

ER

"Hell and High Water"

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**A CONSTANT C/AMBLIN PRODUCTION
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STUDIO DRAFT

September 19, 1995

ER

"Hell and High Water"

CAST

GREENE

ROSS

LEWIS

BENTON

CARTER

HATHAWAY

JEANIE

JERRY

OLIGARIO

GOLDMAN

JARVIK

MALIK

HARPER

MORGENSTERN

LINDA

MINDY

ABRACZINSKAS

MRS. RIBLET

ZADRO

MOLLY

DR. TAGGART

MR. PHILLIPS

MRS. PHILLIPS

BILLY

BEN

MR. LARKIN

MRS. LARKIN

REPORTER

GUARD

McFARLAND

PARAMEDIC #1

PARAMEDIC #2

PILOT

CAMERAMAN

CUSTODIAN

ANCHORS
(RON AND CAROL)

BETH MAHONEY

ER

"Hell and High Water"

SETS

INTERIORS:

HOSPITAL

Suture Room
Exam Four Hallway
Exam Four
Admit Desk
Trauma Hallway
Trauma Two
Ambulance Bay Entrance
Lounge
Outside Trauma Two
Trauma One
Main Hallway
Curtain Area Two

PEDIATRIC OFFICE

Hallway

CULVERT

EXTERIORS:

RAINY ROAD (CHICAGO)

OPEN END OF CULVERT

EMBANKMENT

WOODED AREA

OUTSIDE POND

AMBULANCE BAY ENTRANCE

PARKING LOT (CHICAGO)

ER

"Hell and High Water"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. PEDIATRIC OFFICE (3:00 PM; RAINING OUTSIDE) 1

A DISTORTED CHILD'S FACE peers through the glass of an aquarium with tropical fish. OFF the aquarium PAN ACROSS a row of SITTING CHILDREN, one in galoshes coughing, another in a rain hat holding his stomach. All miserable. At the end is ROSS, squeezed into a kid's chair, next to a little girl, MINDY.

MINDY
Where's your kid?

ROSS
I'm by myself.

MINDY
Are you sick?

ROSS
Nope.

MINDY
How come you're here?

ROSS
For a job.

MINDY
Don't you have a job?

Ross is impatient and points to the fish tank.

ROSS
Look at those pretty fish over there.

Mindy keeps looking at Ross.

MINDY
Did you lose your job?

ROSS
How old are you?

MINDY
My daddy lost his.
(beat)
Do you have a new job?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

ROSS

Yes. Giving big shots to little kids.

Mindy's eyes widen. She bursts out crying, setting off a chain reaction among the other children. OFF Ross in a sea of sobs.

CUT TO:

2 SUTURE ROOM

2

CARTER is teaching JEANIE BOULET how to suture a MAN in a tank-top with a laceration on his shoulder. The lac cuts across a tattoo of a Chicago Cubs bear and the word "CUBS."

CARTER

Make sure you take equal bites on both sides of the laceration.

ABRACZINSKAS (MAN)

(pointing to shoulder)

Be careful. I've had that bear for twenty-three years.

CARTER

Don't worry, Mr. Abra...

ABRACZINSKAS

Abraczinskas.

CARTER

I'm a Sox fan myself.

ABRACZINSKAS

(pointing to shoulder)

A Sox fan did this with a busted beer bottle.

Carter grimaces.

JEANIE

How am I doing?

CARTER

Don't put too much tension on the stitch.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Benton goes nuts when they invert.

(beat)

Want a couple of tips for getting
along with Benton?

JEANIE

No, I'm okay.

CARTER

You don't know him like I do.

JEANIE

(smiles)

Yeah, really?

Jeanie continues sewing. Carter ticks off the dos and
don'ts.

CARTER

Never be late. Always present in
less than thirty seconds. Never
contradict him in front of an
attending...

Jeanie snips off the end of the suture, presents.

JEANIE

How's that?

CARTER

Beautiful.

Abraczinskas checks the work and is horrified.

ABRACZINSKAS

What've you done to Cubbie?

The bear is distorted and the word "CUBS" now reads "BS."

CUT TO:

EXAM FOUR HALLWAY

OLIGARIO hands GREENE a chart.

OLIGARIO

Mrs. Riblet. Weak and dizzy all
over.

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

GREENE

(groans)

Be still my heart.

They pause in front of Exam Four. Greene sniffs.

GREENE

Do you smell something?

OLIGARIO

Yep.

Greene and Oligario head into --

4

EXAM FOUR

4

They walk in on elderly MRS. RIBLET, smoking a joint. She tries to hide it.

GREENE

Excuse me, ma'am. Smoking is not permitted in the hospital.

Mrs. Riblet pulls out a baggie with several joints.

MRS. RIBLET

This is my glaucoma medicine. My grandson grows it.

She takes a deep drag, offers Greene a toke.

GREENE

No thanks. Why don't you put it away before we all get busted.

OLIGARIO

(aside to Greene)

Smells like good stuff.

GREENE

No kidding.

CUT TO:

5

ADMIT DESK

5

BENTON works on charts while eating tofu and rice. JERRY is hard at work on a new computer. HARPER comes up.

HARPER

New computer?

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

We're upgrading. I'm connecting us up by modem to Mt. Sinai. We're pooling our resources.

Harper picks up a chart, looks through it as Jerry types and clicks a mouse. Carter and Jeanie walk by, having a conversation.

CARTER

Every surgical patient gets colase.

JEANIE

A stool softener?

CARTER

Disimpaction's one procedure you don't want to do.

(sees Benton)

Late lunch, Dr. Benton?

Benton doesn't look up.

BENTON

Yeah.

Carter picks up a brownie off a plate.

CARTER

Who made the brownies?

JERRY

Wendy Goldman.

Carter frowns. As he puts the brownie back, his eyes meet with Harper's. He's still smarting over her one-night stand with Ross.

HARPER

Hi.

CARTER

Hi.

Benton looks up for a moment, catches Jeanie's eye, looks back down. An awkward moment that Jerry breaks --

JERRY

Damn!

HARPER

What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

JERRY

I think I deleted radiology.

Benton shakes his head.

HARPER

Did you back it up?

JERRY

Was I supposed to?

GOLDMAN approaches, writes a name on the board.

GOLDMAN

Hit and run pulling up. Ten-year-old girl.

BENTON

Where's Ross?

JERRY

Job interview.

BENTON

All right. Let's go.

They head off. Jerry approaches Goldman.

JERRY

Wendy, know anything about file recovery?

GOLDMAN

A bit.

Jerry escorts Goldman to the computer.

GOLDMAN

Try Alt Q.

Jerry hits the keys. The COMPUTER makes a terrible NOISE.

GOLDMAN

No, no, control Q.

OFF Jerry, desperately hitting keys.

CUT TO:

6

TRAUMA HALLWAY

6

PARAMEDIC ZADRO, in rain gear, races in with MOLLY PHILLIPS, 8, in a c-collar on a backboard. Benton, Carter, Harper, Jeanie and MARQUEZ race alongside.

ZADRO

Hit and run, no witnesses. Found unconscious, responsive to pain. BP 140 over 90, resps low at 10. Tubed her in the field. Multiple facial lacs, possible fracture to right femur.

BENTON

Get radiology down here. Trauma Two.

Jeanie heads off down the hallway.

HARPER

(to Zadro)

What's her name?

Zadro hands Harper the little girl's lunch box.

ZADRO

Lunch box says Molly Phillips.

They crash into --

7

TRAUMA TWO

7

Move Molly onto the table. Zadro exits.

BENTON

One, two, three, let's learn something here.

Benton examines Molly as he pimps Carter and Harper. Nurses attach lines, cut off clothing, take BP.

BENTON

Carter, how do you check for spinal injury on an unconscious patient?

CARTER

(confidently)

Look for absence of deep tendon reflexes.

BENTON

Do it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Carter uses a reflex hammer, checks for a Babinski.

OLIGARIO

Poor little thing.

BENTON

Harper, what's the first film you order?

HARPER

Chest?

BENTON

You agree, Carter?

Carter smiles.

CARTER

No. I'd get a cross-table lateral to rule out a c-spine fracture.

(finishing exam)

Deep tendon reflexes present bilaterally; Babinski normal.

Benton examines Molly's pupils. Harper's standing back:

BENTON

Harper, tell me about head trauma. What study should we do?

HARPER

Uh...

BENTON

It's hard to work on a kid. Put it out of your mind.

OLIGARIO

Pressure's falling, 50 over 30.

Benton and Carter listen. Harper moves close to Carter, listens with her stethoscope. Carter moves to the other side of the table.

BENTON

(to Harper)

What do you hear?

HARPER

Diminished breath sounds on the right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BENTON

Is that a question or a statement?

Carter chimes in before Harper can answer.

CARTER

I appreciate air movement bilaterally. No pneumo.

Benton listens for a moment.

BENTON

Carter, those are upper airway sounds.

