

ER

"Exodus"

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**FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY**

ER
"Exodus"

CAST

GREENE	BARBARA
ROSS	JACKIE
BENTON	MORRIS
CARTER	TAKATA
HATHAWAY	MARQUEZ
JEANIE	DEMAR
WEAVER	WOMAN
DEL AMICO	MAN
CORDAY	DIALYSIS TECH
ZADRO	DANNAKER
RICCI	JARVIK
DEWEY	BERTHA
LEO	SPOONER
PICKMAN	ROMANO
ARTEBURN	ERNIE
JERRY	INGA
IDA	KIT
BRACKUP	RANDI
OLBES	
KRAKOWSKI	
SPINETTI	
LASZLO	
DR. GEORGE	
SOPHIE	
DONNA	

ER

"Exodus"

SETS

INTERIORS:

HOSPITAL
Cafeteria
Ambulance Entrance
Eye Clinic
Trauma Hallway
Trauma Two
Exam Four
Main Hall
Curtain Three
Admit Desk
Side Hall
Nurses' Station
Main ER
Chairs
Suture Room
Elevator Lobby
Elevator
Stairwell
Third Floor Elevator Lobby
Tent
Scrub Sinks
Corridor Outside Cafeteria
OR Hallway
SICU
SICU Hallway

CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE
Collapsed Basement
Office Rubble

EXTERIORS:

HOSPITAL
Ambulance
HATHAWAY'S HOUSE
(CHICAGO)
CHICAGO STREETS
CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE
(CHICAGO)
Courtyard
Office Rubble

ER
"Exodus"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. HATHAWAY'S HOUSE (CHICAGO) - DAY (7:00 AM) 1 *

Ross's car pulls up in front of Hathaway's house and stops.

2 ROSS'S CAR 2

ROSS sits for a beat looking toward the front porch. There's no movement, no sign of life. After a moment of consideration, he gets out and heads for the porch, scooping up the morning paper on his way.

At the front door, Ross knocks, but without his usual elan. No response. He waits, listens, then knocks again. No answer. No sound from inside. He leans the newspaper against the base of the door and walks back toward his car.

TIME CUT TO: *

3 OMITTED 3
& &
4 4

5 EXT. CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE (CHICAGO) - DAY 5

A heaving cloud of smoke belches from a warehouse fire. The AMBULANCE SCREECHES to a halt at the front entrance, joining a line-up of three other paramedic rigs.

CORDAY and the paramedics scramble out with their gear.

ZADRO

Sure picked the right day for your
first ride along...

CORDAY

So, where do we begin?

RICCI, a fire captain, approaches from the entranceway, and waves them in.

RICCI

Come on, through here.

They follow into the --

6 INT./EXT. CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE ENTRANCEWAY (CHICAGO) - DAY 6

ZADRO
(on the run)
What do you got?

RICCI
Twenty to thirty victims, mostly
minor -- lacerations, burns. One
fatality.

Corday reacts as they clear the entranceway into the --

7 EXT. CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE - COURTYARD (CHICAGO) - DAY 7

Three engine companies battle the blaze. Ten paramedics work in a triage area, sorting out twenty wounded plant workers, distinct in orange coveralls.

Corday quickly surveys the scene -- the fire and the smoldering ruins, demolished by an explosion.

RICCI
(indicates)
We've set up triage out there.

DEWEY SAVELL, a young fireman covered with dust and dirt, approaches.

DEWEY
We're all shored up. I need to
take a paramedic down.

RICCI
There's a guy trapped under the
rubble.

CORDAY
I'll go. I'm a trauma surgeon,
County General, Dr. Corday.

RICCI
You have any experience with
confined space rescue?

CORDAY
No, but take me to him, I'll see
what I can do.

Ricci looks at Dewey. Dewey nods.

RICCI
Okay, take her in.

TIME CUT TO:

Lit only by worklights, Dewey and Corday, now wearing hard hats and headlamps, work their way down past firemen who are shoring up the rubble. Dewey shines a light down into a jumble of concrete blocks and sections of fallen walls.

DEWEY

The first section is pretty vertical... maybe eight to ten feet. Better to go head first.

Corday looks down at the hole.

CORDAY

Head first...

DEWEY

Yeah, once you're in there, there's no room to turn around. The walls are very uneven so it's easy to brace yourself with your hands. Ever do any rock climbing?

CORDAY

Afraid I haven't. Will I actually fit in there?

DEWEY

Tight at first, but near the victim it opens up. You claustrophobic?

CORDAY

(yes)

Not really.

DEWEY

(nods)

Best if you go first. If something goes wrong I can drag you out.

Corday screws up her courage.

CORDAY

Yes, well, let's get on with it.

She gets onto all fours and climbs head-first down into the hole.

Corday struggles down head-first, Dewey is behind her. She braces against the broken brick and concrete debris that forms the walls.

DEWEY

That's right... you're doing fine.

Corday wiggles through a tight spot. There's a GRINDING sound as the heavy rock shifts around her. Her breath starts to come more quickly; she breaks a sweat.

Where the shaft bends she seems to be stuck.

CORDAY

I'm stuck.

DEWEY

It's just a bend, try it on your side.

Struggling with the confinement and fighting panic, Corday turns on her side and pulls herself along, clawing at the rocks. She makes it past the bend and the shaft becomes more level and wider. Four-by-four shoring posts can be seen, supporting the large slabs overhead. *

CORDAY

(somewhat relieved)

It's a little more open here.

DEWEY

Yeah. Not far now. Be careful, don't bump against the four-by-fours. That's all that's holding this place up. *

Shuffling on her stomach, knees, and elbows, the way ahead is lit by Corday's headlamp. Water runs down out of a broken pipe, spilling over her hard hat and soaking her clothes.

She pushes a piece of twisted re-bar so she can pass a tight spot. Stopping for a beat, Corday listens. Then, silencing her own breathing, she hears painful labored BREATHS ahead.

She moves on a few feet and --

CORDAY

I can see him.
(calling out)
We're on the way.

Ahead in her light --

10 MOVING POV - CORDAY

10

The passageway slants down to an area that is slightly more open. A man's head and left shoulder can be seen, projecting at an angle from under a large section of wall, concrete dust completely covering his face. He appears dead.

11 ANGLE - CORDAY

11

She crawls to him. Dewey can approach alongside, but the area is very tight. Numerous jacks and shoring pieces surround the victim.

DEWEY

We jacked as far as we could. All this stuff is unstable.

The man, LEO LEIPZIGER, a nervous (and understandably terrified) accountant, opens his eyes.

CORDAY

Sir, are you awake?

Corday checks his neck pulse, pupils. He looks at Corday, his voice is little more than a whisper.

LEO

(weak, confused)

Get me out. It hurts...

CORDAY

Yes, I'll give you something for the pain. And we're going to get you out.

LEO

(weakly)

Don't leave me.

CORDAY

We won't. We won't leave you, I promise.

Corday turns and speaks to Dewey.

CORDAY

I need the drug bag. I'm going to start a line.

In her haste, she turns to Dewey, her elbow striking a shoring post, knocking it down. Bricks fall, one strikes Corday near the eye. Then a heavy trembling, accompanied by deep GRINDING sounds as the whole mass above them shifts and resettles. A powdery dust falls. She freezes.

(CONTINUED)

11

CONTINUED:

11

CORDAY

Oh, God...

OFF Corday.

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

OPENING TITLES.

FADE IN:

12 CAFETERIA - DAY (2:50 PM)

12

DEL AMICO fills two Styrofoam coffee cups as WEAVER pushes a forearm close under Del Amico's nose. Del Amico sniffs.

DEL AMICO

Lilac?

WEAVER

It's called 'Spring Rain.'

DEL AMICO

Hmmm. Nice.

WEAVER

You don't think it's too young for me?

DEL AMICO

No. My mom wears something just like that.

Not exactly what Weaver wanted to hear. She looks at her watch.

WEAVER

I don't have time to sit down, I'm on three to eleven. How's it been?

DEL AMICO

Got busy after lunch. Doyle's still out with the flu. What've you heard from Mark?

WEAVER

He was going to try to get a flight back today or tomorrow.

They reach the cashier, Weaver ahead of Del Amico.

WEAVER

One coffee.

As they pay, CARTER appears.

DEL AMICO

Carter, how's your ophtho rotation going?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

CARTER

Only a week to go. A long week.

WEAVER

Maybe you can help me. I've been getting headaches from reviewing the hospital financial reports and I think I need new reading glasses. You can operate the phoropters, right?

CARTER

Sure, come on up, I'll check you out, give you a new prescription.

CUT TO:

13 AMBULANCE ENTRANCE - DAY

13

PICKMAN enters with JACK ARTEBURN, business suit. JEANIE meets them by the admit desk. JERRY's on the phone.

PICKMAN

Jack Arteburn, 52, fainted at a breakfast meeting at Stanton Savings and Loan. A and O on our arrival. Vitals normal. No ectopy on the scope. Started a line for kicks.

JEANIE

Mr. Arteburn, did you have any chest pain?

Jeanie listens to the lungs.

ARTEBURN

No. I was just a little dizzy. My secretary overreacted.
(to Jeanie)
Are you a doctor?

JEANIE

I'm a physician assistant.

Jeanie and Arteburn move off.

ARTEBURN

But I'll be seeing a real doctor...

Jerry hangs up the phone as Weaver appears.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Dr. Weaver, County Dispatch is calling. There's an explosion and fire at a chemical warehouse. They want to send us six minors -- burns, lacerations.

WEAVER

No problem.

CUT TO:

Dewey re-shores the support as Corday takes a large intravenous needle and prepares to insert it into Leo's neck.

CORDAY

Little bee sting, Leo...

She drives in the needle. He groans with pain.

LEO

Aghhh.

Corday gets a flash of blood and attaches the catheter to a bag of saline and talks.

CORDAY

Sorry, only place to put an I.V.

LEO

Get me out of here.

CORDAY

We're working on that. Now hang on a bit, I'll give you some morphine, make you feel much better.

She injects the morphine into the line, speaking to Dewey over her shoulder.

CORDAY

Dewey, can you raise up the saline?

Dewey takes the bag and hangs it just above their heads on a piece of projecting re-bar. Corday speaks with Dewey in whispers.

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY

(sotto)

He's got a good pulse, probably some broken ribs. And he can wiggle his toes. But I can't assess the right arm -- it's pinned at his shoulder. If we could raise the concrete just another inch or two...

