

"Zoobiquity"

Pilot

by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN BOSTON - DAY

A BLAST of SIRENS and SHOUTING COPS as the camera RACES PAST gawking ONLOOKERS and follows a trail of BLOOD and BROKEN GLASS. We are chasing something... danger, death. As we try to figure out what the hell has caused the mayhem, we hear HOWLING that echoes through the streets. There is terror in the sound as--

We follow the bloody trail past a mauled dog whimpering, over two cars that have plowed into each other, the sounds of SCREAMING and PANIC grow louder as we head into -

EXT. FANUEIL HALL MARKETPLACE - CONTINUOUS

Kiosks overturned, the food court in shambles... TOURISTS, MOMS and KIDS run in all directions. POLICE stream in, guns drawn, head to -

A hip, artisanal butcher stand. The BUTCHER quakes on his display case, terrified, his arm bloody as he tosses meat down to the source of the chaos: SIX GRAY WOLVES. Giant, savage, noble, but SNARLING, FEROCIOUS, as they tear into the meat. One leaps up and grabs the butcher's pant leg, pulling at him. For survival, he tosses more meat as the cops, tasers and guns at the ready, move in -

A POLICE SERGEANT comes up to one of the COPS who is armed with a rifle and ready -

SERGEANT

Where the hell did they come from?

COP

Wolf preserve in Ipswich. First escape, they said.

SERGEANT

And last. End it.

COP

But if we miss -

SERGEANT

- Don't miss.

The COP looks at his partners, nods to them, and they all raise their weapons to wipe out the wolves -

COP'S POV

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But as he sets his cross hairs on the LEAD WOLF -

SOMETHING BLOCKS HIS SIGHTS

A MAN, mid-30's, compelling, feral, but great looking. He looks like he's been sleeping on a floor, living on Redbull and fumes: this is LUCAS CORT -

LUCAS

Weapons down! Now!

SERGEANT

What the - Get him the hell out of here!

LUCAS

I was called, chief. Now rein it in and back off.

SERGEANT

Jesus, you animal control guys should learn -

LUCAS

- I'm not animal control. I'm the guy animal control calls when you screw everything up.

Lucas flashed an ID and takes a few steps towards the wolves -

BUTCHER

Get me out of here, please!

LUCAS

Relax. Your sweating just inflames them.

As the wolves snarl ferociously, Lucas scans the pack. We see them from Lucas's point of view. CLOSE ON one wolf, the ALPHA. Larger than the others, tail up, curled lips -

ALPHA WOLF'S POV - Black and white, studying Lucas. The Alpha takes a threatening step closer but Lucas doesn't budge-

BACK TO LUCAS - as he blocks out the cacophony of cops and onlookers. The five betas in the pack SNAP and SNARL, and Lucas focuses on the Alpha. Slowly, very slowly Lucas moves in -

POLICE SERGEANT

Are you crazy? There's six of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCAS

No. There's only one. I get the alpha, I get them all. Now keep your men back and let me work...

Lucas and the Alpha wolf are now locked on each other. The scene goes QUIET. We just hear their breath. Lucas sees the animal's neck PULSING - blood pressure elevated, shallow, rapid breathing, hair standing on end. VAPOR rising from the ears, elevated body temperature. We call this Lucas's VET VISION. He sees things other people can't. He keeps his eyes locked on the Alpha as he takes a few steps to a SPORTS SOUVENIR KIOSK, picks out a souvenir Bruins hockey stick and slowly moves towards the Alpha -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You like hockey, pal? Sure you do. Everyone does.

The wolf SNARLS and LUNGES at the stick.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Oh, a Sabres fan... I get it...

But Lucas holds his ground as the wolf SNAPS at the stick two or three times, but finally relaxes. Lucas gently rubs the blade against the wolf's head. The wolf clearly loves it, like scratching a dog behind the ears. Lucas keeps it up while awkwardly removing his sweatshirt, revealing a TAUT, MUSCULAR, but SCARRED BODY - animal attack? War? Both? The cops watch, now totally confused -

Lucas gently covers Alpha's eyes with the cloth - the wolf is now in a trance-like state. THE OTHER WOLVES take their cue from Alpha, become calm, three of them even laying down. With this, Lucas notices something is wrong with the Alpha -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

What's up with your breathing, fella? Not feeling well?

Lucas focuses on the wolf's unevenly pulsing chest, a RASPING SOUND as it breathes. He feels the animal's chest, around the sternum. Checks along the flanks, then feels something on his hand: a few specks of PURPLE GLITTER. Lucas wipes off the glitter as he turns to the Sergeant -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(to the sergeant, re:
Alpha)

I want to go back to the sanctuary with him. He needs medical care.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUTCHER

What about me?

And off this -

EXT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Boston's oldest, largest, most prestigious hospital. A state of the art, ultra high-tech institution where medical miracles are expected. But not today.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CORRIDOR - DAY

DR. KARA MARTINS walks through the bustle of the floor, past gurneys, nurses, a swarm of med students. Kara is early 30's - the daughter of Nigerian immigrants - an intense beauty with an intellect and determination she believes can wrestle any problem into submission. She's stopped by DR. SUSAN GIBBS, late 20's, an imaging specialist. Susan is shy, a brilliant beta, more at home with machines than people-

SUSAN GIBBS

Dr. Martins, sorry to bother you -

KARA

- Can it wait, Dr. Gibbs? I haven't eaten since last night and -

SUSAN GIBBS

- I'm sorry but a patient came in to the ER... the doctor is stumped and said you're the only one who can -

KARA

- I'm sure that's not true -

SUSAN GIBBS

- I'm sorry but you know it is.
(taking a baggie from her pocket)
I have some cherry tomatoes if you're hungry...

KARA

(relents)
Okay, just stop apologizing and give me the tomatoes...
(eating as they head off)
This is your lunch?

And as they disappear around a corner -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSAN GIBBS
I grew them myself.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ER / CARDIAC INTENSIVE - SAME TIME

A team of NURSES and RESIDENTS hovers over a patient, MELISSA DANNER, thirties, sitting on a gurney, hooked to a jumble of monitors. Respiration is rapid and shallow, she is trying not to panic. We notice that her breathing mirrors the Alpha wolf Lucas examined.

Kara and Susan push through the tangle of practitioners, Kara all business now -

KARA
I need the chart.

A NURSE hands Kara a tablet -

NURSE
Melissa Danner. Thirty-three.

MELISSA DANNER
...Can't... can't breathe right...

Kara takes out her stethoscope. She's deliberate, but is also always eight steps ahead of everyone else -

KARA
Melissa, I'm Dr. Martins.
This is Dr. Gibbs, imaging
specialist, best in the business.

SUSAN GIBBS
Actually, Dr. Heller, in Zurich, is
considered to be -

KARA
(cutting Susan off, to
Melissa)
- why don't you tell me when this
started while Dr. Gibbs gets set
up.

As Susan does -

MELISSA DANNER
I was at the office. I got
tired... I never get tired...

KARA
Try and breathe deeply.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELISSA DANNER

I can't... it hurts...

Kara listens to her heart. Not good. She examines her chest, watching the monitors -

KARA

Get me a 3-D of her carotids -

Kara keeps listening to the heart as Susan looks at a 3-D image of Melissa's blood vessels, shooting blood up to the brain. The flow is sporadic, weakening before our eyes.

SUSAN GIBBS

(sotto to Kara)

The tissue in the artery looks compromised, almost shredded.

MELISSA DANNER

I'm dizzy... I...

Melissa suddenly CONVULSES -

SUSAN GIBBS

She's hypotensive, desaturating.

KARA

I need a tissue sample. Get me a PA catheter with a biotome.

SUSAN GIBBS

But with the artery damaged -

KARA

- This is not a discussion!

The team gets to work moving Melissa to a bed. As they try to lay her flat she starts GASPING. A quick series of BEEPS as the EKG goes haywire. All hell's breaking loose but Kara stays steely and focused -

KARA (CONT'D)

100 milligrams lasix drip... Hold her down, I'm going in through the neck.