HARPER

I see a shift to the left.

BENTON

So do I.

HARPER

Tension pneumo?

BENTON

Yep. I'll show you how to do a needle decompression. Carter, write her orders.

Harper smiles. OFF Carter, pissed.

CUT TO:

PEDIATRIC OFFICE HALLWAY

DR. CHUCK TAGGART, mid-fifties, escorts Ross through the large office. Children and parents wander through the hallways. Ross presents an enthusiastic front.

TAGGART

Our new urgent care facility could use someone with your experience.

ROSS

Urgent care... smart move.

TAGGART

Most of our emergencies are run-of-the-mill stuff, sprained ankles, croup, concussions -- and lots of well-baby care and ear infections.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Right up my alley.

TAGGART

Private practice is changing. We're chasing PPO contracts to compete against the HMOs. Capitated fees have been killing us, so we're aggressively searching for new patients.

A toddler runs by, chased by his smiling mother.

TAGGART

Primary care, that's the future. And pediatrics is going to be at the forefront. Volume practice, organization, computerization, mergers, and efficiency. We've got to stay ahead of the managed care train or it's going to run us over.

ROSS

I'm pretty used to the volume part.

TAGGART

Working at County, I can imagine. In ten years there are only going to be a handful of private pediatric practices left standing -- and we plan to be one of them. You up for the challenge?

ROSS

Absolutely.

TAGGART

So you want the job?

ROSS

(offers his hand)
Yes. I do.

OFF Ross, smiling.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 EXAM FOUR (4:20 PM)

9

The room is dark, illuminated only by the beam of light from Greene's ophthalmoscope. He examines Mrs. Riblet's eyes as she sits on the bed.

GREENE

Your optic discs look perfectly normal. Are you sure you have glaucoma?

MRS. RIBLET

My medicine must be working.

Greene flips on the light. He examines her eye movements.

GREENE

How long have you been lightheaded?

MRS. RIBLET

I wouldn't call it lightheaded, it's more like I float.

GREENE

How long have you been floating?

MRS. RIBLET

About two weeks.

GREENE

And how long have you been smoking marijuana?

MRS. RIBLET

About two weeks.

GREENE

We may have narrowed down our differential diagnosis, here, Mrs. Riblet. I suggest you stop smoking the marijuana.

MRS. RIBLET

But it relaxes me.

GREENE

Then I'd suggest you float only in the privacy of your own home.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED:

9

MRS. RIBLET

What'll I tell my grandson?

GREENE

Time for crop rotation.

CUT TO:

10

TRAUMA TWO

10

Benton's still with Molly, the hit and run child. He puts up a film of a fractured tibia on the light box. Jeanie, Carter, and Harper huddle together. MORGENSTERN enters.

MORGENSTERN

How's she doing, Peter?

BENTON

She's stable. We're just going over some of her films.

MORGENSTERN

(re: x-ray)

Nasty break.

(turning to students)

Anybody want to take a crack at reading it?

JEANIE

Fracture of the right tibial shaft and --

(pointing to film)

soft tissue swelling.

MORGENSTERN

Excellent.

Benton is not pleased.

JEANIE

Excuse me, Dr. Benton, but were knee and ankle films ordered?

Benton pauses. Carter shakes his head, tries to stop Jeanie from taking this dangerous path.

BENTON

I don't believe so...

(CONTINUED)

JEANIE

With tibial shaft fracture, knee
and ankle films are necessary to
rule out injuries from transmitted
forces.

Morgenstern smiles.

MORGENSTERN

She's right as rain, Peter.

BENTON

Yes... well...

MORGENSTERN

Order those films.

(then, to Jeanie)

Come with me. I have a couple of
interesting Colle fracture films
you might like to see.

(then)

Ever seen a middle ear bone
fracture?

JEANIE

No.

MORGENSTERN

Me, either. Love to, though.

Jeanie follows, sneaks a look back at Carter and Benton,
grins.

CUT TO:

Ross comes through the doors, sopping wet in his
raincoat. Greene turns the corner, catches up to him.

GREENE

How'd the interview go?

ROSS

What do you care?

GREENE

(a deep breath)

I care.

ROSS

(giving him nothing)

Then, it went great.

They head into --

12

LOUNGE

12

Ross takes off his coat, opens his locker.

GREENE

What did they say?

ROSS

Why all this sudden interest?
Feeling guilty?

GREENE

No.

ROSS

You should be.

HATHAWAY enters in her raincoat.

GREENE

You know, I think we'll get along
fine without you.

Greene stalks out.

HATHAWAY

What was that all about?

ROSS

Old friends, reliving the good
times.

HATHAWAY

So, did you get the job?

ROSS

Yep. Eighty grand a year, and
nobody dies. Hallelujah.
Goodbye. Good riddance.
Auveterzaine. See ya around some
time.

He backs out the door and is gone.

CUT TO:

13

TRAUMA TWO

13

Harper sits beside Molly, now awake, though still
intubated.

HARPER

Molly... Molly... do you know
where you are?

(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED:

Molly shakes her head.

HARPER

You're in a hospital. You got hit by a car. We're taking good care of you.

Molly examines the rings on Harper's hand.

HARPER

You like my ring?

Molly nods. She touches Harper's face.

HARPER

I know you're scared, but I'll stay with you. We've called your parents and they'll be here soon.

Benton and Carter blow in.

BENTON

How long has she been conscious?

HARPER

Couple of minutes.

BENTON

Let's extubate her.
(turning to Carter)
Carter...

CARTER

(to Oligario)
What's her respiration rate?

OLIGARIO

Eighteen, gases are good, CO2 35,
O2 75.

CARTER

Excellent.

HARPER

We're going to take this tube out.
Can you take a big, deep breath
for me?

Molly takes a breath.

CARTER

Now squeeze my hand.

(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED: (2)

13

Molly takes her other hand and squeezes Carter's hand. Now she's holding both Carter and Harper's hands. They look at each other for a beat -- connected by this child.

BENTON

(impatient)

Carter...

Carter lets go of Molly's hand and prepares to extubate.

BENTON

Make sure the balloon's down
before you extubate.

Carter sucks the air out with a syringe.

CARTER

As I pull this out pretend you're
blowing a big bubble.

(beat)

Ready... now blow... hard.

Molly's cheeks puff up as Carter pulls out the ET tube.

BENTON

(listening)

Good job. Send her for a head CT.
I'll be in Exam Two.

Molly whispers something.

HARPER

What?

Harper bends down to hear.

HARPER

I'm Harper.

Molly turns her head and looks up to Carter.

HARPER

And this is John.

CARTER

Hi, Molly.

CUT TO:

14

ADMIT DESK

14

LINDA FARRELL walks up to the desk carrying a lacy 18th century costume. Jerry and Goldman are struggling at the computer.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

Hi, Jerry.

JERRY

(looking up briefly)

Hello, Ms. Farrell.

LINDA

Having trouble?

JERRY

We lost radiology.

LINDA

That's bad.

JERRY

No kidding.

LINDA

You have a file recovery disc?

GOLDMAN

No.

Linda searches through her briefcase, pulls out a disc.

LINDA

Let me have a go at it.

She inserts the disc, clicks and types. Jerry's nervous.

JERRY

Wow. Do you really know what you're doing?

LINDA

Is the Pope Polish? I'm a hacker from way back.

(beat)

There are a couple of damaged clusters, but everything looks intact.

Jerry breathes a sigh of relief as Mrs. Riblet walks up, still in her hospital gown and robe.

MRS. RIBLET

Excuse me, where can I get a snack?

JERRY

Vending machine's down that hallway, make a left.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MRS. RIBLET

I don't have any change.

Jerry offers her a plate of Goldman's brownies.

JERRY

Have one.

MRS. RIBLET

Brownies? Love 'em.

Ross comes up behind Linda, crossing in front of Mrs. Riblet, who pauses, watching.

ROSS

What are you doing here?

She gives him a quick kiss.

LINDA

Mozart ring a bell?

ROSS

No.

LINDA

'Fantasy of the Opera'? 'The Magic Flute'?

Ross shakes his head.

LINDA

The charity ball. You promised you'd go.

Mrs. Riblet, munching away, watches the TV and "Geraldo."

MRS. RIBLET

Could somebody change the TV to 'Oprah'?

Everyone ignores her.

ROSS

Tonight?

LINDA

The tickets cost me 300 bucks.

(Ross groans)

Here's your costume. Don Giovanni.

Ross takes one look at the lace and knickers.

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED: (3)

14

ROSS

Tights? Can't I wear a tux?

LINDA

No.

(checking watch)

Pick me up at seven. That'll give
you an hour to change.

She gives him a kiss.

ROSS

What're you going as?

LINDA

Carmen.

Linda turns dramatically and heads off.

LINDA

Don't be late.

Ross holds up his costume dispondently. Mrs. Riblet
takes her baggie of joints and sticks them in Ross's lab
coat pocket.