DEWEY

Any movement could bring all this down.

CORDAY

Just an inch... Then we might free it and I won't have to amputate.

LEO

No, please, don't cut off my arm.

CORDAY

(to Leo)

We're trying to save it, Leo. Going to lift that slab.

(sotto, to Dewey)

What else can we do? We've got to get him out.

Dewey looks around.

DEWEY

Okay. I need more shoring down here before we try anything.

CORDAY

I'll need a bone saw.

LEO

No, don't do it. Please.

CORDAY

Only as a last resort, Leo.

(to Dewey)

What about something to reduce the friction?

DEWEY

Grease?

CORDAY

Too thick. Something we can pour, like vegetable oil.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

DEWEY

We got motor oil.

CORDAY

Yes, motor oil... lots of it.

(to Leo)

We'll get you slick as an eel and
slide you out.

CUT TO:

15 EYE CLINIC - DAY

15

Carter gives an eyeglass prescription exam to IDA MELENGER, 75. Ida looks through the multi-lensed phoropter machine, reading a projected eye chart on the wall.

IDA

E... P... O... T...

Carter looks over a drawer full of a hundred lenses and pulls out two new ones.

CARTER

Very good, Mrs. Melenger. Now
tell me which is clearer. Number
one...

(switches lens)

Or number two...

IDA

Number two is very dark.

CARTER

Try again. Number one.

(switches again)

Or number two.

IDA

It's black. I can't see through
this.

Carter pulls out lens "two," and holds it up to the light -- it's completely opaque.

CARTER

Yes, this is probably a little
more tint than you need. Just
give me a minute...

As Carter searches through the drawer of lenses, ophthalmology resident ALAN BRACKUP appears at the door.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

BRACKUP

Everything okay?

IDA

Not really. I think your student
could use a little help.

Carter, with three lenses in each hand, looks at Brackup.

BRACKUP

Why don't I finish up, Dr. Carter.
There's a glaucoma patient in the
ER that needs a consult.

CARTER

Right.

Carter fumbles to put the lenses back in their proper
place. Brackup steps forward and takes the lenses from
Carter. OFF Carter, relieved.

CUT TO:

16 AMBULANCE ENTRANCE - DAY

16

OLBES comes through the doors with GLENN KRAKOWSKI, 30s,
on a backboard and a gurney. Two "walking wounded"
chemical plant workers in uniform follow. They are
SPINETTI and LASZLO, with burns and lacerations on the
arms. Del Amico is there to meet them as they move down
the hall at a moderate pace.

OLBES

Glenn Krakowski, 32, working in
the chemical warehouse. Obvious
right tib-fib fracture, starting
to complain of abdominal pain. BP
130 over 75, pulse 90. Two IVs in
the field.

DEL AMICO

What about these guys?

OLBES

Minor burns and lacerations from
glass.

BENTON joins them.

BENTON

Anything for me?

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

DEL AMICO

Blunt trauma, abdominal pain.

BENTON

T-one open?

DEL AMICO

Yeah, get him started. I'll take the others.

BENTON

(to Krakowski)

Are you taking any medications?

KRAKOWSKI

No, nothing. I never get sick.

As Benton enters the --

17

TRAUMA HALLWAY - DAY

17

We see Weaver looking at an EKG. Jerry approaches with a chart and a phone message.

JERRY

Message from Dr. Anspaugh. He's giving a lecture in Virgin Gorda. How about that? Phone number at the hotel.

WEAVER

Is that Mr. Arteburn's chart?

JERRY

Yeah. And check this out...
(flips to a
back page)

Blue Cross. Not the HMO, not the PPO. Traditional indemnity plan. Gold.

WEAVER

Jerry, we treat everyone the same.

JERRY

I'm just thinking about our budget deficit...

Weaver takes the chart and heads into --

Arteburn's hooked up to all the monitors.

WEAVER

Mr. Arteburn, I have some preliminary results I'd like to...

ARTEBURN

(cuts her off)

Look, if there's any cause for concern, I'd rather go see my own doctor.

WEAVER

You have some changes on your EKG that suggest you may have had a small heart attack. It's not safe for you to leave.

ARTEBURN

A heart attack?

WEAVER

We should check a blood test to be sure there was no heart muscle damage. That takes a couple of hours. If that's normal we can arrange for a treadmill heart scan.

ARTEBURN

Would you call my doctor? Greg Fonarow on Chestnut. I want his opinion on whatever you're doing.

WEAVER

I'll call him once we have the blood test results. Don't worry. I think you'll find that we give the highest standard of care.

CUT TO:

In a darkened room, rainbows dance around the walls, as DR. GEORGE BIKEL, 75, fiddles with the head lamp and a pocket prism. Carter stops at the doorway, speechless, as a rainbow crosses his face.

DR. GEORGE

You must be the eye specialist.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

CARTER

Right... Dr. Carter.

Dr. George walks over and extends a hand.

DR. GEORGE

George Bikel. Call me Dr. George.

(flashing the prism)

Imagine the first guy that took a boring beam of white light and refracted it into all this beauty. Glorious.

OFF Carter, not so sure about this guy.

CUT TO:

20 THE SHAFT UNDER THE RUBBLE - DAY

20

Dewey is squeezed next to Corday, carefully jacking and shoring up the slab. Corday, her face now covered with grime, opens a quart of oil. A harness is draped around Leo...

CORDAY

Alright, ready for your last quart...

As Corday pours --

Dewey faces back from the jacks.

DEWEY

(re: the jacks)

I raised it an inch. That's it.

Corday nods. Dewey joins her at the harness straps.

CORDAY

One, two, three...

They pull and strain, lifting Leo a little, about four inches. Leo groans.

CORDAY

Let me check his arm.

Dewey keeps tension on the harness while Corday checks the arm.

DEWEY

You got room?

(CONTINUED)

*

LEO

No, you said you wouldn't
amputate.

CORDAY

It's all right, Leo. It won't
come to that. Another good tug
and we can get you out whole.

She moves back to Dewey.

CORDAY

Ready... and pull.

They tug again but Leo won't budge.

DEWEY

We don't have the leverage to lift
him out of here. We need a
come-along.

CORDAY

A what?

DEWEY

It's a kind of winch that...

KABOOOM. His words are cut off by a distant heavy
EXPLOSION. The area shakes. Small rocks and dirt rain
down on them as they freeze in terrified silence,
expecting to be buried alive.

When it is over Corday looks up.

CORDAY

What was that?

DEWEY

I don't know.

He slowly takes his walkie talkie as if the mere act of
speaking into it might trigger a rock fall.

DEWEY

(softly into walkie)
Dewey here... what the hell is
going on?

There's a beat of silence.

DEWEY

Dewey here, do you copy?

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (V.O.)

Copy. We've had an explosion in the chemical tank area. Abort your rescue and get out. *

LEO

No, don't leave me.

CORDAY

We can't leave. He's almost out.

RICCI (V.O.)

Dewey, this is Ricci. Abort now! We have a major toxic spill.

DEWEY

(into talkie)

Acknowledged...

(to Corday)

The captain says 'out.'

CORDAY

No. Have them send that thing you need so we can pull him out.

DEWEY

Cap won't let anyone come down here.

CORDAY

Then you go get it.

DEWEY

Leave you?

CORDAY

Yes. He'll have to let you come back, if I'm down here.

Dewey looks at her. This lady's got some kind of guts.

CORDAY

Go on... I'm not leaving him.

(a beat)

But please, hurry.

DEWEY

Okay. I'll be back.

Dewey begins crawling away swiftly. Within seconds his light and all sense of his presence is gone. There's a low, distant RUMBLE and a trickle of dust falls.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

LEO

We're going to die down here.

CORDAY

It's okay, Leo. Just one more piece of equipment and we'll have you out.

Corday looks around, never having felt more alone.

CUT TO:

21 MAIN HALL - DAY

21

Ross finishes a chart at the admit desk. Hathaway approaches from the direction of Curtain Three.

HATHAWAY

Doug, I got an eight-year-old with altered mental status. Short of breath. Baby-sitter called 9-1-1.

They walk towards Curtain Three.

ROSS

I swung by your house this morning.

HATHAWAY

I had to come in early for a meeting.

ROSS

Before seven a.m.?

HATHAWAY

Are you monitoring me?

ROSS

(laughing it off)

I was offering you a ride.

They walk into --

22 CURTAIN THREE - DAY

22

Ross steps up to the bedside of SOPHIE TRAGER, age 8, sitting up, short of breath despite nasal oxygen. Nervous baby-sitter DONNA hovers. *

HATHAWAY

Sophie, this is Dr. Ross.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Hi, Sophie.

SOPHIE

Hi.

Ross listens to her chest, as he talks with Donna.

ROSS

How long has she been sick?

DONNA

Her mom said she's had diarrhea
for a couple of days.

She pulls out a jar of bee pollen and a box of raspberry
tea.

DONNA

She told me to give her raspberry
tea and a spoonful of bee pollen
every four hours.

ROSS

How are you doing, Sophie?

SOPHIE

(groggy)

I have to practice the piano.

HATHAWAY

(re: her altered
state)

She's altered. When did that
start?

DONNA

I found her on the bathroom floor.
She had a bowel movement. There
was blood in it. I couldn't
wake her up.

ROSS

Carol, get an ABG, CBC, Chem 20,
chest x-ray.

HATHAWAY

IV of saline?

ROSS

No. Just a hep lock.

DONNA

Is she all right?

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Can you reach her parents?

DONNA

I tried beeping her mom.

HATHAWAY

Try again.

CUT TO:

Carter examines Dr. George with the slit lamp.

DR. GEORGE

... maybe if you had gone to public school you would have seen one of my science assembly programs. Started 'em right after the war.

CARTER

Try to keep your eye still. Look at my earlobe.

DR. GEORGE

I was on TV once in 1950. Thought I'd make a career of it, then that son-of-a-bitch Mr. Wizard came along in '51. I was dead in the water.

CARTER

Looks good.

(moving slit lamp
away)

I need to check your eye pressures with the tonopen, Mr. Bikel.

Carter preps the tonopen.

DR. GEORGE

George. Dr. George.

(spies the tonopen)

Whoa, look at that beauty. Used to use the big machine with the air puff.