A NURSE tries to hold Melissa but she starts to lose it.

NURSE

Doctor, I can't -

KARA

(to the nurse)

- Then get out of here. Now!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA (CONT'D)
(nurse can't believe it
but)
Leave!

As the nurse leaves, Kara turns to another NURSE (#2) -

KARA (CONT'D)
Your turn. Keep her still.

Kara is already spreading disinfectant on an engorged vein on Melissa's neck as Nurse #2 holds her down and Susan breaks open a biopsy kit, handing Kara a scalpel. Kara makes a small incision in the vein, inserts a hollow tube and threads a guide wire into the vein.

ON SUSAN'S MONITOR, we see the interior of the blood vessels as Kara manipulates the device toward the heart.

Susan narrates as she observes the screens -

SUSAN GIBBS
Passing the tricuspid valve... In
the ventricle. Perfect.

As Kara works, we see INSIDE THE HEART -- a pincer protrudes from the end of the guide wire and removes a tiny piece of the right ventricle, restoring blood flow -

SUSAN GIBBS (CONT'D)
That was beautiful.

Kara allows herself the tiniest moment of satisfaction and answers with a bit of pride -

KARA
It was, wasn't it?
(then all business)
Get 100 mg nitroprusside IV bolus
to stabilize. And get the tissue
to pathology right away.

As Kara leaves, typing into her pager, and the others work with speed and focus -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIOLOGY - MOMENTS LATER

Kara walks through the bustle of the cardiology floor and is stopped by DR. HOWARD FOWLER, mid-forties, Chief of Medicine. He uses his good looks and geniality to get his way -

HOWARD FOWLER
I've been looking for you, Dr.
Martins, the Globe wants to do a
profile -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

- I already did the Sun-Times, Dr. Fowler, and I'm sort of in a rush now, I have to find Dr. Hess and get to path -

HOWARD FOWLER

(but he won't be deterred)
- Globe's twice the circulation. And there'll be a video component so they can see how charming you are.

KARA

(a slight smile)
Oh, so now I have to be charming too?

HOWARD FOWLER

(a bit more than an innocent compliment)
You've always been able to charm me. And if you'll ever agree to a dinner -

KARA

- It seems I don't ever have time to eat. But thank you. Now I really do have to talk to Dr. Hess -

HOWARD FOWLER

- Come on, Kara, you should be proud to tell your story -

KARA

- so you can use me to raise money for the hospital -

HOWARD FOWLER

- Sure, daughter of Nigerian immigrants on track to become head of cardio. Isn't that why you've worked so hard? To repay your parents for all they went through?

KARA

You really are shameless, Howard.

HOWARD FOWLER

I know. That's why I run this place. I'll schedule the interview for Thursday.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA

That's my day off.

HOWARD FOWLER

(walking away)

So you'll be free.

As Kara heads off, realizing objecting is useless -

EXT. JAMAICA PLAIN - DAY

A three decker, blue-collar neighborhood in a yet-to-be hipsterized section of Jamaica Plain. Liquor stores, check cashing, unlicensed daycare and a storefront at the base of a building with a sign, "CORT VETERINARY CLINIC."

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - ENTRANCE/WAITING ROOM/EXAM ROOM

Lucas arrives at the clinic and heads through the waiting room, whose peeling linoleum floor is ringed with mismatched chairs, a chewed up coffee table with outdated magazines, and a slew of waiting PATIENTS and their owners. A bird cage with a PARROT with a little girl and her mom, someone with a caged RABBIT, someone else with a CAT, another with a GREAT DANE, all neighborhood people, most of whom will be unable to pay what they should. They say hello as he passes -

The check-in desk is manned by, AMENA EMAMI, a 20-something Afghan woman, kind, but unintimidated. She's examining a cat as Lucas passes. Off a YELP from the EXAMINING ROOM -

LUCAS

Is my dad working?

AMENA EMAMI

A son should respect his father's wishes. In my country -

LUCAS

- Please, no wisdom, Amena. You should have called me.

As Lucas moves to the examining room, Amena, in Afghani, mutters her exasperation with Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I know a few of those words, so watch it.

We stay with Lucas who is now in the EXAMINING ROOM with his father, ERNIE CORT, mid-60s, a cranky, old school vet, who examines an angelic MIXED PUPPY, DINO -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Dad, why - ?

ERNIE

- Hey, it's Wolf Boy. You made the five o'clock news -

LUCAS

Why are you working? You promised no more than two hours a day and -

ERNIE

- and you promised you wouldn't get shot up over there. Guess neither one of us can keep a promise.

LUCAS

But I'm all healed up and you have a bigass tumor.

ERNIE

Don't flatter yourself, you're still scrambled, living out of a duffle after two months back -

LUCAS

- alright, alright, we're both horrible people. Why don't you just tell me what's wrong with the pup so I can get you upstairs and out of here.

ERNIE

Dog's named Dino... hypotensive, weak heart, compromised arteries... Seems like the same infection that killed the mastiff.

This alarms Lucas who takes his dad's stethoscope, listens to the puppy's heart. As we saw with the wolf, it's a sensory, careful process. It's like Lucas can sense what's inside the animal, feel what it feels. He checks the breath with his palm...

LUCAS

Blood and fluids...?

ERNIE

All negative, same as the mastiff.

But Lucas notices something. He's concerned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCAS

Myocarditis. I saw the same thing
in one of the wolves.

ERNIE

How is that possible?

LUCAS

It's possible if it crossed species
from wolf to dog.

Ernie knows this could be very bad news -

ERNIE

Crossed... I'm too old for this.

LUCAS

That's what I've been saying...
(off the puppy)
We're going to need a pathology lab
and a great cardiologist.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - MEDICAL EQUIPMENT STORAGE ROOM

Filled with medical devices. The room is dimly lit. STREWN
CLOTHES hang on the equipment - ultrasounds, portable x-rays,
etc. On a gurney a couple is having loud and enthusiastic
sex. Suddenly the guy, DR. HENRY LO, 30's, a Korean-American
cardiology resident, freezes. The woman, DR. DIANA HESS, the
earthy, top resident pathologist is not happy about this -

HENRY LO

What was that? Was that someone?

DIANA HESS

Are you kidding, Henry? I was just
about -

HENRY LO

I'm not risking suspension, no
matter how good it feels, Diana -

They both now hear a key in the door lock. Diana quickly
grabs a WHITE COAT with one hand and shoves Henry off the
gurney. He and his clothes land with a THUD, hidden on the
other side of the gurney, as the door opens and Kara enters -

KARA

I've been paging you for ten
minutes, Dr. Hess. I need you to
look at some tissue right away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIANA HESS

Sure... I... was giving myself a
breast exam.

KARA

Just get dressed.
(then to the unseen Henry)
And Dr. Lo, I need you to do my
rounds while I'm in pathology.

Kara exits. Henry sits up, horrified he was caught. As they
scramble for their clothes -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / PATHOLOGY LAB - NIGHT

Diana's lair. Filled with a prized collection of hi-tech
diagnostic devices -- sequencers, scanners, spectrometers.
Kara is with Diana. Diana is at a microscope, examining
tissue which we see on a monitor -

DIANA HESS

Melissa Danner's heart tissue is
definitely necrotized. But I can't
identify a pathogen.

KARA

So we have heart tissue dying at an
alarming rate, and you can't tell
me what's causing it.

DIANA HESS

Hey, cut me a some slack, I'll get
the little bastard.

Kara starts to lay out every single possibility that they
might encounter -

KARA

I need you to log the
bradyarrhythmias. Odds are you'll
find they're subnormative. So -

Diana is the one person who can speak honestly to Kara -

DIANA HESS

- Your job's big enough, Kara, you
don't have to do mine too.

KARA

... Sorry.

Separating work and friendship is difficult for Kara, and she
wishes she was better at it. After a beat, she tries again -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA (CONT'D)
... Dr. Lo? Seriously?

