

ER

"A Bloody Mess"

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SECOND DRAFT

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**FOR EDUCATIONAL  
PURPOSES ONLY**

ER"A Bloody Mess"CAST

GREENE	BETH
ROSS	CLAIRE
BENTON	HOLLY
CARTER	ALYSSA
HATHAWAY	DAVE
JEANIE	KAREN
WEAVER	WON SOK JANG
DEL AMICO	LINDSEY JANG
CORDAY	NANCY
SCOTT	PROFESSOR
ANSPAUGH	INGRAM
WRIGHT	MRS. LOGAN
OLIGARIO	NURSE JOYCE
MARQUEZ	
JERRY	
JARVIK	
MORGENSTERN	
ROMANO	
SHIRLEY	
HALEH	
TAKATA	
AUDIA	
CARLA	
CHASE	

ER

"A Bloody Mess"

SETS

INTERIORS:

HOSPITAL

Snack Bar  
Ambulance Entrance  
Admit/Main Hallway  
Trauma Two  
Curtain Two  
Admit Area  
Surgical Locker Room  
Area  
Showers  
Curtain Three  
OR  
Stairwell/Elevator  
Lobby  
Trauma One  
Trauma Hallway  
Exam One  
Chairs  
Exam Two/Clinic  
Lounge  
Medical School Anatomy  
Lab  
Exam Four/Isolation  
Suture Room  
Exam Four Hallway  
ER Supply Room/Exam Three  
Drug Lock-up  
SICU

CHINESE RESTAURANT (CHICAGO)

INDOOR ROCK-CLIMBING GYM (CHICAGO)

CORDAY'S CONDO

Living Room  
Foyer

KENNER NEUROLOGY CENTER

Hospital Room

EXTERIORS:

GAS STATION

HOSPITAL

Ambulance Bay

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

ER

"A Bloody Mess"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 CHINESE RESTAURANT (CHICAGO) - 12:10 PM

1 \*

Kitschy, inexpensive, packed with customers. JEANIE and SCOTT ANSPAUGH are finishing up lunch. Scott looks pale but in good spirits, and has a short peach-fuzz haircut.

SCOTT

So, it's the last inning -- my butt's like numb from sitting on the bench -- and Coach Hardin decides to put me in.

JEANIE

What position?

SCOTT

Right field -- of course. But since the other team had been hitting out of the park all afternoon, I figured I might get a shot at a fly ball, right?

JEANIE

Don't tell me --

SCOTT

Bam-bam-bam! Three strikeouts in a row. Total buzzkill.

JEANIE

At least you got to play. You should be proud of that.

The waiter arrives with the check and two fortune cookies.

SCOTT

So give it up already. Where are we going?

JEANIE

I told you, it's a surprise.  
(looks at watch)  
And we better get going. I have to be at work by four --

Jeanie reaches for the check, but Scott grabs it first.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

JEANIE

Scott, give me that.

SCOTT

No, this is my treat.

JEANIE

Don't be silly.

SCOTT

I know you have guys lined up  
around the block to buy you lunch,  
but let me.

Jeanie knows the truth, but decides to play along.

JEANIE

Thank you.

Scott takes some bills out of a wallet, drops them on the  
table, rises to go. Jeanie holds up a fortune cookie.

JEANIE

What about your fortune?

SCOTT

It's just a stupid piece of paper.  
Come on. Surprise me.

CUT TO:

2 HOSPITAL SNACK BAR

2

\*

GREENE and ROSS carry loaded trays.

\*

GREENE

You've got to love it when the ER  
gets slow around lunchtime.

\*

\*

ROSS

I'm glad you were free. I've been  
wanting to talk to you about  
something --

Greene spots BENTON at a table, feeding his ten-month-old  
son, REESE. CARTER sits with them, his head on the  
table, sound asleep. Greene and Ross join.

\*

GREENE

What's with Carter?

BENTON

(shrugs)  
Found him that way.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

(to Reese)

How you doing, big guy?

(to Benton)

He's really filling out.

BENTON

Seventy-fifth percentile for a full-term his age.

Benton wipes Reese off and begins to pack up his things. Everything is very orderly and well-managed.

GREENE

Looks like you've got a handle on the whole parenting routine.

BENTON

It's not so hard. I make a schedule and stick to it.

(checks his watch)

In fact, our fifteen minutes of quality time are up. It's daycare for him and a fem-pop bypass for me.

As Benton reaches down for the baby bag, Reese grabs a handful of food from Carter's tray, smears it on Benton's head. The men stifle laughs. \*

ROSS

With a pitstop at the showers.

BENTON

(annoyed)

Yeah. See you later.

Benton exits.

GREENE

Peter Benton, a father. You've got to see it to believe it. \*

ROSS

So, listen, Mark, I've been doing some thinking and --

Carter's PAGER GOES OFF. Carter doesn't budge.

GREENE

Carter... Carter... Carter.

Carter bolts upright, looks around disoriented.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

CARTER

Huh? What?

GREENE

Your pager.

CARTER

(checks pager)

The ER. Of course.

As Carter groggily stands, stuffs food into his pockets,  
Ross' PAGER GOES OFF.

ROSS

I knew a sit-down lunch was too  
good to be true...

GREENE

If you still want to talk, we  
could catch the Bulls-Cavaliers  
game tonight at McGee's. Haven't  
hit the town together in a while.

ROSS

Yeah, maybe.

GREENE

If you need to check with Carol  
first --

ROSS

I don't have to ask for  
permission, Mark.

As Ross rises to go, Greene's PAGER GOES OFF.

GREENE

Oh, man...

\*

CUT TO:

3 INT. AMBULANCE ENTRANCE

3

Chaos. And blood -- everywhere. Clipboard in hand,  
CORDAY arrives to find WRIGHT helping college coed BETH  
BISIGNANO, 19, covered in blood from head-to-toe, into a  
wheelchair, while HATHAWAY and OLIGARIO support CLAIRE  
HAMILTON, 20, covered with patches of blood.

CORDAY

My God, looks like the Red Sea in  
here...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

HATHAWAY

Van full of college students hit a tree.

WRIGHT

Didn't wait for paramedics -- drove themselves in.

BETH

(sobbing)  
I tried to swerve around him --

\*

CORDAY

In this condition?

CLAIRE

Please, don't let him die!

\*

CORDAY

Get me eight units HemoAid.

OLIGARIO

Hemo-what?

HATHAWAY

The blood substitute -- for Doctor Corday's study.

WRIGHT

I'll get it.

CORDAY

Grab some consent forms, too.

As Wright exits, WEAVER and MARQUEZ catch up to them with HOLLY BECKER, 17, bloodied, hyperventilating, on a gurney. Corday follows after them.

4 ADMIT/MAIN HALLWAY

4

WEAVER

Jerry, where the hell is everyone?

JERRY peers inside a shoe box.

JERRY

I paged them all -- twice.

CORDAY

What's the bullet?

WEAVER

Seventeen-year-old, complaining of neck pain, contusions and abrasions --

HOLLY

Get -- this -- off -- of -- me!

(CONTINUED)



4 CONTINUED:

4

MARQUEZ

Try taking slow breaths, okay?

WEAVER

Check on the next one. Let's get  
her on an O2 rebreathing mask...\*  
\*

Corday hangs back as they push into Trauma One, then picks up DEL AMICO and JARVIK with ALYSSA CLARK, 20, conscious, bloodied, in C-collar and backboard.

CORDAY

What've you got?

DEL AMICO

Twenty-year-old passenger, no seat belt. Complaining of neck, left shoulder, chest and abdominal pain. Questionable LOC for several seconds --

Corday joins as they push into --

5 TRAUMA TWO

5

Corday helps with the transfer.

DEL AMICO

Ready... up and over.

They transfer Alyssa, then fly into action.

CORDAY

Is she hypovolemic?

DEL AMICO

(to Jarvik)

Recheck her vitals.

(then)

Need a cross-table, c-spine, chest and pelvis x-ray, CBC, and dip a urine.

CORDAY

Was the transport time under thirty minutes?

JARVIK

Must've been. Accident happened at Jackson and Loomis.

Del Amico listens to Alyssa's chest with her stethoscope.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

DEL AMICO

Lungs are clear.

Wright arrives carrying bags of HemoAid and consent forms. \*

WRIGHT

Got the HemoAid.

CORDAY

What's her name?

JARVIK

Alyssa Clark.

CORDAY

Miss Clark, I'm conducting a potentially lifesaving research project here in the ER. Tell me, do you object to the use of blood products?

ALYSSA

(weakly)

Have they been tested on animals?

CORDAY

Why yes, I believe they have --

Del Amico listens to Alyssa's abdomen.

DEL AMICO

Bowel sounds present.

ALYSSA

No -- no animal testing.

WRIGHT

Pulse 100, resps 20.

JARVIK

(confused)

And BP's normal.

DEL AMICO

Where is all this blood coming from?

CUT TO:

6

CURTAIN TWO

6

Hathaway and Oligario stare incredulously at Claire and Beth.

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY

Cow's blood...

\*

CLAIRE

We got it from a slaughterhouse.

OLIGARIO

This is all cow's blood?

\*

BETH

I told you it was a bad idea --

CLAIRE

We were on our way to protest the university's use of cats in their research labs --

BETH

We thought buckets of blood would make an impression.

\*

HATHAWAY

Well, it did.

Corday jogs from Trauma Two.

CORDAY

Did you know these girls were transporting --

HATHAWAY

We just heard.

Greene, Ross and Carter blow onto the scene, carrying parts of their lunch.

GREENE

What've we got?