CARTER

I'll put a numbing drop in your eye, and then we'll measure the pressure.

(CONTINUED)

DR. GEORGE

(re: the tonopen)

Solid state, microcircuitry, but
all in all just a simple pressure
transducer.

CARTER

You push the button and it works.

DR. GEORGE

Don't you want to know how? I
could build you one out of an ink
jar, a finger cot, and swizzle
stick.

Carter taps the PEN to his eyeball. It BEEPS.

CARTER

Thirty-five. Pressure's up a bit.

Carter taps the other eye.

CARTER

(re: the tonopen)

Thirty-two.

(beat)

I'd like to discuss this with
another ophthalmologist.

(exiting)

Be right back.

DR. GEORGE

(examining the
slit lamp)

No hurry.

CUT TO:

Corday and Dewey, now with respirators, frantically crank
the lever of a come-along winch, attached to Leo's
harness. Leo's body inches out of the hole. Suddenly
progress stops and Leo groans in pain.

LEO

No, my leg... I'm caught.

Corday crawls to him and looks under the slab with her
headlamp.

Leo's foot can be seen wedged between two rocks.

She turns back to Dewey, who keeps tension on the harness.

CORDAY

His foot's caught, I'm going to try and free it.

Corday sticks her head under the slab and reaches. Her fingers are just a tiny bit short of the foot.

LEO

Can you reach it? Can you get it loose?

She scrambles back and takes the handle of a jack.

DEWEY

What are you doing? Don't touch that.

CORDAY

... a tiny bit more.

Corday moves the handle up and down a few times and the rock moves slightly.

DEWEY

No. Get your hand off the jack.

Dewey watches her, frozen.

CORDAY

One more...

She pumps, and a shoring piece falls away. Ignoring it, she crawls in under the slab.

LEO

Oh my God.

DEWEY

The shoring's down. Get out of there.

Corday's hand finds Leo's foot and frees it from the rocks. She backs out.

CORDAY

He's free...

Dewey works the lever of the come-along. Corday puts her arms around Leo's shoulders. Together they pull him from the hole. As he is nearly clear, Leo's body knocks out another shoring piece. The SLAB GROANS.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

As his feet clear, the slab collapses. The area fills with dust, obliterating everyone from view.

Second pass, and only coughing betrays their survival. The dust clears. Corday and Dewey rub dirt from their eyes and pull Leo to a backboard. As Corday works frantically to strap him down, Dewey speaks into the walkie.

DEWEY

We're coming out!

CUT TO:

27

CURTAIN THREE - DAY

27

Ross holds Sophie's hand and listens to her lungs as Hathaway enters with lab results. Sophie's breathing is still very labored, she's on a high flow oxygen mask.

HATHAWAY

(sotto)

Doesn't look good. Creatinine
6.8, Potassium 7.3.

ROSS

She's in acute renal failure.
Insulin, glucose, and kayexalate.

HATHAWAY

What's shutting down her kidneys?

ROSS

Bloody diarrhea could be E. Coli.
(prepping the scope)
Push two of versed, 6.5 E.T.
tube. She needs a central line
for dialysis.

(to a nurse)

Call for a pediatric nephrology
consult.

A nurse draws up the medication. Hathaway takes the mask off.

SOPHIE

When can I go home?

HATHAWAY

Not for a while, Sophie. Dr. Ross
is giving you some medicine to
make you sleepy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY (CONT'D)

When you wake up you'll have a tube in your mouth to help you breathe. You won't be able to speak, so we're going to have to talk with hand signals. You know what this means?

She makes the "okay" sign. Sophie nods, the drugs are making her sleepy.

SOPHIE

Okay.

HATHAWAY

Are you good at 'charades'?

Sophie nods "yes," falling asleep. Ross lowers the head of the bed and starts to intubate.

ROSS

Give me some cricoid pressure.

Donna enters the room with BARBARA, Sophie's mom.

BARBARA

Sophie! Are you okay, honey?
What's going on?

ROSS

I'm in, bag her.
(to Barbara)
Are you her mother?
(to Hathaway)
Need an eleven french double lumen catheter.

BARBARA

What are you doing?

Ross moves to the groin to insert a central line.

ROSS

I'm Dr. Ross. Her lungs were filled with fluid, so we had to...

She pushes her way to Sophie's bedside.

BARBARA

(interrupting)
Sophie! Sophie!... Why is she unconscious?

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

(pulling her aside)

Mrs. Trager, listen to me. She wasn't getting enough oxygen. We sedated her to place a breathing tube down her throat. *

BARBARA

She wasn't sick when I left. She had a little diarrhea.

ROSS

I think she has an E. coli bacterial infection that caused kidney failure.

BARBARA

E. Coli? That comes from meat. It's impossible. She doesn't eat meat.

HATHAWAY

You can get it from raw juices, sprouts...

ROSS

However she got it, she needs dialysis. With that, she has an excellent chance for recovery.

BARBARA

Oh, no. I want another opinion before anyone puts her on some machine. *

ROSS

We don't have a lot of time.

BARBARA

This is my daughter. I think I have a right to decide how she's treated.

ROSS

She's my patient. Her potassium is high enough to cause a cardiac arrest. She needs dialysis as soon as possible.

Barbara stares, fuming.

A nurse hands Ross a clipboard.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

ROSS

Mrs. Trager, please, give your
consent.

A beat, she takes the clipboard.

BARBARA

(as she signs)

I need to call her father.

Barbara exits. Ross gets to work on the dialysis
catheter.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. CHEMICAL PLANT SITE - OFFICE RUBBLE (CHICAGO) - 28
MAGIC

A pile of rubble with smoke in the b.g. F.g. activity of
firemen and paramedics, fighting the blaze and tending to
the injured.

Corday, Dewey and Ricci emerge from the rubble on the
run, carrying Leo on a backboard with c-collar and arm
sling.

RICCI

(with a full head
of steam)

When we give an order, it's for a
reason.

CORDAY

I'm sorry, we were just so
close...

RICCI

You all could have been killed.
I'd have three deaths to explain.

Zadro and Ellerman meet them with a gurney. Ricci's on
his walkie-talkie, as Leo is placed on the gurney --

ZADRO

Had us worried about you.

CORDAY

Leo Leipziger, crush injury to the
right arm.

DEWEY

BP 90 palp, pulse 110.

(CONTINUED)

28

CONTINUED:

28

CORDAY

We had a prolonged extrication.

ZADRO

No kidding.

Behind them, boundary tapes go up and the HazMat decontamination tents are unfolded. Ricci re-directs the gurney.

RICCI

Stay to the right. We've got an unknown solvent pouring out from a holding tank. HazMat's setting up for decontamination.

As they move to the ambulance, the inflatable HazMat tents rise in the b.g.

Fire fighters cordon off the contaminated area with red and yellow "HazMat" tape.

ZADRO

Already sent sixteen patients to four hospitals. Soon as we drop him off we're back for more.

They continue towards the ambulance --

CUT TO:

29

ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

29

Weaver surveys the board as Jeanie signs out Laszlo, a burn patient.

WEAVER

How're you doing?

JEANIE

Last one.

(to patient)

We'll see you tomorrow for a wound check.

Laszlo exits to the ambulance bay.

WEAVER

Jeanie, since they're worker's comp cases, be sure to call the employee health coordinator at the chemical plant and fax them all of your records.

(CONTINUED)

Before Jeanie can respond, there's a shout from the employee entrance.

VOICE (O.S.)

I need some help here!

They turn to see three people stumbling through the door, dressed in chemical plant coveralls and down jackets. JACKIE TELLER, 30s, female plant foreman, supports MANNY LOPEZ, barely conscious, clothes dripping wet, followed by MORRIS CAMPBELL, short of breath from aspirating the fumes.

WEAVER

What happened?

JACKIE

We're from Prusack Chemco. We were behind Building Five when the tank blew. Manny went right into the stuff.

WEAVER

What kind of stuff?

JACKIE

Everyone got soaked. It was a mess. I threw these guys in the back of my pickup. *

JERRY

(wrinkling his nose)

What is that smell?

Weaver, Jackie and nurses put Manny on a gurney and move towards Curtain Two. Jackie drops her down coat in the puddle by the admit desk.

JACKIE

Some solvent. A lot of people got sick. *

WEAVER

Jeanie, take the other guy. Bag and seal all the clothes. Glove up everybody.

Jerry and other nurses hold gauze pads, scarves, etc. to their faces.

JACKIE

Check Manny first, he's the worst.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

JERRY
I'm gonna open some doors.

CUT TO:

30 EXAM THREE - NIGHT

30 *

Carter shows Dr. George his new eye drops and fills out aftercare papers.

CARTER
Use these twice a day.

Dr. George sniffs at the air.

DR. GEORGE
Benzene.

CARTER
What?

DR. GEORGE
The smell.

CARTER
They're probably stripping the floors.

DR. GEORGE
Not with benzene. Extremely toxic.

CARTER
(focusing on papers)
Uh huh.

DR. GEORGE
Amazing story. 1858. German scientist Kekule is asleep. He dreams of strings of atoms, twisting and turning like snakes.

As Carter moves him toward the door.

DR. GEORGE
Now one of the snakes bites its tail and whirls before his eyes. He awakes having discovered the molecular structure of benzene.

They reach the --

31 SIDE HALL - NIGHT

31

CARTER

(amused)

Wow.

DR. GEORGE

A vision that changed his life.

(as he leaves,

casually)

I'd find out where that smell is
coming from if I were you.

Carter moves to the --

32 NURSES' STATION/MAIN ER - NIGHT

32

Through the window, he sees the commotion at Curtain 2B. Weaver and TAKATA work on Manny, bagging the clothes and examining the patient. Jackie stands by Spinetti in Curtain 2A.

WEAVER

Get those clothes outside, Yosh.

He passes off a bag of wet clothes to a nurse. Jeanie helps Morris, seated by exam one, with an oxygen mask and hooks up a pulse oximeter.

JEANIE

Take some slow deep breaths.

CARTER

What's going on?

WEAVER

Chemical spill.

Carter goes to glove up.

JACKIE

(to Spinetti)

You want me to call your wife?

You might be here awhile.

Del Amico enters with a suture kit.

DEL AMICO

(waving off the fumes)

We need some fans. I'll call
maintenance.

She moves to the Admit Desk.

(CONTINUED)

WEAVER

And get housekeeping to clean up
the...