DIANA HESS
The man knows his anatomy. Or
mine, I should say - How long has
it been since Danny moved away
anyway?

KARA
Some people aren't meant to be in a
relationship. There's no shame in
it.

DIANA HESS
The storage room is not a
relationship.

But Kara doesn't want to get into this. She changes the
subject back to work -

KARA
- Did you try the serum-ascites
albumin gradient?

DIANA HESS
... I really hate it when you think
of things I don't.

EXT./INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Lucas, in scrubs, wearing an ID badge and carrying a large,
ventilated cooler labeled, HUMAN TRANSPLANT ORGAN, rushes
into the hospital, heads straight to the security desk. The
security GUARD sees the transplant cooler, grows alarmed -

GUARD
What are you going?! Transplants
can't come through this door.

LUCAS
Cardiology's expecting me. Unless
you want the patient to die because
I used the wrong door.

GUARD
(rattled)
Fourth floor.

As Lucas heads for the elevator -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIOLOGY FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas gets off the elevator. Stops a passing nurse.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NURSE
(re: cooler)
Hey, hey, those go to -

LUCAS
- Dr. Martins's expecting this.
Where is she?

NURSE
Pathology. But -

LUCAS
Floor?

NURSE
Three, but -

And as Lucas rushes off -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / PATHOLOGY LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Kara and Diana look at a test panel on a monitor -

DIANA HESS
SAAG results are normal, but this
doesn't make sense... why the
increased JPV?

KARA
Is she on the pill?

DIANA HESS
Not according to her hormone
levels.

Just then, the door bursts opens and Lucas enters with the
transplant cooler -

KARA
What...? You can't come in here
with that!

LUCAS
(to Diana)
Dr. Martins?

Diana is immediately attracted to the guy -

DIANA HESS
Wouldn't that be nice.

KARA
I'm Dr. Martins. And all organs
enter through the basement -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Just then, we hear BARKING from inside the cooler -

KARA (CONT'D)

What the hell is in there?!

Lucas opens the cooler to reveal THE SICK PUPPY, Dino -

LUCAS

I have a patient with acute-onset
dyspnea, RV dysfunction with
increased JVP -

KARA

- You brought a dog in here?!

LUCAS

I spoke to the CDC, the NIH, HHS to
find the right cardiologist. They
all said you're the best in Boston -

DIANA HESS

- Wait, did you say increased JVP?

KARA

Do not engage, Dr. Hess!

Kara picks up the phone, pissed -

KARA (CONT'D)

Get me security! Security! I want
security now!

LUCAS

My god, you're like a marmot who's
spotted an eagle -

KARA

- What?! -

LUCAS

- Rapidly repeated high-pitch
vocalization, tension in the
sternocleidomastoid muscle - but
I'm not a threat. I just need-

Diana looks at Lucas' badge.

DIANA HESS

- He's a veterinarian, Kara.

KARA

(horrified)
You're a vet?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCAS

Yeah. And a veterinarian. So now that I have your attention -
(all business now)
- I ran panels, but I need PCR analysis, which I know you can do -

DIANA HESS

- What did the panels say?

KARA

(stopping her)
Dr. Hess!

LUCAS

Everything came back negative. Couldn't find any pathogens, not viral, bacterial, or fungal.

DIANA HESS

(to Kara)
Sorry, but the pooch has increased JVP, now this... it sounds a little too familiar, doesn't it?

LUCAS

Wait - you're seeing the same thing with your patients?

KARA

Not the same because my patients are human.

LUCAS

Both mammals.

KARA

(she's had it)
Look, I'm sorry about your dog, he's very cute, and I'm sorry you didn't get into a real medical school, but I did, and now I'm a highly trained, highly regarded physician, whose job it is to save a young woman's life, which doesn't leave me a whole lot of time to throw you and Fido a bone.

LUCAS

You sure didn't mind wasting a hell of a lot of time with that self-serving speech. And his name is Dino.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

That's it. She's had it. Now into the phone as Lucas talks over her -

KARA

- Security? This is Dr. Martins.
I'm in pathology -

LUCAS

- I have treated over 30 species,
you treat one, only one, and I'm
telling you that this dog and your -

They're interrupted by a loud voice on the hospital speaker -

SPEAKER

Code Blue! Room 315! Code Blue!

KARA

That's Melissa Danner.

Kara puts down the phone, rushes out. Lucas follows unconcerned about the consequences. As Diana runs after Lucas-

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ICU ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kara rushes into the room to find Henry Lo working on Melissa, two crash team nurses assisting, more on the way -

HENRY

She's seizing.

Kara goes to crisis mode, clearing Melissa's airways, checking the BIVAD -- an emergency exterior PACEMAKER -- that's attached to her chest -

KARA

Come on. *Come on...* get
nitroprusside in the drip!

A tense beat as the seizures stop, but it's not good -

HENRY

She's in ventricular failure -

ON DIANA AND LUCAS, crowding into the room. Lucas scans the monitor bank, points to an image of Melissa's heart and -

LUCAS

Check the septum, the infection
attacks the septum.

KARA

Get him out of here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIANA HESS

(sotto)

Is he right, Kara?

He is right, but Kara is too proud to admit it and searches for another solution -

KARA

I'm not relying on a vet, Dr. Hess!

(then, to Henry)

Get her synced.

ON HENRY, at the BIVAD controls -

HENRY

I can't get in! The ventricles are acting like they're connected.

LUCAS

Because they are connected.

Kara glares at him, but knows he's right. Lucas becomes calm, quiet, whispering not to embarrass her in front of the others. It's as if Lucas can put himself in sync with her - an animal moment, like when Lucas calmed the wolf... but with Kara it's almost seductive...

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Look, all species share traits with each other... That should turn you on not off, it means more information, more knowledge... Now, you know the septum's gone, you felt it... That means she's only got a one chamber heart.

DIANA HESS

And unfortunately no one can live with a one chamber heart.

LUCAS

Snakes have a one chamber heart and they live just fine. Set the BIVAD to single ventricle.

KARA

But she's a human being, not a reptile!

LUCAS

How about a little intraspecies humility, doc? It's your patient's only chance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Melissa's blood pressure is bottoming, circulation almost at a standstill. Her extremities start to fail and her eyes roll open as the brain stops receiving oxygen.

ON KARA watching Melissa die, she realizes Lucas' suggestion is all that's left -

KARA

(to Henry)

Set the BIVAD to single chamber operation.

Henry does... A painful, tense beat. Then, a BEEP from the monitors, followed by another, and another and the unmistakable sound of a working heart -

On Melissa, breath resuming, color returning to her face.

Kara is stunned and relieved. She turns to Lucas, for one of the few times in her life, at a loss and impressed with him, in spite of herself, until she sees his big 'I told you so' grin -

LUCAS

Now let's test my puppy, okay?

Off Kara wondering what she got herself into -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / IMAGING LAB - EVENING

Kara and Lucas are surrounded by cutting edge diagnostic devices. The puppy is on a plain white table. Lucas calms the dog as Kara sticks sensors to his chest, head and back -

KARA

I hope you realize I'm using the world's most advanced imaging equipment on your dog. Last week, Tiger Woods was on this table.

LUCAS

Surprised you even know who Tiger Woods is. Didn't think a fancy human doctor like you would have time for extracurricular activities.

KARA

Time is not a finite thing. You can bend it to your will -
(pointed)
- just like anything else.

LUCAS

Wow, OK, so I'm guessing your hobby is quantum physics?

KARA

And do you have a problem with science? With a life of the mind? That's why you sought me out, isn't it? Because I'm the best? Because I'm, what would you say, the Alpha?

Lucas looks at her and smiles. He's challenged by Kara and likes it. There is clearly a little something between them but neither one can admit it. Kara changes the subject -

KARA (CONT'D)

Let's just get this done. I'm taking a big risk doing this.

LUCAS

Dogs have a history here, you know. A hundred years ago this place once had a vet school. Best in the country, better than the med school.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

Fortunately, we've progressed.
(re: Dino)
You can sedate him now.

