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PILOT

heartbreaker

“Pilot”

Written by

Jill Gordon

Based on the book
Heart Matters: A Memoir of a Female Heart Surgeon
by Kathy E. Magliato, MD

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HEARTBREAKER

"Pilot"

3rd BLUE REVISED PAGES 04.05.15

CHARACTER LIST

DR. ALEX PANTTIERE MELISSA GEORGE
DR. JESSIE SHANE DON HANY
DR. PIERCE HARRISON DAVE ANNABLE
MILLICENT PERERA SHELLEY CONN*
MAX ELLIOT JOSHUA LEONARD
DR. CASEY CALLAHAN JAMIE KENNEDY
GI-SUNG MYRONG MAYA ERSKINE
DR. HACKETT D.L. HUGHLEY
FORESTER MARCUS JLOUIS MILLS
CARSON ELLIOT NOAH LOMAX
GABRIEL ELLIOT CALLUM SEAGRAM AIRLIE

MAGGIE VIRGINIA KULL
DEANA HAYLEY SALES
MARTY RUDY MARTINEZ
THOMAS ELI GOREE
RUSSIAN MAN/ANDREI TARAS KOSTYUK
STEWARDESS DONNA BENEDICTO
CO-PILOT BOB FRAZER
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US FORBES ANGUS
MRS. ROTHBERG CHRISTINE WILLES
BENI PATEL DANIEL KORONEOS
NURSE PAST ERIN AUBREY
HEDGE FUND MAN #1 LANE EDWARDS
HEDGE FUND MAN #2 MICHAEL PATRICK DENIS
CEO JAMES YI

HEARTBREAKER

"Pilot"

3rd WHITE REVISED PAGES 04.02.15

SET LIST

INTERIORS

AIRPLANE

- FIRST CLASS CABIN
- COACH CABIN

THE SENATE

ALEX'S HOUSE

- LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN AREA

ST. MATTHEWS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

- MRS. ROTHBERG'S ROOM*
- HOSPITAL BRIDGE
- LOCKER HALLWAY
- HOSPITAL CORRIDOR
- CORRIDOR PATIENT WING
- DEANA'S HOSPITAL ROOM
- PATIENT CORRIDOR
- THE OR BOARD
- THE OR
- OR CORRIDOR
- SUSPENDED HOSPITAL WALKWAY
- NURSE STATION
- MILLICENT'S OFFICE
- HOSPITAL CAFETERIA
- OPERATING THEATER
- WAITING ROOM
- OBSERVATION ABOVE OPERATING THEATER
- ICU
- ICU HALLWAY
- ATRIUM

EXTERIORS

THE SENATE

ST. MATTHEWS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

- HOSPITAL
- ROOF
- BASKETBALL COURTS

HEARTBREAKER

"Pilot"

2nd PINK FULL DRAFT 03.20.15

DAY BREAKDOWN

PRESENT DAY

DAY ONE

Scenes 1-5

DAY TWO

Scenes A6-11, A16-A26

NIGHT TWO

Scenes 27-30, 33-41

DAY THREE

Scene 42

NIGHT THREE

Scenes 43-46

FLASHBACK

DAY ONE

Scenes 12-14*

DAY TWO

Scenes 31-32

TEASER

1 INT. AIRPLANE - FIRST CLASS CABIN - DAY (D1) 1

CLOSE ON a smiling AIRLINE STEWARDESS wearing a vintage 1961 uniform; powder blue skirt and jacket, white gloves, matching pillbox hat atop a classic Jackie O bouffant. A procession of Stewardesses follow behind her, all in the same uniform, parading down the plane's aisle. OVER WHICH we hear:

STEWARDESS'S VOICE (O.C.)
Welcome to flight 126 non-stop to
Washington D.C. We are celebrating
75 years in the air by featuring
uniforms from past decades...

The last Stewardess passes camera to reveal...

DR. ALEXANDRA "ALEX" PANTTIERE stepping onto the plane. She wears a beautiful Tom Ford skirt, Phoebe Philo blouse and Jimmy Choo jazzberry stilettos. She stops at her seat in First Class to find a large, imposing RUSSIAN MAN seated there. Alex looks at her ticket, then at the man. Dialogue gradually overlaps.

ALEX
(smiles pleasantly)
Hi. I think you're in my seat--

RUSSIAN MAN
(dismissive)
No. This is my seat.

He ignores her and shakes a packet of salt onto a take-out sandwich he is holding. Alex shows him her ticket.

ALEX
Not according to my ticket.

He puts on headphones, rudely ignoring her. Undaunted, Alex pulls one of the headphones out of his ear.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Dude, I'm giving a speech in a few
hours, my feet are killing me and
I'd like to sit down--

RUSSIAN MAN
Then go find your seat.

He puts more salt on his sandwich.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 1

ALEX
(re: the salt; in one
breath)
You know that stuff will kill you
and get out of my seat--
(pulls off her heels and
calls to Stewardess)
A little help here?

2 INT. AIRPLANE - COACH CABIN - A FEW HOURS LATER (D1) 2

Coach. The line to the bathroom jams the aisle as waiting
Passengers hover over Alex, who is now seated in the crowded
section; crammed in a middle aisle seat. She tries to
rehearse her speech for this afternoon, which is opened on
her lap.

ALEX
(reads softly aloud)
"The future of some of the most--"

Alex suddenly lunges forward because a **Little Boy**, 9, in the
seat behind her is unconsciously kicking her seat, while
engrossed, watching a video on a laptop opened in front of
him. Alex attempts to ignore it and continue rehearsing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
"Advanced--"
(he kicks her seat again)
"Medical--"
(and again...)
"Innovations..."
(and again)
"Are here;" are you kidding me!

Alex turns to see the Little Boy in the seat behind her,
oblivious that he is kicking the back of her seat. She
reaches behind and pulls the plug of his video that he's
watching out of its connection to the seat. His parents
remain oblivious, watching a movie under headphones.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(starts out sweet)
Um, sweetie, could you not--
(he kicks her chair again)
I'm trying to--
(kicks her again)
I have to speak in front of a lot
of people--
(kicks her again)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX (CONT'D)

(fed up)

I have a shot in my purse! A big
one with a really long needle. I'm
a doctor; you wanna see it?

The Little Boy, terrified, stops kicking her chair. Alex
smiles victoriously at him, then settles back into her seat
and resumes rehearsing her speech. And after a beat:

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

STEWARDESS (V.O.)

We need a doctor in the first class cabin. Immediately. Is there a doctor on the plane?

Alex slinks down in her seat, hoping someone else will step up. After a beat, she realizes the Little Boy is standing up in his seat, pointing at her for the Stewardess to see. The Little Boy grins victoriously at Alex.

3 INT. AIRPLANE - FIRST CLASS CABIN - MOMENTS LATER (D1) 3

Alex walks into the first class section to see the **Russian Man** seated on the floor, leaning forward, his hand to his chest, having difficulty breathing.

ALEX

(knowingly, to herself)

Salt.

The Russian man coughs; Alex morphs into surgeon mode, examining the man.

ALEX (CONT'D)

How long have you had a cough?

RUSSIAN MAN

Two weeks--

ALEX

(overlapping, concerned)

His veins are distended--

(to Andrei)

Any fever?

He nods as Alex looks up and realizes everyone is staring at her in disbelief.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm a cardio-thorascic surgeon--

Alex feels his pulse, then listens to his heart with her ear as she ad-libs to herself "Muffled heart sounds?" The **CO-PILOT** steps out from the cockpit and speaks to the Stewardess:

CO-PILOT

Do we need to land--?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Hell no, I have a speaking engagement. You need to get me your medical kit and any other supplies you have. This man has pericardial tamponade from a viral pericarditis-- There's fluid building up around his heart; I'm gonna have to drain it.

(to Russian Man)

What's your name?

RUSSIAN MAN

(in pain)

Andrei.

ALEX

Andrei, I'm gonna save your ass.

(grabs a bunch of cloth napkins off a counter behind her)

Without getting my outfit dirty, I don't have a change of clothes.

(assuring, squeezing his hand)

Don't worry. I've done this bunches of times--

(Andrei falls forward)

He's losing consciousness--

Alex immediately starts ordering the Stewardesses around. As a matter of urgency, she respectfully refers to them by their physical traits while administering CPR on the man:

ALEX (CONT'D (CONT'D))

(to a Stewardess wearing glasses)

"Glasses", get a trash bag and tell all the passengers to throw any meds they have in it.

(to a Red-Haired Stewardess)

"Red" I need a Vodka neat... To sterilize my hands. And...

(to an overly-bronzed Stewardess)

"Spray-tan" I'm gonna need something resembling a very long needle--

(checking his pulse)

His heart stopped--

(CONTINUED)

Alex looks quickly at a lady in First Class who has her hair tied up in a bun with two sharp chop sticks. Alex races over, pulls one of them out, then grabs a straw out of a glass from another Passenger.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(yells to First Class)
Who has a Black Card?

A **Man in a Suit** quickly hands Alex his Black Card. She swipes it and suddenly SNAPS it in half, creating a sharp, jagged edge. She realizes the Stewardesses are staring at her.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(re: credit card, diving
into action)
I need something to cut him open
with.
(off their incredulous
stares)
It's titanium...

She rips open Andrei's shirt and as she SMASHES the chop stick into his chest we cut to...

VARIOUS SHOTS of Alex performing the procedure. Over which we hear:

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US (V.O.)
She was the first woman surgeon to
train at Case Western Reserve
University...