Weaver takes a shaky step back from the bed. She grabs at an IV pole to steady herself. The pole timbers with her as she faints, knocking over a Mayo stand filled with supplies.

Takata rushes to her side and drags her toward an empty bed in Curtain One. Del Amico runs over.

TAKATA

Gimme a hand.

RANDI and MARQUEZ approach.

RANDI

What's wrong?

MARQUEZ

Oh, my God. It's Dr.
Weaver.

DEL AMICO

Don't touch her without gloves on.
Her clothes are soaked with that
stuff.

Jeanie comes over as they lift her to the gurney.

TAKATA

On my count. One, two, three.

They lift Weaver to the gurney and open her shirt to examine the lungs. Carter comes up to the bedside.

CARTER

Oxygen mask.

DEL AMICO

Get her on a pulse ox.

Carter hands the mask to Jeanie who places it over the unconscious Weaver's face. Weaver vomits into the mask.

JEANIE

Roll her on her side. Suction!

CARTER

Don't let her aspirate.

Del Amico hands the suction to Jeanie. As Jeanie starts to clear the airway, Weaver's body erupts into a grand mal seizure.

(CONTINUED)

DEL AMICO
Ativan, 2 milligrams IV, now!

JEANIE
She needs a line!

Randi and Marquez run to help. Carter stops them, stepping back. *

CARTER
Stop. Don't walk through the puddles. It might be benzene.

MARQUEZ
What is that? *

CARTER
A solvent, it's toxic. Don't spread it around. We've got to keep this contained.

Carter looks at the floor and sees gurney tracks and footprints leading all over the ER.

DEL AMICO (O.S.)
I'm in. Let's go with the Ativan.

JEANIE (O.S.)
Pulse ox is only eighty-five, turn up the oxygen.

TAKATA (O.S.)
Do we need to intubate?

JEANIE (O.S.)
C'mon, Kerry, c'mon.

CARTER
Oh, Christ, it's everywhere...

OFF Carter, realizing that the benzene has spread throughout the ER.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

33

MAIN ER - NIGHT (5:30 PM)

33

Carter and Jarvik unfurl a large impermeable surgical drape to cover the contaminated floor. Marquez enters with a new drape. (NOTE: This all plays like gangbusters with overlapped dialogue).

CARTER

(re: the drapes)

It's gonna take at least four more to cover the floor by admit.

MARQUEZ

I'll call central.

Del Amico passes by.

CARTER

Anna, check Ellenhorn's Toxicology -- see what it says about benzene exposure!

Jeanie moves Weaver on a gurney, still unconscious, across the blue sheets toward the trauma room.

JEANIE

Where to?

CARTER

Trauma one -- get the sickest patients away from the stuff. Double bag all the contaminated clothes and put them outside.

BENTON emerges from Trauma One with Krakowski, a "clean" warehouse worker.

BENTON

Clean patients to the back hall -- I'll cover them. Randi, bring their charts.

KRAKOWSKI

You guys need to air the place out. Did you call HazMat?

Benton moves out.

DEL AMICO

They're on the way.

Carter moves to Manny. Jerry crosses, pulling a large fan.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

JERRY

There's another one of these
babies in the maintenance closet.

He moves to the --

34 ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

34

JERRY

I'll blow this stuff right out of
here in no time.

He starts to unwind the power cord. Seeing him with the
fan, Carter calls out:

CARTER

No! Don't turn it on. The spark
could ignite the fumes. *

Jerry drops the cord.

JERRY

Oh, right.

Hathaway has placed her clinic table in the main hall,
behind the admit window, away from the fumes. Malik and
Marquez talk on two phones already stretched to the
table. *

HATHAWAY

Gimme another phone.

Jerry stretches a third phone cord across to her.

MALIK *

(on phone)

What's the E.T.A. on HazMat?

HATHAWAY

Jerry, we gotta find the Disaster
Manual.

MARQUEZ

(on phone)

I need surgical drapes in the
E.R. -- waterproof ones. Better
send a dozen.

Hathaway dials the phone as Malik hangs up. *

MALIK *

They'll be here in less than five.

(CONTINUED)

MARQUEZ

(re: the drapes)

No, this is an emergency, get them
up here now!

Malik and Marquez move to help transfer patients. In the
b.g., a steady stream of patients move down the main
hallway away from the admit desk. Hathaway dials the
phone as Jerry tears through stacks and stacks of
disorganized three-inch manuals under the desk.

JERRY

Policy and procedures... human
resources... sexual harassment
guidelines... It's gotta be here
somewhere...

Hathaway observes Jerry's frustration.

HATHAWAY

Dispatch? This is County General
E.R. -- we are closing due to
internal disaster. No, I can't...
wait...

(they put her
on hold)

C'mon, dammit. Don't put me on
hold.

Jerry lunges his head out towards the ambulance entrance,
gasping for fresh air.

JERRY

Maybe the manual's in the lounge.

Jerry moves to the lounge.

HATHAWAY

(into phone)

Yes, we're closing down to all
paramedic traffic immediately...

BAM! Corday and Zadro burst in through the ambulance
entrance with Leipzinger in a cervical collar, backboard,
and arm splint. Corday is filthy, covered with oil,
dirt, the beginnings of a black eye and scrapes from her
ordeal. Carter runs towards the admit desk.

LEO

It hurts again. I need some
more...

ZADRO

Hang in there, Leo.

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY

Carol, I've got a major trauma patient... What's going on here?

Hathaway slams down the phone.

HATHAWAY

Chemical spill. What happened to you?

The gurney heads into the main ER. Carter stops them and redirects them down the main hall.

CARTER

No, Dr. Corday! Other way. We're moving everybody.

Corday sniffs at the air. *

HATHAWAY *

Benzene fumes. Contaminated patients. It's all over the floor.

CORDAY

This man needs pre-op labs, chest x-ray, peritoneal lavage, and immediate surgery to revascularize his arm.

CARTER

Take him to the back hall. I'll send x-ray.

CORDAY

In the hall?

CARTER *

Malik -- set him up for lavage and notify the O.R.

Del Amico crosses, moving Arteburn's gurney to safety.

ARTEBURN

Where are you taking me? Should we even be in here?

DEL AMICO

Don't worry, everything's okay, Mr. Arteburn, we're just taking normal precautions...

As they reach the doors to the back hall, Benton reappears, stopping their progress.

(CONTINUED)

BENTON

Get out of here, Anna! There's fumes coming off the wheels of the gurneys. Connie passed out in the back hall.

Takata follows, pushing Randi in a wheelchair. *

ARTEBURN

Listen, I want to get out of here. Where are my clothes?

JARVIK

What happened to Randi? *

TAKATA

I don't know. She just fainted. *

Carter runs up to Benton.

CARTER

What about the lobby?

BENTON

All right, let's go. Clean patients only.

MALIK

How do we know who's clean? *

TAKATA

Is Randi contaminated? *

BENTON

If it's on her clothes.

Benton moves alongside Corday and Leo, he sees her and reacts to her disheveled state.

BENTON

Elizabeth, you okay?

CORDAY

Fine. A bit mussed. But my patient's critical. Where are we going?

BENTON

I'm not exactly sure...

As Hathaway talks on the phone, she scrambles to pull her table out of the way so Benton and the others can pass.

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY

If the CEO's in a meeting, get me her assistant. We're in disaster mode, we need a hospital-wide response.

Carter moves to help, as DUMAR and three gurney patients break through the ambulance doors.

DUMAR

Three victims from the blast, all decontaminated at the scene. What the hell is this?

Now it's gridlock. Carter is trapped by Benton's ten patients and the three new arrivals. Everyone's talking at once, shouting out conflicting orders. But no one can move.

HATHAWAY

(to Dumar)

Don't come in here. The ER's contaminated.

BENTON

Clear a path. We gotta get through.

DUMAR

What happened?

HATHAWAY

They just showed up, covered in benzene.

DUMAR

Don't you screen people? You shouldn't have let them in.

DEL AMICO

Somebody clear out the lobby. We got ten gurneys to set up in there.

HATHAWAY

You guys didn't control the scene. They came here in a pickup truck.

In the chaos, Carter is looking around, wondering what he can do.

CARTER

Okay, back up, get the table out of the way... let the paramedics... No... no...

(indicating

Benton's troops)

... these patients have to move through.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (5)

34

Randi's awake. She stands up to help. *

RANDI *

I need my purse. *

TAKATA

Sit down, Randi, you're sick.

MARQUEZ *

Let us through. We're right next to the fumes. *

RANDI *

I'm okay. *

We're gonna get sick, here. *

BENTON

Let's move them up the wards and the I.C.U.

CARTER

No, they're not staffed for this.

JARVIK *

They should go to another hospital. *

MARQUEZ

Yeah, send them to Mercy.

JERRY

I'll call County Dispatch, see if we can get transport.

DEL AMICO

No time.

HATHAWAY

We need to take care of them now.

Surveying the chaos, Carter pushes through to the desk.

CARTER

(loud)

Uh... I need everyone to quiet down.

(the HUBBUB CONTINUES;
shouting, with
authority)

Shut up, everybody. Shut up!
We're going to evacuate the entire
E.R.

People look around, is Carter the one to do this?

BENTON

Carter?

Carter keeps going.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Move all contaminated patients and staff outside to the ambulance bay now.

MALIK

How do we know if they're contaminated?

CARTER

Anyone with a wet spot on their clothes, their gurney, their skin... outside now.

There's muttering and hesitation.

BENTON

Let's go.

Dumar and his patients clear the way as a few gurneys move outside. Jeanie comes through with Weaver, gowned and on oxygen.

JEANIE

Let me through.

CARTER

Dr. Weaver, how are you doing?

Weaver groans, unable to answer. Jeanie pushes her toward the bay.

JEANIE

Her seizing stopped, she's post-ictal.

Takata walks out with Randi.

RANDI

(protesting)

Where are you taking me?

TAKATA

You have to go outside. There's a spot on your elbow.

RANDI

So take my jacket. I'm not going out there and freeze my ass off.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (7)

34

CARTER

(to nurse)

Take a bunch of blankets outside.

(to the crowd)

Any non-urgent complaints... send home now.

Del Amico moves to --

35 CHAIRS

35

She approaches ten waiting patients.

DEL AMICO

Everybody... stand up and line up... that's right, facing me.

CARTER (O.S.)