Lucas gets to work, gathers the folds at the back of the puppy's neck and injects a sedative, we -

FIND SUSAN AND DIANA, watching Kara and Lucas from the other side of a glass wall that separates the control area from the machines -

DIANA HESS

He's a war hero, you know.

SUSAN GIBBS

You vetted the vet?

DIANA HESS

Of course I did. Look at him.

SUSAN GIBBS

You know you don't have to try and sleep with every man you meet.

DIANA HESS

I know I don't have to.

(then)

He was in Special Forces on the front lines in Afghanistan, specialized in zoonotic and human disease, won the Silver Star...

SUSAN GIBBS

And he loves puppies.

Diana smiles at this -

DIANA HESS

I'm up for a threesome if you are.

Susan is totally embarrassed as Kara walks in with Lucas -

KARA

(to Susan)

I need visualization of the intraventricular septum and both ventricles.

Susan activates a giant, donut shaped Computer Tomography Scanner, which lowers over the puppy's sedated body.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

On several monitors we see: a full body scan of the dog, isolated real time images of its circulatory system, nervous system, muscles and brain. They are focused on a monitor which shows a 3D model of the heart in incredible detail.

KARA (CONT'D)

This is the puppy's heart.

Susan brings up the image of another heart -

SUSAN GIBBS

This is Melissa Danner's.

KARA

(disbelief)

They're almost identical.

LUCAS

Amazing the things mammals have in common, isn't it?

Despite her desire for Lucas to be wrong, Kara can't help but be transfixed by the two hearts -

KARA

Both exhibit compromised tricuspid valves.

A new image - the interior of the BEATING HEART - comes up -

KARA (CONT'D)

Both exhibit deteriorating septum...

LUCAS

Indicating an unknown shared pathogen.

KARA

(interrupting)

Indicating the possibility of an unknown shared pathogen.

DIANA HESS

As yet unknown.

LUCAS

Then get to work because it's already jumped species -

DIANA HESS

- You know you can be very bossy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUCAS

This thing will spread unless we find out what all these patients have in common.

They know he's right -- there is danger here. Just then, Kara's pager goes off. She looks, it's important -

KARA

(to Susan)

Analyze and compare both sets of images and rerun their panels with the new information.

And Kara rushes out, leaving Lucas, Diana and Susan -

EXT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ROOF / HELIPAD - NIGHT

Views across the massive medical complex to downtown Boston and the harbor. Kara and Henry rush out to the roof as a MEDEVAC descends onto the pad -

The rotors stop and TECHS transfer five year-old KATIE DONAHUE (hooked up to EKG, IV, etc.) to a gurney. Her mother, JULIE DONAHUE, and an EMT jump down beside her. The EMT hands Henry a tablet. ON THE SCREEN we see Katie's chart and a real time readout of Katie's vitals -

HENRY LO

Katie Donahue. Five years-old. Premature ventricular contractions, heart rate over 130 and climbing, oxygen saturation falling.

Kara takes out her stethoscope. Starts listening to Katie's heart as they're on the move.

JULIE DONAHUE

What's happening to my daughter?

We see another side of Kara now, calm, kind and empathetic to her patient, even in this high pressure situation -

KARA

We're going to find out.

(to Katie)

Hi, Katie, I'm Dr. Martins and I'm going to make you feel better, okay?

HENRY LO

(sotto, to Kara)

This is getting scary. She's presenting like the others.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

(the boss)

Your emotions have no place here,
Dr. Lo. Do you understand? - Now
call Cardio Intensive, tell them
we're on our way. And tell Gibbs
and Hess to meet us there.

As Kara and Henry rush the gurney into the elevator -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / IMAGING LAB - SAME TIME

Lucas hates being left as Susan and Diana head out -

DIANA HESS

We'll be back as soon as we can.

SUSAN GIBBS

Don't touch anything. These are my
machines, my children if you will,
and as such -

DIANA HESS

- Gibbs!

And Diana and Susan run out. Lucas looks at the screens
Susan left open and gets an idea. He clicks on Melissa
Danner's info and pulls up her whole case file. As he starts
to print out the file, HIS PHONE RINGS. He answers and we -

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - SAME TIME

Ernie is chasing a rabbit around the examining room as he
speaks with Lucas on speaker -

ERNIE

The Ipswich Preserve called. You
were right.

LUCAS

- The wolf has it, too.

ERNIE

You find out anything at the
hospital?

LUCAS

Yeah, there are two human patients
here with the same symptoms. One's
a kid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERNIE

Holy crap.

LUCAS

Yeah.

Lucas seems something, grabs a paper from the printer and sees that the human patient, Melissa, has: "reddish nodules in the mouth and esophagus." This is a huge red flag -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Get that wolf started on Cipro.

ERNIE

Cipro?

LUCAS

Yes, yes, Cipro! I'll meet you at the reserve as soon as I can.

Lucas hangs up, gets an idea. He rummages through Susan's desk, finds an ophthalmoscope which he takes back to the dog. He shines the light into the golden's pupil and sees a DISTINCT STARBURST PATTERN in the retina -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(realizing)

It's got to be...

Off Lucas, with a lead --

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / INTENSIVE CARE / KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kara, is treating Katie, barking out orders to the team but calm and sweet to Katie. She is now looking in Katie's eyes. We see the same STARBURST PATTERN Lucas just saw in Dino. But it doesn't seem to mean much to Kara -

KARA

Get 100 mg nitroprusside in the drip.

KATIE

I'm dizzy...

Katie's mom, JULIE, watches. She's having trouble keeping it together as she sees Susan wheeling a large scanner to position over Katie -

JULIE DONAHUE

What are you doing?!

Kara shoots Henry a look -- "handle this."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENRY LO

We're just going to take a look at Katie's heart. Why don't you come with me so Dr. Martins and the others can help Katie?

Henry expertly escorts Katie's mother away -

HENRY LO (CONT'D)

I need you to remember what Katie ate, where she went, everything she's been in contact with for the last forty eight hours...

ON KARA with Susan, who has positioned her scanner over Katie's chest -

KARA

Don't be scared, Katie, I'll be right here. Why don't you count with me. Do you like butterflies, let's count butterflies. You can do that, can't you?

The nurse pushes the IV sedative -

KATIE/KARA

One butterfly, two butterflies, three...

And Katie's out as Susan calls up a 3-D image of the heart on the monitor. They study it and -

SUSAN GIBBS

Myocardium's deteriorating, same as the Danner woman and the dog...

Off this ominous realization -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIO / CORRIDOR - A LITTLE LATER

As Kara and Susan walk back to Kara's office -

SUSAN GIBBS

The scans are identical, Dr. Martins.

KARA

Melissa Danner and Katie Donahue have the same disease.

Diana walks up and joins them hearing this -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIANA HESS

And the dog. But I still can't ID a pathogen.

SUSAN GIBBS

If it's gone intraspecies, we could be looking at a pandemic.

DIANA HESS

No. Whatever it is, it only spreads via direct contact with the pathogen, otherwise that beautiful vet would be dead by now.

SUSAN GIBBS

And all of us.

Just as they reach Kara's office, Dr. Fowler reappears, no longer genial. He's pissed and tries to control his anger as he takes Kara aside -

HOWARD FOWLER

So I guess you want me to tell the board you don't want to be Chief of Cardio anymore.

KARA

What? Why? There's no one better -

HOWARD FOWLER

- Then why the hell's a vet treating patients in my hospital? You want us closed down?

KARA

It's a long story but... some of his insights might prove useful.

HOWARD FOWLER

'Might?!' This hospital saves lives every day, Dr. Martins, and if you can't do that without the help of a circus doctor, perhaps you should work someplace else.

KARA

Now wait a minute -

HOWARD FOWLER

- No. I have championed you here, Dr. Martins.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOWARD FOWLER (CONT'D)

I never imagined you were the type
of person who was foolish enough to
throw away her career. Because
that's what you're doing.