Passengers have gathered at the curtain, watching Alex in silent awe. The Stewardesses observe Alex with reverence.

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US
The first woman to train in cardio-
thoracic surgery at Loyola
University Medical Center...

Finally, Alex, smiles and gives a thumbs up to everyone.

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US (V.O.)
And the first woman to complete a
heart transplant fellowship at the
University of Pittsburgh.

Alex looks to see that her outfit is splattered with blood.

3

CONTINUED: (3)

3

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US (V.O.)
She recently became the new Chief
Innovations Officer at St. Matthews
Research Medical Center in Los
Angeles, California...

4

EXT. THE SENATE - WASHINGTON DC - ESTABLISHING (D1)

4

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US (V.O.)
And it is my distinguished honor to
introduce Dr. Alexandra Panttiere--

5

INT. THE SENATE - THAT DAY (D1)

5

ON the bronzed seal for the US Senate on the chamber wall.
Alex stands up into frame, wearing the vintage 1961 powder
blue Stewardess uniform.

Alex's POV - of the distinguished group of senators filling
the entire chamber as...

Alex strides confidently up to the podium... and smiles.

ALEX
Funny story...

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

A6 INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN AREA - THE NEXT DAY (D2) A6

Alex is at the sink using her YELLOW BLOW DRYER to get dog drool off her clean scrubs. A Puli stands in front of her.

ALEX
Cartman, once I'd like to go to
work drool-free--
(calls out)
Guys, Dad's here; if you want a
ride to school, move!

Alex packs a duffle bag with a change of clothes, throwing in the yellow hair dryer. MAX enters from the back door.

MAX
You look like a million bucks.

He gives her a warm kiss on the cheek.

MAX (CONT'D)
(completely comfortable
asking)
And I could use two-hundred-and-
fifty.

ALEX
(knowingly)
That '61 Impala's an expensive
date.

He smiles sheepishly. Alex nods, this is the nature of their modern relationship. Alex pulls a dress and pair of shoes from the duffle bag, and holds it up for Max to critique; they've obviously done this many times before.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(preoccupied)
I have to talk to my Hedge Fund
boyfriends from New York today--

MAX
Part of the new gig?

ALEX
(re: the outfit she's
showing him)
Corporate enough?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Absolutely. If you're hanging from a stripper pole-- Jacket over the blouse, get a belt and wear the pearls your grandmother gave you.

ALEX

(too much work)
I'll cover it up with a coat--

PIERCE enters from the front door, wearing scrubs.

PIERCE

Dude--

MAX

Pierce--

PIERCE

Mind if I attack your ex?

Pierce scoops Alex up into his arms and carries her like a damsel in distress. Alex is used to this.

ALEX

Post-surgical manic energy;
(adds quickly)
Don't throw me in the air, Pierce.

She hugs him and sniffs...

ALEX (CONT'D)

Eleven hour surgery; tumor resection at the head of the pancreas.

PIERCE

Fourteen hours left lobe hepatectomy with involvement of the vena cava, and you know who came into my OR last night?
(honored)
Dr. Shane--

MAX

(shocked)
Jessie?? Jessie is working at the hospital--?

Alex shoots Max a private glance.

MAX (CONT'D)
(abruptly down plays it)
So-- Jessie's working at the
hospital. When did--?

ALEX
(nonchalant)
Last week; the new Chief of
Surgery. I haven't bumped into him
yet--

PIERCE
At Harvard, his lectures were
standing room only.
(teasing Alex)
And I believe my girlfriend used to
crush on him.

ALEX
(trying to pass it off)
Like every other intern--
(avoiding this; calls out)
Guys, dad's here and you are going
to be late for--

CARSON, 12 and GABRIEL, 10, scramble in wearing pj's.

ALEX (CONT'D)
School.

She wraps her arms around Carson and Gabriel, drawing them
playfully into her, and smothers them with kisses on the tops
of their heads.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(warm, kissing them)
Deal with it.
(gathers her duffle bag)
Okay, I'm a memory. Make your
lunches. I love--
(looks at them, too many
to say goodbye to each)
All of you.

They all ad-lib: "Love you, Mom..." "See you later..." "Bye,
Mom..." And once she is gone Piece looks at Max.

PIERCE
I didn't have the heart to tell her
today is Saturday.

(CONTINUED)

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8A

A6

CONTINUED: (3)

A6

MAX

I never did.

(to the boys)

Clippers game starts at eleven, go
get ready...

6 - 7

OMITTED

6 - 7

8

EXT. ST. MATTHEWS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY (D2) 8

AA9 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - MRS. ROTHERBERG'S ROOM - DAY (D2) AA9

Alex, on her morning rounds, stands at the end of her patient's bed, **MRS. ROTHBERG**, 60'S. **NURSE GI-SUNG** is at her side.

ALEX

Good morning, Freida. You look wonderful today.

(leans in, whispers)

Are they still following me?

REVEAL a flock of wide-eyed INTERNS standing obediently behind Alex, hanging on her every word. **MARTY**, 'the runt' stands out because all the other interns tower over his tiny stature.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(lecturing the Interns)

Mrs. Rothberg had end-stage renal disease. It was one of the worse cases of I-g-A nephropathy I've ever seen, resulting in a complete shut down of both her kidneys.

MRS. ROTHBERG

(to interns; proudly)

I didn't pee for a year!

ALEX

(continuing, with humor)

Because it's St. Matthews, where you low life's are very lucky to intern; I was able to implant one of the first artificial kidneys into Mrs. Rothberg.

(can't help herself;

excited talking about it)

The technology will blow your mind; it's kicking the ass out of kidney disease.

(lovingly to Mrs.

Rothberg)

And I'm kicking yours outta this hospital this afternoon. You are free and clear to go, Frieda...

(smiles)

And stand in line to the women's bathroom like the rest of us.

Mrs. Rothberg's eyes well up; she blows a kiss to Alex as Alex exits, continuing her rounds, Gi-Sung and Interns in tow.

A9 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - PATIENT CORRIDOR - DAY (D2) A9

Alex flies out and down the hall. Gi-Sung and the Interns rush to keep up with her.

ALEX
If you think you've come to St.
Matthews to specialize, you are
mistaken.

As they all cross...

9 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - HOSPITAL BRIDGE - DAY (D2) 9

Rushing across the bridge, continuing her rounds.

ALEX
At this hospital you will be
exposed to a buffet of technology
that touches every sub-speciality;
I have patients in neurology,
ortho, pediatrics, pulmonary... So
be ready for anything and
everything.
(turns to Gi-Sung)
Any word on Mrs. Agostini?
(Gi-Sung shakes her head)

AA10 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - LOCKER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS (D2) AA10

ALEX
(reacts worried, then
continues)
Okay, we're gonna need a neuro-surg
consult on Mr. Parks...

Alex flies through a door to the locker room in mid-sentence as we cut to...

A10 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - LOCKER HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER (D2) A10

Alex flies out, transformed into a corporate Chief Innovations Officer. She picks up where she left off with Gi-Sung and Interns in tow.

ALEX
We'll have to peel the neurogenic
tumor clean off his spine.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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A10 CONTINUED: A10

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm dying to use the new duel-
headed dissecting microscope; have
you seen that thing--!

As they travel into...

B10 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS (D2) B10

DR. CALLAHAN passes Alex, along with another **Male Doctor**.

DR. CALLAHAN

(this is their routine)
I'm likin' what I'm seein',
Panttiere.

(CONTINUED)

B10

CONTINUED:

B10

ALEX
 (matter-of-fact back)
 Suck it, Callahan.

Suddenly from behind Callahan, a pair of large hands land on his shoulders, scaring the crap out of him, revealing **FORESTER**, who acts completely innocent.

FORESTER
 (passing Callahan)
 Did I scare you, doctor? Sorry...

ON ALEX as she looks up and sees **MILLICENT PERERA** waiting at the end of the corridor. Alex turns back to the interns. *

ALEX
 (playful)
 You're still here. I need to talk to my boss--
 (under her breath)
 Doctor Pain-In-My-Ass--
 (to the interns)
 Go find someone else to worship--

The Interns and Gi-Sung rush off as Alex reaches out to stop Marty, the runt. Alex is a sucker for underdogs.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Not you--
 (reading his name tag)
 Marty-- You're my new sidekick.
 Hang close but I never want to know you're there. Show up, shut up and be beige.

MILLICENT
 Dr. Panttiere...

Millicent's adorable son, **BENI**, 9, runs by Alex and they automatically do a little fist pumping routine with each other.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)
 (warmly to her son)
 Beni, sweetie, don't run off.
 (to Alex)
 Alex, Mrs. Agostini's family has decided to donate her organs--

ALEX
 Holy-- Wow, how'd you convince them--? This is great; thank you Millicent.

(CONTINUED)

B10

CONTINUED: (2)

B10

MILLICENT

I'll arrange the donor papers.

ALEX

I'll let my patient know.

(CONTINUED)

B10

CONTINUED: (3)

B10

MILLICENT

(knowing Alex)

Please don't run through the halls,
Dr. Panttiere.

Alex walks methodically down the corridor. Marty remains still; unsure what to do. Without looking back, Alex waves her hand behind her, indicating he should follow her. He obediently chases after her.

In the b.g.; a man, **THOMAS**, 35, wearing a powder blue ski jacket has his back to camera, while standing at the Nurse's station. A Nurse ad-libs "I told you, she isn't seeing visitors..."