Clean patients needing sutures or x-rays to the lobby. Check all the rooms.

Del Amico works her way down the line-up of patients.

DEL AMICO

(to first patient)

What are you here for?

36 ANOTHER ANGLE - CARTER

36

Carter continues.

CARTER

How many critical patients do we have?

Hands go up.

MARQUEZ

Here.

JARVIK

One in the suture room.

MALIK

Three more in the ambulance bay.

CARTER

All right... seven, eight. Three outside, that's eleven. Okay, critical patients, move to the... ahhh...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (CONT'D)

(uncertain, fishing)

... to the... to the cafeteria.
Yes, the cafeteria's big enough.
Bring all the portable monitors
and oxygen cylinders. We'll set
up there.

There's a beat of hesitation from the crowd.

CARTER

(now determined)

C'mon. Let's move.

The caravan starts out for the cafeteria.

Del Amico has thrown out half of the patients. As Carter directs traffic in the b.g., she moves to a middle-aged WOMAN in a full cervical halo.

DEL AMICO

What about you?

WOMAN

I need a refill for Flexeril, I'm
down to my last pill.

Del Amico scribbles on her prescription pad.

DEL AMICO

Who's your doctor?

WOMAN

I go to the neurosurgery clinic.

Del Amico tears off the prescription.

DEL AMICO

Make an appointment.

The Woman exits. Del Amico moves down the line to a smallish MAN, holding his hat in his hand.

DEL AMICO

And you?

MAN

I was in a car accident last week
and my lawyer told me to come here
for x-rays.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

DEL AMICO

Get outta here.

CUT TO:

38 CURTAIN THREE - NIGHT

38

Ross and DIALYSIS TECH prepare Sophie for transfer. Ross unhooks the ventilator and squeezes the ambu bag.

DIALYSIS TECH

It's not advisable to move the machine during dialysis.

ROSS

We have to evacuate. What do you do in a power failure? Doesn't it run off a battery? *

DIALYSIS TECH

No battery. There's a hand crank.

ROSS

Start cranking.

Ross reaches to pull the dialysis machine plug. Hathaway enters.

HATHAWAY

Doug, Pedes unit has a bed.

ROSS

Good. Let's get her ready.

CUT TO:

39 AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

39

Jeanie and nurses huddle near the doorway draping blankets over Weaver, and other contaminated patients. A fire truck, lights swirling, sits in the archway.

RANDI

We better get some heat out here. *

We're gonna freeze. *

Captain DANNAKER and another fireman appear from behind the truck, wearing breathing apparatus.

DANNAKER

HazMat. What's up?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

JEANIE

There's a benzene spill inside.
These are the contaminated
patients. We need some kind of
shelter.

DANNAKER

We'll set up out here. Keep them
covered.

CUT TO:

40 ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

40

Carter's overseeing activity at the desk as a nurse
passes with a palette of oxygen cylinders.

CARTER

(re: cylinders)

Take all those to the cafeteria.
And set up portable suction.

Dannaker and colleague enter the ER, wearing their
respirators.

DANNAKER

Where's the spill?

CARTER

Other side of the desk. We're
evacuating.

DANNAKER

Right. That means everyone, you
too, doctor...?

CARTER

Carter.

DANNAKER

Captain Dannaker. We're setting
up Deconn in the ambulance bay.

CARTER

We haven't finished stocking the
cafeteria and ambulance bay with
medical supplies.

DANNAKER

Our people will get you what you
need. Get everyone out now.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

You won't know what to look for or where to find it. Give me five minutes to clear the place.

DANNAKER

You've got two.

Dannaker heads out to the bay. Carter runs down the hall with Marquez.

CARTER

Chuny, grab a crash cart and a defibrillator. Couple of Mayo stands.

MARQUEZ

Right.

Carter passes by the door to Curtain Three and sees Ross and Hathaway moving out.

CARTER

You guys okay?

HATHAWAY

On our way.

Carter continues down the hall.

CARTER

Anyone in Exam Four?

No answer. He turns to the trauma hall and sees Marquez moving a crash cart.

CARTER

And saline, Chuny. Lots of saline.

JARVIK sticks her head out from the suture room.

JARVIK

Carter! I need you down here.

Carter moves into the --

Jarvik mobilizes Inga Paulson, 70, wide-eyed, intubated on multiple drips.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

JARVIK

Inga Paulson, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, on dopamine and heparin drips. Help me move her out.

CARTER

I'll do it. I need you to take ACLS drugs to the cafeteria. All you can load on the biggest cart you can find.

Jarvik hesitates.

JARVIK

You're going to move her and bag her?

CARTER

Go. Just go.

CUT TO:

42 CAFETERIA - NIGHT

42

Benton gives orders to two cafeteria busboys. In the b.g., by the cafeteria entrance, the medical staff tends to multiple patients, awaiting their assigned places.

BENTON

Move all the tables against the wall, we need more room.

He pushes two tables in tandem, toward the wall. Hefty cafeteria manager, BERTHA, former army mess sergeant, storms over.

BERTHA

Lift that, doctor... don't push it. You're scratching my floor.

BENTON

(motions to busboy)

Get on the other end of this, gimme a hand.

BERTHA

You do not order my people around. You tell me what you need, I will have it done for you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BERTHA (CONT'D)

(to busboys)

Lucho, Brian, stack the tables,
two high against the wall.

BENTON

We need electrical outlets.

BERTHA

All along that wall, behind the
steam tables.

Benton moves over to the waiting patients. Jerry carries
a stack of twenty chairs.

BENTON

When I call your patient's name,
tell me the diagnosis.

(looks at chart)

Arteburn...

DEL AMICO

Rule out M.I.

BENTON

Center aisle by the salad bar.

Del Amico moves off.

BENTON

Nguyen.

MALIK

Septic shock, respiratory failure.

BENTON

Over by the wall, he'll need a
vent...

Corday plows through with Leo, heading for a spot by the
wall.

BENTON

Whoa, whoa... where are you taking
him?

CORDAY

I can't wait, Peter. I need
x-ray, I need pre-op labs, and I
need to get him cleaned and up to
the O.R.

OFF Benton.

CUT TO:

The elevator's emergency stop ALARM BLARES, as Ross pushes Sophie to the back of the elevator. The Dialysis Tech tries to enter with the machine while Hathaway turns the crank.

DIALYSIS TECH

This is ridiculous.

Hathaway tries to reposition the bulky machine.

DIALYSIS TECH

It's not going to work. There's not enough room.

HATHAWAY

Maybe we're better off in the cafeteria.

ROSS

No. I want her in the I.C.U. Let's pull the lines and close the circuit. Hold the cranking so I can disconnect.

He starts to disconnect the lines.

HATHAWAY

(concerned)

There's a liter of her blood in that machine, Doug.

ROSS

I'm aware of that.

HATHAWAY

We should go to the cafeteria.

Ross ignores her, hooking up the two lines.

ROSS

Okay, you've got a loop. Crank again. Carol, come with me.

The Tech takes over the cranking and pulls the machine away.

ROSS

(to Tech)

Take the other elevator, we'll meet in the PICU to hook her back up. Keep cranking, don't let her blood clot off.

CUT TO:

44

MAIN HALL/ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

44 *

Carter pushes Inga down the hall with Inga squeezing her own ambu bag.

CARTER

Good, Inga, big squeeze every three seconds. You're doing fine.

Inga nods, acknowledging his compliment. Dannaker enters through the ambulance bay.

CARTER

(anticipating)

This is the last one. It's all yours.

DANNAKER

Get going.

Suddenly, the deafening hospital FIRE ALARM BLARES.

CARTER

What the hell?

DANNAKER

Fire alarm. I'll deal with it.

(into walkie-talkie)

Dannaker, here, give me the fire control room.

Carter wheels off with Inga.

CUT TO:

45

ELEVATOR - NIGHT

45 *

The MUTED FIRE ALARM BLARES. Ross, Hathaway and Sophie rise towards the third floor.

HATHAWAY

What's that?

Out of annoyance, Ross taps on the third floor button.

ROSS

Sounds like a fire alarm. *

(sotto) *

C'mon... c'mon.

Suddenly, a LOUD, HEAVY SOUND -- K'THUNG -- and the elevator lurches to a stop. The lights blink. The jolt causes Hathaway to disconnect the ambu bag from Sophie's breathing tube.

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY

I lost the bag, stabilize the tube.

ROSS

Got it.

Ross helps Hathaway reconnect.

HATHAWAY

What did you do? What did you push?

ROSS

Nothing.

Another lurch and the elevator starts to descend.

HATHAWAY

(alarmed)

What the hell is going on?

ROSS

Elevator recall. Happens in emergencies. We're going down to the lobby.

HATHAWAY

Are you okay, Sophie?

Sophie makes the "okay" sign weakly. GEGLANK! The ELEVATOR GRINDS to a halt with a terrible METALLIC SOUND.

HATHAWAY

Why'd it stop?

ROSS

I don't know.

(calmer)

How's her oxygen supply?

Hathaway squints to see under the gurney.

HATHAWAY

Less than half a tank. We got twenty minutes.

Ross opens the emergency phone box and pulls out the handset. A frayed cord hangs from the set, vandalized. He slams down the phone.

ROSS

Dammit.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

Ross pushes the emergency elevator alarm. A BELL RINGS,
barely audible under the continuing din of the FIRE ALARM.

HATHAWAY

Can they hear that?

ROSS

(nodding)

We'll be okay.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

46

AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT (6:00 PM)

46

The external FIRE ALARM BELL RINGS ON, as the space-suited HazMat team works in the ambulance bay. Ten scrubbers and rinsers hover over figures on gurneys in decontamination pools, while ambulatory patients (including Randi) scrub themselves in portable showers. Behind a yellow tape, Carter approaches Dannaker who's talking on the walkie-talkie. He's grabbed by Barbara Trager, who's jumped an outside barrier.

BARBARA

Excuse me, you're a doctor.

CARTER

Yes, I'm...

BARBARA

I have to find my daughter. She's a patient in the ER. They won't let me in.

Before Carter can respond, fireman ERNIE ushers Barbara back.

ERNIE

Ma'am, you can't be here. Come with me.

BARBARA

No. Someone help me.

CARTER

She's probably in the cafeteria. You should check in there.

Carter moves on to Dannaker.

CARTER

Captain Dannaker.