Kara thinks about this, her career, all her parents
sacrificed... Finally -

KARA

I'm sorry, Dr. Fowler, you're
right. I'll take care of this.

HOWARD FOWLER

Immediately.

And Fowler walks away. Kara shaken, heads off to do what she
must -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / IMAGING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kara bursts in, determined - But Lucas and his dog are gone.
She sees Melissa's file open on a monitor, knows Lucas must
have been looking at it. As she rushes out, pissed -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIO / MELISSA DANNER'S ROOM

Melissa lays motionless as Lucas uses the ophthalmoscope and
sees the same STAR BURST PATTERN we saw in the puppy's and
Katie's eyes. Then something else catches his attention - a
speck of GLITTER on Melissa's temple. We SEE A FLASH OF
LUCAS'S MEMORY: he saw the same glitter on the wolf. But -

KARA (O.S.)

Out! Now!

Lucas turns to see Kara with two SECURITY OFFICERS -

LUCAS

What? No. Look! Star Retina. It
can indicate Bartonella. Vets see
it all the time. When the infected
endothelial cells are released into
the bloodstream -

KARA

(understanding)

- they can invade the phagosomal
membrane... Thank you for that.
But I can take it from here.

LUCAS

Don't be a fool! We're working
together, we're getting somewhere
here! You know that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

I examined your dog, that was our
deal. Good-bye.

Kara nods to the security officers who escort Lucas out. Off
Kara hating what she did but resolved -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. IPSWICH WILDLIFE RESERVE - ESTABLISHING - DAWN

A pristine enclave on the coast. Forests, marshland and a pack of wild wolves. Lucas drives up the to the administration area. Parks outside a barn-like structure marked INFIRMARY -

INT. IPSWICH WILDLIFE RESERVE - INFIRMARY - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas walks in to find Ernie and Amena sitting with the wolf who is now listless and fading...

LUCAS
How's he doing?

AMENA EMAMI
I tried to get him to stay at the clinic -

ERNIE
- I don't need a babysitter -

AMENA EMAMI
- And someone named Richard Samuels called. Twice.

Lucas darkens. This is not something he needs right now -

LUCAS
Shit. If he calls again, tell him I moved.

AMENA EMAMI
He said it was urgent. Who is he?

LUCAS
Not important. I just want to hear about the wolf, that's all.

Amena reacts, she's taken aback by how adamant Lucas is, as Ernie answers -

ERNIE
Capillary refill time is slowing.
He's such a beautiful animal...

Lucas examines the wolf, lightly presses the wolf's gums, observes the color as it pales and, a moment later, the blood returns, then feels his chest, under his legs...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

His lymph nodes are huge.

AMENA EMAMI

I'd say Lymphadenitis but this seems like it's secondary...

The wolf can't keep his head up any longer. Lucas realizes this is the end. He lays down on his side, eye to eye with the wolf, gently stroking his head.

LUCAS

It's okay... Let go... I'll be right here...

Ernie looks at his son who is watching the wolf die, helpless to stop it -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / KATIE DONAHUE'S ROOM

Katie is hooked up to tubes and monitors. Her mother is trying to get her to eat -

JULIE DONAHUE

Please, sweetheart, how about a eating a little...

KATIE

I can't. I don't feel good.

JULIE DONAHUE

You want to watch TV?

KATIE

It hurts my eyes...

Kara enters the room, takes in the tension and fear. She handles it perfectly, with calm and compassion -

KARA

(to Julie)

Hi, Katie, how are you doing?

JULIE DONAHUE

Not well. Look at her. She's getting worse...

KARA

That's why I've put her on a course of IV antibiotics.

JULIE DONAHUE

So what's wrong with her?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

We think it could be something called Bartonella, but while we run more tests, this is the most logical course of treatment.

JULIE DONAHUE

(very scared now)
So you don't know.

KARA

Not for sure, not yet.

JULIE DONAHUE

They said you're the best...
Promise you won't give up on her.
Promise you'll do everything you can to save her...

Kara looks at Katie, knowing this little girl's life is in her hands and she doesn't have any answers. She needs to stay in control, but this is getting to her. She musters her professionalism, looks at Julie and -

KARA

... Of course I will.

As Kara looks at Katie again, trying to keep her emotions in check -

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - SAME TIME

Lucas sits with Dino. The puppy is on a drip, listless, panting, shivering. It's heartbreaking.

LUCAS

I know you're cold... I'm getting you -

And with this Amena enters with some blankets, covering Dino -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Thanks... He's dying too. And so is that little girl...

AMENA EMAMI

You can't save them all, Lucas.
Saving me was enough of a miracle.

Lucas knows there's truth in this but he can't accept it. As he strokes Dino -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kara is in the chair, next to Katie's bed, asleep, some children's books on her. She wakes as Julie Donahue enters -

JULIE DONAHUE

Dr. Martins, I didn't expect you to still be here.

KARA

(waking)

Oh. Yes - I must've fallen -

(awake now)

Katie and I were reading some books...

JULIE DONAHUE

How is she?

Kara listens to Katie's heart. She brightens the tiniest bit, she's hearing something good -

KARA

The S3 gallop is gone.

JULIE DONAHUE

What does that mean?

KARA

It could be good news.

Just then, Katie's eyes open -

JULIE DONAHUE

Hi, Sweetie. How are you feeling?

KATIE

(to her mother)

Who are you?

JULIE DONAHUE

It's me, Katie. It's mommy.

Katie is still totally lost, scared -

KATIE

No. I don't know you.

JULIE DONAHUE

Sweetie, it's mommy, I'm your mommy...

(to Kara, losing it)

What's wrong with her?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Off Kara, struggling to find an answer, feeling personally responsible -

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Lucas is still with Dino and now Ernie. Lucas checks the dog's vitals. It's dire -

LUCAS

He's not responding to the Cipro.

ERNIE

Are they having any luck with it at the hospital?

LUCAS

They're not talking to me.

ERNIE

Them too?... Look, kid, people can't be trained like animals. Learn to be a part of the species you were born into, it'll do you good.

Just then, Kara appears in the doorway of the examining room -

KARA

My patient is deteriorating. I need to know if your dog has developed any other -

LUCAS

- Wow, you must be out of options to come slumming down here.

ERNIE

(stepping in)
Sorry about my kid. I'm Ernie. The nice one. You must be the cardiologist.

KARA

(extending a hand)
Dr. Martins. Kara.

LUCAS

(pointed)
Dad was just leaving.
(off Ernie)
Bye, Dad.

And Ernie reluctantly walks out. Then -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You tossed me out of the hospital
to save your own ass, didn't you?

KARA

... I'm sorry. But right now all
that's important is that little
girl... and I'm losing her...

LUCAS

You've been crying.

She has been but can't admit it -

KARA

... I don't cry. I just need -

LUCAS

(but looking at her eyes)
- The lacrimal puncta and
canaliculi are swollen like in an
elephant -

KARA

- I'm not an elephant. Can we
focus please?

LUCAS

You know animals use tears and
whimpering to seek aid from the
pack. Only humans deny sadness and
despair.

KARA

Perhaps because we're more evolved -
(back to business)
Look, the girl is disoriented now,
amnesic... I made her mother a
promise -

Just then, she notices something on one of the puppy's paws.

KARA (CONT'D)

Are those Janeway Lesions?

Lucas examines Dino's paws and sees the lesions. He'd missed
them and is pissed with himself but impressed with her -

LUCAS

How the hell did you see those?

Lucas grabs a magnifier, examines the dog's paw pads, sees -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Osler's Nodes. And splinter
hemorrhages.

KARA
Both indicators for endocarditis.

LUCAS
That narrows the range of possible
pathogens.

KARA
... Look, I didn't know your
patients and mine could have the
same disease, and since you missed
these Janeway Lesions, you don't
know everything either...

LUCAS
... I thought I wasn't allowed in
your precious human hospital.

KARA
Oh, you're not. If we do this,
we're outlaws.