Jerry, wearing gloves, approaches holding a dead squirrel by its tail.

JERRY

One squirrel, D.O.A.

\*

Beth and Claire break into sobs again. OFF the men, looking at the squirrel and the bloody mess, confused.

\*

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 CURTAIN TWO - 12:42 PM

7

Hathaway removes the bloodstained sheets from one of the beds. A janitor mops up the bloody floor. Ross approaches.

ROSS

Reminds me of Carrie.  
(off Hathaway's  
look)

The movie. Not the Attending. \*

HATHAWAY

Speaking of movies -- can we try to make the seven o'clock? I'll never last to the nine-twenty.

ROSS

I thought we were going tomorrow.

HATHAWAY

We said tonight. Why?

ROSS

Nothing. Mark wanted to watch the Bulls game.

HATHAWAY

It would be a chance to tell him about your decision.

ROSS

He and I can go out some other time... \*

They move into --

8 ADMIT AREA

8

Weaver approaches, ambushes Ross. \*

WEAVER

Doug, I just got a call from Neal Bernstein. He said your ER fellowship renewal papers were due two days ago. \*

ROSS

They were.

(CONTINUED)

WEAVER

This isn't something you can blow off, Doug. If you want your fellowship to continue --

ROSS

Maybe I don't want my fellowship to continue.

Marquez approaches.

MARQUEZ

Got a kid in Exam Four with a pencil eraser up his nose. \*

Ross begins to move off with Marquez.

WEAVER

We need to discuss this --

ROSS

We will.

MORGENSTERN (O.S.)

Hail, comrades.

Everyone turns to find DAVID MORGENSTERN, looking fit and exuberant, carrying a huge basket of brownies. AD LIBS of "Welcome back, good to see you," etc.

WEAVER

David, we weren't expecting you back until next month.

MORGENSTERN

Missed you all too damn much.

(looks around)

Look at this place -- just as I remembered it.

WEAVER

Actually, we have made a few improvements.

Jerry eyes the brownies.

MORGENSTERN

Don't be shy, Jerry. Made them with my own two hands. It is Jerry, right?

Jerry nods as he jams a brownie into his mouth. Greene enters, picks up a chart, sees Morgenstern.

(CONTINUED)

GREENE

David, welcome back. It's been a while.

MORGENSTERN

One hundred and ninety seven days.

Greene holds out his hand, but Morgenstern gives him a hug instead.

MORGENSTERN

Looking trim, Mark.

GREENE

Thanks. You look pretty great yourself.

MORGENSTERN

I know it sounds hackneyed, but that myocardial infarction was the best thing that ever happened to me.

WEAVER

I'd intended to prepare a summary report to bring you up-to-speed --

MORGENSTERN

We'll talk shop later, Kerry. I'm here to spend some time in the trenches -- get back in touch with the people who make this place tick. Mark, what've you got?

GREENE

(looks at chart)

Thirty-two-year-old female, fever for five days.

MORGENSTERN

If there's one thing I learned from my brush with mortality, it's that every patient has a story. Let's go learn hers, shall we?

(looks around)

A joy to see you all.

Morgenstern and Greene exit. OFF Weaver.

CUT TO:

9 SURGICAL LOCKER ROOM - SHOWERS

9

Alone in the shower area, Benton ducks his food-splotched head under the water as he preps for his surgery.

BENTON

(reciting)

Anastomose from the femoral to the popliteal below the knee --

CORDAY (O.S.)

Peter? Is that you?

Benton stops, looks around self-consciously.

BENTON

Elizabeth? What are you doing here?

CORDAY (O.S.)

Just wanted to confirm our plans this evening to work on Rocket's lit review.

Benton quickly rinses himself off.

BENTON

Seven to nine-thirty, Biomed Library. I'll meet you there.

10 LOCKER AREA

10

Corday picks up a towel off the floor.

CORDAY

Maybe at nine-thirty-one, we could grab a bite to eat.

11 SHOWERS

11

Benton finishes rinsing off, turns OFF the SHOWER, goes to reach for his towel... Uh-oh. No towel.

BENTON

Look, I have an operation to get to, so if you don't mind --

\*

CORDAY (O.S.)

Or we could work at my place and get some takeout.

Benton searches for something to cover himself with, but all he comes up with is a washcloth.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

BENTON

Elizabeth, I know you've been dying  
to see me naked, but --

\*

A towel appears dangling around the corner.

BENTON

Thank you.

Benton snatches the towel, dries himself off.

CORDAY (O.S.)

So, what's your answer?

BENTON

(gives up)

Yeah, dinner. Fine. But I have  
to prep for a pancreatic  
pseudocyst afterwards, so --

Benton wraps the towel around his waist, moves into --

12 LOCKER ROOM

12

Corday is gone. OFF Benton, left holding the towel.

CUT TO:

13 AMBULANCE BAY ENTRANCE/MAIN HALLWAY

13

DAVE FEARN, early 30s, panicked, bursts through the  
ambulance doors holding up his wife, KAREN FEARN, late  
20s, earthy, thin, sweating, vomiting into a bag.

DAVE

Please, someone help me!

Del Amico runs over, helps support Karen.

DEL AMICO

Need a gurney over here.

(to Dave)

What happened?

DAVE

My wife is pregnant. She passed  
out --

Oligario and Jarvik arrive with a gurney.

DEL AMICO

Okay, easy...

(CONTINUED)



13 CONTINUED:

13

They lift Karen onto a gurney as she continues to vomit.

DEL AMICO

Jerry, what's open?

JERRY

Curtain Three.

They quickly maneuver the gurney down the crowded hallway.

DEL AMICO

How far along is she -- ?

\*

DAVE

Karen's eighteen weeks. But she's been having a really rough time.

\*

\*

They enter --

14 CURTAIN AREA THREE

14

Del Amico, Oligario and Jarvik transfer Karen onto a bed. Jarvik replaces the vomit bag with an emesis basin.

KAREN

(weakly)

I'm fine --

DAVE

No, you're not. Stop lying.

DEL AMICO

Karen, I'm Doctor Del Amico. We're going to do some tests --

KAREN

Don't hurt my baby.

DEL AMICO

We're not going to do anything to your baby.

Del Amico checks Karen's skin and mouth.

DEL AMICO

Dry skin and mucous membranes. She's dehydrated. Start a line and bolus her 200 cc's saline.

\*

JARVIK

BP 120/70.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

DEL AMICO

Also get a CBC, chem 7 and a UA.

OLIGARIO

She's got no veins.

DEL AMICO

I'll do an IJ line.

Del Amico puts on gloves as Oligario drapes and swabs Karen's neck. Dave strokes his wife's head.

DAVE

You're gonna be okay now.

DEL AMICO

One percent xylo with epi.

As Del Amico is about to stick her, Karen convulses.

KAREN

Oh God --

Karen violently retches into the emesis basin.

DEL AMICO

It's alright, Karen. It's alright.

15 INDOOR ROCK-CLIMBING GYM (CHICAGO)

15

\*

A cavernous space with man-made rock walls, colored hand and footholds, and ropes anchored into the ceiling. Jeanie nears the top of a climb as Scott belays her on the floor below. They both wear gym clothes, climbing shoes and harnesses.

SCOTT

Grab that red hold on your left, and you're there.

Jeanie reaches for the hold, pulls herself up, grabs another hold, touches the top of the ceiling.

SCOTT

Alright!

Jeanie gets into lowering position.

JEANIE

Ready to lower.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

Lowering.

Scott lowers Jeanie, who kicks off the wall with her feet as she descends. When she reaches the ground, they are both sweaty but exhilarated. They untie their rope knots.

SCOTT

Did you really only take two lessons?

JEANIE

My instructor said women are natural climbers. It's all in the hips.

SCOTT

I can't believe you did this...

JEANIE

You said you wanted to get in shape for Yosemite this summer.

Jeanie holds out her end of the rope -- it's his turn. Scott declines.

SCOTT

After that climb, I think you deserve a pop.

JEANIE

You chickening out on me?

Scott takes the rope, ties it into his harness. Jeanie does the same. \*

SCOTT

I just, you know, thought you might be thirsty.

JEANIE

Good try.

Scott faces the wall, takes a deep breath.

SCOTT

On belay?

Jeanie takes up the rope's slack, gets in braking position.

JEANIE

Belay on.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

SCOTT

Climbing.

JEANIE

Climb on.

Scott begins to climb up the wall using only green holds.

JEANIE

Good job, Scott. You make it look easy.

He makes it up about halfway, then stops, his legs shaking.

SCOTT

I can't...

JEANIE

You're doing great.

SCOTT

Let me down.

JEANIE

Look, there's a green handhold just above your left hand.

SCOTT

Let me down! I want to come down!

JEANIE

Okay. Lowering.

Jeanie slowly lets up the rope, lowering Scott. When he reaches the ground, he lays on the floor, sweating and out of breath.

JEANIE

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have pushed.

Scott winces in pain.

JEANIE

Did you hurt yourself?

(no reply)

We'll take a break.

SCOTT

No, take me to the hospital.

\*

OFF Jeanie.

CUT TO:

Greene looks through a thick three-ring binder while Jerry works on the computer.

GREENE

But McGee's has those devil wings.

JERRY

(shakes his head)

Hog Head McDunna's. Dollar  
ninety-nine all-u-can eat taco bar  
and there's live music after the  
game.

Corday approaches with a stack of folders. \*

CORDAY

Jerry, could you see that these  
protocol summaries make it into  
everyone's box? \*

JERRY

For you, Doctor Corday, it'd be a  
pleasure.