Alex rounds the corner and once she's sure Millicent can't see her, Alex *charges* down the hall. Unable to run in her heels, Alex slips them off and races into...

C10

INT. ST. MATTHEWS - CORRIDOR PATIENT WING - CONTINUOUS (D2) C10

ALEX

(to Marty)

This patient; Deana Monroe, has familial cardiomyopathy and advanced congestive heart failure-- She's 29. Both her parents died of the same disease before they hit forty...

(stops in front of a
patient's room)

I have to talk to her in private, so go stand in front of the OR board and learn how to sleep with your eyes open.

10

INT. ST. MATTHEWS - DEANA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (D2)

10

DEANA, 29, lies in bed, hooked up to various machines. Deana's older sister, **MAGGIE, 35**, is with her. The hospital room walls are filled with drawings from Deana's beloved fifth grade students.

We notice that Deana has a small tattoo of a humming bird on her neck.

The sisters blast Nicki Minaj "Anaconda," singing along at the top of their lungs. Deana is a bit breathless because of her condition.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEANA/MAGGIE

"My anaconda don't! My anaconda
don't! My anaconda don't want none
unless you got buns hun--"

The door bursts open; Alex flies in, holding her heels in her hands.

ALEX

Mrs. Agostini was declared brain
dead!

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Shut up!

DEANA

You're not just saying that to make me feel better?

ALEX

Her family's coming in to sign donor papers.

MAGGIE

(in tears, looks at Deana)
We have a heart?

ALEX

And you're gonna make it to D.C. with your students, Deana.

MAGGIE

I love you, can we get stoned--?

ALEX

NO!!

The sisters hug each other tight. Alex watches them, a hint of sadness in her eyes, thinking about her own little sister.

MAGGIE

It's real this time; right? My sister *will* get this one; because she's been waiting--

DEANA

(don't be rude)
Mags--!

ALEX

She's protecting you. I would do the same for my little sister--

DEANA

(looking at her cell)
Hey-- He's texting me again.

Alex notices several bouquets of flowers in the room.

ALEX

And still sending you flowers.

MAGGIE

You broke up with him two months ago, Deana; he can't let go.

(CONTINUED)

DEANA

You never liked Thomas.
(showing Alex and Maggie)
Look what he wrote me. He's so poetic.

Alex and Maggie read the text:

MAGGIE

You say poetic; I say mentally unstable.

ALEX

(warmly to Deana)
That's two votes for crazy.

Alex sees something on Deana's file that catches her attention; hiding her concern...

ALEX (CONT'D)

(cutting them off)
Those pains in your upper abdomen?

DEANA

Not horrible.

Alex and Maggie's eyes meet; Maggie see's Alex's concern.

ALEX

(exiting)
I'm going to order a few tests for prep and I'll keep you posted.

Alex exits. Maggie, in tears, hugs Deana tight. They cling to each other.

Alex steps out of the room, when she hears someone call out at the far end of the corridor:

MAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

Dr. Shane-- Jessie, god, it's good to see you! Welcome back to St. Matthews--

Alex looks way down to the other end of corridor, at an **OLDER, OVERWEIGHT, BALD DOCTOR**, in a white coat, who appears to be responding to the greeting.

ALEX
(to herself)
Whoa, Jessie got a little old and--
(surprised)
Really flabby--

DR. JESSIE SHANE steps out from behind the Overweight Bald Doctor. He looks not old, nor flabby. Alex watches as he disappears around the corner. And the moment he's gone... she exhales AS WE TRANSITION TO...

FLASHBACK - "TEN YEARS EARLIER" reads across the screen.

12 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - THE OR BOARD - DAY (FLASHBACK) (FBD1) 12

ON Alex, a young intern, **back to camera**, she reads the OR board. In the corridor, just beyond the board, Jessie races up to a **NURSE PAST**.

JESSIE
There's a new intern, Millicent Patel. I don't know her; her father's a friend. Get her into scrubs and into my OR stat.

Alex turns around and walks up to the Nurse.

ALEX
Um, excuse me, I'm--

NURSE PAST
(assuming)
Are you Millicent--?

Alex is suddenly thrust into an unexpected position that would give her a rare opportunity. She grapples with whether she should lie or tell the truth. Then...

ALEX
(tries not to appear nervous)
Yes... I am.

13 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - THE OR - A LITTLE LATER (FLASHBACK)(FBD1)13

Alex stands across from Jessie, watching him perform a heart transplant. She is mesmerized, inhaling every fascinating second of it.

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE
(without looking up)
Millicent, your father asked me to
look out for you.

Almost hypnotized by the transplant, Alex doesn't respond.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
How is he--? Your father?

Alex suddenly remembers *she* is Millicent.

ALEX
(nervously blurts out)
Good! Father's good!

Embarrassed, Alex cringes.

JESSIE
(not looking up)
So you lost your accent already?

Alex, mortified, is stumped; what accent??

JESSIE (CONT'D)
It took me two semesters to
understand your dad; but now I
speak fluent Cockney.

ALEX
(lousy attempt at an
English accent)
Oh, I go in and out-- Mate-- Dr.
Shane--!
(suddenly whispers in her
real voice)
Oh my god--

CLOSE ON Alex's face as Jessie lifts the heart out from the patient's chest. Alex is breathless; watching the heart miraculously beat on its own while resting in Jessie's hands. Jessie glances at her; recognizing the impact of seeing a heart for the first time.

JESSIE
The heart only knows how to beat.

Jessie holds the beating heart in his hands and passes it to Alex. She cups her hands together as Jessie lays his hands on top of hers; it is the process by which the recipient's heart is carried. Jessie releases the heart into Alex's hands. She stares at it, connected; realizing this is the beginning of her journey to becoming a heart surgeon.

(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED: (2)

13

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(his eyes meet hers)
Hard to explain what you're
feeling...

Just as the real Millicent rushes into the OR.

MILLICENT
(to a Nurse)
Dr. Shane was looking for me, I'm
Millicent Patel.

Jessie turns and looks at Alex, who is mortified as she
relinquishes the heart into the Nurse's hand, and then her
spot at the OR table, to Millicent...

JESSIE
(ignoring Alex)
Okay, let's see how long it takes
to get this baby in.
(to his nurse)
Time me; I wanna beat my old
record.

Alex tries to slink out of the OR when Jessie calls after
her...

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Wait for me in the corridor...

14

INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OR CORRIDOR - LATER (FLASHBACK) (FBD1)

14

Alex sits at the end of the corridor, her foot shaking,
waiting for Jessie.

Jessie and Millicent exit the OR. Jessie has changed out of
his scrubs into worn jeans and a rock tee shirt that is of
Max Elliot and his album cover. Millicent shakes Jessie's
hand and exits as he approaches Alex. She jumps to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
(spitting her words)
Dr. Shane, I am so sorry-- Did I
just spit on you--??

JESSIE
What's your real name?

ALEX
(without taking a breath)
Alex Panttiere, I attended your
lectures on thoracic surgery--

JESSIE
At Harvard?

ALEX
(a little ashamed)
Akron General--
(desperate to appease
Jessie)
I'm married to him!

Alex points to Jessie's tee shirt.

JESSIE
(taken aback, a true fan)
Max Elliot?? Really? His songs---
He's a brilliant poet-- Wow--
You're married to Max Elliot?

ALEX
Actually, we're getting divorced. I
mean, we're still good friends--

JESSIE
He wrote this one song--

ALEX
(hears this *all* the time)
"The Only Present I Want is You."

JESSIE
So-- He must have written that
about you?

ALEX
No, the guy he left me for.

Alex, unconsciously glances down to notice Jessie wears a
wedding ring.

14 CONTINUED: (2) 14

When she glances back up, she is mortified to realize he saw her doing this. He doesn't seem to care...

JESSIE

(irked)

What you did today...

(then again, amused)

Is probably what I would have done when I was an intern. Only I don't know if I would have gotten away with it. Next time I'm in the OR Alex Panttiere, you don't have to pretend to be someone else... Just come in.

Jessie smiles and exits. Alex's knees unconsciously buckle...

AS WE TRANSITION BACK TO PRESENT DAY and come back to...

15 OMITTED 15

A16 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - PATIENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS (D2) A16

RESUME ON ALEX...

Where we last left her, standing in the hall. Her cell DINGS; she reads a text "**Where are you, Dr. Panttiere!!**" She realizes she is late for a meeting and bolts.

16 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - SUSPENDED HOSPITAL WALKWAY - DAY (D2) 16

Millicent leads a tour of sharp-looking **NY Hedge Fund Investors** across a suspended walkway. Alex rushes up, breathless and out of her comfort zone; this is all still very new for her.

MILLICENT

(vamping for time)

So, gentlemen, I hope you'll join us tomorrow night at our benefit; it's going to be a beautiful,

(proudly)

Star-studded affair.

Millicent sees Alex running towards them and sighs.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

I'm going to leave you--

(glancing at her watch for Alex's sake)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

In the excellent hands of our new
Chief Innovations Officer, Dr.
Alexandra Panttiere.

Millicent passes by Alex and whispers while holding her
pleasant demeanor:

(CONTINUED)

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

(knowing Alex)

Please, keep your shoes on, Dr.
Panttiere.

Millicent walks off; her heels CLICKING against the glass walkway. Alex faces the small group of potential investors. Her corporate responsibilities still new to her; she struggles a bit to get her footing. As she speaks, they travel across the hospital's cutting edge facilities.