DANNAKER

(into walkie)

Copy. No fire verified on floor two. Fire control... do a reset.

(to Carter)

False alarm. Somebody smelled fumes and panicked.

The HazMat team carries a patient on a backboard to a gurney at the access control point.

(CONTINUED)

Jeanie steps forward to take the patient (now revealed as Weaver), out of the decontamination zone. Weaver's coming around, but still altered from the seizure. Jeanie takes a quick listen to her lungs. The FIRE ALARM BELL SILENCES.

WEAVER

(confused)

Jeanie, why are we out here?

JEANIE

It's okay, Kerry. We're going into the cafeteria.

WEAVER

Good. I'm hungry.

CARTER

How's she doing?

JEANIE

A few wheezes.

(with concern)

She's still altered.

CARTER

It's not from the benzene, it's just from the seizure. She'll be fine.

Jeanie nods, and moves Weaver off toward the revolving door hospital entrance. Carter moves on to Dannaker.

CARTER

Some patients may need medical attention before we take them inside.

DANNAKER

(pointing)

That's your tent in the cold zone.

CARTER

Cold zone?

DANNAKER

Out here.

(points to bay)

In there... the warm zone -- where we clean them. Nobody goes in without a suit. Same goes for the ER, that's a hot zone.

(CONTINUED)

HARRIET SPOONER, hospital administrator, dressed in a business suit and an orange "Incident Commander" vest, approaches. Dannaker goes back to his walkie-talkie.

SPOONER

Are you Carter?

CARTER

Yes.

SPOONER

Harriet Spooner, normally VP of Operations. Today I'm the incident commander. You evacuated the ER to the cafeteria?

CARTER

Yeah.

SPOONER

The disaster plan calls for evacuation to the physical therapy ward.

CARTER

It was pretty chaotic. We had to...

DANNAKER

(interrupting)

Spooner, we've got an elevator stuck between floors.

CARTER

Anyone on it?

DANNAKER

Yeah. Phone's dead but the alarm's going.

CUT TO:

As the elevator ALARM continues, Ross bags Sophie with one hand. Sophie looks at Ross, afraid.

ROSS

It's okay, Sophie. We're just having a little adventure. You're going to have some really cool stories to tell your friends.

(CONTINUED)

Hathaway checks the portable monitor.

HATHAWAY

Multifocal PVCs.

ROSS

Potassium's too high. Push an amp of bicarb, that'll buy us a little time.

Hathaway rummages through the drug box.

Another ALARM. Ross looks at the monitor.

ROSS

Run of seven. Where's the bicarb? She's about to go into V tach.

Hathaway continues to tear through the box.

HATHAWAY

There isn't any.

ROSS

Didn't you check the box? You can't treat hyperkalemia without bicarb.

HATHAWAY

It wasn't my idea to move her like this.

With fear in her eyes, Sophie grabs Hathaway by the sleeve and pulls her close.

HATHAWAY

Okay, it's okay.

ROSS

(re: drug box)

So what do you have in there?

HATHAWAY

(returns to box)

I got epi, I got atropine... how about lidocaine?

ROSS

Okay, lidocaine. Fifty milligram bolus, then five milligrams every five minutes.

(then)

How's the oxygen?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

HATHAWAY

(sotto)

Ten minutes.

OFF Ross, trying to figure out what to do.

CUT TO:

48 CAFETERIA - NIGHT

48

Corday finishes the peritoneal lavage on Leo, pulling the catheter out of his belly. Malik assists.

CORDAY

Lavage is negative. Let's get him up to the OR.

Malik calls to an orderly.

MALIK

Hey, transport, give us a hand.

Leo moves out, crossing with Jeanie and Weaver who settle in next to Arteburn. Arteburn looks over curiously, recognizing Weaver as his doctor.

ARTEBURN

Dr. Weaver?

WEAVER

I'm sorry, have we met before?

ARTEBURN

You're my doctor.

JEANIE

Why don't we just let her rest.

Marquez wheels by with a ventilator with Carter following to the "ICU" area.

MARQUEZ

Got two more vents coming down. Who gets the first one?

They arrive between Inga, still bagging herself, and patient Nguyen, bagged by Jarvik.

JARVIK

Let's start with Inga.

Inga shakes her head "no," continues to bag, and points to the other patient.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

You sure, Inga? It could be awhile.

Inga flexes her arm, demonstrating a strong bicep, and nods. Carter smiles, then sees Harriet Spooner approaching.

SPOONER

Carter, where's your attending?

CARTER

Dr. Weaver's over here.

They walk to Weaver's bedside.

SPOONER

Kerry?

Weaver looks at her confused.

WEAVER

Harriet? What is going on?

SPOONER

I'm sorry. I had no idea you were debilitated by the incident.

WEAVER

Incident?

Carter pulls Spooner aside.

SPOONER

Is she going to be all right?

CARTER

Lack of oxygen caused a seizure, we don't expect any long-term effects.

They walk and talk.

Spooner hands him a nine-by-twelve inch envelope and a walkie-talkie.

SPOONER

Here's the job action packet for the chief medical officer -- I guess, for the moment, that's you. And a walkie. I'm on channel 4. I'll check in with you in a half hour. I gotta get back to dealing with the elevator.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

CARTER

You get the people out?

SPOONER

Building engineer has the elevator
 repairman on the way. Shouldn't
 be more than an hour.

CUT TO:

49 OMITTED

49

&

&

50

50

51 ELEVATOR - NIGHT

51

Ross shoves an IV pole in the jam of the inner elevator
 doors and attempts to pry it open. Hathaway's bagging
 Sophie.

HATHAWAY

Aren't there two sets of doors?

When the doors are a few inches apart, the pole slips,
 the doors slam shut and Ross barks his knuckles.

ROSS

Dammit.

(he immediately
 tries again)

This time when it opens, get your
 body in there.

HATHAWAY

I can't, I gotta bag her.

Ross has the door open about twelve inches.

ROSS

(straining)

You can reach. C'mon, get in
 here.

Hathaway slides in between the open door, sideways,
 bracing the door apart with her back and the sole of one
 foot.

HATHAWAY

Got it.

Ross inspects the outer door.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

We're about two feet short of the next floor.

He tries to pry the outer door with the IV pole. It won't budge.

ROSS

C'mon... c'mon.

Ross gets up on the bed, feet straddling Sophie's head.

HATHAWAY

Doug?

Ross buries his face and both arms up into the space between the inner and outer doors, feeling around the top of the outer doors.

ROSS

There's got to be a latch or something.

HATHAWAY

Doug, get down. What if it starts moving?

ROSS

Then you won't have to worry about commitment.

HATHAWAY

Doug, I'm not kidding.

He feels something.

ROSS

Got it. This might do it.

Using his right hand, he strains to release the latch.

ROSS

It's gonna work. Gimme the pole.

Hathaway hands him the IV pole. Ross shifts his position for leverage, almost stomping on Sophie's head.

HATHAWAY

Watch your step.

An ALARM.

ROSS

What?

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY

It's not the EKG, it's the pulse
ox. Her oh two sat's down to 89.

ROSS

How's the oxygen?

Hathaway looks at the empty gauge on the tank.

HATHAWAY

Oh, God...

(checks on Sophie)

Sophie, how're you doing?

Sophie doesn't respond. Hathaway shakes her. Ross
struggles to jimmy the pole into the jam. There's a
BANGING from the outside of the elevator doors.

ROSS

Yeah. We're stuck in here. Open
the doors.

MUFFLED VOICE (O.S.)

Elevator repairman's on the way.
Be here in forty-five minutes.

ROSS

We can't wait. We got a sick kid.
We need oxygen.

HATHAWAY

Sophie... Sophie.

(to Ross)

She's unresponsive.

ROSS

Let's go, Carol. Push.

Ross gets a better grip on his IV pole. Hathaway braces
herself...

ROSS

Ready? One, two, three...

Ross pulls on the pole. Hathaway pushes with her foot.
They're both drenched with sweat. The outer doors open a
crack, no more. Without warning, Hathaway's foot slips
and the inner doors close on her. *

HATHAWAY

Owww.

Ross lets go of the latch and uses both hands on the inner
doors to prevent her from being crushed.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (3)

51

ROSS

You okay?

HATHAWAY

Yeah.

ROSS

C'mon, get your foot up. We're going again.

Hathaway bangs on the outer door and shouts:

HATHAWAY

Get us out of here!

Hathaway gets her foot into position against the door. Ross reaches for the latch and puts the pole into place.

ROSS

Ready... and go.

Hathaway pushes. Ross pries.

HATHAWAY

(straining)

That's as far as it'll go.

ROSS

(exhausted)

Keep going, Carol. We can do this. Keep it up.

The outer door is open six inches. Three sets of hands grab it from the outside and pull. Suddenly both doors fly open. Hathaway falls to her butt and Ross tumbles out into the --

52 ANOTHER FLOOR ELEVATOR LOBBY - NIGHT

52 *

Hathaway rushes back to bag Sophie. Outside the elevator, a fireman, a building engineer, pedes nurse KIT and a crowd of nurses and orderlies help Ross up and jump in the elevator to transfer Sophie.

HATHAWAY

She needs oxygen right away.

KIT

Got it.

Ross jumps back into the elevator, getting ready to lift the gurney with the team.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

ROSS

Here we go, one, two, three.

The gurney's out. The team races down the hall.

CUT TO:

53 OMITTED

53

&

&

54

54

55 SCRUB SINKS - NIGHT

55

ROMANO scrubs as Corday enters, hair wet, freshly cleaned from the dirt of the rubble. Inside the OR, Leo is prepped for surgery.

ROMANO

Ahh, here's our little action hero.

CORDAY

How does it look?

ROMANO

Like ground beef. No, more like chopped liver.

CORDAY

Do you think we have a chance for limb salvage?

ROMANO

(beat)

You want my honest opinion?...

(off her look)

No, I guess you don't.

CORDAY

I'd like to give it our best shot.

ROMANO

You got it, Lizzie. No holds barred. One hundred and ten percent.

CUT TO:

Benton tests sensation in Krakowski's leg, concerned.
Marquez is there.

BENTON

Can you feel this?

KRAKOWSKI

It's kind of numb. Is that bad?

BENTON

The leg's getting tense. I need
to measure the internal pressure.

MARQUEZ

Transducer's up in the ER.
HazMat'll never find it.