MRS. RIBLET

I think you're gonna need these.

CUT TO:

15

LIGHT BOX

15

Jeanie is studying x-rays when Benton comes up to her.

BENTON

Mrs. Wilson is being admitted with
coffee ground enesis. Patient has
been admitted fourteen times in
the last three years with the same
symptoms. I'd like you to order
all her charts and write a summary
of all the discharge notes.

He hands her a massive chart.

JEANIE

All of them?

BENTON

All of them. Sooner rather than
later. Get cracking.

And he walks off.

CUT TO:

Greene wipes Mrs. Riblet's name off the board with a flourish. Hathaway is at the computer, typing.

GREENE

(to Jerry)

Adios, Mrs. Riblet. So, everything under control?

JERRY

You know what they say, 'Rainy day, keeps patients away.'

GREENE

Pray for a monsoon.

Greene walks over to Hathaway, looks over her shoulder.

GREENE

Watcha doing?

HATHAWAY

Playing 'Doom II.'

(beat, looking up
at Greene)

You smell like dope, where have you been?

GREENE

With a patient.

HATHAWAY

Oh.

Hathaway goes back to her game.

GREENE

How do you play?

HATHAWAY

You kill monsters.

(beat)

Jerry hooked it up so we can play against Mt. Sinai.

We see Hathaway zap an Arch Vile Monster with a rocket launcher. He dies hideously, the VOICE from the COMPUTER SCREAMS. GUNS BLAST.

GREENE

Sounds like fun. Can I play?

HATHAWAY

Sure. Just kill anything that moves.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

GREENE

Sounds educational.

HATHAWAY

Uplifting. Die, you bastard!
Die!

CUT TO:

17 OUTSIDE TRAUMA TWO

17

Benton stands with MR. and MRS. PHILLIPS, Molly's
parents.

BENTON

Your daughter is stable. She
suffered a fractured tibia and a
broken rib, which punctured her
right lung.

MRS. PHILLIPS

Oh my God.

BENTON

We put in a chest tube to re-
expand the lung and she's resting
comfortably. Orthopedics will
take care of her leg and plastic
surgery will be down to suture the
facial lacerations.

MR. PHILLIPS

Can we go in?

BENTON

Sure.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips enter --

18 TRAUMA TWO

18

Molly immediately brightens. Both parents go to her.

MOLLY

I knew you'd come.

MRS. PHILLIPS

Sweetie, sweetie, of course we
would.

MR. PHILLIPS

How are you feeling?

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

Okay. But I want to go home.

BENTON

(to parents)

She'll be in the hospital for at least several days.

MOLLY

Will both of you stay with me?

MRS. PHILLIPS

Of course, sweetheart.

MOLLY

And will Daddy come back to live with us?

The parents shoot each other looks.

MRS. PHILLIPS

We'll talk about that later.

MR. PHILLIPS

How could you let her ride her bike in the rain?

MRS. PHILLIPS

Don't blame me for this.

MR. PHILLIPS

Who else let her do it?

MRS. PHILLIPS

I do the best I can. Maybe if you spent more time with her and less time at the office with Sarah.

Harper moves the parents away from Molly. Carter takes it all in.

HARPER

(quietly)

I think it would be better if you didn't argue in front of her. She's had a serious accident. She needs you both.

The parents pull themselves together. Mr. Phillips turns away.

MRS. PHILLIPS

I'm sorry. David?

(CONTINUED)

MR. PHILLIPS

Sure. You're right. Sorry.

HARPER

The plastic surgeon will be down soon. If either of you have a picture of Molly, it could help him repair the laceration on her cheek.

They both look at Harper, dig out pictures. The same picture. The Phillips look at each other.

MR. PHILLIPS

Same picture.

Carter and Harper look at the picture.

MRS. PHILLIPS

Lake Geneva. That was a great vacation.

MR. PHILLIPS

Molly was six...

(beat)

I'm surprised you haven't cut me out of the shot. Like all the ones at the house.

MRS. PHILLIPS

I forgot. It was in my wallet.

(to Harper)

Will this help?

HARPER

(takes only Mrs. Phillips')

I only need one.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips head back to Molly who reaches out to both of them.

CARTER

You were good with them.

HARPER

(hard, sad)

My parents got divorced when I was seven. Dad's secretary. Her name was Helen.

Harper joins the parents and OFF Carter, taking that in.

CUT TO:

19 INT. ROSS'S CAR - RAINY ROAD (CHICAGO) 19

Ross, now in a tuxedo, drives through the rain. A THUMP. He slows down, pulls over to the side of the road. He grabs a newspaper, holds it over his head as he gets out --

20 RAINY ROAD (CHICAGO) 20

Just what he needs -- a flat tire. He gets back into the car, slams the door.

21 INT. ROSS'S CAR (CHICAGO) 21

He's wet, miserable. He reaches for his lab coat. Pulls out the baggie. Considers it. Looks at it: why not? Pops in the cigarette lighter. Smells the joint. POP. The lighter. Lights it. Takes a puff. Coughs. Coughs again. God. That's rougher than he remembers from college. Has a mild coughing fit. A LOUD NOISE SLAMS against the WINDOW. He drops the joint. Busted! Christ! Looks out his window expecting to see a cop, finds the face of a NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY (BILLY), panicked.

BILLY

(pounding again)

Help! Help! Help me please!

Ross opens the car door. The kid's soaked to the bone.

BILLY

Please, please, my brother needs help.

ROSS

Slow down. What happened?

BILLY

Hurry! He's gonna drown!

Ross jumps out into the pouring rain, follows Billy through a grove of trees to --

22 OPEN END OF CULVERT 22

Water is pouring out of the culvert into a pond. Ross enters the culvert, flashes light into the tunnel. He sees a KID (BEN), about twelve, trapped behind the grating, screaming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Oh God! Oh God!

ROSS

Hang on, kid! I'm coming!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

23

INT. CULVERT - DUSK

23

Ross crawls through a foot of water, followed by Billy.

ROSS
(calling)
Are you hurt?

BEN
(calling back)
My leg's stuck.

Ross directs the flashlight on Ben, whose leg is caught in the culvert grating.

BEN
I'm scared.

ROSS
Don't panic. Just take it easy.
I'm gonna get you out.

Ross crawls up to the grate. Debris and pieces of wood are lodged against the grate, causing the water level to come up to Ben's knees.

ROSS
What's your name?

BEN
Ben.

ROSS
I'm Doug.

Ross pulls debris out from around the shivering Ben.

ROSS
How the hell'd he get in here?

BILLY
We were up at the canal. The water started coming real fast.

BEN
It hurts! Get it out! Get it out!

BILLY
Mom told us to stay out of the tunnel.

(CONTINUED)

BEN
 (yelling)
 It's not my fault. The water
 pushed me!

Ross moves Billy back from the grate.

ROSS
 Settle down, guys. It's nobody's
 fault.
 (beat, to Ben)
 Are you okay?

BEN
 I'm cold. And my leg hurts.

Ben tries to pull his leg out of the grating. Ross
 shines the flashlight down on Ben's leg, examines it
 quickly, tries to free him.

ROSS
 Let me take a look. I'm a doc.
 (palpating Ben's leg)
 Does that hurt?

BEN
 (he yelps, then)
 Yeah, a lot.

ROSS
 Try not to move it.

BEN
 Is it broken?

ROSS
 Maybe.

Ben starts to cry.

BILLY
 Don't cry, Ben.

ROSS
 Yeah, buddy. This is nothing
 compared to the stuff I've seen.

Ross continues pulling out debris. Ben's really crying
 now, more out of fear.

ROSS
 Car wrecks, fires, explosions.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

Get him out, okay?

BEN

Please. Please.

Ross pulls at the top of the grate at the rusty hinges --

ROSS

This is gonna be a piece of cake.

He checks the bars, rattling the grating.

ROSS

I used to build forts in these tunnels.

The grating doesn't budge.

BILLY

You did?

ROSS

Yep. But you gotta watch out for rain, the water rises fast.

Ross turns to Billy, so Ben can't hear.

ROSS

Billy. Find a phone and call 911. Tell them to send a rescue squad.

BILLY

Okay.

ROSS

(Billy doesn't go)
Now, Billy! Go! Go!

Billy runs out.

BEN

Where's he going?

ROSS

Grating's locked. We might need a little help.

BEN

(barely keeping
from crying)
You said you could do it.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

I'll figure it out.
(beat, looks around)
Where'd you get in here?

BEN

(pointing down the
tunnel)
Other side of the park...

ROSS

Damn. That's a coupla miles.

BEN

We didn't know it was raining.

ROSS

What's that light down there?

Ben turns his head, looks down the tunnel. Streaks of light cut through the darkness, about fifty feet away.

BEN

I don't know.

ROSS

I'm gonna check it out.

Ross turns to head out.

BEN

Don't leave!

ROSS

I'll be right back.

Ben grabs for Ross through the bars.

BEN

Wait. Don't!