ALEX

Welcome... I'm Dr. Panttiere. I've been working at St. Matthews for five years. I'm a cardio-thoracic surgeon--

Alex looks up to realize this statement has caused unanimous shocked expressions across the faces of the Hedge Fund Men.

HEDGE FUND MAN

(checking Alex head-to-toe)

A heart surgeon?

ALEX

Well, yes, but we are a research hospital, so I have patients in every department.

He turns to the other men; making an arrogant aside.

HEDGE FUND MAN

(sarcastic)

She must have some social life?

While speaking in a corporate tone is new to her; putting a jerk in his place isn't.

ALEX

I do. In between raising two boys.

HEDGE FUND MAN

(leans in, flirting)

And what does someone like you love to do in her spare time?

Alex confidently leans in toward him and responds:

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

(straight-faced)

I like long walks on the beach, hot bubble baths and the sound of cracking a patient's chest open like a lobster first thing in the morning.

The other men laugh. Alex gets on a roll.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I recently became St. Matthews Chief Innovations Officer. Which means I'm responsible for bringing any kind of cutting edge procedures to our hospital. It's kinda cool. I have this meeting in Japan next week; they're working on taking a patient's own cells and actually growing a transplantable organ-- Kidney, liver, heart, bone-- They're whooping our asses in bio-engineering; sorry, did I spit on you?

Alex looks over at Hedge Fund Man #1.

HEDGE FUND MAN #2

No, you spit on me.

ALEX

(unphased; points to each one of them; she did her homework)

You bought a basketball team that didn't even make it to the playoffs...

(to another man)

Your new tech company is still no match for Google...

(to another man)

And your stunning hotel in Dubai will eventually fill up... *If* the country ever gets out of debt. But...

Alex slips off her shoes and hands them to the arrogant Hedge Fund Man to hold as she continues without missing a beat.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED: (4)

16

ALEX (CONT'D)

I have something better to sell
 you, gentleman-- Lives-- An
 investment in early stage
 innovations. High risk, high reward
 and a chance to change the world--
 If you have the balls...

17

INT. ST. MATTHEWS - NURSE STATION - LATER (D2)

17

Dr. Callahan, (teased Alex earlier) steps up and asks Nurse
 Gi-sung for a report...

DR. CALLAHAN

(his attempt at flirting)

Ping-pang-pong, those lab results I
 ordered?

Gi-Sung hands Callahan the report and explains what it says,
 only...

...her **Korean accent** is **SO THICK** it is literally impossible
 to decipher her English. She even **throws in a little Korean**
just to further throw him off:

GI-SUNG

(barely distinguishable)

Ummm, creatinine 2.5. Dangsineun
 babo, at a range two-twenty-five.
 Dangsineun dangsineun-ui bihaeng eul
 abchug, O-kay-kay, Dr. Callahan?

Callahan, unamused, takes the report from Gi-Sung and exits.
 Alex, now back in her white coat, comes up.

ALEX

(low voice)

I love you.

GI-SUNG

(with a flawless American
 accent)

I love doing that to him. It's the
 highlight of my life.

(hands Alex a file)

The tests you ordered this morning.

Alex reads Deana's test results; they're not good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GI-SUNG (CONT'D)

And Mrs. Agostini's family signed
the papers; we're ready to pull her
heart.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

(re: Deana's report)
Timing couldn't be better--
(reading the report)
My patient's cardiac index is
dropping. Let's get her prepped for
OR. Who's in-house to assist?

As Alex walks away...

GI-SUNG

Well, it is Saturday--

ALEX

(hits her)
It's Saturday--?

GI-SUNG

(overlapping)
Yes--

ALEX

Mother--

GI-SUNG

(under her breath)
I know. It happens to me too.

ALEX

(hard to admit)
Fine. See if Callahan can assist.
He's so gross; but flippin'
brilliant.
(rushing away)
Tell him in my OR he wears
deodorant!

Alex rushes down the corridor when:

MAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

Dr. Panttiere--!
(she doesn't respond)
Alex--

Alex stops; she recognizes that voice as she turns to see Jessie standing at the end of the corridor, next to Millicent. Millicent ad-libs "Thank you for handling this..." then walks away. Jessie approaches Alex; he still has the ability to take her breath away. She desperately tries not to appear flustered in front of him. He stops and looks at her; taking her in.

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

It's been a while.

ALEX

(on the tip of her tongue)

Ten years--

(half-joking)

Give or take thirty-six days.

Alex unconsciously glances down at Jessie's ring finger to see he no longer wears a wedding ring. When she looks up, she is mortified to realize he saw her doing this.

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

(looking around)

A lot of changes. I'm getting used to it.

(their eyes meet)

I wanna catch up--

ALEX

(cuts him off)

Me too, but right now I have a heart transplant--

JESSIE

Actually, you don't. That's why I was looking for you; your patient isn't getting Mrs. Agostini's heart.

ALEX

The hell she isn't--

JESSIE

Alex, you did a damn good job with the hedge fund boys; they're in for a-hundred-and-fifty-million...

ALEX

What does that have to do with--?

Alex lets her head fall against the wall, realizing the answer to her own question.

JESSIE

One of them is donating the majority of the funds-- His father needs a heart transplant. Your patient has a positive cross match; his father has a negative. He's a better recipient.

Alex remains with her head against the wall.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

(knowing her)

You know, most people at this hospital would be popping champagne if they had secured those funds.

ALEX

If you remember, I'm not like most people at this hospital.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED: (5)

17

ALEX (CONT'D)

I didn't go to one of the "Ivies,"
I grew up on a farm--

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

Alex-- I remember.

Alex looks down the other end of the corridor at Millicent, who is talking to another doctor.

ALEX

She did this?

JESSIE

Millicent?

ALEX

For the last six months since she came here, she's been all over my ass about "procedure." When McIntyre ran this place--

JESSIE

It was a mess--

ALEX

But he let a lot things slide, and if he were still here I'd be prepping for surgery!

(no more negotiation)

My patient is dying, I want that heart.

JESSIE

Then you better figure something out, because I just put it on a plane to New York.

Jessie walks away in one direction. Angry, Alex storms **out of frame** in the opposite direction. And after a beat, Marty, follows reverently after as we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

18 OMITTED

18

A19 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - PATIENT CORRIDOR - DAY (D2)

A19

Pierce flies down the corridor in bloody scrubs, fresh out of the OR, followed by two adoring **Young Female Interns**. An **Orderly** pushes Pierce's **Patient** on a gurney past him. The woman is still out from the anesthesia.

PIERCE

(whispers warmly to
patient)

The operation went well Elana;
you're gonna be fine...

Pierces squeezes her hand as the Orderly pushes the gurney past, just as...

... Alex bursts out from around the corner, her head follows Pierce's patient as the gurney is rolled past.

ALEX

(re: Pierce's patient)

Anyone dying in your department?

PIERCE

(re: his patient)

She had a six centimeter mass in
her pancreas, but since I've done a
few of those, I think she'll be
okay.

The adoring Female Interns nod, agreeing with their hero Pierce.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

(looks patiently at Alex)

What happened?

ALEX

Jessie stole my heart.

Alex lets her head fall against Pierce's chest.

ALEX (CONT'D)

My patient has been waiting three
months to transplant.

(starts to walk away)

I'm going to check in Oncology.

(CONTINUED)

A19

CONTINUED:

A19

Pierce draws her back to him.

PIERCE

You'll find a match.

Alex starts to walk away. He remembers something and calls out.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

(remembering)

Hey, call your mom; she called
after you left this morning.

ALEX

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

A19

CONTINUED: (2)

A19

PIERCE

She wants to go to the benefit with us.

ALEX

Because she's convinced George Clooney is coming.

PIERCE

I told her he never shows up for these things; so she's not coming.

(knowing this might throw Alex off)

But she did invite me to Sunday dinner.

ALEX

Of course she did; my mother adores you...

(a sore subject)

Slightly more than your mother likes me.

PIERCE

My mother likes you.

ALEX

She thinks I come from the wrong side of the tracks.

Dr. Callahan passes, shoving a huge deli sandwich into his mouth.

CALLAHAN

(cutting her off)

Dr. Pants, you desire me in your OR today?

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yeah, Callahan; the minute I get a heart.

(calls after him)

And you better not smell!

CALLAHAN

(back at her)

I work best when I'm ripe, Pants.

ON CALLAHAN as he is about to round the corner of the corridor when a pair of large hands once again come down on his shoulders, startling Callahan, who almost trips, but as we reveal Forester he steadies Callahan, then passes by.

(CONTINUED)

A19

CONTINUED: (3)

A19

FORESTER

(as if he simply needed to
rush pass)

On your right...

Forester exits as we...

RESUME ALEX AND PIERCE

ALEX

(trying to bail)

Okay, I should go--

She tries to leave, but Pierce pulls her back.

(CONTINUED)

PIERCE

You wanna get away this weekend?

ALEX

I have the boys--

PIERCE

They can come with us-- Like a
"family" vacation.

(playful)

In fact, if I moved the rest of my
stuff into your place, we'd already
be spending the weekend together.

Alex looks at Pierce; this is a conversation they've had
before and one she wants to avoid.

ALEX

Aren't I a good thing; all the sex
you want and you don't have to put
a ring on my finger?

PIERCE

I wouldn't mind that either--

He looks at her; their eyes meet. His smile makes her knees
almost buckle.

ALEX

I love what we have.

PIERCE

And what about what it could be--?

The moment is disrupted when Pierce suddenly gets a text.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

(knowing she's relieved)

Look who got saved by a gastric
ulcer.

