused.

EGGERT (CONT)

He's not DNR, but... Should we
let him die? Run a slow code?

Beat. Austin thinks of Cogdill, Tracey, of Grad. Then:

AUSTIN

Charge the paddles. Start chest
compressions. Let's go.

Everyone jumps into action. Austin unhooks the ventilator,
begins to bag Cogdill. Eggert starts chest compressions. The
Nurse mans the crash cart. CRACK. Eggert stops, shocked.

EGGERT

Oh my God. I think I broke a
rib.

AUSTIN

Keep compressing.
(Eggert's freaked)
Damn it!

Austin takes over chest compression.

NURSE

Charge at 260 joules.

AUSTIN

(to Eggert)
Take the paddles.

Eggert takes paddles as the Nurse squirts the gel.

EGGERT

Clear.

Austin jumps back as Eggert shocks Cogdill. No response.
Austin checks the pulse.

AUSTIN

Again. Three-hundred.

EGGERT

Charged. Clear.

Austin and Nurse clear. Eggert shocks Cogdill again. The
monitor responds with a BLIP BLIP. Austin checks pulse.

AUSTIN

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

Eggert looks relieved. At least she didn't kill the Patient.
The Nurse takes over the cart as Austin reconnects the ET-tube.

AUSTIN (CONT)

Take him up to I.C.U. We need to
x-ray his chest, check for
pneumothorax from that rib.

(to Eggert re: Cogdill)

What a waste.

Austin exits. Eggert turns to Cogdill to find him alert, eyes
open. Did he hear?

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

35 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE O.R. - DAY

35

Nyland walks past an O.R., deserted, except for Eggert who sits on a stool, crying. Beat. Nyland re-enters, looking into the O.R. Sotto:

NYLAND

There you are.

Nyland enters:

36 INT. O.R. - DAY

36

Without a word, Nyland grabs a tissue, hands it to Eggert.

NYLAND (CONT)

One of those days?

(Eggert nods)

Me, too.

Eggert blows her nose. Nyland sits on stool next to her. They both stare off, not looking at one another. A beat.

EGGERT

Why would someone intentionally put themselves in this position?

NYLAND

Seemed like a good idea at the time. Money, power...

EGGERT

...helping people...

NYLAND

Well...

(beat)

EGGERT

You do your best trying to keep your head above water...

NYLAND

...yet you constantly feel like your drowning.

EGGERT

Everyone getting sick, dying... it's such a cost.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

NYLAND

An enormous cost. But it's part
of the job.

EGGERT

But what if you're not cut out
for that job?

NYLAND

Is there another choice?

Eggert and Nyland look at one another, realizing there is no
other choice. Shutt pokes his head in. Watters stands behind
him.

SHUTT

Caroline. Where did they take
Jerry Cogdill?

EGGERT

Up to I.C.U.

STAY WITH Shutt, as he withdraws into:

37 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

37

Shutt and Watters walk towards Stairwell.

SHUTT

Doesn't surprise me. With this
kind of injury, we're going to
see fluctuation in pulse rate,
heart rate... his whole nervous
system is on the rack.

They enter:

38 INT. STAIRWELL - DAY

38

Shutt and Shutt start climbing.

SHUTT (CONT)

It's amazing the kid's lasted
this long. Odds are against him
making it to Friday.

WATTERS

And if he does survive? What
then? He'll be lucky to land in
a decent nursing facility where
they'll clean the sheets once a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

WATTERS (CONT)
week and talk to the patients
once a day.

Watters stops. Shutt looks at him.

WATTERS (CONT)
It would've saved the hospital a
lot of money if Kate had let that
boy slip away.

SHUTT
You really think she should have
let him die?

WATTERS
(beat)
It would have been... easier.
(continues climbing)
But that's not what we're about,
is it?

They enter:

39 INT. I.C.U. - DAY

39

Shutt, Watters pass Tracey's Room. Inside:

40 INT. TRACEY WHITE'S ROOM - DAY

40

Austin, Carr and Shannon stand over Tracey's bed. Tracey is barely conscious, breathing shallowly, slowly. Austin talks calmly to Shannon, trying to force the woman to concentrate on her words.

AUSTIN
Shannon, we've been here
before...

SHANNON
What about another donor?