Ben looks down -- the water is rising. It's up to his waist now.

ROSS

You're gonna be okay, Ben -- I promise. But you gotta trust me. Can you do that for me?

BEN

(nods, none
too sure)

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (4)

23

ROSS

First thing I want you to do is
crouch into a ball... like this.

Ross hugs his arms together, brings his chin to his
chest.

ROSS

That'll keep you warm. Okay?

Ben tries it.

ROSS

Good job. I'm going to see what
that light is. I'll be back as
fast as I can.

Ross reaches through the bars, shakes Ben's hand. As
Ross crawls out backwards through the culvert --

ROSS

Remember, a ball.

Ben hugs himself into a ball. Ross exits the culvert
to --

24 THE EMBANKMENT

24

Rips off his tuxedo coat, climbs up the muddy, slippery
embankment to a --

25 WOODED AREA

25

Pushes through the bushes, searching, kicking at leaves.
Can't find it.

ROSS

Dammit!

A bit of rusty metal ten feet away. A drain shaft
covered with branches. He tears away the debris. The
drain is covered with metal bars. He rattles it. A
huge, rusty lock. The WATER ROARS somewhere below. No
way in. Ross calls down into the shaft --

ROSS

Ben, can you hear me?

Ross's voice ECHOES through the tunnel.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

BEN (V.O.)
(ECHOING back)

Yeah!

ROSS

Are you okay?

BEN
(ECHOING back)

Yeah! Did you find something?

ROSS

I'm coming right back!

Ross looks around the ground, finds an old metal pipe, tries it on the grate. Nothing. Scurries back down the bank, slippery, falling, into the pond, wades back and enters --

26

INT. CULVERT

26

The water has risen to Ben's waist. Ross wedges the flashlight into a crack in the culvert wall, spilling light over Ben and the grate.

ROSS

It was blocked.

BEN

I'm so cold.

Ross reaches between the bars, takes Ben's pulse, examines Ben's hands and fingers.

ROSS

Can you wiggle your toes?

BEN

No.

ROSS

How about your fingers?

Ben barely moves his fingers.

ROSS

Good. Feel me squeezing your hand?

BEN

A little.

Ross tries to pry the bars apart with the pipe.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Don't worry. Just think warm thoughts. Hawaii. The Sahara Desert...

Ross changes angles with the pipe.

ROSS

A volcano. Chicago in July...

Ben closes his eyes. Ross leans the pipe against the wall, realizes Ben is drifting off. Sticks his arms through the bars, shakes Ben, hard.

ROSS

Stay awake! You gotta stay awake!

BEN

I'm so tired.

ROSS

Hey, you know any songs?

BEN

No.

ROSS

Sure you do. Uh... what about... 'My Country Tis of Thee'?

BEN

What?

ROSS

Uh... How about... 'I've Been Working on the Railroad.'

(begins to sing,
loudly)

I've been working on the railroad,
all the live-long day...

(then, talking)

Everybody knows it. Come on.

Ross sings again. Ben joins in weakly.

ROSS/BEN

I've been working on the railroad
just to pass the time away...

Ross tries to wedge apart the bars once more.

ROSS

Louder, Ben.

(CONTINUED)

Ross sings loudly with Ben as he works.

ROSS/BEN

Don't you hear the whistle
blowing, rise up so early in the
morn, can't you hear the captain
shouting, Dinah blow your horn...

Ross tries the pipe again. No luck. Damn. He slides
down in the water, takes Ben by the shoulders. Looks him
in the eye.

ROSS

Ben, I have to get some help.

BEN

(pleading)

Don't go, please...

ROSS

Listen to me. You've got to sing
as loud as you can. So I can hear
you. Okay?

Ross grabs hold of Ben's hand through the grate.

ROSS

I'll be right back.

(beat)

Ready?

Ben nods.

ROSS

Someone's in the kitchen with
Dinah...

Ben starts to sing.

BEN/ROSS

Someone's in the kitchen I know,
someone's in the kitchen with
Dinah...

Ross heads out as Ben sings weakly --

Ross wades through the water, now just above his waist,
and climbs up the embankment.

ROSS

Ben, I can't hear you!

(CONTINUED)

27

CONTINUED:

27

BEN (V.O.)
 (barely audible)
 ... Strumming on the old banjo.
 Fee, fi, fiddlee-i-o...

Darkness. The rain, slowing. Only Ben's VOICE FADING AWAY.

CUT TO:

28

ADMIT DESK

28

Benton works at the desk while Greene, Hathaway, Jerry, and Goldman are playing Doom II.

GREENE
 I shot a Hell Knight with my plasma rifle, but he nailed me with a rocket launcher.

HATHAWAY
 Look out for the green fireballs!

Jeanie walks up to Benton.

JEANIE
 Excuse me.

BENTON
 Yeah.

They move away from the crowd at the computer.

JEANIE
 I sorted through the charts and compiled all the discharge summaries.

Jeanie comes around the desk, pushing a cart loaded with at least fifty charts.

JEANIE
 I think your patient has an esophageal hernia.

She hands Benton a stack of papers.

JEANIE
 Anything else you need me to do, I'll be in the Suture Room.

She walks off, leaving a disbelieving Benton holding the huge stack of papers.

CUT TO:

29

EXT. ROSS'S CAR (CHICAGO) - NIGHT

29

Raining. Ross opens his trunk, pulls out his jack, flash-light and tire iron. A car heads down the road and Ross waves for it to stop. It sweeps by. Ross slams the trunk closed as Billy runs up, out of breath.

BILLY

I couldn't find a phone anywhere.

ROSS

Oh God.

Ross turns, looks around, sees a row of small shops across the street. He dashes across the road, followed by Billy. He swings the tire iron through a plate glass window, SETTING OFF an ALARM.

ROSS

Billy, I need your help. Look inside for a phone and call 911.

Ross knocks away shards of glass from the window, making a large hole.

ROSS

Stay here until help comes. Then lead them down to the drain.

Ross picks up Billy and sets him inside the shop.

ROSS

(calling)

You see a phone?

A beat.

BILLY

(calling)

I found one!

ROSS

Good boy!

Ross races back across the street toward the --

30

EXT. EMBANKMENT

30

Wades through the pond, now just below his chest, calling.

ROSS

Ben! Ben!

(CONTINUED)

30

CONTINUED:

30

No answer.

ROSS
(screaming)
Ben! Ben! Answer me!

Still no answer. Ross, carrying the tire iron, flashlight, and jack, frantically enters --

31

INT. CULVERT

31

The water is up to Ben's chest. He's exhausted; his lips are blue. The water on Ross' side is about two feet high and gushing out the culvert into the pond.

Ross crawls over to Ben.

ROSS
Hey, buddy.

He reaches through the bars, touches Ben's face. He's cold, lips chattering, blue. Ben looks up.

BEN
(weakly)
I sang it four times.

ROSS
All right. I knew you could do it.

Ben smiles weakly. Ross wedges the jack against the side of the culvert so the head pushes against the bar of the grate. He starts pumping.

ROSS
This oughta do the trick.

He keeps pumping. Ben closes his eyes, his head starts back.

ROSS
Stay with me, Ben! You a Cubs fan?

Ben opens his eyes and nods.

ROSS
Who's your favorite player?
(no answer)
Who's your favorite player?!

(CONTINUED)

BEN

(quietly)

Mark Grace.

ROSS

Are you nuts? Shawn Dunston's my man. No better shortstop. Tell you what, next season I'll take you to Wrigley Field. We'll grab a couple of Chicago dogs, and match Grace against Dunston?

Ben just nods weakly. Ross pumps harder. The bar doesn't budge. He gives it a hard shove. The jack slips and falls into the water.

ROSS

Damn!

Ross reaches down into the murky water, retrieves the jack, repositions it. Starts pumping again.

ROSS

So, think you know a lot about the game, huh?

Ben nods weakly.

ROSS

Ask me any question.

The water is up to Ben's shoulders. He's becoming more and more lethargic. Ross tries to cover the panic in his voice. He's pumping like crazy.

ROSS

(shouting)

Come on, Ben. Ask me a question!

BEN

(a small voice)

Longest hitting streak?

ROSS

Joe DiMaggio, '41, fifty-six games. Go on, ask me another!

BEN

(faintly)

Most home runs...

ROSS

Hank Aaron, broke the Babe's record.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

Ross bends the bar back.

ROSS

I got it!

Ross tosses the jack.

ROSS

Pull your leg out.

BEN

I can't feel it.

ROSS

I'll help you.

Ross reaches under the water and pushes Ben's leg out.

ROSS

We did it, Ben. We're almost home. Now listen to me.

Ben closes his eyes.

ROSS

(yelling)

Listen to me!

Ben opens his eyes.

ROSS

Hold on tight with both hands.
Keep your head above the water.
Can you do that for me?

Ben nods. Ross grabs the tire iron and uses the chisel point to knock out a top hinge that holds the grate in place.