GREENE

Elizabeth, I was reviewing your  
study and noticed I'm the only  
faculty advisor listed.

CORDAY

Thanks again for helping me bring  
HemoAid to the ER.

GREENE

I assumed Doctor Romano was also  
involved.

CORDAY

He wanted to stay focused on the  
surgical applications of  
artificial blood.

GREENE

I'm surprised he let you move  
ahead on your own. \*

CORDAY

(beat)

The truth is, he doesn't know yet.

GREENE

(smiles)

Trying to break free?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

CORDAY

More like branching out. Do you  
mind being the only advisor?

\*  
\*

GREENE

No, as far as I'm concerned, the  
study's all yours.

\*  
\*

OFF Corday, relieved.

CUT TO:

17 CURTAIN AREA THREE

17

Del Amico checks Karen's IV as Dave watches. Jarvik  
takes her vitals. Karen, haggard and weak, continues to  
clutch an emesis basin.

DEL AMICO

Karen, have you been losing much  
weight?

Karen tries to answer, but dry heaves instead.

DAVE

She lost almost six pounds last  
week.

JARVIK

BP is 100/60.

\*  
\*

KAREN

(weakly)

I want to go home.

DAVE

Please, honey, let them help you.

(to Del Amico)

Her OB's had her on a saltine  
cracker diet. How is anyone  
supposed to survive on that?

KAREN

(sits up; upset)

I can't lose this baby.

\*

DAVE

She's already had three  
miscarriages.

\*  
\*

Karen suddenly passes out.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

DAVE  
(upset)  
Karen!

\*

DEL AMICO  
Trendelenburg!

Jarvik cranks Karen's bed into a Trendelenburg position.  
After a few beats, Karen comes out of it.

KAREN  
I'm okay. I'm okay.

DEL AMICO  
Let's add multi-vites and put her  
on a monitor.

\*

\*

Dave pulls Del Amico aside.

DAVE  
Why is this happening? She should  
be past morning sickness.

DEL AMICO  
In some women, nausea and vomiting  
persist throughout their  
pregnancy.

DAVE  
Nine months of this? She'll never  
make it --

DEL AMICO  
Once her labs come back, we'll see  
what options we have --

DAVE  
Look, I want you to do whatever it  
takes to save her.

DEL AMICO  
I understand.

OFF Del Amico.

CUT TO:

18 OMITTED

18 \*

18A MAIN HALLWAY

18A \*

Jeanie and Scott, wearing their climbing clothes beneath their coats, are met by ANSPAUGH, in scrubs, as they head toward Admit. \*

ANSPAUGH

Scott, how are you?

SCOTT

Been worse.

JEANIE

It's my fault. We were rockclimbing, and I pushed too hard --

SCOTT

No you didn't.

ANSPAUGH

Rockclimbing, eh? Planning to outshine me this summer?

JEANIE

I've paged Doug Ross.

ANSPAUGH

Good. I was just about to start a distal splenorenal shunt, but I can get someone to cover for me. \*

JEANIE

I don't think that's necessary. Scott just overdid it. \*

SCOTT

It's cool, Dad. Jeanie will keep me company.

ANSPAUGH

(beat)

Alright. But call me as soon as Doug's had a look at him.

JEANIE

Don't worry, I will.

OFF Jeanie, trying not to worry, herself.

CUT TO:

19

OR

19

ROMANO and Benton perform a fem-pop bypass.

(CONTINUED)



ROMANO

I plan on kicking some serious butt at the investigator's quarterly. Dayton Memorial can't come close to my HemoAid transfusion rates.

\*

BENTON

Congratulations. I'm releasing distally.

\*

\*

ROMANO

Looks dry. I hope you don't feel slighted that I brought Lizzie onto the study instead of you.

\*

BENTON

Not at all.

ROMANO

Peter, I never noticed before what a good liar you are. What are the branches of the popliteal?

\*

BENTON

Anterior tibial, posterior tibial, and the peroneal.

ROMANO

You're the man. Now's the best part. Release the proximal, and we'll watch the river run.

As Benton starts to sew, NURSE SHIRLEY ducks her head in.

SHIRLEY

Dr. Benton, the daycare center is on the phone.

Benton throws Romano a look, but he doesn't offer an out.

BENTON

Is it urgent?

SHIRLEY

They want you to come up.

BENTON

Tell them... ask them if...

ROMANO

Tell them he's coming. I'll finish up.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2) 19

Romano takes back the suture needle.

ROMANO  
 Priorities, Peter.  
 (to Nurse)  
 Four-oh Vicryl for the fascia...

\*

CUT TO:

20 STAIRWELL/ELEVATOR LOBBY 20

Clipboard in hand, Corday runs through the lobby into --

21 TRAUMA ONE 21

Weaver, Morgenstern, Hathaway, Wright and Marquez work on WON SOK JANG, 70s, bloody, unconscious. Weaver inserts a chest tube.

CORDAY  
 Someone page me?

WEAVER  
 (introducing)  
 Doctor Corday, Doctor Morgenstern.  
 Multiple GSWs to the chest and  
 abdomen --

\*  
\*

MORGENSTERN  
 Store owner in his late 70's, shot  
 with a low-caliber firearm.

WEAVER  
 BP 70 palp, pulse ox falling, 92  
 on 15 liters.

MORGENSTERN  
 Name's Won Sok Jang.

CORDAY  
 Transport time?

HATHAWAY  
 Twenty minutes.

Corday reviews her clipboard.

\*

CORDAY  
 Did anybody come in with him -- a  
 relative, anyone to consent?

\*

(CONTINUED)

MARQUEZ

No.

WEAVER

Ten blade.

CORDAY

He's a good candidate for the study.

(to Marquez)

Get me four units HemoAid.

As Marquez exits, an ALARM sounds.

WRIGHT

He's getting cyanotic.

MORGENSTERN

Muffled heart sounds, neck vein distension. Probable pericardial tamponade.

CORDAY

Shall I...?

Morgenstern kicks into gear.

MORGENSTERN

I've got it. Pericardiocentesis tray. Stick an alligator clip on the V-one lead.

\*

Hathaway splashes Betadine on the patient's chest, drapes him.

WRIGHT

BP's down to 40 palp.

Morgenstern takes a long-needed syringe, aims it at the base of the sternum.

MORGENSTERN

Worked hard his whole life, for this...

HATHAWAY

Pulse ox 88.

Morgenstern continues to stare at Jang, but doesn't move. Weaver and Corday notice.

WRIGHT

He's bradying down.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

WEAVER

David.

HATHAWAY

Rate's down to 30.

An ALARM begins to WAIL. Morgenstern remains frozen.

WEAVER

David?

Morgenstern gulps. He looks from his hand, to the syringe, to the sternum and can't move.

HATHAWAY

I'm losing a pulse.

MORGENSTERN

Um, I'm sorry, I -- there's something in my eye.

Morgenstern turns to Corday, hands over the syringe.

MORGENSTERN

Could you...?

Without a word, Morgenstern exits. Corday plunges the needle into Jang, advances it. Blood starts to fill the syringe.

CORDAY

Got it.

(annoyed)

Who the hell was that?

WEAVER

Our chief of Emergency Medicine.

OFF Weaver, concerned.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 ELEVATOR LOBBY/MAIN HALLWAY - 2:15 P.M. 22

Romano exits the elevator, moves into the main hallway where he collides with LINDSEY JANG, 40's.

ROMANO

Hey, bud, watch where you're --

LINDSEY JANG

(upset)

My father was shot -- I was told he's here.

ROMANO

Sorry to hear that.

(points)

Try the admit desk.

Romano continues on into the trauma hallway, where he sees Marquez running by with four bags of HemoAid. \*

ROMANO

Nurse, I got called about a rule- out appy--

MARQUEZ

Doctor Carter's in Exam Three.

Romano notices the bags of HemoAid in her hands.

ROMANO

What are you doing with those?

MARQUEZ

Taking them to Doctor Corday.

As Marquez moves on, we STAY ON Romano as he decides to follow into --

23 TRAUMA ONE 23

As ALARMS wail, Weaver performs CPR on Jang while Hathaway bags him. Corday grabs the HemoAid from Marquez, loads it into the rapid infuser. Romano enters.

ROMANO

Lizzie, what are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY

(awkward)

Doctor Romano...

\*

ROMANO

I didn't authorize the use of  
HemoAid in the ER.

The ALARM STOPS.

WEAVER

He's got a rhythm.

HATHAWAY

Faint pulse.

WEAVER

Start dopamine, titrate to a  
systolic of 100.

\*

WRIGHT

I get 60/30.

\*

CORDAY

Actually, I've been trying to tell  
you -- I've moved ahead with an ER  
study.

ROMANO

And who said you could?

CORDAY

Doctor Greene signed on as my  
faculty advisor.

Romano takes in the news, stays composed.

ROMANO

I see.

CORDAY

I'd like to explain --

WEAVER

Let's repeat a crit.

\*

\*

ROMANO

I haven't moved my office.

Romano exits. Corday watches him go, then returns to her  
work.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2) 23

CORDAY

Call the OR, tell them we're on  
our way.

\*  
\*

CUT TO:

24 OMITTED 24 \*

25 CURTAIN THREE AREA 25

Del Amico talks to Karen about her lab results. Karen is  
weak, but has temporarily stopped vomiting.

KAREN

I feel a lot better now --

DEL AMICO

That's because we rehydrated you.  
But with hyperemesis gravidarum,  
the vomiting can continue  
throughout your pregnancy, or even  
get worse.

KAREN

I can handle it.

DEL AMICO

(reading chart)

Your labs indicate your kidneys  
aren't working well. And you  
have a low potassium level,  
which could cause cardiac  
arrhythmia.