BENTON

Okay, then I need a 20 gauge
needle, IV tubing, and a BP cuff
manometer.

MARQUEZ

You got it.

Marquez leaves to gather supplies passing Weaver, who's
getting a nebulized breathing treatment and conversing
with Arteburn, one bed over.

ARTEBURN

(deliberately spoken)

And then I watched them put you on
a gurney and give you oxygen.

WEAVER

Then what happened?

ARTEBURN

They moved me from a yellow room
to a green room.

WEAVER

That would be Trauma Two.

(insistent)

But where was I at that time?

ARTEBURN

Then they brought you into the
yellow room. And that's where
they removed all of your clothes
and put them into a plastic bag.

OFF Weaver.

CUT TO:

Jackie, in bra and underwear, lathers up under the portable shower. Carter arrives, seeing Morris entering the scrubbing area on a gurney. Dannaker is there.

DANNAKER

Got two more to go.

CARTER

How about the ER?

DANNAKER

Gonna be a while.

Morris struggles on the decontamination table.

MORRIS

Is there a doctor around?

CARTER

Yeah, right here.

MORRIS

Kinda hard to breathe.

CARTER

I'll be right with you.

DANNAKER

You can't go in there. Suits only.

CARTER

So suit me up. He's in trouble.

DANNAKER

Even if you were certified, it'd take fifteen minutes to suit you up. He'll be out before that.

MORRIS

(starting to panic)

Please, I can't breathe.

JACKIE

Doc, do something.

CARTER

That guy could die. You're not letting me in there?

DANNAKER

(to HazMat)

Mike, put him on oxygen.

The HazMat guys bring over a tank. Carter's frustrated.

(CONTINUED)

DANNAKER
 (to Carter)
 First rule of HazMat --
 don't create more victims
 at the scene.

JACKIE
 (to Morris)
 Morrie... Morrie...
 He's not talking, doc.

CARTER
 (to HazMat team)
 Is he breathing?

Carter turns to a paramedic in the "cold" zone.

CARTER
 Airway kit, now!

DANNAKER
 Give them a minute. You can tube
 him soon as he comes out.

Carter grabs the airway kit and heads through the access control point into the warm zone. A burly fireman moves to stop him, and drags him back into the cold zone.

DANNAKER
 That was pretty stupid.

Carter seems to nod in agreement. The fireman keeps a grip on Carter's overcoat. Suddenly Carter makes a move. He wiggles out of his coat and ducks under the control tape. He dodges a security man, rushes to Morris, pushes the HazMat scrubbers away and starts to intubate Morris.

DANNAKER
 He's dirty now. Let him do it.

JACKIE
 Help him!

Carter leans his forearms on the gurney, contaminating himself.

CARTER
 Any of you guys an EMT?

A hand raises.

CARTER
 Get ready to bag him.
 (beat)
 I'm in.

The HazMat EMT bags Morris.

DANNAKER
 (to HazMat workers)
 Scrub him.

(CONTINUED)

Three HazMat workers, including Ernie, step up to Carter and peel off his clothes, lab coat first.

ERNIE

Nice going, Doc.

As they pull the lab coat off, the walkie-talkie squawks from the coat pocket. It's the voice of Harriet Spooner, incident commander.

SPOONER (V.O.)

(on walkie-talkie)

Dr. Carter. Come in, Dr. Carter.
Please update me on your progress.

A HazMat worker tosses the contaminated walkie-talkie into a trash bag.

CARTER

Wait... I need to talk to her. *

Dannaker holds up his walkie-talkie.

DANNAKER

Got you covered, Doc.

HazMat workers pull off Carter's shirt and pants.

Jackie calls from the shower:

JACKIE

Thanks, Doc.

CARTER

(re: Morris)

How's he doing?

As Carter, in his underwear, is escorted into a yellow wading pool, Ernie responds:

ERNIE

(re: the patient)

He's pinking up. Looking good.

WHOOSH! Two HOSES open up, SPRAYING Carter from head to toe. Shivering, Carter still manages a smile.

CARTER

Great.

OFF Carter.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

58

CAFETERIA - NIGHT (9:30 PM)

58

CLOSE ON a Rube Goldberg contraption of syringes, tubes, manometer and a needle stuck into Krakowski's leg. Benton pushes on the syringe and Del Amico calls out the pressures off the gauge.

DEL AMICO

Sixty... seventy...

KRAKOWSKI

What does it mean?

BENTON

The pressure's too high from the bleeding inside your leg. We need to operate to relieve it.

An ALARM from across the cafeteria. Commotion around Inga's bedside. A nurse does CPR. Marquez grabs the paddles.

MARQUEZ

Dr. Benton, Dr. Del Amico. Need you over here.

BENTON

(to Jerry, on the move)

Book a room.

Benton and Del Amico run over to Inga's bedside.

MARQUEZ

Charging to 200. Clear!

ZAP. Everyone looks at the monitor.

DEL AMICO

Still in fib.

BENTON

Charge to 300.

MARQUEZ

Clear.

Marquez zaps her again. OFF Inga's face.

CUT TO:

Carter's in the tent with Takata, who bags Morris. He's changed to scrubs, towels his hair, and stands barefoot.

TAKATA

Can we move him inside?

CARTER

In a minute.

(to fireman outside)

Hey... what about my shoes?

Dannaker hears him.

DANNAKER

Ernie, take care of Dr. Carter.

TAKATA

Sat's are up to 95. He's waking up.

Carter moves to listen to the lungs.

CARTER

Sounds good. You're doing okay, Morris.

Ernie, out of his HazMat suit, enters with a pair of bright yellow firefighting boots.

ERNIE

Dr. Carter?

Carter look up and sees the boots.

CARTER

No... real shoes.

Malik enters.

TAKATA

Malik, help us move this guy.

MALIK

We should wait a little bit, they're coding some old lady in the cafeteria.

OFF Carter, as he grabs the yellow boots and pulls them on. *

CUT TO:

60 CAFETERIA - NIGHT

60

ALARMS. Del Amico does CPR on Inga. Benton holds the paddles.

BENTON

Chuny... I said 360, let's go.

MARQUEZ

Wait a second... it takes time, the battery's low.

ZAP. They look at the monitor.

DEL AMICO

Asystole. How long we've been at this?

MARQUEZ

Eighteen minutes.

BENTON

Never had a pulse, never had a rhythm -- that's it.

DEL AMICO

Time of death... 22:09.

As they turn off the monitor, unhook the ambu bag, Jarvik wheels by with Krakowski.

JARVIK

Dr. Benton, O.R.'s ready for Krakowski.

BENTON

(to Del Amico)

I've got a fasciotomy.

(re: Inga)

See if you can find the family.

Benton moves off to catch up with Jarvik.

61 ANOTHER ANGLE - ARTEBURN

61

Arteburn's been watching the whole resuscitation. He's a little agitated and turns to Weaver.

ARTEBURN

Did that woman just die? Is she dead?

Weaver nods regretfully as she breathes from the steaming nebulizer.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

ARTEBURN

Are they just going to leave her there?

Weaver nods again. Benton and Jarvik pass with Krakowski.

BENTON

Pre-op labs back?

JARVIK

Right there.

Benton reviews the lab results as they move to the --

62 CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CAFETERIA - NIGHT

62

KRAKOWSKI

How long will I be in a cast?

BENTON

Four to six weeks.

Carter flies by, running to the cafeteria.

CARTER

Anna's got the code?

BENTON

Yeah, but it's...

Before he can finish, Carter's dashed into the cafeteria as Jerry exits and calls after Benton.

JERRY

Dr. Benton, an I.C.U. bed opened up. Which patient do you want to go up first?

BENTON

Ask Carter, he's in charge.

CUT TO:

63 CAFETERIA - NIGHT

63

Carter runs up to the bedside of Inga. Her body is lifeless, bare endotracheal tube coming out of her mouth. Marquez cuts the IV's.

(CONTINUED)

As Carter stares, Del Amico writes in the chart.

DEL AMICO

Five rounds of epi. Two of atropine. Lidocaine, bretylium, amiodarone. Nothing.

CARTER

(shaking his head)

I should have had her up in the ICU.

DEL AMICO

Wouldn't have made a difference.

CARTER

Might have.

DEL AMICO

No, you turned this place into an ICU.

CARTER

This isn't an ICU. It's just something we threw together.

DEL AMICO

John. You thought on your feet when no one else could.

CARTER

She was strong. This shouldn't have happened.

DEL AMICO

(looking through chart)

Look at her chart. Inoperable triple vessel disease. It was only a matter of time.

Carter and Del Amico share a look. Suddenly, from across the aisle, Arteburn's MONITOR ALARMS. Carter and Del Amico run over.

DEL AMICO

Mr. Arteburn, are you okay?

He's about to pass out.

ARTEBURN

Dizzy. Very dizzy.

Carter checks the monitor. Marquez joins them.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Supraventricular tachycardia.
Adenosine, six milligrams IV.

MARQUEZ

We don't have any.

CARTER

Run to the pharmacy, Jerry. We
need it now! *

Jerry takes off. *

Weaver, still on the nebulizer, fumbles with her side
rail, trying to get out of bed. *

WEAVER

(wheezing)

Carter, you need any help?

Before Carter can respond, Weaver erupts into a coughing
spell, unable to stop, unable to catch her breath. *

DEL AMICO

Pulse is weak and thready. Mr.
Arteburn, any chest pain?

He weakly shakes his head, no.

CARTER

Can't wait for the adenosine.
Gotta cardiovert. Lily, crash
cart. And somebody help Dr.
Weaver. *

Jarvik drags the crash cart over from Inga to Arteburn. *

Jeanie, returning from a distant patient, runs over to
Weaver.

DEL AMICO

Get him into Trendlenberg. I'll
try carotid sinus massage. *

JEANIE

Sit back, Kerry. Nice and easy. *

They lower the head of Arteburn's bed. Takata joins
them. *

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Yosh, try to get a BP. Lily,
charge to 100.

One bed over, Jeanie tries to settle Weaver.

WEAVER

But they need an attending.

Jarvik fiddles with the defibrillator. Del Amico gives a
sternal rub.

DEL AMICO

Mr. Arteburn... Mr. Arteburn.
He's unresponsive.

CARTER

Let's go, Lily. Paddles, now.

JARVIK

I can't... battery's dead.

MARQUEZ

I'll find an extension cord.