ROSS

Hold on, pal. Hold on.

Ross knocks out the upper right hinge. He starts pounding on the left hinge.

ROSS

Almost got it, Ben. Hold on tight.

BEN

(weakly)

I can't.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

ROSS
You can!

BEN
I...

ROSS
(screaming)
Dammit hold on!

Ben lets go. Ross grabs at him through the grate, ripping his shirt and cutting his arm. He just misses him as he goes under.

Ross desperately bangs at the other hinge and knocks out the hinge pin. The grate flies open, sending a flood of slime and water over Ross, pushing him backward out of the culvert and into --

32 EXT. OUTSIDE POND - NIGHT

32

Both underwater. Ross comes up, spitting out water, flailing. Struggles to his feet. He looks around. No Ben. Takes a deep breath, dives under. It's quiet. The rain has stopped. Just the moon reflecting on the pond.

Comes up empty-handed. He dives again... five seconds... ten seconds... Finally reemerges, pulling Ben up out of the muddy murk.

Ross wades out of the pond and into the night, carrying Ben, who's limp in his arms. A searchlight sweeps over Ross, accompanied by the sounds of a ROTOR WASH. Above. A CHOPPER.

Ross lays Ben on the embankment, attempts to clear out his mouth, begins CPR. Does chest compressions under the light of the helicopter, then mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Chest compressions. Nothing. Chest compressions again. Nothing.

ROSS
(screaming)
You're not dying on me now, Ben!

The CHOPPER hovers over them, WHIPPING up the WATER. Ross will not give up.

ROSS
Not now!!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

33 TRAUMA TWO (8:30 PM)

33

Harper and MALIK roll Molly out. Her leg's now casted, but the laceration on her cheek hasn't been sutured.

MOLLY

Where are we going?

HARPER

We're moving you to a nicer room.

Molly takes Harper's hand.

MOLLY

My lunchbox...

Harper grabs it off the counter, sets it on the gurney as they head into --

34 TRAUMA HALLWAY

34

HARPER

Don't be scared. I'll stay with you until we take you upstairs.

Molly opens the box and takes out a necklace made of colorful clay beads. She hands it to Harper.

MOLLY

It's for you. I made it in school. I was going to give it to my mom.

HARPER

It's beautiful.

Harper slips it on.

HARPER

Thanks.

MALIK

Great look.

Carter and Mr. and Mrs. Phillips meet them outside Curtain Area Two.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(to Harper)

Plastic surgery will be down in a few minutes.

HARPER

Thanks.

Harper and Malik wheel the gurney toward Curtain Area Three. Carter hangs back with the Phillips.

MRS. PHILLIPS

(to Carter)

We won't be needing your surgeon after all.

CARTER

Excuse me?

MRS. PHILLIPS

My plastic surgeon's on his way.

MR. PHILLIPS

Who?

MRS. PHILLIPS

(defensively)

Fred.

MR. PHILLIPS

Fred Mendoza? He'll cost a fortune!

MRS. PHILLIPS

(venomously)

It's only your daughter's face.

Carter tries to stop the fight from escalating, but the Phillips ignore him.

CARTER

Maybe we should discuss this privately...

MR. PHILLIPS

I hate him. That's why you called him.

MRS. PHILLIPS

He's the best in Chicago.

MR. PHILLIPS

For lopsided breasts.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

Mrs. Phillips slaps him hard across the face, then walks off in a huff.

MR. PHILLIPS
(to Carter)
Touchy subject.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. EMBANKMENT NEAR CULVERT

35

The helicopter searchlight sweeps over Ross as he continues to perform CPR on Ben. Billy runs up, followed by a SECURITY GUARD, carrying some old blankets. It's stopped raining.

GUARD
Got a call you broke a window.

The Guard bends down next to Ross, hands him the blankets. Ross wraps Ben in the blankets.

ROSS
Mouth-to-mouth's not working.
Airway's blocked.

GUARD
Paramedics should be here any minute.

ROSS
(pointing to copter)
Medivac copter will take us.

The helicopter swoops lower as it heads toward the parking lot to land.

GUARD
That's a TV news chopper. Think he's gonna try to land in the road up there.

Ross looks up, sees for himself. We hear the FAINT sound of a SIREN APPROACHING. Billy crouches next to Ross. The chopper disappears behind the trees.

BILLY
Is my brother gonna die?

ROSS
No, he sure as hell isn't!

Ross pulls a Swiss Army knife out of his pocket.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD

What are you doing?

ROSS

I'm a doctor. He needs an airway.

(to Guard)

Got a lighter?

The Guard hands Ross a disposable lighter.

ROSS

And a pen.

The Guard takes a pen out of his pocket, gives it to Ross. He unscrews the pen, cuts off the end of the barrel with the Swiss Army knife. He flicks on the lighter, runs the blade through the flame. The SIREN gets CLOSER and CLOSER.

ROSS

(to Guard)

Keep the other kid back.

The Guard pulls Billy away as Ross makes an incision in Ben's throat. Ross takes the pen barrel and wedges it into Ben's throat, then blows air through it. Ross pauses.

ROSS

Breathe, dammit!

Ross continues blowing air through the pen. Ben coughs.

PARAMEDICS race down the embankment, carrying a gurney, accompanied by a reporter (KENT MCFARLAND) and a CAMERAMAN.

MCFARLAND

(to Guard)

We picked up the paramedic call.

What happened?

GUARD

This guy just saved a kid. Says he's a doctor.

McFarland motions for the Cameraman to shoot Ross as he continues to breathe for Ben. The sun gun snaps on, bathing the scene in a surreal light. McFarland reports as Ross and the Paramedics work on Ben.

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED: (2)

35

MCFARLAND

We are at the scene of an
incredible rescue in Grant Park.
It appears that a doctor has saved
a little boy from drowning.

Ross unwraps the blankets from around Ben, still
unconscious, gently lifts him up and places him on the
gurney, assisted by the Paramedics.

ROSS

(to paramedics)

Easy guys, he's hypothermic.
Jostling may cause an arrhythmia.

They race up the embankment, followed by McFarland and
the Cameraman, catching it all on tape.

ROSS

(on the run)

Twelve-year-old trapped in a
culvert, possible fracture to the
left lower extremity. Underwater
at least two minutes,
crichothyrotomy to relieve airway
obstruction.

Ross and the Paramedics move through the trees to --

36

PARKING LOT (CHICAGO)

36

Ross and the Paramedics race toward the rescue van,
followed by McFarland and the Cameraman.

ROSS

Doug Ross. I work in County's ER.
Set him down and get me a number
four ET tube, portable O-Two, and
an ambu bag.

The Paramedics gently set Ben on the Parking Lot
pavement.

PARAMEDIC #1

You got it.

Paramedic #1 enters the back of the van, pulls out the
equipment, hands it to Ross. Ross pulls the pen out of
Ben's throat and replaces it with the ET tube. He
connects the tube to the portable tank, held by Paramedic
#2, and begins to bag Ben.

(CONTINUED)

PARAMEDIC #2
 Thanks, Doc, we've got it.
 (to Paramedic #1)
 Call Midway Community.

Paramedic #2 takes the ambu bag from Ross. The Paramedics then lift the gurney, head for the van.

ROSS
 Midway's not a level one trauma center.

PARAMEDIC #2
 It's the nearest facility.

ROSS
 He needs an ICU, maybe a surgeon.

PARAMEDIC #2
 We've gotta follow base station orders.

ROSS
 What's your transport time?

PARAMEDIC #2
 In this weather, maybe twelve minutes.

ROSS
 (turning to
 McFarland)
 Where's your pilot?

McFarland turns, signals for the PILOT to come over.

McFARLAND
 Hey, Jimmy! Over here!

PARAMEDIC #2
 Sorry, Doc, we gotta move.

Ross stops the Paramedic.

ROSS
 Wait.

PARAMEDIC #2
 We're losing time.

The Pilot races up.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

What's your flying time to County General?

PILOT

About fifteen minutes.

ROSS

Will you take us?

PILOT

Chopper's not equipped for secure transport.

Another chopper comes into view.

McFARLAND

Damn. Channel Eight's here.

ROSS

He's hypothermic. He needs special care.

PARAMEDIC #2

Midway's closer.

ROSS

By three minutes -- then he dies because there's no ICU...

PARAMEDIC #2

(interrupting)

Or he dies in an unsecured chopper.

ROSS

We can't waste any more time!
(to McFarland and Pilot)

I'll take full responsibility.
Please.

McFarland looks to the Pilot. A beat.

ROSS

(re: hovering
chopper)

Do I have to wait for the other news chopper?

McFARLAND

Let's do it.
(to Pilot)
It's a great story.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (3) 36

Ross races over to the rescue van, jumps in back. He's followed by the paramedics.

37 INT. PARAMEDIC VAN 37

PARAMEDIC #2
What are you doing?

Ross grabs some IVs.

ROSS
I need a life pack.