\*  
\*

KAREN

(getting upset)

I don't know what Dave said to  
you, but I'm not giving up this  
baby.

DEL AMICO

I'm not suggesting that, but there  
are drugs available which can  
reduce the nausea --

KAREN

My OB said drugs could put my baby  
at risk.

(CONTINUED)

DEL AMICO

There is that possibility. But endangering your health also puts your baby at risk.

KAREN

(beat)

My whole life, all I've ever wanted was to be a mom.

(weak smile)

I think it's something I'd be really good at, you know?

DEL AMICO

I'm sure you'll make a great mother. But physically, you might not be able to be one without some medical intervention.

KAREN

Would you take the drugs?

DEL AMICO

(beat)

Yes, I would.

Tears well in Karen's eyes.

KAREN

I can't. I'm sorry, I just can't.

DEL AMICO

(beat)

Think about it. If your condition worsens -- and I think it could -- your life could be at risk.

KAREN

I know.

DEL AMICO

The bottom line is: if you die, your baby dies.

OFF Karen as she nods, considering this.

CUT TO:

Ross walks through, passes Greene at the lightboard.

(CONTINUED)



GREENE

Hey, Doug, you ever been to Hog  
Head McDunna's?

ROSS

Great taco bar, but I'll have to  
take a raincheck on tonight. \*

GREENE

You know Carol's welcome to  
come along... \*

HALEH approaches Ross. \*

HALEH

Doctor Anspaugh's on the phone for  
you.

ROSS

Thanks.  
(to Greene)  
We still need to talk.

As Greene and Ross move off in opposite directions, two  
transports exit Trauma One with Jang on a gurney, head  
for the elevators. Corday, with clipboard, and Marquez  
follow. \*

CORDAY

I'll need a record of his vitals  
after each bag was hung. \*

MARQUEZ

You got it. \*

As Marquez moves off, Corday slows down as she sees Romano  
talking to Lindsey Jang. Romano looks up, sees Corday,  
approaches. \*

ROMANO

Doctor Corday, this is Lindsey  
Jang, your patient's son.

CORDAY

(surprised)  
Mister Jang. I wasn't aware any  
relatives had arrived.

LINDSEY JANG

How's my father?

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY

His heart stopped, but we were able to resuscitate him. He's being taken to surgery --

LINDSEY JANG

Did it stop because you gave him fake blood?

Corday shoots Romano a look.

CORDAY

No, in fact, he responded quite well --

LINDSEY JANG

Who gave you permission to try that?

ROMANO

Why don't I give you two some privacy?

Corday watches Romano move off, then returns her attention to Jang.

CORDAY

Mister Jang, we did use an experimental blood product on your father, but it was intended to help him. Here's a packet explaining the protocol being used --

\*

Corday removes a packet from her clipboard, holds it out.

\*

LINDSEY JANG

(getting upset)

My father should've gotten real blood.

CORDAY

He did. If you just look --

Jang slaps the packet away. Paper flies everywhere.

LINDSEY JANG

I don't care about your stupid study.

Jang starts to walk off. Corday bends down to pick up the strewn papers. Jang stops.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

LINDSEY JANG  
If he dies, I'm holding you  
responsible.

He continues on. OFF Corday.

CUT TO:

27 EXAM ONE

27

While Scott lays in bed, Jeanie nervously checks her  
watch.

JEANIE  
Your labs should've been back by  
now.

SCOTT  
This is County, remember? I mean,  
you should see some of the P.A.s  
they have working here --

JEANIE  
(smiles)  
Very funny --

Jeanie turns, notices Scott wincing in pain.

JEANIE  
Is it bad?

SCOTT  
I'm always sore after climbing.

Ross enters with Scott's chart. \*

ROSS  
Hey there, buddy. How're you  
feeling?

SCOTT  
Little better.

ROSS  
(to Jeanie) \*  
Can I talk to you outside for a  
minute?

SCOTT \*  
I want to hear. \*

Jeanie nods to Ross. \*

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

ROSS

Scott, your labs indicate that you're pancytopenic, which means you have very low blood cell counts.

JEANIE

How low?

Ross hands over Scott's chart. Jeanie looks it over.

ROSS

(to Scott)

We'll have to tap some of your bone marrow to see if it's producing cells. You'll also need transfusions, and we'll have to put you in an isolation room --

\*

\*

JEANIE

Maybe we should talk outside --

Scott and Jeanie share a look. He knows it's bad news. Jeanie and Ross move out into --

28 ADMIT AREA

28

JEANIE

A bone marrow biopsy? He could have the flu.

\*

\*

\*

ROSS

The flu wouldn't lower his white count.

\*

JEANIE

His counts probably haven't come back yet from the chemo. It's only been a few weeks.

ROSS

Jeanie, he needs this biopsy.

JEANIE

I've seen Scott at his worst, and I'm sure Doctor Anspaugh would agree --

ROSS

I've already spoken with Anspaugh. He wants me to move forward.

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

JEANIE

(beat)  
I'll get Exam Four set up for  
isolation.

Ross starts to move off.

JEANIE

About Scott's pain --

ROSS

I'll take care of that.

CUT TO:

\*

29 MAIN HALLWAY/CHAIRS

29

TAKATA arrives for his shift as Hathaway checks the  
clinic sign-in table.

\*

HATHAWAY

(read from clipboard)  
Nancy Logan.

TAKATA

Off with one hat, on with another.

HATHAWAY

ER nurse, clinic nurse, ER nurse,  
clinic nurse...

TAKATA

More like super nurse.

In the b.g., we see NANCY LOGAN, 16, middle-class, nice  
kid, hand her coat to a male, 40's, mild-mannered,  
sitting next to her. Nancy approaches Hathaway.

\*

NANCY

Hey, Nurse Hathaway.

HATHAWAY

Hi, Nancy. Does your dad want to  
come back with us?

NANCY

No, that's okay.

As Hathaway and Nancy move toward Exam Two, Weaver passes  
Greene as he heads down the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

WEAVER

Mark, have you seen David  
Morgenstern?

GREENE

No, and I'd rather not. He spent  
an hour talking to my tetanus  
patient about her antique bottle-  
cap collection.

WEAVER

He may have come back to work a  
little early.

She starts to move off.

WEAVER

Oh, and we need to discuss this  
Doug Ross situation at some point. \*

GREENE

What situation?

WEAVER

Sounds like he's not coming back  
next year. \*

OFF Greene, surprised.

CUT TO:

30 EXAM TWO/CLINIC

30

Nancy rolls up her sleeve while Hathaway reviews her  
chart.

HATHAWAY

Does your father know that you're  
here for birth control?

NANCY

Uh... not exactly. You won't tell  
him, will you?

HATHAWAY

Not if you don't want me to.  
(beat)

Have you been having regular  
periods since your last Depo-  
Provera injection?

NANCY

Light.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

HATHAWAY

Weight gain, leg cramps or pain,  
visual changes?

Nancy shakes her head "no" as Hathaway prepares the shot,  
administers it.

HATHAWAY

Are you using condoms to prevent  
sexually transmitted disease?

\*

NANCY

Sometimes my boyfriend forgets.

HATHAWAY

It's your responsibility, too.

NANCY

Yeah, I know.

Hathaway fills out a pad, hands Nancy a slip of paper.

HATHAWAY

Here's your follow-up reminder to  
come back in three months --

Hathaway reaches into a drawer, removes a handful of  
condoms, gives them to Nancy.

HATHAWAY

And here are some condoms. Use  
them, okay?

NANCY

Thanks. I will.

CUT TO:

31 HALLWAY/ELEVATOR LOBBY

31

Carter, looking exhausted, exits the men's room as Del  
Amico passes eating a brownie.

DEL AMICO

Hey, you never returned my call  
last night.

CARTER

Sorry. I need a new answering  
machine.

(CONTINUED)

DEL AMICO

You also need some sleep. You look like the walking dead.

\*

CARTER

Insomnia. Happens every now and then.

DEL AMICO

Try this for a quick fix.

\*

Del Amico tries to break her brownie in two, laughs as they try to salvage the crumbling pieces.

DAVE (O.S.)

Just wanted to say thanks for nothing.

Del Amico turns, finds Dave Fearn, fuming.

DEL AMICO

(beat)

Mister Fearn, I'm sorry, but your wife doesn't want to take the risk --

\*

\*

\*

DAVE

Save it for your priest, okay? You know, the minute I saw your name, I should've asked for someone else.

DEL AMICO

(confused)

My name?

DAVE

You're Catholic, right?

DEL AMICO

What does that have to do with anything?

\*

\*

DAVE

Do you get extra points for putting a baby's life ahead of my wife's? Is that how it works?

Carter steps up to Fearn.

CARTER

Excuse me, sir --

\*

Del Amico pushes Carter out of the way.

(CONTINUED)



GREENE

Elizabeth. Heard you found your first HemoAid candidate.

CORDAY

And lost him again -- no thanks to Doctor Romano.

GREENE

What'd he do?

CORDAY

(beat)

It's not important.

GREENE

What can I say? Romano's a jerk.

CORDAY

(laughs)

Actually, that was perfectly put.

GREENE

Don't let him get to you. And if you need backup, give a holler.

CORDAY

Thanks.

As Greene moves off, Corday spots Benton at the nurses' station, juggling Reese, a car seat and a phone.

CORDAY

Peter, what's wrong?

BENTON

I need to get Reese over to Carla's, but my damn car won't start. I've called for a taxi -- twice -- and I have a surgery scheduled --

CORDAY

I could take him for you. My car's here --

BENTON

(hesitates)

Uh, thanks, but I don't think that's a good idea.