Pierce rushes down the corridor. Alex stares after him and
whispers:

ALEX

Turn around...

Pierce runs down the corridor, but looks back at her,
flashing a sexy smile. She smiles back, a hint of sadness in
her eyes.

19 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - DEANA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (D2) 19

Deana and Maggie have a laptop open in front of them as they talk to the computer screen. Deana looks discerningly more pale and fragile. Alex enters, stoic.

MAGGIE/DEANA

(to computer screen)

I miss you so much-- Mommy can't
wait to see you--

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

We're skyping the dog; he's staying
with one of Deana's students--
What's wrong?

ON DEANA'S LAP TOP SCREEN - **Three of her 5th Grade Students**
flag a huge St. Bernard as they wave to Deana. Alex sticks
her head into the screen as all the kids ad-lib: "Hi, Dr.
Panttiere--!"

ALEX

(to kids, hiding her
concern)
Hey guys, I need to steal your
teacher for a minute.

MAGGIE

(gently to the kids)
We'll check in later.

Maggie shuts the computer and looks up at Alex.

ALEX

Deana--

DEANA

Thomas is texting me again.

MAGGIE

(grabs Deana's cell)
You don't need him, Dee--

DEANA

Maggie!
(to Alex, re: Maggie)
She never understood him. He's
bipolar-- But he was a good guy--

MAGGIE

If he takes his meds--

ALEX

Guys--

DEANA

He would do anything for me--

ALEX

(cuts them off)
There is something I have to tell
you--

Alex looks out the window, behind Deana's bed. She remains calm and doesn't cause any attention to what she sees...

Through the window, Alex can see across the courtyard to the other wing of the hospital where Thomas is now on the roof. He is cautiously climbing out onto the ledge, trying to maintain his balance pressed up against the wall, staring at the ground way down below him... while texting on his cell.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (cautious not to alert
 them)
 The ex; didn't he visit you here
 once? Thomas?

Deana stares at her text from Thomas.

MAGGIE
 (to Deana)
 Are you in pain again--?
 (anxiously to Alex)
 Can't you give her something--?

ALEX
 Yes--
 (gently takes Deana's cell
 from her)
 He doesn't get to upset you. Let me
 get you something for the pain.
 I'll be right back.

Alex exits calmly, holding onto Deana's cell....

... she bolts down the corridor past a nurse's station,
 tossing Deana's cell at Gi-Sung who is behind the counter. Gi-
 Sung catches it as Alex yells:

ALEX
 We got a jumper!

Gi-Sung jumps into action grabbing the phone...

Thomas, Deana's ex-boyfriend, stands on the ledge by Deana's
 window. He side steps to his right and onto the roof floor
 that extends out from the window. Alex comes flying out, onto
 the roof. Thomas looks up at her. She stops in her tracks.

ALEX
 (oddly calm, almost serene
 about accepting what he
 intends to do)
 Thomas? I'm Deana's doctor, Alex
 Panttiere.

Alex extends her hand. Thomas doesn't move from the ledge.

CONTINUED:

THOMAS

Does Deana know I'm here?

ALEX

(gentle, in control)

No.

(CONTINUED)

After a moment, Millicent races out onto the roof, out of breath.

She is followed by two security officers and the **hospital's psychiatrist, DR. HACKETT**. Alex and Hackett are natural born enemies.

DR. HACKETT
(pushing Alex aside)
I'll take it from here, Panttiere--

Alex steps in front of Dr. Hackett, stopping him.

ALEX
(to Millicent)
You can not let him--

Dr. Hackett takes a step foward toward Thomas.

DR. HACKETT
I'm Dr. Hackett--

ALEX
(overlapping to Millicent)
Dr. Hack--

DR. HACKETT
The hospital's psychiatrist--

ALEX
He's a walking Kevorkian aid; he
won't talk that kid off the ledge,
he'll send him over it--

THOMAS
(**yells** at Hackett)
I only want to talk to her.

Thomas points to Alex. Alex looks to Millicent for approval.

MILLICENT
Get him away from the ledge as
quickly as possible, please.

Dr. Hackett grabs Alex before she goes.

DR. HACKETT
(lecturing Alex, arrogant)
He's jumps; its on you, Dr.
Panttiere.

Alex moves cautiously towards Thomas.

ALEX

Thomas?

THOMAS

Deana needs a heart.

ALEX

And I *will* find her a donor--

Thomas throws a piece of paper at Alex.

THOMAS

You just did... That gives you permission to use mine.

ALEX

Okay, look--

THOMAS

I can't live without her.

ALEX

Thomas, think about what you're doing--

THOMAS

This is the only way I can be with her-- Always...

Thomas edges back over to the ledge.

ALEX

If you jump, Thomas, the impact will crush your organs and I won't be able to use your heart for Deana...!

Thomas nods quietly, pulls a revolver from his coat and shoots himself in the head before anyone can say a word.

Blood splattered all over Alex, she exhales, then...

ALEX (CONT'D)

(morphs into surgeon mode)

We got a donor! Let's move!

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

22 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - MILLICENT'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (D2) 22

Alex, still in dirty scrubs, stands in front of Millicent, in the middle of an argument. Millicent never raises her voice, which makes Alex louder.

ALEX

He authorized *me* to use his heart!

MILLICENT

And there are legal considerations--

ALEX

(cuts her off)

This is a directed donor!

MILLICENT

I understand, but I am obligated to--

ALEX

(cuts her off again)

Two hearts in one day! How many more are you going to take from me?

MILLICENT

You can't be serious--

ALEX

(cuts her off again)

I raised a hundred-and-fifty-million-dollars for this hospital today and you know why--? Because you have one of the only female heart transplant surgeons in the world! I'm your own personal freak show and I sell a *lot* of tickets. And I am not going to tell my patient and her sister that they aren't getting that heart!

(CONTINUED)

MILLICENT

The reason you raised a hundred-and-fifty-million-dollars today is because I am the one who promoted you to CIO, against the passionate pleas of the committee, and just about every other department head who said I was out of my mind to entrust you with this position, because when it comes to rules and procedure, they only apply to you when they suit your needs.

ALEX

(yeah? So?)

And your point?

MILLICENT

Alex, I want to get you that heart as quickly as possible, but I am not going to release it, until it's cleared with legal.

(forced to tell Alex)

There is some concern that Thomas' family could sue us, claiming we didn't do enough to stop him.

ALEX

The man was bi-polar, standing on the ledge of a building with a gun in his pocket.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED: (2)

22

ALEX (CONT'D)

I don't think anyone could have talked him out of anything, but at least I tried!

MILLICENT

(a little fed up)

Really? Because you switched gears on a dime; it felt like the only thing you saw on that roof was a donor for your patient. Let's hope I'm the only one who noticed that, Alex.

Millicent has struck a cord in her.

23

INT. ST. MATTHEWS - WAITING AREA - A SHORT TIME LATER (D2)

23

Maggie sits in the waiting area near her sister's room, having a cup of coffee, stoic. Alex, changed into clean scrubs, approaches. Maggie looks up at Alex, scared.

MAGGIE

Her breathing is getting worse.

Alex sits across from Maggie.

ALEX

Your sister's heart is starting to fail. Her pulmonary pressures are climbing. I don't want her to become too sick to transplant so I need to put a percutaneous VAD in her-- It's a type of temporary mechanical support for her heart. Just until the donor is released--

MAGGIE

You said Mrs. Agostini's heart was released.

ALEX

She isn't getting Mrs. Agostini's heart.

MAGGIE

Then who's heart is she getting?

Alex looks at Maggie, in pain as we dissolve to...

24

INT. ST. MATTHEW'S - DEANA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 24
(D2)

Music plays. Deana lies in bed, looking very ill. Alex and Maggie enter.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 24

Maggie appears shocked and devastated, as Alex sits gently down on Deana's bed and takes her hand; heartbroken over what she is about to tell Deana...

25 INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN AREA - LATER THAT DAY (D2) 25

Alex, in clean scrubs, enters. Max has just finished making his famous lasagna. He gives her a warm kiss on the cheek then referring to the tray of lasagna, before he puts it into the freezer.

MAX

(re: lasagna)

You cut a piece; warm it, 325 for five to seven minutes. There's enough for you and boys for the rest of the week...

(looks at her, knowingly)

Sit down.

Max dishes a piece out onto a plate for Alex as she sits at the table and starts to eat it; savoring his lasagna. Max is a fantastic chef.

ALEX

(having asked him this a thousand times)

I have to go back--

(loving the lasagna)

Oh my god, this is heaven--

Max kisses her on the head as...

Carson and Gabriel enter. Gabriel remains in the doorway.

CARSON

Dad I can't find the phone charger--

Alex grabs Carson playfully as he uses his fingers to take a piece of lasagna.

ALEX

(playful)

Hi Mom, how was your day?

CARSON

Got a patient bleeding out?

ALEX

No. Just a routine heart transplant.

(CONTINUED)

CARSON

(drops a gooey piece of
lasagne soaked in red
sauce into his mouth)

Save me the entrails.

Alex looks over at Gabriel who remains in the doorway. He is
oddly quiet. She walks up to him. Their backs to camera, Alex
wraps her arm around Gabriel and whispers something into his
ear. He shakes his head, hard. Alex whispers again, then
kisses him softly on the head as he exits.

CARSON (CONT'D)

He's weird, Mom.

ALEX

He gets that from me.

CARSON

(exiting)

Why can't he be normal?