The Paramedic grabs one.

PARAMEDIC #2
Here's a spare.

Ross takes it, then whips open the drug box, grabs vials and a couple of syringes.

PARAMEDIC #2
You're taking a hell of a chance.

ROSS
Damn right.

Ross races past McFarland, who is interviewing Billy.

BILLY
... I jumped through the window and called 911...

Ross interrupts, hands McFarland the supplies and the lifepack.

ROSS
Let's go!

Ross picks up Ben. The Paramedics assist. They race toward the copter, followed by Billy.

ROSS
(to Billy)
Thanks, Billy!

Ross enters the chopper. The Cameraman tries to get on too.

PILOT
No room!

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

McFarland hands the supplies to the Pilot, turns, takes the minicam from the Cameraman, tosses him a cellular phone.

McFARLAND

Get a minicam van and meet me at County!

McFarland jumps into the chopper, slams the door shut.

38 INT. CHOPPER (CHICAGO) - NIGHT

38

Ross lays Ben on the bench behind the two front seats, secures him with belts from the gurney.

PILOT

All set?

ROSS

Go! Go!

The copter lifts off the ground. Through the window we see the rescue van, Paramedics, and Billy, waving, grow smaller as the chopper ascends.

39 EXT. PARKING LOT (CHICAGO)

39

The chopper sails away into the night sky, followed by the second chopper.

CUT TO:

40 INT. CHOPPER - NIGHT

40

Ross works on Ben, starts an IV, attaches the leads of the life pack monitor. McFarland, aiming the camera at Ross, reports from the copter as Ross works.

McFARLAND

(extending mike)

How's he doing?

ROSS

Okay.

(realizing)

You're filming?

McFARLAND

(nodding)

We're live from Channel Five
Skycam with Dr...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSS

Doug Ross.

McFARLAND

... Doug Ross from County General.

Ross continues working on Ben. He turns on the lifepack monitor. BEEPS tracing the rhythm of Ben's heart.

McFARLAND

Just minutes ago, Dr. Ross rescued a boy from a storm drain...

(extending mike to Ross)

I see you've attached some electrodes to the boy's chest. What are those for, Dr. Ross?

Ross is not thrilled to be interviewed.

ROSS

(as he works)

To measure his heart rate and rhythm. Patch me through to County General.

McFarland takes the mike back, composes himself.

McFARLAND

Dr. Ross has just asked me to patch him through to County General.

CUT TO:

ADMIT DESK

Greene, Goldman, Malik, and Jerry huddle around Hathaway, still at the computer, all focused on the screen.

HATHAWAY

I need to open the door!

MALIK

You need a red key.

GREENE

Look out there's a Lost Soul!

(CONTINUED)

41

CONTINUED:

41

JERRY

Use the rocket launcher!

We hear BLASTS and EXPLOSIONS.

HATHAWAY

Look! Mt. Sinai's shooting us!

GREENE

Cheaters. Get 'em.

Hathaway plays wildly. The group cheers her on. The CUSTODIAN crosses by, looks up at the TV as he sweeps.

42

TV MONITOR

42

McFarland reports from the copter. We see Ross bagging Ben, adjusting IVs. The VOLUME is LOW.

MCFARLAND

Ben Larkin was extracted unconscious and not breathing. Using only a Swiss Army knife and pen, Dr. Ross opened up Ben's windpipe to help him breathe.

43

ADMIT DESK

43

CUSTODIAN

Isn't that what's his name? Works with the kids?

No one responds or looks up; they're caught up in the computer game.

GREENE

Put him into God mode -- then you're invincible.

The MICN PHONE RINGS. Hathaway answers it.

GOLDMAN

Blast it with a BFG 9000!

GREENE

Look, all its guts fell out.

The group smiles.

HATHAWAY

(to group)

Quiet, you guys.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

The group falls silent.

HATHAWAY

This is County General. Go ahead.

PILOT (V.O.)

(filtered)

This is Skycam 5, chopper from channel 5. We've got a Dr. Ross up here flying in a hypothermic kid.

Hathaway is stunned.

HATHAWAY

Doug Ross from County General?

PILOT (V.O.)

(filtered)

That is correct.

HATHAWAY

Hold on Skycam Five.

Hathaway returns to the group.

HATHAWAY

Mark, Doug is on a news chopper bringing in a hypothermic kid.

GREENE

What?

HATHAWAY

They're on the MICN.

GREENE

What the hell is he doing on a news chopper?

Greene goes to the MICN console. Jerry looks up at the TV monitor.

JERRY

Hey, there's Dr. Ross.

The group looks up from the computer at the monitor.

44

TV MONITOR

44

We see Ross working on Ben.

- 45 **THE GROUP** 45
 Is thunderstruck.
- MALIK
 Turn up the volume.
- GOLDMAN
 Where's the remote?
- They all search under the counter. Hathaway drags a chair up to the monitor, manually turns up the volume. On the MONITOR now is a shot taken from the other copter showing the Channel Five chopper racing over the twinkling skylights of the city.
- 46 **GREENE AT MICN CONSOLE** 46
 GREENE
 Doug, do you read me?
- 47 **INT. CHOPPER** 47
 McFarland hands Doug a pair of headsets.
- ROSS
 Mark, is that you?
- 48 **CONSOLE** 48
 GREENE
 What are you doing?
- Greene looks up at the MONITOR, which now shows Ross with the headsets.
- 49 **TV MONITOR** 49
 ROSS
 Bringing in a twelve-year-old kid with hypothermia. Need to warm him up fast.
- GREENE (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 In a news chopper.
- ROSS
 Doing the best I can.
 (to Pilot)
 What's our ETA?

(CONTINUED)

49

CONTINUED:

49

PILOT

About three minutes.

McFARLAND

We're bringing you 'Rescue in Action,' live on Five. Stay with us as Dr. Doug Ross struggles to save the life of this child.

50

GREENE'S FACE

50

Takes it all in. He moves down the Hallway, suddenly in command.

GREENE

Malik, we'll need heated saline IVs. Warm up half a dozen to 106 degrees. Wendy, I want warming blankets and a mattress. Jerry, page Benton, tell him we may need him! Now!

HATHAWAY

Heated peritoneal lavage?

GREENE

You got it. Let's move people. Now! Now!

CUT TO:

51

INT. CHOPPER

51

Ross adjusts the IV, checks the 0-two tank. The LIFEPAK MONITOR BEEPS. Ben's heart rhythm races on the monitor. McFarland has the camera on Ross.

McFARLAND

What's wrong? Why's the monitor doing that?

ROSS

He's in v-tach. Heart's racing.

Ross pulls out a vial and syringe, injects into the IV.

McFARLAND

What are you doing?

ROSS

Lidocaine to stabilize his rhythm.

CUT TO:

GREENE WATCHING TV MONITOR

The scene continues on the MONITOR. The life pack monitor still shows Ben's heart racing. Another SERIES of BEEPS.

ROSS (V.O.)

He's in v-fib.

The lifepack monitor shows wild, racing squiggles. Ross exposes Ben's chest, charges the lifepack paddles. He places them on Ben's chest. Nothing.

GREENE

(watching in
horror)

Oh my God...

ROSS (V.O.)

Come on!

McFARLAND (V.O.)

What are the paddles for?

ROSS (V.O.)

To stabilize his heart beat!

He tries to charge again. The lifepack MONITOR FADES.

ROSS (V.O.)

There's no charge!

Ross feels for Ben's pulse. Nothing. He starts chest compressions.

ROSS (V.O.)

(to McFarland)

I need your help.

(beat)

Turn off the damn camera!

The TV MONITOR goes black. The news ANCHOR comes on.

ANCHORS (V.O.)

We've momentarily lost contact
with our skycam...

OFF Greene's face.

CUT TO:

INT. COPTER

McFarland squeezes into the back of the copter.

(CONTINUED)

53

CONTINUED:

ROSS

Squeeze this bag once every time I
count to five.

(doing compressions)

One, two, three, four, five...

McFarland bags Ben.

MCFARLAND

Like this?

ROSS

Right. One, two, three, four,
five...

They continue CPR.

ROSS

We're gonna lose him. Get County
General. Tell them we need a
crash cart on the roof! Now!

(to Pilot)

How much longer!?

PILOT

I can see it!

OFF Ross, desperately resuscitating Ben.

CUT TO:

54

ADMIT DESK

54

Hathaway is on the MICN phone.

Greene comes up. Jerry's on the phone.

GREENE

Could you get through?

HATHAWAY

Pilot says the kid's coding. Doug
wants a crash cart on the roof...

Jerry interrupts.

JERRY

For you, Dr. Greene. It's
Morgenstern.

Greene flashes an "oh, shit" look to Hathaway.

(CONTINUED)

GREENE

(on phone)

Yeah, it was a risky thing to do.
No, we're watching Channel Five.

Greene covers the receiver.

GREENE

(to Jerry)

They're trashing us on Channel
Eight.