As Lucas smiles, knowing he's being played, and he likes it
just fine -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN.

EXT. BOSTON HOSPITAL COMPLEX - ANNEX - DAY

Across a massive sprawl of buildings, ranging from jewel box colonials to futuristic research facilities, we stop at a weird, run down nineteenth century brick building known as the ANNEX. Lucas stands with Dino (in a crate) and Kara.

LUCAS

This is one of the medical school's original buildings, isn't it?

KARA

Yeah, the hospital is trying to tear it down, but it's been declared a historical landmark. Fowler's fighting it.

We stay with them as they enter -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - ANNEX - CONTINUOUS

There are vestiges of the original 19th century architecture, but it's now used for file storage. Hundreds of boxes, crates, and stacks of antiquated equipment are piled haphazardly everywhere. As Lucas takes in the history -

LUCAS

This was an operating theater...

KARA

Some of the first research into anesthesia was done here.

LUCAS

And it's where Landsteiner lectured on blood groupings...

Kara's surprised he knows this.

KARA

It's just storage now, so we should be safe here for a while.

They continue through the boxes, into a large space -

LUCAS

... This is a pretty big risk for your career, isn't it?

Kara wonders if she should let this get personal... Finally -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

When I lived in Nigeria... one day, I was little, just five... I went with my mother to the Niger Delta, she was a nurse and went to treat patients injured in the fighting there... A boy my age, he'd been caught in the crossfire and was dying... my mother was trying everything, but she just had basic first aid supplies, no medicine... I saw her work, do what she could with what she had, but it wasn't enough... the boy died, in such pain... When I came here... I knew I had to study at the best schools, work with the best equipment - design it if I had to - work at the best hospital with the best people... I've learned to navigate the politics here, but if that's going to get in the way of saving lives, that's not the career I want, not the career my mother would want for me.

He takes this in, more than a little moved -

LUCAS

... Protecting our own is primal, no matter how much society tries to beat it out of us.

KARA

Yeah. So you'd better not screw this up for me.

Lucas smiles, then, around a corner, sees Susan, setting up a bank of giant, person-sized monitors as Diana and Henry unpack diagnostic equipment -

SUSAN GIBBS

I'm ready. There was Internet for their filing system so we're networked into the hospital.

Susan turns on her system and the monitors come to life -

INT. ANNEX - MINUTES LATER

Kara is at the monitors, reviewing the case, showing images of their patients - Melissa Danner, Katie, a MASTIFF, the wolf, and Dino, the puppy -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

We have a thirty-two year old female, a five year old female, an adult male wolf, two dogs, one adult, one puppy...

LUCAS

All contracted acute myocarditis.

DIANA HESS

Three are dead.

LUCAS

Three?!

HENRY LO

Melissa Danner died two hours ago.

KARA

(affected but hiding it)
Her heart basically
disintegrated... like your animals.

Then, on images of Katie and the puppy -

DIANA HESS

Bartonella's out because there was
no evidence of insects or
parasites.

Kara is studying the monitors, developing an idea -

KARA

We shouldn't focus on what killed
them.

Lucas is surprised by this -

LUCAS

Why else are we here?

KARA

(off Katie and Dino)
To find out why these two still
alive. I'd posit because they're
the youngest they have larger
thymus glands -

Holy shit, he gets it, she's right and he's impressed -

LUCAS

- Yes! So they're producing more T-
Lymphocytes -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA

- If we can increase T-Cell counts
we might be able to save them.

Off the team, with a plan -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / KATIE'S ROOM - LATER

Kara, Henry and a nurse are at Katie's bed, adding a syringe of whitish-yellow fluid to the IV. Julie, Katie's mother, is nearby, scared.

JULIE DONAHUE

And if this works, Katie will get
better? She'll wake up and
remember me again, right?

KARA

We hope so. We'll know fairly
quickly if it's working.

Henry injects the needle into Katie's IV. Kara monitors Katie's vitals. At first, nothing. Then -

JULIE DONAHUE

She's moving!

KARA

It could be an involuntary reflex.

HENRY LO

Color is improving...

Katie has, indeed, gained some color. But her cheeks redden to an angry red -

KARA

She's flushing!

Katie, still disoriented, starts desperately SCRATCHING at her face and arms -

JULIE DONAHUE

What's happening?!

HENRY LO

Heart rate dropping -

KARA

- Hold her arms down!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Henry grabs one of her arms, but it's too late to stop Katie from ripping out her IV before she begins to COUGH -- a horrifying deep, loud, hacking sound that seems like it's tearing apart her very core.

Henry sits Katie up. This stops the coughing, but she RETCHES all over the front of his scrubs -- covering Henry with GREEN-BROWN BILE -

KARA (CONT'D)

I need epinephrine, a Levo drip -

As a nurse grabs a needle for Kara, Katie begins to SEIZE - Julie cries out as a nurse hustles Julie out of the room and Henry tries to reconnect the IV -

HENRY

Her blood vessels have constricted!
I can't find a vein!

Henry and Kara desperately look for a vein.

KARA

We can go in through the neck.
That's how Cort did it.

HENRY LO

But she's not a dog -

LUCAS

- Are you on the team or not, Dr.
Lo?! She needs clysis or we're
going to lose her!

She takes the needle, gathers the loose skin at the back of Katie's neck and injects the fluid into the folds. Katie begins to calm her violent seizing and thrashing.

HENRY LO

She's stabilizing.

But Kara looks at Katie. Depleted from the seizure, scratch marks running down her arms -

HENRY LO (CONT'D)

We almost killed her.

KARA

(unbroken)
But we know it's not T-cells.

INT. ANNEX - NIGHT

We're back in the Annex with Kara, Susan, Diana and Lucas. Henry is covered in the bile that Katie threw up -

KARA

Can you use the bile from Dr. Lo's clothes to check for pathogens?

DIANA HESS

You know I can. Take 'em off, Henry.

HENRY LO

Is there a place, I can -

LUCAS

- Why can we stare at an animal in a natural state but become terrified of a human penis.

DIANA HESS

Depends on the penis.

KARA

All we need is the shirt, Dr. Lo.

As Henry removes his shirt, Lucas' cell vibrates, he looks at it. The caller ID shows: RICHARD SAMUELS. Pissed he declines the call and, unthinking, slams the phone down -

KARA (CONT'D)

You okay?

LUCAS

(feigning indifference)

Yeah. Why?

(changing the subject, to Lo)

Give me your shirt.

Lucas takes Henry's shirt and examines the bile, sees something! A SPECK OF GLITTER -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Glitter. This is the third time. I saw it on Melissa Danner and on the wolf and now the girl!

SUSAN GIBBS

Twice is a coincidence, three times is a pattern.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

All the patients had to have been
in the same place.

KARA

(to Susan)

Can you run possible scenarios if
we get the patients' activities
prior to infection?

SUSAN GIBBS

Sure. I'll prepare a grid.

MONTAGE - MUSIC UNDER

- Kara talking to Katie's mother, taking notes -
- Henry going through the notes and history of Melissa Danner using both paper and internet searches -
- Lucas plowing through file from the Wolf Sanctuary, both paper and electronic -
- Susan compiles all the information. We see commonalities, tied to locations and time lines that form an intricate web:
- Katie Donahue's home, school, play date and a birthday party.
- Melissa Danner's jogging routes, shopping trips, commutes -
- The Wolf's roamings from the sanctuary to downtown Boston -
- Where Dino was walked, groomed, car rides, etc -

This web overlays on a satellite map of Boston. We see, within the Wolf's twelve mile route from the sanctuary, a number of points where all the victims could overlap -

KARA

No wolves going into a wine store
or a supermarket.

Two points drop off the map.

LUCAS

Take off everything that's indoors.
We know the wolf was outside the
whole time.

More points drop off the map just as Kara's pager goes off -

KARA

Another one just came in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kara and Henry head out, Lucas follows -

KARA (CONT'D)
(to Lucas)
Stay!