ALEX

(calls after him)

If you go to the land of normal, no one will be there.

Max flops down next to Alex. She rests her head on his shoulder, while eating and relishing his lasagna.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Maybe we should call Dr. Stanley about Gabriel.

MAX

He's doing fine on the new meds, Alex. Let's cut him a break and watch him.

(Alex nods, conceding)

You know, Bryan wants to move in with me.

ALEX

I like Bryan.

MAX

I do too. And we were wondering about renting Pierce's beach house-- The one he never goes to--

ALEX

(matter-of-fact)

No.

MAX

Pierce said he's okay with it, if you're okay with it--

ALEX

(still matter-of-fact)

I'm not okay with it. You want a bigger place; I'll help you get one.

MAX

I don't know if you've noticed, but Pierce has been sleeping on the other side of your bed for the past year.

ALEX

Eight months, Max.

MAX

He's a good guy.

ALEX

He's great.

MAX

(analyzing her)

Ah ha. So how is it being around Jessie again?

ALEX

This isn't about him.

MAX

(not buying it)

Yeah, right.

ALEX

(justifying)

It isn't. We just left things sort of--

MAX

Unfinished? Unclear? Shall I go on?

ALEX

(giving in)

Fine, he's always been in my head.

(raw honesty)

And it kills me because I love Pierce.

MAX

I know that.

ALEX

I don't want to deal with this.

MAX

I know that, too.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

(rising)

So I'm not.

(exiting to boys room)

Boys I'm coming in to hug you;
brace yourselves.

MAX

(calls after her)

It is possible to be in love with
two men.

And as Alex disappears down the hallway, her back to camera.

ALEX

No... No... No...

(on second thought)

God I hope not...

A26 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS (D2) A26

Alex is camped out in a chair in front of Millicent's closed office door, her foot shaking impatiently. Callahan passes. He stops and looks at her.

ALEX
(explaining)
I'm waiting--
(YELLS towards Millicent's
closed door)
FOR MY HEART!!

Callahan lights up a cigarette, sneaks a puff, then puts it out when an Orderly passes, and sticks it behind his ear. He looks at Alex.

CALLAHAN
Your Nurse, Gi-Sung... I'm thinking
of taking her out. What does she
like?

ALEX
Not you. You call her Ping Pang
Pong to her face.

CALLAHAN
So you'll put in a good word for
me, Pants?
(off Alex's incredulous
expression)
I like her.

He notices Alex's foot shaking nervously.

CALLAHAN (CONT'D)
You want company, Pants?

ALEX
No--

Callahan sits down next to her to wait.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(YELLS at Millicent's
door)
I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT A HEART!

27 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - NIGHT (N2) 27

In the b.g. Gi-Sung sits at a table, eating and reading a book. Forester sits across from her, eating and reading a book...

GI-SUNG
(without looking up)
I like having dinner together.

Forester doesn't respond.

ON ALEX as she storms in and flops down across from Pierce, who's having a cup of coffee alone.

ALEX
Why don't they serve alcohol?

PIERCE
It's a hospital. Still waiting for
that heart?

Alex leans in and whispers to Pierce.

ALEX
You know what I really want right
now?

(CONTINUED)

27

CONTINUED:

27

PIERCE

Now?? Babe, I am functioning on fumes, my back is killing me--

ALEX

And I want it bad and I want it rough...

PIERCE

And I want a "safety word," you get way too into it...

28

EXT. ST. MATTHEWS - HOSPITAL BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT (N2) 28

Alex and Pierce play one-on-one basketball in the courtyard for doctors. Pierce, shirtless, shows off his chiseled physique. He plays hard; bashing into Alex, holding nothing back, because Alex plays harder, sending Pierce to the pavement.

PIERCE

Hit me like that again and I'm gonna stop letting you win.

Alex plays harder, cutting Pierce off again. He collapses to the ground and lies there. Alex stops and lies next to him.

ALEX

I knew he was going to kill himself. Millicent was right-- When I saw him on the roof, all I could think was he's the perfect match for my patient; right height, right weight--

PIERCE

I would have done the same thing.

ALEX

No you wouldn't--
(doesn't want to deal with anything right now)
Maybe I'll go yell at a nurse--

She sits up to leave. Pierce stops her.

PIERCE

Talk to me--

ALEX

I'm fine--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She rises and palms the basketball with practiced perfection, then spins it on one finger. Frustrated, Pierce looks out.

(CONTINUED)

PIERCE

I'm trying, Alex... I'm really trying.

Alex sighs and sits back down next to him.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

(playful)

Isn't it usually "the girl" who wants to talk about their feelings?

(Alex doesn't respond)

We can't move forward if you won't--

(looks at her)

I wanna move in, I want us to--

(stops, dawns on him)

This is because of Jennifer--

ALEX

(cuts him quickly off)

No! It's not-- It has nothing--

PIERCE

(overlapping)

I'm an idiot--

ALEX

No! Pierce that was six months ago, we were barely dating--

PIERCE

We were sleeping together.

ALEX

But we weren't dating.

Pierce is quiet. Alex looks at him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You're the one who feels compelled to bring this up. I don't need to revisit what happened. And I don't need to question you every time you're five minutes late.

PIERCE

I know.

(beat)

Why not?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

That bothers you?? You want me to wake up every morning and say "Hey sweetie, you cheated on me with your ex-girlfriend..." It happened. It was a mistake...

(the strain of their lifestyle)

We don't get to make mistakes with our patients... so we have to be allowed to make them with each other--

She cuts herself off, deeply wanting to avoid any more conversation, Alex starts kissing Pierce, when her cell RINGS...

29 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - HOSPITAL BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER (N2) 29

Alex tears across the bridge, running like mad, almost in silhouette...

AA30 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - DEANA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (N2) AA30

Alex flies in just as Deana is being rushed out into the hallway on a gurney.

A30 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - PATIENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS (N2) A30

Jessie is working on her. Callahan is assisting. Dialogue overlaps while everyone races down the hallway alongside the gurney, trying to resuscitate Deana.

CALLAHAN

Her systolic is 40--

ALEX

Give an amp of epi--

JESSIE

And chase it with an amp of bicab--

CALLAHAN

Her sat's dropping--

ALEX

We're gonna need to intubate soon. I need a M ac 3 blade and a 7-5 tube--

(CONTINUED)

A30

CONTINUED:

A30

JESSIE

What's her PTT--?

Alex glances back at...

... Maggie at the end of the hallway, in tears, terrified, helpless as we reveal that she has the same humming bird tatoo on her neck as her little sister, which we saw earlier.

Alex turns back as they fly into the OR disappearing behind the swinging doors to the OR, over which we hear:

ALEX'S VOICE (O.S.)

She stopped breathing...

Silence, then the SOUNDS of a HEART MONITOR FLAT-LINING.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

30 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT (N2) 30

Alex jumps into action:

ALEX
(yells)
Paddles! 360!
(placing paddles on
Deana's chest)
Clear!

After several jolts, Deana's heart resumes pumping. (This is a state of the art operating room, above is a beautiful observation booth behind a glass wall.) Dialogue overlaps as her OR team of Nurses (including Gi-Sung) begin to assemble and prep the patient for surgery in the b.g.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Her last PPT was 36. That's not enough anticoagulation for this type of VAD. Her pump flows are dropping. It may clot. We need to get her on bypass. Tell me the donor is cleared and get me that heart!

Alex turns to Jessie, takes a breath then announces, resolute:

ALEX (CONT'D)
I want to do a heterotopic transplant.

Jessie looks at Alex, taken aback for a moment.

JESSIE
Don't we all, but that's not happening--

ALEX
My patient has pulmonary hypertension. If we do an orthotopic transplant the donor heart will fail. It won't be able to pump against that kind of pressure.
(looks at him)
I can do the procedure; I assisted on one during my fellowship...

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

There are four doctors in the world
who know how to do this operation--

ALEX

Now there will be five.

Alex looks at Jessie; ten years ago, she would have caved to
his demands without a second thought. AS WE TRANSITION TO THE
PAST...

31 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - DAY (FLASHBACK)(FBD2)31

Jessie works furiously to save a patient who has flat-lined. Alex, an intern, observes, standing across from him.

JESSIE
Pledgets-- 2.0-- And get me some
bio-glue--

*
*

ALEX
(unconsciously blurts out)
Shouldn't you use felt strips--?

*
*

Embarrassed by her outburst, Alex shuts up immediately. Jessie doesn't react, though it's clear Alex made a major faux pas. Jessie is finally forced to call the time of death. He throws down his head light and exits. Alex stares after him...

32 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - DAY (FLASHBACK)(FBD2)32

Alex, alone, stands quietly over the patient, meticulously stitching her up.

JESSIE'S VOICE (O.C.)
(still irritated by her
outburst in the OR)
Hey--
(notices what she's doing)
What are you doing?

Alex looks up. Jessie is showered and dressed.

ALEX
I didn't want her to be alone. Her
family's in Florida.

JESSIE
(re: Alex's careful
stitching)
Just towel clip her shut.

ALEX
I want her to leave whole. She was
very pretty.

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

(he's told her this
before)

Alex, when you're in my OR, you can
not tell me what to do! You're an
intern--

*

ALEX

(cuts him off blurting
out)

I can't sleep with you anymore!

JESSIE

No one ever taught you to segue?