CORDAY

I'm a good driver, Peter.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

BENTON

It's not that, it's just -- it  
might be kind of awkward, you  
know, with Carla...

\*

CORDAY

Fine. You drive, and I'll keep  
this little one company.

(takes Reese from  
Benton)

Come here, sweetheart.

Benton checks his watch.

BENTON

We could just make it.

CUT TO:

34 MEDICAL SCHOOL ANATOMY LAB

34

As Weaver opens the door, she passes a PROFESSOR exiting.

\*

PROFESSOR

Are you looking for a student?

WEAVER

Uh... no. I'm -- I see him.

Weaver passes a team of medical students working on a  
dead cadaver, finds Morgenstern working on his own cadaver  
with the chest cavity opened on the left side from a  
thoracotomy incision. He's got a pericardiocentesis  
needle and syringe, and is sticking it into the skin just  
below the sternum, watching it hit the heart by looking  
into the incision.

\*

\*

WEAVER

Bull's-eye.

MORGENSTERN

(startled)

Kerry. It's not wise to sneak up  
on a man with a needle in his  
hand.

\*

WEAVER

I wanted to check on your eye.

MORGENSTERN

Much better, thank you. Saline  
did the trick.

\*

(CONTINUED)

Weaver watches Morgenstern draw fluid out of the heart.

MORGENSTERN

Figured after six months, it wouldn't hurt to brush up on my anatomy.

WEAVER

All of us could benefit from that on occasion.

MORGENSTERN

(beat)

Tell me something, Kerry -- do you ever think about patients when you're working on them? You know -- their hopes, their dreams?

WEAVER

Honestly? No.

MORGENSTERN

I never used to, but in that trauma room today... all I could think about was that old grocer's life, and how he was relying on me...

WEAVER

I don't know if you heard, but last month, I suffered a grand mal seizure during a HazMat incident --

\*

MORGENSTERN

Ah, then you know...

WEAVER

Know what?

MORGENSTERN

About perspective -- looking at the big picture.

WEAVER

(carefully)

I know that the big picture can be humbling. Maybe even destructive to one's focus... and confidence.

Morgenstern considers this, opens his mouth, then decides against it.

(CONTINUED)

MORGENSTERN

Nonsense.

(indicates corpse)

Kerry Weaver, meet Jane DeLeo --  
cook, mother of five, never  
retired in spite of crippling  
arthritis, outlived three of her  
children, never left Chicago.

WEAVER

You know all that about this  
cadaver? \*

MORGENSTERN

No, I made it up. But if I did  
know, I'd be a better doctor.

OFF Weaver, deciding not to argue with that.

CUT TO:

Ross performs a painful bone-marrow biopsy on Scott,  
drugged but conscious, lying on his stomach. Jeanie  
faces him, uses a visualization technique as she holds  
his hand.

JEANIE

You're almost there --

SCOTT

Crux of the climb.

JEANIE

(nodding)

Just a few hundred yards to go.  
Your fingers search across the  
blank rock until you find the  
perfect handhold... do you feel  
it?

SCOTT

I got it...

ROSS

I'm going to be inserting the  
needle now, Scott.

JEANIE

All you have to do is just hold  
on. Breathe. You're almost there  
-- almost to the top.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

Ross inserts a large core needle into Scott's hip and begins to turn it like a corkscrew. Scott screams out in pain, squeezes Jeanie's hand.

JEANIE

It's okay, Scott. I've got you.  
Just hold on.

OFF Jeanie, trying to do the same.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. GAS STATION

36

Benton pumps gas into Corday's black Mustang convertible. Inside the car, Corday sits in the passenger seat while Reese sleeps in his car seat in back. Corday talks to Benton through her open window.

CORDAY

Do we really have time for this?

BENTON

You can't drive on empty.

CORDAY

But after that 'E' light comes on,  
I always have an entire day's  
worth of petrol left --

BENTON

I'm not running out of gas in the  
middle of Garfield Park.

Corday looks in back, covers Reese with a blanket.

CORDAY

(sotto)

For your sake, Reese, I hope you  
don't inherit your father's  
bullheadedness.

BENTON

When we get to Carla's restaurant,  
I'll probably have to double-park,  
so I'll take Reese inside and you  
can stay in the car.

Benton replaces the pump, gets back inside the car.

CORDAY

Are you still in love with her?  
Carla?

(CONTINUED)

BENTON

No -- I mean, it was never love. \*

CORDAY

So you don't object to sport  
sex on principle -- \*

BENTON

Elizabeth --

CORDAY

But you are worried about Carla  
seeing us together.

Benton STARTS the IGNITION.

BENTON

I don't know what you're talking  
about.

CORDAY

Is it because I'm white?

BENTON

Excuse me?

CORDAY

We spend a lot of time together,  
and there's an obvious chemistry,  
but there's also an obstacle. The  
only explanation I'm left with is  
that it's a racial problem --

Benton tangles with his seatbelt as he throws the car  
into reverse.

BENTON

(annoyed)

Elizabeth, I don't even know how  
to respond --

Bam! The car runs into something -- another car? Benton  
hits his head against the steering wheel. REESE wakes  
up, begins to WAIL. Benton checks on him, then on  
Corday.

BENTON

Damn. Where'd he come from? Are  
you okay? Reese?

CORDAY

(shaken)

We're fine --

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

Benton is already out of the car. When he walks around to the back to check on the damage, he finds SALLY INGRAM, 45, petite, in a business suit, bloodied and groaning in pain, lying prone on the ground next to a parked car. A large shoulder bag lies next to her, soaked.

BENTON

Oh, my God. Elizabeth! Help!

OFF Benton, dropping beside the wounded woman.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37      AMBULANCE BAY - 3:30 P.M.

37

Carter, Del Amico and Oligario meet an Ambulance. AUDIA jumps out of the driver's side.

CARTER

What've you got?

AUDIA

Auto versus pedestrian --

He opens the back door, revealing Corday with Ingram, backboard, C-collar, IV, oxygen by cannula, monitor, a splint on her left leg, conscious, belligerent.

CORDAY

BP's okay, 130/85 --

\*

OLIGARIO

Doctor Corday?

CORDAY

Got in a bit of an accident.

(to Ingram)

We're here, Miss Ingram.

INGRAM

Finally.

Corday helps unload Ingram as Benton zooms into the Ambulance Bay driving Corday's Mustang.

DEL AMICO

You okay?

CORDAY

Yes. Doctor Benton was involved, too --

INGRAM

Involved? He ran into me!

CARTER

He had Reese with him?

DEL AMICO

I got it.

INGRAM

I was on my lunch break. I need to call my boss --

(CONTINUED)



37 CONTINUED:

37

Corday and Carter head inside with Ingram while Del Amico and Oligario move over to Benton, who frantically tries to remove the car seat from the back with Reese still in it. Benton has a small bloody gash on his forehead. \*

DEL AMICO

Here, let me --

BENTON

No, I got it.

Benton removes the car seat, with Reese calmly still strapped inside. They rush into --

38 ADMIT/MAIN HALLWAY

38

Greene joins as they race down the Hallway.

BENTON

Pulse is 160, resps 32. He was crying after it happened, but he's getting somnolent --

GREENE

Peter, what happened?

BENTON

I backed into a pedestrian. Reese was in the backseat. He seemed okay -- I mean, he was strapped into his car seat -- \*

GREENE

We'll check him out.

BENTON

Anna, would you take a look?

DEL AMICO

Of course.

BENTON

How's the pedestrian?

GREENE

Don't worry, she's in good hands.

FOLLOW Benton with Reese, Del Amico, and Greene and Oligario INTO --

39 TRAUMA ONE

39

DEL AMICO

He feels warm.

BENTON

He had a fever before --

\*

Oligario begins to unstrap Reese.

OLIGARIO

(to Reese)

It's alright, sweetie --

BENTON

Don't! Don't move him until we CT  
his head, neck and abdomen.

Del Amico and Greene exchange a look.

GREENE

Peter, why don't I have a look at  
your head lac while Anna checks  
Reese out?

BENTON

I'm fine.

DEL AMICO

Go with him, Peter.

But instead, Benton sidesteps Greene and moves into --

40 TRAUMA TWO

40

Corday, Carter and Haleh work on Ingram. Benton starts  
to glove up as Greene follows.

CARTER

Let's get a CBC, type and cross  
for four, cross-table c-spine,  
chest, pelvis and left femur, and  
dip a urine for blood.\*  
\*

INGRAM

I have to get to work --

\*

CORDAY

Someone's calling your boss for  
you.

INGRAM

Harbilas &amp; Kleiderman Law Offices.

Benton and Corday share a look.

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY

Yes, we got it.

BENTON

How is she?

CORDAY

Superficial lacs and multiple  
contusions and abrasions.

\*

HALEH

Pulse ox 99.

\*

Benton palpates her abdomen.

CORDAY

I checked her in the ambulance --  
her abdomen's benign.

BENTON

Does this hurt?

INGRAM

(nods)

And it's your fault -- you were  
more worried about your sick kid  
than looking where you were going!

\*

\*

Benton throws Corday a nasty look.

CORDAY

I was explaining to her --

BENTON

(cutting her off)

Peritoneal lavage tray.

CARTER

I don't think that's necessary --

\*

GREENE

(sotto; to Benton)

Peter, it's probably not a good  
idea for you to be here --

BENTON

Has the trauma team been paged?

CORDAY

Peter...

BENTON

(to Haleh)

Do it.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

Greene and Corday share a look as Haleh moves to the phone. Greene grabs Benton by the elbow.