LUCAS
(going with her)
Not this time. We're a pack now.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ER

A RESIDENT and two NURSES struggle with a patient we'll know as GREG WILLIAMS - late thirties - as Kara, Lucas and Henry rush in; Henry with the patient's info on a tablet -

HENRY LO
- He's a John Doe - Disoriented,
heart rate 160, BP 210, difficulty
breathing like the others -

KARA
(listening)
Heart rate's increasing -

Lucas sees that the nurses have started to cut off Greg's clothing. It's a maintenance uniform. This gives Lucas an idea. He grabs the scraps of cloth, finds what he's looking for: a patch that says "BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT."

LUCAS
The infection's origination point
has to be a park! What park do you
work in?

Greg manages a weak, unintelligible response before he starts to seize. Kara and Henry swing into action as Lucas finds the guy's wallet and sees a name -

LUCAS (CONT'D)
(reading)
Greg Williams.

As Lucas rushes out -

KARA
100 milligrams lasix drip...
(to Henry)
Will you be okay on your own?

HENRY LO
Would you have chosen me if I
wouldn't be?

EXT. FRANKLIN PARK - DAY

A GARBAGE CAN BEING KICKED OVER, garbage spilling everywhere.
PULL BACK to see Lucas and Kara looking through the garbage -

LUCAS

I checked the Park Department.
Greg Williams works maintenance
here, mainly garbage.

KARA

What are we looking for?

LUCAS

I have no idea.

As Lucas kicks over another trash can, begins wading through
the detritus and Kara sifts through her pile -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Never thought I'd see you sifting
through garbage.

KARA

Humans are far more complex than
animals, Dr. Cort. Perhaps you
should devote more attention
getting to know them.

LUCAS

... I've been hearing that a lot
lately. And it's always annoying.

KARA

(then, off garbage)
Glitter!

She has glittered paper tiara. Lucas scans the area,
focused, almost in a trance...

KARA (CONT'D)

Dr. Cort? Are you okay?... Dr.
Cort?

But he's lost in thought as he scans the park, the trees,
ground, squirrels, dogs... it's Lucas' VET VISION again...
each animal seems magnified, their breathing, movements,
colors... Lucas looks up and sees - A SMALL BIRD: white
breast, blue green wings and crown, soaring over the park,
rejoining its flock, which is perched in a stand of trees. A
small group of birdwatchers are photographing them -

LUCAS

Oh my God...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

What?

LUCAS

White Winged Swallows.

KARA

Okay... and?

LUCAS

They belong in Mexico. Boston
isn't on their migratory pattern...
That explains the birdwatchers.

KARA

Could the birds be the carriers?

LUCAS

They're the only anomaly in the
park... But how are they spreading
it...?

Beneath the tree, kids are jumping in a pile of leaves. All
senses acute, Lucas focuses on the leaves, heads for them -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

The leaves!

KARA

(following)
Leaves?!

LUCAS

They're covered in droppings!
(to the kids)
Out of the leaves!! Now!! Get out
of the leaves!!

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ANNEX

The work tables are piled with trash bags filled with leaves
from the park. Diana, Kara, Henry, Susan and now Amena are
all prepping leaves for analysis -- grinding them in a lab
blender, Diana feeding the fine powder into a line of DNA
SEQUENCERS. Lucas enters, dragging another bag -

LUCAS

Parks and health department
cordoned off the area, just in
case.

DIANA HESS

Enough leaves. The DNA sequencer
can't hold that many.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMENA EMAMI

The leaves are going to be covered
in more than just bird scat.
There's pollen, yeasts -

KARA

- But if the pollen formed a dust -

LUCAS

- all the patients could have
inhaled it -

The sequencer starts displaying a DENSE ARRAY OF GENETIC CODE-

DIANA HESS

This doesn't make sense.

KARA

What do you have?

DIANA HESS

It looks like Bartonella -

KARA

- But you ran cultures for
Bartonella, nothing grew.

DIANA HESS

It has to be a mutation. But
knowing how to treat it means
breaking down the genetic code.
And that could take weeks.

LUCAS

We don't have weeks.

DIANA HESS

Thanks, like I needed a reminder.

Off all of them trying to figure a way out of this -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN.

INT. ANNEX - NIGHT

Coffee cups and take out Chinese containers litter the annex as they work... Diana has a dozen agar plates lined up on a light table. She's dropping solutions from different pipettes on them -

DIANA HESS

All we can do is try variants of anti-virals and antibiotics again and hope that -

KARA

- But nothing worked, Diana.

Lucas enters with Amena, striding purposefully, Lucas carrying a cage -

LUCAS

Amena and I caught one of the birds.

SUSAN GIBBS

(to Lucas, concerned)

You have cuts and abrasions to your face and -

AMENA EMAMI

- He fell out of the tree. It was funny.

Lucas shoots her a look -

AMENA EMAMI (CONT'D)

In Afghanistan we laugh when we can.

LUCAS

(continuing)

... Okay, we know the birds carry the virus. But they don't get sick. Why not?

*

Beat.

KARA

Are you going to tell us?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

No. That wasn't rhetorical. I
have no idea.

This is okay with Kara who immediately starts thinking -

KARA

Okay... They must have some
resistance or metabolic defense
that our patients don't.

LUCAS

Right.
(to Susan)
So put Tweetie in your machine and -

Lucas goes to Susan's imaging console and lays the birdcage
on it. Susan reacts like we have never seen, a mother
protecting her child -

SUSAN GIBBS

Never touch my console! Never! Do
I make myself clear, Dr. Cort?!

Lucas actually takes a step back, surprised. No one has seen
this Susan before and they are a little stunned. As Susan
grabs the cage and moves to the scanner with the bird -

SUSAN GIBBS (CONT'D)

Based on past scans, I'd like to
focus on the ventricles and
circulatory system first, if that's
okay, Dr. Martins.

KARA

I don't think anyone here will
argue with you, Dr. Gibbs.

INT. ANNEX - NIGHT

Kara, Lucas, Henry and Diana are watching monitors as Susan
images the bird, that is now a 3D scanner machine. Each
monitor shows a different 3D aspect of the bird's physiology:
brain, circulatory system, skeleton, musculature, heart.
It's high tech and very cool -

HENRY LO

All vital signs are normal. We're
back to square one.

But Kara isn't. She's focused on the bird's heart rate -

KARA

No, Dr. Lo. Look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He does. But Lucas spots it first -

LUCAS

It's developing an arrythmia. And
the myocardium is breaking down.

SUSAN GIBBS

Now the bird's getting it, too?

ON Kara, Diana, Susan and Henry - this is a bad sign. But -

LUCAS

This is good.

KARA

You want to explain how the bird
dying is good for us?

LUCAS

It gives us another variable.

SUSAN GIBBS

The difference between the bird in
it's natural habitat and the bird
in Boston?

LUCAS

Of course! Altitude!

He goes to a terminal Amena is at and pulls up some
information -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Their natural habitat is 10,000
feet above sea level.

HENRY LO

Then why are they here?

Amena now takes over and pulls up something she remembers.

AMENA EMAMI

There's a new electrical grid in
Mexico, in Campeche.

We see a Google Earth map with an area of Mexico lit up -

SUSAN GIBBS

I don't understand.

LUCAS

The birds migrate through the area.
When a new area gets electrified,
it can disrupt migratory patterns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA

And how high do these birds fly
when they migrate?

AMENA EMAMI

25,000 feet usually.

LUCAS

A bird's heart rate would be 500
beats a minute in its habitat and
at least 700 when it's flying.

KARA

That means body temperature and
metabolic rate would increase
drastically.

DIANA HESS

(getting it)

Polycythemia! At that altitude the
birds hemoglobin would oxygenate
and destroy any pathogens.

KARA

Yes!

LUCAS

So you're saying that in order to
save this girl's life, we have to
make her fly?

KARA

(excited now)

... Of course we do!

Lucas and the others are totally confused now as Kara starts
to head out. He follows, the others after him -

LUCAS

You want to tell us what's
happening?