ALEX

I'm losing my focus. I think about
you waaaaaay too much. And it's my
fault! You didn't take advantage of
me; though I would have been good
with that. I attacked you. I mean,
everyone assumed we were sleeping
together, so I figured, you know--

JESSIE

(knowing what this is
about)

I'm sorry you had to see Carolyn
yesterday, I had no idea she was
coming to the hospital--

ALEX

This isn't about your wife. I'm a
big girl, I knew what I was getting
into-- Or I thought I knew--

JESSIE

Alex--

ALEX

(overlapping, dropping a
bomb on him)

Why didn't you tell me you were
leaving St. Matthews?

(Jessie doesn't respond,
shocked she knows this
information)

You took the job in Cleveland?

Hard for Jessie to explain...

JESSIE

I did.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

That's it??

JESSIE

Alex, they're offering me the run
of the department--

ALEX

(sarcastic, hurt)

I know! I heard from one of the
nurses and when were you going to
tell me??

(low voice)

We've been doing whatever *this*
is...

(re: their relationship)

... for a year, don't you think I
had a right to know?

JESSIE

(looks down at her

Yes.

(beat)

And that's why I'm leaving.

(the painful truth, re:
them as a couple)

I didn't count on *this* and I can't
do it anymore, Alex, because I
can't leave Carolyn... It would
kill her...

Moves in closer to Alex.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

And if I stay, it'll kill me.

Before she can say anything, Jessie suddenly draws her into
him and kisses her. Alex can't help but give into him. They
can't let go of each other; kissing. He begins to pull gently
away. Their hands linger, touching each other as long as they
can, until...

JESSIE (CONT'D)

(in between kissing her,
whispers)

You know, I love you.

He releases her and turns, exiting. She stares after him.
Then... (as she did in the top of Scene two with Pierce)

ALEX

(whispers to herself)

Turn around.

(CONTINUED)

She watches him leave, but he never turns around.

32 CONTINUED: (4) 32

TRANSITION BACK TO THE PRESENT...

33 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - NIGHT (N2) 33

ON Alex and Jessie; dialogue overlaps. (Dr. Callahan is already there and ready to assist.)

ALEX
(to OR team)
Where's Forester--?

Before Alex finishes her sentence, the hulking Forester enters, scrubbed and ready to go. Callahan quickly goes for a wide berth in order to avoid Forester.

Jessie pulls Alex aside.

JESSIE
Slow down--

ALEX
(ordering her team around)
Guys, we're gonna crash on pump here in a second--!
(quickly to Jessie)
I didn't speak up when you were operating on Mrs. Edwards.

JESSIE
What?

ALEX
(yells to her team)
I want lines up and on the field ready to rock!
(to Jessie)
I thought you caused an A-V disruption because you were being too aggressive in debriding the annulus--

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

You know damn well an A-V groove
disruption is uniformly lethal.

*
*
*

There is a moment in every doctor's career when they have to
cut the cord from the mentor they so deeply revere.

ALEX

I do. I mean, at the time I thought
I was right; I wasn't... The point
is, I didn't speak up. Because I
was an intern--

(yells to her team)

Slam the heparin in as soon as the
scalpel hits the skin--

(to Jessie)

But I'm not an intern anymore. I'm
not your protege anymore. And
you're not my mentor.

(resolute)

I am going to do this procedure,
Jessie.

*

JESSIE

You're making a decision before the
credentialing committee has had a
chance to--

ALEX

(focused on her team)

And we're using single cannulation
stitches; no pledgets! Got that?!

(to Jessie)

My patient doesn't have time to
wait for the committee to debate
this.

Jessie looks at Alex as he realizes something and almost
smiles at her audacity.

JESSIE

You've been planning to do this
from the minute that guy blew his
brains out. I know you, Alex, you
waited until now, because you knew
the committee wouldn't have time to
stop you.

Alex remains silent; indicating he's right.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

As the Chief of Surgery there's not
a chance in hell I'll approve this,
Alex.

ALEX

(finally saying it)
I'm not asking for your approval.
And as Chief Innovations Officer...
I no longer need it.

JESSIE

I suppose that's true now.

Jessie walks out. Alex takes a breath then turns back to
reveal Marty, in scrubs standing in the wings...

ALEX

(to her team)
I'm ready to do this!
(quickly, aside to Marty)
I need you to do something for
me...

MONTAGE to MUSIC (SONG TBD)

Marty sits across from Maggie, explaining what Alex told him
to say. Maggie holds back tears. Marty tries not to get
emotional along with her...

ALEX (V.O.)

Tell her what's happening to her
sister. Tell her the operation will
take about eight hours and I will
do my best to send someone out to
let her know how things are
going...
(a sad memory)
(MORE)

34 CONTINUED: 34

ALEX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(beat)

Tell her I know what it's like to
be sitting in this room, waiting to
hear if everything's okay...

Marty rushes back toward the OR as Maggie buries her face in
her hands...

... and Alex's Voice Over continues into...

A35 OMITTED A35

35 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - THAT NIGHT (N2) 35

Alex doesn't have time to scrub. She holds her hands out as
Gi-Sung quickly dumps betadine all over them to sanitize. As
we continue with Alex's voice over...

ALEX (V.O.)

Explain that the procedure is
called a heterotopic...

ON ALEX she nods to Nurse Gi-Sung, who turns on Alex's
opening music as Zeppelin's "Heartbreak" blasts... Alex's
VOICE OVER explains the procedure to her crew over VARIOUS
SHOTS of Alex performing the operation.

ALEX (V.O.)

Deana's heart will stay inside her.
We'll take Thomas' heart and
connect it on top of Deana's;
piggyback...

INTERCUT WITH:

36 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OBSERVATION ABOVE OPERATING THEATER (N2) 36

Marty and another **Doctor**, lean against the glass in the
observation area and watch Alex perform this controversial
procedure as **More Doctors** enter, including Dr. Hackett and
Pierce.

ALEX (V.O.)

The heart only knows how to beat,
but sometimes it forgets.
(heartfelt for Thomas)
Thomas' heart will teach Deana's to
remember...

Alex's team leans; fascinated.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

ALEX (V.O.)

She will have two heart beats for
the rest of her life...

37

INT. ST. MATTHEWS - WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (N2)

37

Maggie sits in a waiting room under headphones, anxious.

38 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - CONTINUOUS (N2) 38

Camera follows a closed cooler that contains the donor heart. Alex looks down at the cooler with the same expression of respect and awe as the first time she saw a heart.

ALEX
(a moment of reverence)
No two hearts are alike...

Dr. Callahan reacts; surprisingly enjoying this part.

DR. CALLAHAN
(to Gi-Sung)
I love when she does this.

GI-SUNG
You're an idiot.

ALEX
(reaching into the cooler)
Like snowflakes every single heart
is--
(lifts the heart out)
FROZEN?? Mother--!

Alex and the rest of the OR team lean over in unison to stare at the donor heart inside a ziplock bag, frozen solid, like a piece of meat.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Who got fluid in the damn bag?
(stumped, this is a first)
How the hell are we going to
defrost this--

39 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - SHORT TIME LATER (N2)39

CLOSE ON: THE FROZEN HEART

As a bright yellow BLOW DRYER comes into frame, revealing one of the nurses defrosting the heart in a ziploc, with it.

ALEX
(justifying)
It's just recycling the air in
here.

When the heart is finally defrosted, Alex jumps into action.

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED:

39

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (heartfelt for Thomas)
 Now-- Let's get your heart where it
 belongs--

As "HEARTBREAKER" starts up again, we dissolve to:

40 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - OPERATING THEATER - SHORT TIME LATER (N2)40

Alex is in mid-operation, at a critical point. She wipes her
 drenched forehead on Gi-Sung's shoulder.

ALEX
 (reciting the procedure)
 The left pulmonary vein cuff of the
 recipient is anastomosed to the
 donor left atrium behind the inter-
 atrial groove. I need to compensate
 here somehow for the size
 discrepancy...
 (pissed)
 They gotta line up...

Alex suddenly stops; stumped. She remains calm. Her team
 looks at her, awaiting her next instruction.

GI-SUNG
 Doctor--? Dr. Panttiere--?

Alex is about to look at Forester, but he gives the patient's
 stats to her, before she asks.

FORESTER
 Pump flows are stable. I just
 checked a gas and there's no
 acidosis.
 (Alex doesn't move)
 You're at cruising altitude,
 doctor.

Alex remains stumped.

DR. CALLAHAN
 (confident, supportive)
 You got this, Pants.

Alex doesn't look up at him.

DR. CALLAHAN (CONT'D)
 Alex--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alex looks up to see Callahan moving reverently aside for Jessie, who moves into his place, across from Alex, to assist. His presence alone is assuring.

JESSIE

(quiet, confident)

So, walk me through this...

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

(staying focused)

I'm gonna take a wedge out to add some length to the left atrial suture line, so they match perfectly. The donor aorta needs to be shortened at the origin of the brachiocephalic trunk. I might need some graft material to bridge the vessels...

OVER WHICH: Music resumes as Alex regains her confidence and continues to explain to Jessie what she has to do next... Her eyes meet his, exposing a bond that is impossible to miss. Especially for Pierce.

ON MILLICENT - outside the operating room, alone, watching Alex through the glass, concerned.

THE OBSERVATION AREA ABOVE: Now completely packed; standing room only as we move in on Pierce as he witnesses Alex and Jessie's exchange as the MONTAGE ENDS.

Alex finishes; drenched in sweat, exhausted. Everyone on her team and in the observation booth react, pumped, exhilarated. Only Alex remains quiet. She suddenly **whispers** among the celebrating crowd surrounding her:

ALEX

The donor isn't beating on it's own...