JARVIK

No, move him over to the wall,
there's an outlet.

Jarvik drags the crash cart back to the wall, near
another two gurneys.

DEL AMICO

Move that gurney out of the way.

TAKATA

BP's 60 palp.

DEL AMICO

Not moving much air. We gotta
tube him.

Another ALARM. Carter, panicked, looks around the room,
then runs off to the soft drink dispenser. Jeanie has
Weaver back on her breathing treatment, and returns to
help.

DEL AMICO

Carter?

But he's gone. Del Amico squeezes a bag-mask over
Arteburn's face.

(CONTINUED)

JEANIE

Pulse is weaker. Still in SVT.

DEL AMICO

Jeanie, get ready to start CPR.

(yelling)

I need an intubation tray! Lily,
as soon as you have power, we'll
move him to the wall. Carter, get
over here. *

Carter has filled a busboy tray with ice cubes and water.
He runs back to Arteburn's bedside. Jarvik plugs in the
crash cart and pushes some gurneys out of the way, making
room by the wall. *

JARVIK *

Almost ready.

Del Amico prepares to intubate.

DEL AMICO

John, need you to bag him.

Carter pushes Del Amico out of the way. In a flash, he
raises the head of the bed, grabs Arteburn by the hair,
and dunks Arteburn's whole head under the ice water, face
first. Everyone at the bedside is wide-eyed.

MARQUEZ

Carter?

Carter holds his head underwater with the determination
of an assassin.

Arteburn comes up sputtering, gasping for air, with a
bloodcurdling scream. The ALARMS SILENCE. Carter smiles
broadly.

CARTER

(re: monitor)

Normal sinus rhythm.

ARTEBURN

What are you people doing to me?
Give me a towel.

CARTER

You passed out from an abnormal
heart rhythm. We had to treat it
right away.

ARTEBURN

By drowning me?

(CONTINUED)

DEL AMICO
(impressed)
The diving reflex...

CARTER
Slows down the heart, breaks the
tachycardia.

Arteburn looks around the room. Sees Carter's yellow boots, then Weaver puffing on her nebulizer. He loses it.

ARTEBURN
You call this the highest standard
of care? Get my doctor on the
phone, now.

Arteburn starts to rip off his EKG leads.

CUT TO:

Corday and the surgical team wheel Leipziger out of the OR.

CORDAY
(to the anesthesiologist)
I'll meet you in Recovery in a few
minutes. I want to be there when
he awakens.

She crosses to the desk to finish some notes. Benton speaks as he approaches with Krakowski.

BENTON
(slightly formal)
Elizabeth.

CORDAY
(exhausted)
Hello, Peter.

Benton lets the team pass into the OR.

BENTON
I'll be right there.

He approaches Corday, moving to examine her black eye.

BENTON
Your eye looks worse.

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY
 (pushing him away)
 It's nothing. I'm sure it looks
 nastier than it is.

BENTON
 (persisting)
 You could have a hyphema. Let me
 check it out.

Benton takes out his penlight.

BENTON
 I heard about the rescue. You
 were under a collapsed building?

Corday nods.

CORDAY
 Went all out to avoid an
 amputation, but we had to take the
 arm anyway.

He finishes the exam.

BENTON
 Are you okay?

CORDAY
 I have to tell Leo about his arm
 when he wakes up.
 (beat)
 What about you? On call tonight?

BENTON
 I've got this fasciotomy, but
 after that... I'm available.

CORDAY
 I could do with a bit of
 debriefing.

Benton nods. OFF Corday watching him move off.

CUT TO:

Ross and Hathaway extubate Sophie, who's back on
 Dialysis. Sophie coughs a bit, Hathaway holds an oxygen
 mask by her face.

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY

Take some slow breathes, Sophie.
Slow, deep breaths.

ROSS

(to a nurse)

Get a blood gas in twenty minutes.

SOPHIE

(hoarse)

Throat's sore.

ROSS

You want a sip of water?

Sophie nods. Hathaway holds a plastic cup and straw,
Sophie takes a sip and looks at Hathaway.

SOPHIE

That was pretty scary, wasn't it?

HATHAWAY

No. We do stuff like that every
day.

SOPHIE

No, you were scared. Tell the
truth.

Hathaway looks at Ross.

HATHAWAY

Yeah, Sophie. I was pretty
scared.

Ross smiles.

ROSS

I was really scared.

Sophie smiles, reacting to her mother, Barbara, running
toward the bedside.

BARBARA

Honey, I've been looking all over
for you.

(to Ross)

Is she okay?

ROSS

She's doing fine.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

I heard about the fumes. Was she exposed?

ROSS

No, she was on a ventilator. The fumes couldn't reach her lungs.

BARBARA

So she was never in any danger?

Ross and Hathaway exchange a look.

SOPHIE

No, Mom, they took really good care of me.

Barbara looks at Ross and Hathaway.

BARBARA

(after a beat)

This morning, I said some things I probably shouldn't have. *

ROSS

You were under a lot of stress.

Hathaway's BEEPER goes off.

HATHAWAY

The ER.

Hathaway moves off. Another doctor steps to the bedside.

ROSS

She's in good hands.

(to Barbara)

I'll check on her a little later.

He grabs the ER drug box and walks out to the --

Ross catches up with Hathaway.

ROSS

Hey, Carol. We should have Pharmacy restock the drug box.

Hathaway glances at him, then --

HATHAWAY

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

You still mad about this morning?

HATHAWAY

I was mad?

ROSS

I believe you accused me of spying on you.

HATHAWAY

That is not what I said.

ROSS

But it was what you meant.

HATHAWAY

I was annoyed. You don't need to check up on me.

They arrive at the elevators and push the button, waiting. An elevator repairman works on the broken elevator car. . *

ROSS

I wasn't. I just wanted to see you. I was lonely last night.

HATHAWAY

(a beat)

Me, too.

He looks at her, without touching her, he makes her feel him.

ROSS

We don't want that to happen too often, do we?

Hathaway takes a moment.

HATHAWAY

No. I don't want it to happen at all.

DING. The ELEVATOR DOORS open. It's a matching elevator to the one they were stuck on. They share a look of trepidation. As they step in -- *

ROSS

Here goes nothing.

He pushes the elevator panel button and the doors close.

CUT TO:

A ghost town. The CAMERA MOVES BY the desolate admit desk, THROUGH the empty curtain areas, THROUGH deserted trauma rooms TO the main hallway, clean and restored.

Suddenly the doors open at the far end of the hall and Carter, yellow boots, his hand guiding an IV pole like the staff of Moses, leads a parade of patients and medical staff back to the ER. On the move, he makes bed assignments.

CARTER

Mr. Arteburn -- Exam One.

Arteburn peels off with Wright...

CARTER

Lily, take Manny to Exam Two...
Chuny, Morris, Curtain Two.

The patients move off. Weaver approaches from the elevator lobby. She's up and about, now with nasal oxygen in place. Takata follows closely, wheeling her oxygen tank on a tether.

WEAVER

Carter, I can take it from here.
Anna, put the sickest patients in
the trauma rooms and Curtain
Three.

DEL AMICO

Got it.

WEAVER

Jeanie, update the board with
Jerry. And get the phones back
where they belong. Yosh, let's
move.

JEANIE

Are you okay, Kerry?

WEAVER

I'm fine. Carter, I spoke with
Harriet Spooner, the incident
commander. Thanks for helping
out. The administration would
like you to speak to the press.
We'll meet them together in the
first floor conference room at
11:15.

(CONTINUED)

As Weaver drones on, Carter looks through the window of the nurses' station to Curtain Two. Jackie is at Morris' bedside -- she smiles and waves to Carter. Morris, on a ventilator, gives big thumbs-up.

WEAVER

In terms of dealing with these people, I've had a little more experience. It's important that the emphasis be placed on the institutional response to the crisis, rather than any individual act which they would tend to sensationalize.

Jeanie and Del Amico pass by, overhearing, and both giving Carter a smile and a knowing look. Carter smiles, taking private satisfaction that the ER appears normal again.

WEAVER

It's best to say, simply, that we followed a well-rehearsed disaster plan and worked in concert with the HazMat team to ensure the health and safety of our patients and medical staff.

Jerry interrupts.

JERRY

Carter, the fire captain wants to speak with you outside.

CARTER

Right.

(to Weaver, moving off)
Eleven-fifteen. I'll be there.

JERRY

Dr. Weaver, I've looked into some of the causative factors and I can now identify those at blame.

WEAVER

What are you talking about?

JERRY

As you know, I was on nights, and during that time the day unit service coordinators let the central work area deteriorate.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

WEAVER

Jerry, this was a toxic spill...

JERRY

And our efforts were impaired because we were unable to locate this important manual.

He holds up the disaster manual.

JERRY

I'm just saying that now that I'm back on days, you can count on a higher level of efficiency at the central work area. If you ever faint again, I'll have things under control.

OFF Weaver.

CUT TO:

68 AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

68

The ambulance bay is nearly cleared out, except for a fire department utility vehicle. Dannaker throws a duffle bag in the back as Carter approaches.

DANNAKER

Dr. Carter.

Carter points to the yellow boots.

CARTER

You want these back?

DANNAKER

No. Souvenir.

(beat)

So, how do you think your people handled things?

CARTER

Pretty good.

DANNAKER

No.

(a beat)

It was a total disaster. You guys were caught with your pants down. But you -- you personally did okay, under the circumstances.

(MORE)

*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

DANNAKER (CONT'D)

(beat)

I think you're the guy we should work with to plan and implement a schedule of disaster drills.

CARTER

I don't have that authority. I'm just an intern.

DANNAKER

Huh... had me fooled. *

Dannaker gets into the vehicle.

CARTER

You should talk with the Chief of Staff.

He nods and shakes hands with Carter.

DANNAKER

Good working with you.

Dannaker slams the door and pulls away. As the vehicle clears the entrance, GREENE appears, entering the bay with a piece of luggage over his shoulder.

GREENE

Hey, Carter.

CARTER

When'd you get back?

GREENE

Came straight from the airport.
(looks at watch)
On duty in five minutes.

CARTER

Good to see you. How's your mom? *

They turn and walk to the entrance. Greene sees Carter's yellow footwear.

GREENE

Doing better. *

(a beat) *

What's with the boots?

CARTER

It's kind of a long story.

They enter the ER.

FADE OUT.

THE END