GREENE

Come on.

Benton reluctantly lets Greene lead him into --

41 SUTURE ROOM

41

BENTON

(moves to leave)

I should check on Reese --

GREENE

Anna is taking care of him. \*

Greene sits Benton down, flashes a penlight into his eyes.

GREENE

Did you ever lose consciousness?

BENTON

No, I was barely moving -- \*

Greene examines the cut. \*

GREENE

Doesn't need suturing.

BENTON

She came from out of nowhere --  
must've been in my blind spot.

Greene places a bandage on Benton's forehead.

GREENE

Don't beat yourself up. It was an accident.

BENTON

(looks at watch)

Damn! I'm missing surgery.

Del Amico enters. \*

D.A. \*

Reese is fine, Peter. \*

BENTON \*

Did you get a CT? \*

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

DEL AMICO

Not necessary. Normal fundi and  
he's alert and interactive.  
Connie's giving him a bottle.

\*  
\*

Benton spots Romano in the Trauma Hallway.

\*

BENTON

Thanks, Anna...

\*

Benton rushes into --

\*

42 TRAUMA HALLWAY

42

BENTON

Doctor Romano --

ROMANO

Peter, where the hell have you  
been? Brin's been screaming  
bloody murder.

BENTON

I got in a car accident -- hit a  
pedestrian.

ROMANO

Why were you out on the town when  
you had surgery?

\*

Before Benton can answer, Corday exits Trauma Two.

CORDAY

Doctor Romano, I'm afraid Peter  
may have brought you down here for  
nothing --

ROMANO

Surgical consult's for your  
victim?

(off Benton's look)

Well, let's go see what damage  
you've wrought.

Romano moves into Trauma Two.

CORDAY

Is Reese okay?

\*

BENTON

What'd you tell that woman about  
me?

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

42

CONTINUED:

42

CORDAY

We were in the ambulance, she asked what happened.

BENTON

She works for a damn lawyer --

Jerry approaches, nods towards two uniformed cops.

JERRY

Doctor Benton, these two want to question you about the accident.

BENTON

(to Corday)

You do have insurance, right?

CORDAY

The forms are somewhere... I'll have to poke around at home --

BENTON

Elizabeth, it's the law -- you have to have it with you --

JERRY

I think they just want to take a report...

BENTON

Yeah, okay.

Benton turns his back on Corday, approaches the cops.  
OFF Corday.

CUT TO:

43

LOUNGE

43

Jeanie stands at her locker, pulling on her lab coat as Hathaway enters, pours herself some coffee.

HATHAWAY

Doug told me about Doctor Anspaugh's son. How's he doing?

JEANIE

He's holding up.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

HATHAWAY

I wanted to tell you -- I'm opening up the clinic so the staff can get tested as possible marrow donors. Jerry's already sent out an e-mail to the other floors, and Anna's making up some fliers --

\*  
\*

JEANIE

That's a nice gesture, Carol, but --

HATHAWAY

I know it's unlikely we'll find a match, but people want to do something.

JEANIE

(upset)

No, it's premature. The biopsy results aren't even back. Give the kid a chance, for godsake!

Hathaway steps back. Jeanie leaves. OFF Hathaway.

CUT TO:

44 EXAM FOUR/ISOLATION

44

Ross shows Scott how to use a PCA device.

ROSS

The pump's computerized, so it'll release a fixed dosage of pain medication each time you press it. You're calling the shots.

SCOTT

Can I o.d. if I push it too much?

ROSS

No, it's programmed to lockout during set intervals, so that won't happen --

\*

Greene stands in the Hallway, knocks at the door.

GREENE

Doug?

Ross exits into --

45 HALLWAY

45

ROSS

I'm kind of in the middle of something.

\*

GREENE

Donald Anspaugh just called. He has some concerns about putting Scott on PCA.

ROSS

He called you?

\*

GREENE

He wanted to ask about the ER's policy. I told him we didn't have one since I wasn't aware that you were using PCA on kids.

\*

ROSS

Uh-huh. Well, I am.

GREENE

I wish you'd told me.

ROSS

I didn't know I needed your permission.

GREENE

You should keep me informed.

ROSS

Would you have told me not to?

\*

GREENE

Doug, I'm not asking you to answer to me, just to speak up.

ROSS

This is exactly why there should be a Pedes Attending...

\*

(then)

I'll call Anspaugh back myself -- if that's okay with you.

\*

Ross moves back into Exam Four. OFF Greene.

CUT TO:

46 MAIN HALLWAY

46

Benton watches as Carter and Two Transports move Sally Ingram into Curtain Area Three.

(CONTINUED)



Benton gets Carter's attention, pulls him into the Hall.

BENTON

What'd Romano say about her belly?

CARTER

He agreed with Doctor Corday --  
it's benign.

BENTON

I want to see her labs.

CARTER

They're not back yet.

BENTON

You've got to stay on top of them.

CARTER

It's scary, isn't it? One second,  
one wrong move... and your life  
can change, just like that.

\*

BENTON

(annoyed)

Does she have any other  
complaints?

\*

CARTER

Just a mild headache.

BENTON

Send her up for a CT.

CARTER

CT?

Down the Hallway, Benton spots Corday talking to CARLA,  
who holds Reese.

BENTON

Just do it.

Benton jogs over to the two women.

CORDAY

He's been a real trooper.

CARLA

That's my good boy.  
(sees Benton)  
Peter, there you are.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

BENTON

It was a minor accident. Reese is fine.

\*

CARLA

(re: his forehead)

What about you?

BENTON

It wasn't as bad as it sounds. I was getting gas --

\*

CARLA

Yes, Elizabeth filled me in.

Benton looks to Corday.

CORDAY

Just the highlights.

CARLA

I should get Reese home. Thanks again for taking care of him.

CORDAY

You're very welcome. And you feel better now, Reese.

BENTON

Call me if he gets irritable or lethargic.

CARLA

I will, I will.

Benton leans over, gives Reese a kiss on the head as Carla exits with him.

CORDAY

She takes things in stride.

BENTON

Like what?

CORDAY

Really, Peter, you need to chill out.

BENTON

If only I'd waited for that taxi. Or taken the subway. Or gotten my stupid car fixed --

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (3)

46

CORDAY

You mean, if only I hadn't gotten involved, is that it?

BENTON

I didn't say that.

CORDAY

You didn't have to.

Corday turns, walks away. OFF Benton.

CUT TO?

47 ADMIT AREA

47

From the Admit Desk, Weaver watches Morgenstern talking to a Young Boy and his Mother in Curtain Area One. Morgenstern ruffles the boy's hair, walks with Takata toward the Desk.

\*  
\*

MORGENSTERN

Diagnosis -- too many bologna and cheese sandwiches and hours in front of video games.

TAKATA

Fleets enema?

MORGENSTERN

(nodding)

And the number for the nearest Cub Scout troop. Boys need activity -- stay fit, make friends, and have fun, all at the same time.

Weaver approaches as Morgenstern drops off his chart.

WEAVER

You came back --

MORGENSTERN

Why wouldn't I?

Wright ducks her head out of Exam One.

WRIGHT

Doctor Weaver, I'm losing a pulse on Plazik!

\*

Weaver and Morgenstern rush into --

Paul Plazik, 50s, overweight, lies in bed, unconscious.

MORGENSTERN

What's his history?

WEAVER

Presented with pyloric stenosis secondary to chronic ulcer disease. Ate a big lunch, followed by bad heartburn.

MORGENSTERN

Did he take any meds?

WEAVER

(reading chart)

Bromo seltzer.

WRIGHT

He's bradying down.

MORGENSTERN

Probably vaso-vagal. \*

WEAVER

You think the CO<sub>2</sub> from the bromo is distending in his stomach...?

Morgenstern grabs an NG tube and tries to insert it down Plazik's throat, but it won't go down.

MORGENSTERN

He may have esophageal strictures. \*

Morgenstern continues to struggle.

WEAVER

Here. Let me try. David...

He hands off to Weaver, but she has trouble as well.

WEAVER

Damn! I can't get it, either.

MORGENSTERN

Give me an eighteen-gauge needle and a syringe. \*

Wright hands over the items. Morgenstern pulls out the syringe's plunger and tosses it aside.

WEAVER

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

MORGENSTERN

We have to decompress him or he'll  
explode.

Morgenstern aims the needle at Plazik's belly under the  
left ribs. He takes a deep breath.

WEAVER

Are you sure...

Morgenstern jams the needle into Plazik's belly.  
Suddenly, a WHOOSH of CO2 releases from Plazik's stomach.  
A beat.

WRIGHT

Pulse is coming back. \*

Morgenstern steps back, sweating.

WEAVER

(smiling)

Excellent work, Doctor.

OFF Morgenstern, relieved.

CUT TO:

49 ER SUPPLY ROOM (EXAM THREE)

49 \*

Corday counts bags of HemoAid in refrigerator marked  
"Non-Food Supplies." Bins filled with medical supplies,  
and non-perishable food and drink items line the walls.

ROMANO (O.S.)

Lizzie, Lizzie, Lizzie...

Corday turns to find Romano standing in the doorway,  
watching her.

ROMANO

I had no idea it meant so much for  
you to have your own piece of the  
pie.

CORDAY

I didn't intend to go behind your  
back.

ROMANO

Never apologize for being  
ambitious. I just wish you'd  
spend your time on a study that  
was more respectable.

(CONTINUED)

CORDAY

Respectable?

ROSS

Foisting artificial blood on hapless John Does in the ER without their consent... it's a bit morally ambiguous, don't you think?