AUSTIN
Shannon...

SHANNON
You could put her on a vent.

AUSTIN
(takes Shannon by the
shoulders)
Yes, we could.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

Austin looks Shannon in the eyes. Shannon breaks away.

SHANNON

Do you know what you're asking me
to do? I let one go, already.
I can't lose this one.

AUSTIN

I'm not asking you to do
anything, Shannon.

Shannon walks over to Tracey.

SHANNON

(to Tracey; pleading)
Baby. Please.

Carr strokes Tracey's hair. Austin moves up behind her.

AUSTIN

Shannon, you have to ask
yourself. What would she want?

SHANNON

(beat)
She didn't want to die the way
her sister died. On a vent.
Attached to machines. Suffering.

Something inside Shannon -- a spark of strength? She speaks
lovingly to her daughter. Letting go:

SHANNON (CONT)

All right, sweetie. We'll do it
your way.

CARR

(what do we do?)
Dr. Austin?

Austin shakes her head. Tracey breathes once. Beat. Then
once. Beat. Then again... Shannon starts to nod. She knows
what's happening. Shannon sits by bed, taking Tracey's hand.
Carr turns away, hiding tears. Austin comes up behind Shannon,
putting her hand on her shoulder. PULL BACK into:

41 INT. I.C.U. - DAY

41

Where the regular hustle and bustle of hospital life continues.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 INT. I.C.U. - EVENING

42

The LIGHT has changed. Near evening. The door to Tracey's room is closed. A beat, as Austin exits, numbly walking to the Nurses' Station, drained. Grad sees Austin, approaches.

GRAD

Kate!

Austin stands, not acknowledging Grad.

GRAD (CONT)

Kate. I heard about what you did for Jerry. I... I wanted to thank you for pulling him through.

AUSTIN

(almost to herself)

My patient just died. There was a chance, if we had been able to do the transplant this morning, she might be alive.

Austin dully walks past Grad, into:

43 INT. STAIRWELL - EVENING

43

Austin walks down a few steps, finds McNeil, sitting. She sits down, two stairs above him.

MCNEIL

I heard Tracey went on the critical list. I was trying to decide whether I should see her or not.

(beat)

Quite a girl, Tracey. Really...

(at a loss)

...special.

AUSTIN

It's always the special ones that are the sickest.

MCNEIL

So true. That's why I got out of medicine. Too painful. S'why I became an Orthopod in the first place. Fix a couple shoulders, set a couple legs.

AUSTIN

Sounds easy.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

MCNEIL

Not really. I learned that
sooner or later, everyone dies.
Nothing you can do about it.
You'd think, after the first
couple, you'd get used to it.

AUSTIN

You never get used to it.

MCNEIL

I thought, if I didn't care about
the person, well, it'd be easier.
You know, keep a distance? But
there are some patients...

AUSTIN

...they capture your heart.

MCNEIL

I don't know why I let Phillip
talk me into coming back to
medicine. I hate this.

(stands up)

Well, I guess I'll go and see
Tracey.

He walks up to Austin. She stops him with a hand on his arm.
McNeil looks into her eyes, realizing the truth. Hold an
anguished moment. Nyland comes bounding up the steps.

NYLAND

Make way.

Nyland rushes past them, oblivious to their pain into:

44 INT. I.C.U. - EVENING

44

Nyland bursts in, looks for Grad. He stops a passing Nurse.

NYLAND (CONT)

Where's Dr. Grad?

The Nurse points to Grad, who is coming out of Cogdill's Room,
carrying chart. Before Nyland can say a word.

GRAD

(a bone to pick)

What's the meaning of this? You
denied my request for a regular
massage for Jerry?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

GRAD (CONT)
He needs that to maintain
proper circulation of his
limbs.

NYLAND
I refused to pay
for the expensive
oil they were using.

NYLAND (CONT)
Don't you get it, Diane? There's
just a limited amount of money.
We have to spend it efficiently
or Jerry's going to find himself
up the creek. Okay?

Grad backs off.

NYLAND (CONT)
But to prove I'm not a total
schmuck...

Nyland shows Grad the paperwork. She scans it, smiles.

GRAD
You have Medicaid benefits!

NYLAND
Took all day.