Jerry changes the TV. A news reporter (Dr. Beth Mahoney) is speaking from the AMBULANCE BAY, next to County General sign. He looks out the bay doors. There she is, bathed in light, weird. TV, reality.

GREENE

(back to phone)

No... you don't need to come in...
really, everything's under
control.

Greene hangs up.

GREENE

That was close.

They watch the MONITOR.

MAHONEY (V.O.)

... We have an unconfirmed report
that resuscitation efforts may
have failed. It's always a danger
up in that copter in the Windy
City -- bouncing around a child
with hypothermia can cause a fatal
cardiac arrhythmia...

GREENE

(to Jerry)

Turn it off.

Jerry turns off the TV.

HATHAWAY

TV doctors...

GREENE

Jerry, get security to escort Dr.
Mahoney to a less conspicuous
location.

(to Hathaway)

Let's get the crash cart.

They head off down the hallway, past --

Harper sits with Molly, playing Go-Fish.

MOLLY
(to Harper)
Any sixes?

HARPER
Go fish.

Molly draws a card as Carter and Benton come by.

CARTER
(to Molly)
How're you doing?

MOLLY
My stomach hurts a little.

Benton examines her abdomen. Molly flinches slightly.

BENTON
Get a CT of her abdomen along with
her head. Probably just a bruise
from the accident.

Benton takes her chart and exits.

CARTER
(quietly)
Where are her parents?

HARPER
Her mom's in the coffeeshop... Dad
went back to his office to finish
some work.

Carter gives Molly a friendly rub on the head.

CARTER
I got the next game.

Greene heads by pushing the crash cart.

GREENE
Carter, Harper. Ross is bringing
in a trauma case by TV news
copter, twelve-year-old with
hypothermia. Might need your
help.

HARPER
News copter?

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

GREENE

Uh-huh.

FOLLOW Greene to --

56 HALLWAY

56

Hathaway joins Greene. They charge down the hallway wheeling the crash cart, joined by Malik pushing a gurney. The three head toward the elevator.

GREENE

Coming through. Coming through.

Staff, patients, and visitors step aside. Several REPORTERS run up, including BETH MAHONEY, whom we saw earlier. They collar Greene.

MAHONEY

Doctor! Doctor! Is he dead?

GREENE

Out of the way, please.

Hathaway presses the button on the elevator. Reporter #2 reads Greene's name off his lab coat.

REPORTER #1

Dr. ... Uh... Greene, do you confirm or deny this report?

GREENE

Malik, get security to take them to the press room.

MAHONEY

Do you question Dr. Ross' decision to fly the child here?

GREENE

Not for a second.

MALIK

(harding)

Let's go, come on. Now.

Malik escorts the Reporters away as the elevator doors open. Greene and Hathaway quickly move in with the gurney and crash cart.

CUT TO:

57

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOF (CHICAGO)

57

The copter makes its descent. Greene and Hathaway exit the elevator, Greene pushing the gurney, Hathaway with the crash cart. Hathaway readies the paddles as the copter lands.

Ross races out carrying Ben, lays him on the gurney. Hathaway hands Greene the paddles, quickly applies several EKG electrodes to Ben's chest. McFarland covers the scene with the minicam.

MCFARLAND

Our Skycam has just landed on the roof of County General...

HATHAWAY

Charging. 100.

Greene applies the paddles.

GREENE

Clear.

The voltage makes Ben's body jerk. No sign of heartbeat.

MCFARLAND

... Several doctors are trying desperately to revive Ben Larkin...

HATHAWAY

Charging. 150.

GREENE

Clear.

Ben's body jerks again. No heartbeat. McFarland moves up to Ross.

MCFARLAND

Will he make it?

HATHAWAY

Charging. 150.

Ross is horrified.

GREENE

(to McFarland)

Get the hell out of here!

(beat)

Clear.

Nothing. McFarland steps back, still has the camera rolling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREENE

Amp of epi!

Hathaway injects into the IV.

ROSS

Shock him again.

GREENE

One more time.

HATHAWAY

Charging. 150.

GREENE

Clear. Let's move him. Keep trying!

FLATLINE. And as they move him we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

58 TRAUMA HALLWAY - 8:58 PM

58

The wheels of a gurney blasting down the hallway. PAN UP TO Ross, Greene, and Hathaway racing Ben toward Trauma One. Ross is on the gurney pumping the ambu bag.

GREENE

We'll shock him again, then try rapid rewarming.

They barely miss running over two people in the hallway.

ROSS

Hurry!

They careen toward Trauma One, followed by Benton, Harper, and Carter racing with Molly on a gurney.

BENTON

What happened?

CARTER

She crashed in the CT. Dropped her pressure, then lost consciousness.

HARPER

She said her stomach hurt.

BENTON

She could have blown a mesenteric clot. Harper, get four units of O-neg now!

Harper takes off.

BENTON

(calling to Harper)
Type and cross four more!

They crash into Trauma Two and we FOLLOW JARVIK into --

59 TRAUMA ONE

59

Jarvik, Goldman, and other nurses are ready for action.

(CONTINUED)

GREENE

Gently, on my count, one, two,
three.

They ease Ben onto the table. Hathaway quickly attaches EKG leads, Goldman puts on a pulse ox. Jarvik pulls over the crash cart, hands Greene the paddles.

GREENE

Stay with us, Ben.

JARVIK

Charging 200.

Greene shocks Ben.

GREENE

Clear.

Nothing. Ross looks to Greene and Hathaway. A tense moment.

JARVIK

Charging 300.

GREENE

Clear.

A BLIP on the MONITOR.

HATHAWAY

I've got a faint pulse.

GOLDMAN

Pulse ox is 80.

Ross jumps into action.

ROSS

He's hypoxic. I need to change to
a Shiley.

A nurse gloves Ross. Jarvik hands him tubes for the intubation. Ross removes the ET tube and threads a section of tube through the cricked hole in Ben's throat. He slips the Shiley in place, removes the guide wire, and hooks Ben up to the ventilator.

Jerry pokes his head in. Over Ross intubating --

JERRY

Dr. Greene, the press is going
berserk. They want a statement.

(CONTINUED)

GREENE

We're kind of busy right now.
Tell them he's holding his own.

JERRY

Right.

Jerry leaves.

GREENE

We need a CBC, lytes, blood gas,
and coags. What's his core temp?

GOLDMAN

82 degrees.

GREENE

Too low. Put him on heated
humidified O-2.

Goldman delivers the warm saline.

GOLDMAN

Heated saline.

ROSS

Let's run it with a lidocaine drip
at two migs per minute, pray he
doesn't go back into v-fib.

GREENE

(to Ross)

You're a mess. Change into some
scrubs.

Greene looks up to the group.

GREENE

Someone grab Doug a cup of coffee.
(to Ross)

Go!

Reluctantly, Ross steps back from the table.

HATHAWAY

(to Greene)

How about the heated peritoneal
lavage?

GREENE

Let's do it.

The team jumps into action. Ross stands back, watching.

CUT TO:

Benton and Carter are placing large bore IVs in Molly. Harper stands back, watching.

BENTON
Got it, Carter?

CARTER
Almost in.

Malik enters carrying several units of blood.

MALIK
Got the O-neg.

BENTON
Hang it!

Malik hangs the blood on the rapid infuser. Mrs. Phillips runs in.

MRS. PHILLIPS
Oh my god, what happened?

BENTON
(to Harper)
Get her out.

MRS. PHILLIPS
Somebody call my husband!

HARPER
Mrs. Phillips, come with me. We think Molly has internal bleeding from the accident...

The MONITOR ALARM SHRIEKS BEEPS. Mrs. Phillips pulls away from Harper, runs up to the gurney. The MONITOR is FLATLINE.

MRS. PHILLIPS
Molly!

BENTON
Somebody get her outta here!

Malik takes Mrs. Phillips to the door. Harper joins her. Benton jumps onto the gurney, performs CPR.

BENTON
Carter, intubate her!

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED:

60

Carter grabs an intubation tray from the nurse. Benton stops compressions as Carter takes a laryngoscope and expertly slides the tube in.

CARTER

Got it.

Carter listens to Molly's chest.

CARTER

It's in.

Benton starts chest compressions again.

BENTON

Bag her.

Carter bags Molly for every five of Benton's compressions.

BENTON

Give her an amp of epi and a milligram of atropine.

A nurse hands Carter the syringe. He injects it into the IV. The MONITOR is still FLATLINE.

OFF Harper and Mrs. Phillips watching from the hallway, horrified.

CUT TO:

61

TRAUMA HALLWAY

61

Ross races back down the hallway now in scrubs. A voice calls out.

VOICE (O.S.)

Dr. Ross!

Ross turns around. It's Billy, with his parents, MR. AND MRS. LARKIN.

ROSS

Hey, Billy.

Ross continues walking down the hallway as he talks to the Larkins.

BILLY

(to his parents)

He saved Ben.