CORDAY

You're concerned about my soul...

\*

ROMANO

Amongst other things. How would you like to become the Chicago-area coordinator for the HemoAid OR study?

CORDAY

Are you joking?

ROMANO

The drug company's expanding to more sites, asked me to oversee them. If you join me, you'll climb the ladder from worker bee to queen bee.

CORDAY

That's a generous offer. Is it contingent on me dropping my ER study?

ROMANO

Can't imagine you'd have time for both.

OFF Corday, faced with a decision.

CUT TO:

49A EXAM TWO/CLINIC

49A \*

Hathaway labels a blood sample as Greene rolls down his sleeve.

\*

\*

HATHAWAY

Thanks for helping out, Mark.

\*

GREENE

No, thank you. This bone marrow drive's a great idea.

They move into --

\*

A half dozen healthcare workers wait in line for the bone marrow blood-letting.

\*  
\*

HATHAWAY

I'm glad you and Doug are going out tonight. I know he's looking forward to it.

GREENE

He canceled on me.

HATHAWAY

You're kidding. I told him we could cancel...

\*

Hathaway notices Nancy Logan with ABBEY LOGAN, 40s, conservative, at the Admit Desk. She approaches.

HATHAWAY

Nancy, is there a problem?

Nancy counts the floor tiles, doesn't look up.

MRS. LOGAN

Are you --  
(reads Nancy's  
follow-up notice)  
C. Hathaway, R.N.?

HATHAWAY

Yes.

MRS. LOGAN

I'm Nancy's mother, Abbey Logan. I found your clinic follow-up note along with these.

Mrs. Logan removes the condoms from her purse.

MRS. LOGAN

Nancy won't talk to me, so I thought you might.

HATHAWAY

Confidentiality laws prevent me from discussing Nancy's medical history.

\*

\*

MRS. LOGAN

(frustrated)  
I just want to know what's going on with our daughter --

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

HATHAWAY

Maybe I can answer some questions  
for Nancy, in private, that would  
make her more willing to discuss  
this.

\*  
\*

MRS. LOGAN

Whatever you can do.

CUT TO:

51 DRUG LOCK-UP

51

Jeanie stares at the shelves, lost in thought.

\*

ROSS

Scott's biopsy results came in.

Jeanie resumes looking for a medication, doesn't face him.

\*

JEANIE

And...?

ROSS

The cancer's back.

Jeanie looks like she's been hit with a ton of bricks.

\*

JEANIE

How bad?

ROSS

The lymphoma's in his bone marrow.  
That's why he's so anemic.

\*

JEANIE

I told him... it was all behind  
him...

ROSS

Scott's made it through this  
before -- he can do it again.

JEANIE

But this means more chemo.

ROSS

And he'll have to stay isolated  
this time. There's a greater  
chance of infection.

Jeanie can barely react. She nods numbly.

(CONTINUED)



51 CONTINUED:

51

ROSS

I've already contacted the National Bone Marrow Registry -- they'll conduct a search for possible matches. And his father or sister could match.

JEANIE

Does he know yet?

ROSS

I'm going to tell him now. His dad's already with him, and I thought you might want to be there, too.

JEANIE

(beat)

No, they should have some time alone. I'll stop by later.

\*  
\*

ROSS

Okay. I'm sorry.

Ross exits. OFF Jeanie, devastated.

CUT TO:

52 OMITTED

52

52A EXAM ONE

52A \*

Hathaway talks to Nancy.

HATHAWAY

Your parents obviously care about you...

NANCY

Trust me, this would seriously flip them out.

HATHAWAY

It might reassure them to hear that you're being responsible about birth control and S.T.D.s...

NANCY

But you won't tell them, right?

(CONTINUED)

HATHAWAY

I can't tell them. And I won't.  
But sometimes it makes things  
worse to shut people out who care.  
Your mother's concerned, your  
father brought you here earlier --

\*  
\*  
\*

NANCY

(beat)  
That wasn't my father.  
(off Hathaway's look)  
The man you saw me with earlier...  
he's my teacher.

Uh-oh. A beat as Hathaway takes this in.

HATHAWAY

Nancy... are you having sex with  
your teacher?

NANCY

It's not like he's forcing me to  
or anything. We love each other,  
you know? But we have to keep it  
quiet because if Jim's wife found  
out --

\*

HATHAWAY

He's married?

NANCY

Yeah, but she's real unstable, his  
wife. He can't just tell her yet.  
We're waiting until I turn  
eighteen, then Jim's going to get  
a divorce.

\*  
\*

HATHAWAY

Your teacher, Jim -- what is he --  
forty years old?

NANCY

About that.

HATHAWAY

What he's doing is against the  
law.

NANCY

No, I love him and he loves me.  
It's totally simple.

(CONTINUED)

52A CONTINUED: (2)

52A

HATHAWAY

No, Nancy. It's not simple at  
all.

OFF Hathaway. Oh boy.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

53 CURTAIN AREA THREE - 5:20 P.M.

53

Benton, carrying a thick computer printout, approaches Sally Ingram, resting, sullen. Haleh checks her vitals.

BENTON  
How are you feeling?

INGRAM  
Better.

HALEH  
(sotto; to Benton)  
Should you be here?

INGRAM  
I'd like to go home now.

Carter comes in.

BENTON  
As soon as we're sure you're fine.  
Your CT came back negative, but  
your labs indicate an elevated  
amylase and lipase --

CARTER  
Doctor Benton?

BENTON  
(points to printout)  
Carter, you missed something in Ms.  
Ingram's labs. These levels  
indicate pancreatic injury --

CARTER  
(points)  
No, you missed something.

BENTON  
(surprised)  
Her B.A.L.?

CARTER  
Point-one-six.  
(to Ingram)  
Did you consume any alcoholic  
beverages during your lunch break?

Ingram sheepishly looks at Carter, who looks at Benton,  
who looks at Ingram.

Corday looks over the chart of Won Sok Jang, awake but groggy, on O2 mask, multiple IVAC pumps, heart monitor and pulse ox.

CORDAY

I'm pleased to say, Mister Jang, it looks like you made it through with flying colors.

LINDSEY JANG (O.S.)

He doesn't understand English very well.

Corday turns to find Lindsey Jang, holding a cup of coffee.

CORDAY

I just wanted to see how he was faring.

WON SOK JANG

(to Lindsey; in  
Cantonese)

Gong bay keuih teung, dawjeh  
keuih, gow ngoh tieu meng.

LINDSEY JANG

My father wants to thank you for helping save his life.

CORDAY

(nods to Mr. Jang)

You're very welcome.

LINDSEY JANG

I told him about your blood study, and even though I still have reservations, he'd like to know more about your study.

CORDAY

Certainly. With your help, of course.

Lindsey nods his consent and sits down next to Jang's bed.

CORDAY

Mister Jang, you were given an artificial blood product.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

LINDSEY JANG

Babah, keuih weui jahm see bay dee  
ga hyt bay neih...

\*

OFF Corday, trying to bridge the gap.

CUT TO:

55 EXT. AMBULANCE BAY

55

Weaver joins Morgenstern, still exhilarated from his big save. She hands him a soda pop, drinks one herself.

WEAVER

It was a thrill to see you in  
action again.

\*

MORGENSTERN

We make a good team, you and I.

WEAVER

I'm sorry if I was presumptive  
before --

MORGENSTERN

You're a conscientious person,  
Kerry. It makes you a good  
doctor. And a good manager.

Weaver takes the compliment -- and the opening.

WEAVER

I certainly tried to fill the void  
while you were on leave...

MORGENSTERN

And surpassed me -- probably  
because of your sincere interest  
in all things administrative. I  
never really gave a damn about the  
bureaucracy before. Didn't  
interest me back then.

WEAVER

And now?

MORGENSTERN

Now, everything interests me.

OFF Weaver, smiling, sorry to hear that.

CUT TO:

Carter sits down, rolls up his sleeve, while Del Amico takes a blood sample.

CARTER

I wonder how many people actually match for bone marrow?

DEL AMICO

Something like ten percent.

CARTER

Not very good odds, are they?

There's an uncomfortable pause, then:

DEL AMICO

How's Chase doing?

CARTER

It's still pretty early, but you know Chase...

DEL AMICO

When can I visit him?

CARTER

Kenner is pretty strict about visitors...

DEL AMICO

(doesn't push it)

I know. Just say hi for me.

Del Amico finishes with the draw.

CARTER

You bet. Your turn.

In the next bed, Hathaway draws Ross's blood.

HATHAWAY

The girl confided in me because she thought her secret was safe.

ROSS

Providing access to birth control is one thing. Sexual abuse is another.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

HATHAWAY

It could scare away other kids from coming into the clinic. She was doing the right thing by coming here --

\*  
\*

ROSS

This is one unique case.

HATHAWAY

Let's hope.

(beat)

I just... I gave her my word.

ROSS

This guy's a forty-year-old teacher, married, having sex with a minor. He's a predator.

\*

Marquez ducks her head in the doorway.

MARQUEZ

Carol, a policewoman's here asking for you -- says you got a crime to report?

\*  
\*

HATHAWAY

Yes, I do.

OFF Hathaway.

CUT TO:

58 ADMIT DESK

58

Corday passes Greene, signing off on charts. In the b.g., the line of health care workers snakes out of Exam Two/Clinic.

CORDAY

Good news. Mister Jang has decided to remain in my study after all.

GREENE

That's terrific. What about you?

CORDAY

I think I'll join him. It may not be the smartest political move, but it feels like the right thing to do.