GRAD
Danny, that's great. Sorry
about... you know...

NYLAND
S'okay. Comes with the job.

Nyland walks off to Elevator. As he pushes the button, Austin
re-enters from the Stairwell, walking up to Grad, who is at the
Nurses' Station.

AUSTIN
Diane. We should probably put a
pacemaker in Jerry, to stabilize
his heart rate. What do you
think?

GRAD
(off-guard)
Yeah. I think that would be a
good idea.

Kronk comes up in the b.g.

AUSTIN
I can schedule that for tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

KRONK
Diane. You ready?

GRAD
(to Austin)
Okay. Thanks, Kate.

Grad moves off with Kronk. Eggert witnessed the whole exchange, watches as Austin grabs a chart. Austin notices her staring.

AUSTIN
Ever seen a pacemaker placement?

EGGERT
No.

AUSTIN
Why don't you come in and observe tomorrow?

EGGERT
After what happened today?

AUSTIN
Caroline. Everyone makes mistakes. It's how we bounce back from them that counts.
(Austin walks off)

EGGERT
Dr. Austin?

Eggert falls into step with Austin.

EGGERT (CONT)
I was wondering. You could have let him go.

AUSTIN
He wasn't DNR.

Eggert isn't buying it. Neither does Austin.

AUSTIN (CONT)
(shrugs)
He's a human being.

EGGERT
(considering)
But I thought, when you start seeing patients as humans, you become a bad doctor.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (3)

44

Austin stops. Thinks. Then:

AUSTIN

I think, when you stop seeing
yourself as human, you become a
bad doctor.

Eggert looks at Austin, not quite getting it.

AUSTIN (CONT)

Good night, Caroline.

Eggert walks off. Austin turns to see Carr and Nurses wheeling Tracey's covered body out of the ICU. McNeil watches from a distance. As they head towards Elevator, Shannon falters. McNeil comes up, offering his arm. He enters Elevator with them, supporting Shannon.

WILMETTE (O.C.)

Kate.

Austin turns to find Wilmette.

WILMETTE (CONT)

I heard you lost your patient.

AUSTIN

Yeah. It's been... quite a day.

Wilmette studies her. With admiration?

AUSTIN (CONT)

Did the babysitter work out? Is
Sara okay?

WILMETTE

Everything's fine, thanks.

(beat)

Kate. You want to have dinner
tonight with Sara and me?

Austin looks at him warily. Wilmette seems sincere.

WILMETTE (CONT)

It won't be fancy. Peanut butter
and jelly--

AUSTIN

I'd love it.

WILMETTE

Good. Good.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (4)

44

Wilmette and Austin walks off when she turns to see the ORDERLY from the E.R. approaching, holding Tracey's softball.

ORDERLY (O.C.)

What did you want me to do with this?

Austin takes softball. A slight smile. Austin walks off with Wilmette, holding the ball. As they pass Cogdill's Room,

CUT TO:

45 INT. I.C.U./JERRY COGDILL'S ROOM - EVENING

45

Eggert stands in the Room where Cogdill can't see her. Cogdill lies in bed, in his halo cast. Trached. Staring. Afraid to close his eyes. Eggert moves to Cogdill's bed, avoids looking at him.

EGGERT

Hi, Jerry. It's me. Caroline Eggert. I'm the Resident here? Anyway, I wanted to stop by, say goodnight. Uh...

(beat)

You must be pretty frightened. I mean, the hospital's a scary place. I'm scared and I work here.

Nervous laugh. He's a hard crowd. She avoids his eyes.

EGGERT (CONT)

I guess, I... well, anyway. I just wanted to say goodnight.

Eggert should leave, but can't. She looks at his face. Cogdill stares back. A tear rolls down his cheek. His wound is greater than her means of helping. What can Eggert do?

EGGERT (CONT)

How would you like it, if I stayed here for tonight? Just until you're used to this place.

Cogdill blinks twice.

EGGERT (CONT)

I'll stay here, okay?

Cogdill looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

EGGERT (cont)
Why don't you close your eyes,
get some rest. I'll make sure
nothing happens.

For the first time Cogdill closes his eyes. Relaxed. As
Eggert begins to HUM, stroking Cogdill's hair,

FADE OUT:

THE END