She looks back at her perfusionist, Forester.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(immediate)

Take me off pump!

FORESTER

Roger that, coming off--!

CALLAHAN

(incredulous, overlapping)

What? You ah, sure about that--?

Her entire OR staff, including her beloved surgical scrub nurse Gi-Sung, are shocked and doubt the sanity of Alex's surgical judgement in coming off bypass with a heart that isn't working... Everyone except her wingman, Forester.

ALEX

(to her team)

The piggyback isn't working--

(to Forester)

When you hit two liters of flow,
restart the VAD--

FORESTER

I'm a man with a plan.

Jessie glances at Alex with a mixture of pride and enormous concern for the chance Alex has just taken with her patient...

... As the droning BUZZ from Forester's machine becomes the only sound that fills the room. Alex stares at Deana.

ALEX
(almost to herself)
They just need time. They have to
figure out how to beat together...
She won't survive another
transplant.

Alex pulls off her face mask. She leans over Deana and whispers something into her ear. Almost in tears, she turns in silence and starts to walk out...

As we begin to hear the sounds of APPLAUSE from the crowd above and her crew in the OR. Alex doesn't glance up; she only looks around for Jessie; who is no longer in the OR...

42 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - MILLICENT'S OFFICE - THAT MORNING (D3) 42

Alex stands in front of Millicent. Still in her scrubs from last night; it's clear Alex hasn't been to bed. Millicent's **son** runs in, does his usual Fist Pump routine with Alex, then shows his drawing to both Alex and Millicent.

ALEX
That's awesome, Beni--

MILLICENT
(overlapping)
It's beautiful. I will take you to
breakfast as soon as I'm done
talking to Dr. Panttiere.

Beni runs back into Millicent's secretary's office.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)
You performed a procedure the
Privileging Committee hasn't
approved yet and please don't
attempt to apologize--

ALEX
I didn't intend to. Performing the
procedure was my call to make.

Millicent seems as concerned about Alex's patient, as Alex is.

(CONTINUED)

MILLICENT

It was... because I provided your department with the equipment you needed and I am the one who made you CIO and I never regretted it until today! You went too far, Alex. If your patient dies...

ALEX

I have six hours to wean her off the VAD.

MILLICENT

(trying to regain her composure)

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

Let's hope it works. If it does,
you will have done something
remarkable...

(under her breath)

Sans ethical-- And my job will be
to get you on Dr. Oz, The Today
Show, Jimmy Fallon, Ellen; we'll do
a huge publicity campaign and
promote the hospital.

(wishing it weren't true)

If your patient dies, the committee
will fire your ass on the spot, and
I won't defend you.

ALEX

I did what was best for my patient.
And I'd do it again.

MILLICENT

(without malice)

Oh I know. This is who you were
when we were interns. Jessie used
to tell me I should try to be more
like you-- Take risks-- Dismiss
protocol-- I think it's why I broke
up with him.

Alex does a lousy job of stifling a shocked reaction.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

I assumed you knew. It was a
meaningless affair; on both our
parts.

(openly confessing)

I believe I was his rebound
relationship... From you.

Alex reacts; this is clearly not a conversation she wants to
have with anyone right now. Millicent senses it's not her
business.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

(sighs, looks at Alex)

You're a brilliant surgeon, Alex.
You remind me of my father.

ALEX

He's a great surgeon.

MILLICENT

(hint of jealousy)

That's what he says about you...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42

CONTINUED: (3)

42

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

But like him, your passion for your
work is at the expense of everyone
else in your life; your patients,
your children--

ALEX

Never bring my kids into this--!

(CONTINUED)

MILLICENT

Fair--

(regaining her composure)

If your patient dies because you performed a procedure the Committee didn't approve, I won't be able to protect you this time, and they won't just fire you, they will make sure you never work again... You know how they can be.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

43 INT. ST. MATTHEWS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - ATRIUM - THAT NIGHT 43
(N3)

The annual charity benefit fills the hospital's vast atrium. It's an A-list-only affair...

44 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - ICU - CONTINUOUS (N3) 44

Deana lies in bed on life support. A **HEART MONITOR BEEPS a single line rhythmically across the screen.** Maggie is asleep in a chair next to her sister.

Alex stands in the bathroom of Deana's ICU room; stripping out of her scrubs into a hot red dress for the hospital benefit.

She slips into heels, while struggling to pull up the zipper in the back of her dress, when suddenly a man's hands come into frame and zips it up for her. Alex turns to see Pierce, wearing a modern tux. He looks over at Deana.

PIERCE
Anything?

Alex shakes her head and glances up at the clock on the wall; hiding her fear. Pierce gestures for Alex to follow him out, and into...

A45 INT. ST. MATTHEWS - ICU HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS (N3) A45

The hallway is quiet. Alex and Pierce are alone.

PIERCE
They're going to introduce you in fifteen minutes.
(hesitates)
George Clooney showed up. Your mother is going to kill me.

Alex bends over to shake her hair out...

PIERCE (CONT'D)
I'm not afraid of a commitment.

Alex whips her head back up; her hair falls perfectly into place. She looks at Pierce.

(CONTINUED)

A45

CONTINUED:

A45

ALEX

Neither am I.

PIERCE

At least not when it comes to your work.

ALEX

You know what I had to go through to get here.

PIERCE

Yes. That's why I will spend 36 hours straight at this hospital; lose sleep over a patient and forget what day it is, but I will always leave room for you and the boys.

Alex melts, it is the most romantic thing anyone's ever said.

ALEX

I love you.

PIERCE

That's why I stick around. And I'm willing to put a pin in the things we're not sure of right now.

ALEX

So, what do you want from me?

PIERCE

To figure out what you want... As long as it's not an issue of who you want, otherwise I'm out.

(re: the piggyback surgery)

I saw the way he looked at you today. That didn't bother me... It was the way you looked back... Let's just leave it at that. For now.

Pierce exits. Alex stands in the middle of the room, lost until suddenly Pierce blows back into the room, scoops Alex up into his arms, SLAMS her against the ICU window and plants a kiss on her lips that almost melts her clothes off. Alex loses herself into him just as Pierce abruptly releases her.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

(flashes her a sexy smile)

Let's just leave it at *that*.

(CONTINUED)

Pierce walks out, leaving Alex limp, when suddenly a FOREIGN SOUND erupts: the playful **BEEPING of two hearts**.

Alex races back into Deana's ICU to see **there are now two lines dancing on the monitor**, BEEPING over each other. Alex bends down and taps Maggie to wake up.

ALEX

Wanna see something awesome?

Maggie turns to see the monitor.

ALEX (CONT'D)

They're beating together... On their own.

Maggie grabs Alex and hugs her tight, in tears, whispering:

MAGGIE

Thank you.

Maggie sobs with relief as Gi-Sung rushes in.

ALEX

(relieved)

Wean her off the VAD. Those two hearts are connected... For life.

Alex exits, but looks back to see Maggie whispering to her little sister.

MAGGIE

You needed Thomas as much as he needed you.

Alex watches the two sisters with a hint of sadness then exits to finish dressing... She never notices Marty, her intern, watching Deana through the glass window, in tears.

Alex, dressed for the benefit, steps out of the elevator as Millicent comes up to her.

ALEX

(a bit of gloating)

Beautiful dress; Millicent, I'd love to borrow it for Jimmy Fallon.

MILLICENT

(genuine)

You don't get it.

(MORE)

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CONTINUED:

45

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

I'm glad your patient is okay. It is the preferred outcome.

Congratulations.

(exiting into the party)

And by the way, if we were friends, I would have given you this dress in a heartbeat.

Alex stares after her; maybe she's been wrong about Millicent and should have been taking a harder look at herself.

ALEX

(awkwardly blurts out)

I don't have a lot of friends...

Surprised by Alex's vulnerable confession, Millicent turns back and looks back at her.

MILLICENT

(a hint of sympathy)

Then you're missing out.

ALEX

(a rare confession)

My little sister was my best friend.

MILLICENT

(hint of sadness)

I remember when she was in the hospital. She was lovely.

ALEX

(almost to herself)

No one knows me, like she did.

For a moment, Alex and Millicent regard each other.

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INT. ST. MATTHEWS - ATRIUM - OFF TO THE SIDE - MOMENTS LATER 46
(N3)

Alex peeks past some plants into the grand atrium to see the CEO of the hospital speaking at a podium. Behind him is a dais of doctors, seated at either side. The room is packed.

A **Waiter** passes holding a tray and offers Alex an hors'dourves.

ALEX

Do you know where George Clooney is sitting? Not that I care. It's for my mom...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Waiter exits as...

Jessie suddenly moves in from behind her.

JESSIE

(whispers)

I shouldn't have taken this job...

Alex closes her eyes, praying he won't say another word..

JESSIE (CONT'D)

I knew it would be hard to see you again.

Alex turns and looks up at him. She hates herself for the flood of emotions running through her.

ALEX

No one ever taught you to segue?

(he smiles)

Why did you come, Jessie?

JESSIE

(assuming she knew)

I wanted to spend some more time with Beni.

(off Alex's confused expression)

Millicent's son.

Jessie realizes that Alex doesn't know.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

I'm his father, Alex.

ALEX

(taken aback)

I didn't know--

She falls into his gaze.

JESSIE

That's not the only reason I came back.

Alex looks at him... Until...

CEO'S VOICE (O.C.)

Ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Alexandra Panttiere...

FADE TO BLACK.