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

61

MR. LARKIN

We're his parents, how is he?

ROSS

It's too early to say.

MRS. LARKIN

The news said his heart stopped.

ROSS

It's going now.

Ross heads off quickly. Jerry takes them back toward the Admit Desk as Ross pushes into --

62

TRAUMA ONE

62

Hathaway administers warmed saline through a dialysis catheter into Ben's abdomen. Greene listens to Ben's heart. Jarvik runs in with lab reports.

ROSS

How's he doing?

JARVIK

Coags look good. Lytes are normal. Blood ph is 7 point 3-7.

ROSS

Thank God for small miracles.

Morgenstern enters, dressed in a sport shirt and slacks.

MORGENSTERN

How's the patient?

ROSS

He hasn't gone into DIC.

MORGENSTERN

Good sign. Reporters are crawling all over the place like ants.

GREENE

Wendy, can we have a temp?

MORGENSTERN

Guess I better go talk to them.

GOLDMAN

85 degrees.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

We're not warming him up fast enough.

GREENE

Heated pleural lavage?

ROSS

We could try it, but his heart might not take it.

(then)

Can we bypass him? Warm his blood directly?

GREENE

Fastest way to do it.

(to Morgenstern)

What do you think?

MORGENSTERN

You're the attending.

Morgenstern exits.

GREENE

Wendy, call cardiac surgery. Tell them to send down a perfusionist with a portable bypass and heating unit. Lily, get Benton.

Goldman goes to the phone; Jarvik exits into --

JARVIK

Peter, Mark needs you for an A-V shunt.

Through the window we see Harper escort Mrs. Phillips away as Benton prepares to perform a thoracotomy.

BENTON

Gotta stop the bleeding.

(to nurse)

Retractor.

A nurse hands him a retractor.

(CONTINUED)

63

CONTINUED:

63

BENTON

Ten blade. Carter, hold the retractor while I cross-clamp the aorta.

(beat)

She's clamped.

JARVIK

What happened?

CARTER

Abdominal bleed. She coded.

BENTON

Let's start an atrial line.

The MONITOR is still FLATLINE. Jarvik runs back into --

64

TRAUMA ONE

64

Ross, Greene, and Hathaway are prepping for the bypass.

GREENE

Carol, we'll need two 15 French cannulas and space for the...

Jarvik enters, interrupting.

JARVIK

Mark, little girl's coding in Two.

Greene rips off his gloves, follows Jarvik into --

65

TRAUMA TWO

65

Benton is putting in an atrial line. Greene regloves.

CARTER

Molly Phillips. Hit and run. Recent onset abdominal pain. Suddenly dropped her pressure and went into asystole. Infused her with four units of O-neg. Gave her two amps of epi then cross-clamped her.

GREENE

Mesenteric rupture?

CARTER

Probably.

(CONTINUED)

65

CONTINUED:

65

GREENE

Nothing you could have done.

(to Benton)

Peter, I'll take over. A
hypothermic kid in Trauma One
needs to be cannulated for a
bypass.

(then)

Infuse another unit.

Benton pushes into --

66

TRAUMA ONE

66

A perfusionist wheels in the bypass machine.

ROSS

Peter, about damn time!

BENTON

Cut-down, let's go!

Jarvik gloves up Benton.

CUT TO:

67

TRAUMA TWO

67

Greene readies the pediatric internal paddles. Harper
comes in.

CARTER

(to Harper)

We're trying internal paddles.

GREENE

Charge it to ten.

CARTER

Charging.

Greene inserts the paddles. **FLATLINE.**

GREENE

Charge it to twenty.

CARTER

Charging.

Greene tries again. Nothing. Still **FLATLINE.**

CUT TO:

Benton works on Ben, inserting the catheters. Ross assists.

BENTON

As I remove the guide wire, be ready to hook up the catheter to the bypass machine.

ROSS

What's his temp?

GOLDMAN

86 degrees.

HATHAWAY

He's going into v-tach again, rate's 180.

ROSS

Dammit! 30 of procainamide.

Hathaway injects into the IV.

ROSS

Come on, buddy, you can make it.

The monitor shows a stable rhythm.

HATHAWAY

He's in sinus. Rate's 110.

Relief.

ROSS

Hold on, Ben.

(beat)

Hold on.

Benton completes the procedure. The perfusionist starts the bypass unit. Ben's blood begins to circulate through the coils of the machine.

CUT TO:

Greene puts down the paddles. Harper stands close to Carter, who's still bagging Molly. Benton enters from Trauma One, stops behind Greene.

(CONTINUED)

69

CONTINUED:

69

Greene looks over to Carter and Harper.

GREENE

Time of death 21:25.

(beat)

I'm sorry.

They stand frozen. The room becomes silent as the MACHINES are TURNED OFF. Harper strokes Molly's hair, steadies herself, touches the necklace Molly gave her. Carter takes a deep breath.

Harper slowly moves away from the body. She hugs herself tightly, eyes closed. Carter moves toward her, hesitates, touches her arm, that's it. She doesn't look up.

BENTON

We did everything we could.

Harper nods. Nothing else to say. Carter watches for a moment, then --

CARTER

I'll go talk to her folks.

CUT TO:

70

TRAUMA ONE

70

It's quiet, except for the WHOOSH of the VENTILATOR, BEEPS of the MONITOR, and WHIRR of the BYPASS MACHINE. Ross sits next to Ben, lost in thought.

HATHAWAY (O.S.)

Doug. Doug.

Ross looks up at Hathaway.

HATHAWAY

Your friend's awake.

Ross turns and sees Ben, conscious. Greene enters.

ROSS

(to Ben)

Hey, buddy.

Ben looks up at Ross.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

ROSS

You're in the hospital.

(beat)

You're gonna be okay.

Ross looks at Greene.

ROSS

He made it.

Greene nods. Looks at Ross's arm.

GREENE

Nasty cut.

ROSS

Yeah.

Greene examines it.

GREENE

It could use a few stitches.

ROSS

Maybe later.

Greene exits.

ROSS

What's his temp?

HATHAWAY

93. Vitals stable.

ROSS

Way to go, kiddo.

(to Hathaway)

Ask Peter to take him off bypass.

Greene re-enters from the Suture Room, pushing a stand with a suture kit.

ROSS

What're you doing?

GREENE

I'll try not to leave a scar.

A beat. Ross nods. The beginning of a truce. Greene sits, starts to work.

ROSS

A dueling scar, make me dashing.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED: (2)

70

GREENE
Just what you need.

CUT TO:

71 TRAUMA HALLWAY

71

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips walk slowly down the hallway, arms around each other for the first time, sharing their grief. Carter watches. Medical reporter Mahoney approaches them.

MAHONEY
Excuse me, are you the parents of
the boy in the tunnel?

The Phillips don't answer.

MAHONEY
How does it feel to...

CARTER
(interrupting)
I think you better leave.

MAHONEY
I'm talking to these people...

CARTER
(quietly, firmly)
No you're not.

Mahoney backs off as Carter escorts the Phillips down the hallway.

CUT TO:

72 TRAUMA ONE

72

Greene is stitching Ross as orderlies prepare to move Ben out. Greene stops for a moment, prepares the needle to suture another stitch. Ross leans over Ben.

ROSS
How're you feeling?

Ben nods, his eyes light up. Mr. and Mrs. Larkin enter.

ROSS
You made it. Just like I
promised.

(CONTINUED)

72

CONTINUED:

MR. LARKIN

Dr. Ross...

Ross turns around.

MRS. LARKIN

Thank you.

Ross nods. The orderlies push Ben out. Ben reaches out for Ross. Ross takes Ben's hand.

ROSS

Don't forget Wrigley Field. We've got a date. Right?

The Larkins exit with Ben.

GREENE

(re: stitches)

Would you let me finish?

Ross sits down, checks out the stitches on his arm.

ROSS

This one's crooked.

GREENE

(joking)

Next time do it yourself.

Greene is suturing.

ROSS

Thanks.

GREENE

For what? You did all the hard work.

(beat)

I don't know if I could've gotten into that helicopter.

ROSS

I was lucky.

GREENE

You know about kids.

Greene snips the thread, applies a gauze bandage.

GREENE

There, almost good as new.

(beat)

Get some sleep.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED: (2) 72

They get up, head out the door to --

73 HALLWAY 73

ROSS

My car's half way to Winnetka with
a flat.

GREENE

We'll pick it up tomorrow. I'll
grab you a cab. Come on.

Greene grabs his coat from a chair in the lounge.

GREENE

Here, take my coat.

ROSS

Thanks.

GREENE

Want to grab a bite at Doc
Magoo's?

ROSS

Sure.

74 AMBULANCE BAY ENTRANCE 74

They reach the doors, push them open, step out into the
night. And into --

75 EXT. AMBULANCE BAY ENTRANCE 75

Blinding light.

MAHONEY

There he is!

An ocean of reporters surround Ross. Lights flash.

The hero.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END