(CONTINUED)



As Corday continues on, we pick up Jeanie erasing her name off the patient board. Anspaugh approaches.

ANSPAUGH

(grateful)

Were you behind this marrow drive?  
I'm very touched. \*

JEANIE

No, it was Carol Hathaway's idea.  
(beat)  
How'd Scott take the news?

ANSPAUGH

The boy continues to surprise me.  
He's determined to beat this  
thing -- has a spirit I haven't  
seen before.  
(beat)

I think he owes that to you.

JEANIE

I'm afraid all I did was give him  
false hope.

ANSPAUGH

You made him want to fight for his  
life, and I'm grateful to you for  
that.

(beat)

Have you told Scott about your own  
health status?

JEANIE

No, of course not.

ANSPAUGH

I didn't think so. But somehow,  
he knows. He instinctively  
respects you -- you're a kindred  
spirit. You've faced your own  
mortality -- perhaps he senses  
that. \*

(beat)

I know he's eager to see you.

OFF Jeanie.

CUT TO:

Haleh and Benton, wearing his coat, fill in Oligario as  
they head toward Admit. \*

(CONTINUED)

OLIGARIO

So as she sobered up, she thought  
better of getting her boss  
involved?

\*

HALEH

Her exact words were, 'I want to  
crawl under a rock and pretend  
like this never happened.'

\*

BENTON

That makes two of us.

HALEH

You were lucky, hon.

\*

\*

\*

CORDAY (O.S.)

I thought I'd missed you...

Benton turns, finds Corday catching up to them. Benton  
glances to Haleh and Oligario, who quickly peel off.

\*

\*

BENTON

Elizabeth, I talked Doctor Brin  
into letting me assist on a  
thyroidectomy tomorrow morning,  
and I want to check on Reese on my  
way home, so I thought we should  
cancel tonight --

CORDAY

I assumed that. I need my car  
keys.

BENTON

Oh... right.

\*

He reaches into his pocket, hands the keys over. Corday  
sees Hathaway and Del Amico.

\*

CORDAY

Carol, Anna.

Corday leaves Benton behind, catches up to the two women.  
Benton watches a beat, then moves on.

\*

CORDAY

You two have plans this evening?

HATHAWAY

I did, then I didn't, now I'm not  
sure.

(CONTINUED)

DEL AMICO

I'm free. Why?

CORDAY

What would you think about a girls' night at my place? I make a mean Cosmopolitan.

DEL AMICO

I'm there. \*

HATHAWAY

(beat)

Me, too.

CORDAY

Shall we say eight o'clock? \*

HATHAWAY

It's a date.

Hathaway moves over to Greene and Ross, both working at the desk.

HATHAWAY

I don't know what you two are doing, but I have plans. So, have fun.

Hathaway walks off. Greene and Ross look at each other, shrug.

ROSS

Together again.

CUT TO:

Jeanie sits next to Scott's bed, stroking his head, watching him sleep. A beat, then she gets up, walks to the door as if to leave, but doesn't make it. She leans against the wall and starts to cry, letting her sorrow spill out in stifled sobs. Scott opens his eyes.

SCOTT

Jeanie?

Jeanie turns away from him, tries to compose herself.

SCOTT

It's okay. I've made women cry before.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

Jeanie laughs, wipes her eyes as she turns to face him.

JEANIE  
How are you feeling?

SCOTT  
(re: PCA pump)  
This helps.

Jeanie returns to her seat.

SCOTT  
My dad said you could come to  
Yosemite with us -- if you wanted  
to, I mean. \*

JEANIE  
Yeah, I'd like that.  
(beat)  
The Bone Marrow Registry found  
eight people who preliminarily  
match your marrow type -- \*

SCOTT  
(smiles)  
Eight -- that's my lucky number. \*

JEANIE  
They still have to do further  
matching -- \*

SCOTT  
But it's a start, right?

Jeanie gives him a warm smile, squeezes his hand.

JEANIE  
Yes, Scott. It's a start.

CUT TO:

61 CORDAY'S LIVING ROOM

61

High-rise condo, modern decor, very classy. Votive  
candles are lit everywhere, TORI AMOS' "Siren" PLAYS on  
the CD player. Hathaway and Del Amico sit on comfy,  
overstuffed chairs, their shoes kicked off, sipping  
Cosmopolitans while Corday whips up a second batch at the  
bar. They're all dressed in street clothes and have let  
their hair down -- literally and figuratively.

(CONTINUED)

DEL AMICO

Seven brothers, seven sisters-in-law, and twelve nieces and nephews -- with number thirteen on the way.

Corday pours another round from a martini shaker. \*

CORDAY

I imagine you're considered the family freak --

DEL AMICO

My Aunt Tessa bursts into tears every time she sees me. \*

Corday sits down on the floor.

HATHAWAY

But both of your families must be proud that you're doctors, right?

They shrug.

DEL AMICO

Oh, sure...

CORDAY

But you, Carol, have something I very much envy -- a sex life.

DEL AMICO

I'll second that.

HATHAWAY

(smiling)

I have no complaints.

CORDAY

Come on --

DEL AMICO

Give us something more than that.

CORDAY

Let us live vicariously.

HATHAWAY

As long as you're not wearing a wire --

The DOORBELL RINGS.

CORDAY

Hold that thought. Pizza's here. \*

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: (2)

61

Hathaway reaches for her purse.

HATHAWAY

Let me --

CORDAY

No, I've got it.

Corday grabs her wallet, moves into --

62 FOYER

62

The living room is obscured from view. Corday opens the door, is surprised to find Benton standing in the hallway holding a bag of takeout. She takes a step into the hall, shuts the door a bit.

CORDAY

Peter.

BENTON

I know I should've called first, but, well -- you were right.

CORDAY

I was?

BENTON

I do have some problems about dating a white woman.

CORDAY

You know, maybe now isn't --

BENTON

I think I always assumed I'd be with a sister --

HATHAWAY (O.S.)

Hey, you need some more --

The door swings open, revealing Hathaway and Del Amico. drinks in hand.

HATHAWAY

-- money?

BENTON

(embarrassed)

Oh. I didn't know you had company.

(CONTINUED)

62

CONTINUED:

62

DEL AMICO

Hi, Peter.

\*  
\*

HATHAWAY

'Bye, Peter.

\*  
\*

Giggling, the women retreat into the apartment.

\*

CORDAY

It was a spur of the moment kind of thing.

\*

BENTON

Right. I better be --

Benton makes a quick exit. As he moves down the hallway, Corday calls out after him.

CORDAY

Peter --

He stops, turns.

CORDAY

I'd love to take a rain check.  
Now that you know where I live.

BENTON

(beat)  
Yeah, sure.

CUT TO:

63

KENNER NEUROLOGY CENTER - HOSPITAL ROOM

63

A two-bed hospital room dressed up not to look like a hospital room. CHASE, wearing p.j.s, sits up in bed watching CNN, without volume. Carter enters carrying a gym bag, gives Chase a warm smile.

CARTER

Hey, cuz.

As Carter moves closer, we see that Chase's eyes have a faraway look, and his right side appears stiff.

CARTER

What're you watching?

Carter doesn't wait for a reply, looks himself.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

CNN. Anything happening in the world that I should know about?

Carter waits as Chase tries to formulate an answer, but it comes out garbled.

CARTER

(beat)

I brought you something.

Carter sits down in a chair next to Chase's bed, removes an oversized photography book from the gym bag, opens it on Chase's lap.

CARTER

Walker Evans. It's a retrospective of his work.

CHASE

Th... anks.

Chase continues to stare at the TV set as Carter leafs through the book.

CARTER

It has that one photograph that I know you love...

As Carter searches for the photo, NURSE JOYCE, mid-thirties, upbeat, a meds tray in hand, enters.

NURSE JOYCE

Evening, John.

CARTER

Hi, Joyce.

NURSE JOYCE

Why, Chase, look at the book your cousin brought you? \*

CARTER

How'd he do today?

As she talks, Nurse Joyce tidies up around Chase's bed, tucks in his sheets, refills his water pitcher, etc. Chase continues to stare at the TV.

NURSE JOYCE

You've had a great day, huh, Chase? We took a walk outside. You liked that, didn't you?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



NURSE JOYCE (CONT'D)

And you had a nice dinner, too --  
turkey, and mashed potatoes and  
gravy --

CHASE

Walk... er...

\*

Carter sits back and watches as Nurse Joyce feeds pills  
into Chase's mouth, hands him a cup of water.

NURSE JOYCE

Okay, Chase, let's swallow now.  
Take a sip.

Chase slowly lifts the cup to his mouth, but as he goes  
to take a sip, he spills it down himself and onto the  
book. Carter jumps up to help.

NURSE JOYCE

Oh no, your book --

Carter pulls the book away, uses his coat to dry it off.

CHASE

Walk... er Ev... ans...

CARTER

It's okay. The book's fine.

Nurse Joyce pulls the p.j. shirt over Chase's head, then  
finds a fresh one in the dresser.

NURSE JOYCE

Not a perfect match, but it'll do.

Nurse Joyce moves to put the shirt on Chase.

CARTER

I got it.

NURSE JOYCE

I kept your sheets on the extra  
bed.

\*

CARTER

Thanks.

Nurse Joyce exits as Carter sits down on Chase's bed,  
helps him into the p.j. shirt. Chase looks down at the  
buttons.

CARTER

You want to try?

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (3)

63

Chase doesn't move.

CARTER

That's okay. I'll do it.

Chase stares at Carter's hands as he buttons up the shirt while Carter sadly watches his cousin. OFF Carter, trying to cope with this sad, new reality.

\*

FADE OUT.

THE END