KARA

You should know. It was your idea.

LUCAS

It was?

And they're gone -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / HYPOBARIC CENTER

We are in an underground room, dominated by a large HYPOBARIC
CHAMBER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The chamber is a translucent glass tube, about twelve feet long, four foot diameter. It's an impressive and frightening machine that sits on top of a platform that contains oxygen tanks, power supply and controls. The sick Dino is on a gurney, Lucas petting him. Diana is setting up diagnostic equipment as Susan checks the chamber's controls. Kara is with Katie and her mother. Katie is on a gurney, very weak, it's clear she's dying. Kara talks to a desperate Julie -

KARA

- The hypobaric chamber will simulate the altitude that prevents the birds from getting sick and -

JULIE DONAHUE

- Katie's not a bird!

Lucas hears this and moves to Julie -

LUCAS

Look, there's no more time. And this is a brilliant solution. If we don't do it your daughter will definitely die.

JULIE DONAHUE

And you're sure -

LUCAS

- No. Of course not, but -

Julie is horrified by this, Kara quickly drags Lucas to the side -

KARA

Do you have no bedside manner at all?

LUCAS

Why do you think I work with animals?

KARA

Then back up and let me handle her.

Kara goes back to see that Katie has reached out to Dino and it now gently touching the sick dog, a connection between the two that's not lost on anyone. Kara talks gently to Julie -

KARA (CONT'D)

I wish we could give you a guarantee.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA (CONT'D)

I promised I'd do everything I can
and that's what I'm doing... But
sometimes we can only do our best.

JULIE DONAHUE

... and pray.

KARA

And pray.

Julie, scared, nods. Henry sees this and hooks electrodes to
Katie's chest, Lucas does the same to Dino as Julie is led
out of the room by Amena to watch through a glass wall -

HENRY LO

(to Kara)

We can't get their heart rate as
high as the bird's, it'll kill
them.

KARA

We're going to have to push it as
far as we can.

HENRY LO

And pray.

Off Kara as she nods -

MONTAGE -

- We see Katie and Dino being placed in the chamber, Katie
clutching at Dino now, her lifeline. As Dino actually
snuggles closer to Katie...
- Monitor shots showing images of their hearts, blood
pressure and a million other things...
- Remote IVs injecting both Katie and Dino, readying them for
the procedure...
- The chamber door being closed and locked.
- Susan turns on the chamber and we see the pressure and
corresponding elevation. No going back now...
- Everyone is tense, watching anxiously as Diana monitors
blood which is being drawn remotely from both Katie and the
dog. Into this tense and dangerous scene -

A FURIOUS HOWARD FOWLER BURSTS THROUGH THE DOORS -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOWARD FOWLER

What the hell are you doing?! I was just told - Is the girl in there already?!

KARA

Yes.

HOWARD FOWLER

With a goddam dog?!

LUCAS

We're trying to work so why don't you wait outside?

HOWARD FOWLER

Is this your circus doctor?!

KARA

We'll talk later, Dr. Fowler. I believe this is the only course of -

HOWARD FOWLER

- I'm chief of medicine at this hospital and we'll talk whenever the hell I say.

LUCAS

Not when lives are at stake -

Lucas moves to Fowler who pushes him away. Lucas, a well-trained and decorated soldier, quickly disables Fowler and puts him into a headlock -

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Now if I increase the pressure, you'll pass out and I don't want to do that - actually I do, but my dad says I should work on controlling myself.

As Lucas drags Fowler out -

SUSAN GIBBS

(to Diana)

This is a very uncomfortable situation.

FOWLER

(to Lucas)

I'm going to have your ass -

But Lucas doesn't care, tosses Fowler out and locks the door -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KARA

You're definitely around animals
too much. But thank you.
(then back to work)
Dr. Hess, do you have the live scan
of the pathogen?

Diana pulls up dual images of the pathogen. We see her
monitor is connected to a microscope inside the chamber.

DIANA HESS

It's active and alive.

LUCAS

Increase the heart rate...

Kara nods to Susan who increases the 'altitude'. We see
Katie's heart rate begin to climb - 70... 75... 90.

SUSAN GIBBS

Barometric pressure is dropping,
altitude equivalent is eight
thousand feet.

On Diana's monitor, we see the bacteria are still active.

DIANA HESS

Keep going. The pathogen's still
alive.

On Katie and the puppy, starting to feel discomfort as their
heart rates increase...

SUSAN GIBBS

I've got Katie's heart rate up to
one twenty-five...

Katie is now in real discomfort. She clutches the puppy, who
also shows the strain and nuzzles closer to Katie. It's a
heartbreaking sight -

HENRY LO

They can't take much more.

LUCAS

They have to.

Lucas and Kara lock eyes, both nervous but -

KARA

Lower the pressure even more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SUSAN GIBBS
Altitude equivalent: fifteen
thousand feet.

DIANA HESS
Pathogen still viable.

KARA
Get the heart rate higher.

Henry hates this -

HENRY LO
... One seventy...

SUSAN GIBBS
18,000 feet... 21,000...

They're all nervous now. Could they be killing them?

LUCAS
One ninety...

KARA
We can't go over two hundred.

LUCAS
One ninety-seven... eight...

Everyone waits, watches, waits... As the heart rate clicks to 200, we see the latest blood test on Diana's screen and -

DIANA HESS
Hold it there!! It's working! The
pathogen is dying!

They are all thrilled, relieved... They've done it! Kara looks at Julie watching from the other room, seeing their victory and knowing she'll have her daughter back... Kara looks at Lucas who looks back at her with a smile -

LUCAS
That wasn't so hard, was it?

KARA
Easier than finding a new job.

And off a reluctant smile from Kara...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAIL - NIGHT

Lucas is walking out of jail with Kara -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

You didn't have to bail me out, my dad's used to it.

KARA

I had nothing else to do.

LUCAS

I'm bummed Fowler pressed charges. I was hoping for a fight in the parking lot.

KARA

I'd pay to see that.

LUCAS

So what did he do to you?

KARA

I'll be fired when he talks to the board.

LUCAS

I know a little hospital outside Manila that could use a cardiologist.

KARA

You really can be a jerk.

LUCAS

So I've heard... Sorry I ruined your life.

Beat. Then she shrugs -

KARA

We did save some lives.

LUCAS

... Yeah, there's that.

And as they smile at each other, we hear -

MAN (O.C.)

Hey, Cort!

They look and see RICHARD SAMUELS, early 30's, dressed casually but expensively and very full of himself. This is the guy Lucas didn't want to talk to. And it's clear that Lucas wants nothing to do with him now -

RICHARD SAMUELS

I was coming to bail you out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA

I beat you to it.

LUCAS

Thank God.

RICHARD SAMUELS

Richard Samuels. You must be Dr. Martins.

LUCAS

How did you know where I was, Samuels? You been spying on me?

RICHARD SAMUELS

Of course. And I can get Fowler to drop the charges -

This surprises Kara -

RICHARD SAMUELS (CONT'D)

(to Kara)

- Cort and I, we were in the service together, we were buddies -

LUCAS

- No, we weren't -

RICHARD SAMUELS

- he saved my life. I got shot and this bastard took a viper, milked the damn snake and used the venom to stop the bleeding. Turns out the venom is a coagulant. The medical corps couldn't believe it.

LUCAS

Then he gets out and patents it, patents a snake.

KARA

Venulux. I've used it.

RICHARD SAMUELS

Every hospital does. God bless America. I also patented adhesive from a fly that works underwater -

LUCAS

- You're a leech and a thief, Samuels, and I wish I'd let you die.

(to Kara)

Let's go -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RICHARD SAMUELS

(stopping them)

There are a lot of building code violations at your little clinic, Cort. Fowler wanted to put it out of business, toss your old man out on the street.

LUCAS

And how did he know about that?

RICHARD SAMUELS

... Look, I heard what you two did with that little girl and the pooch. Very impressive. I'm sure you two have a few other things in those big brains of yours.

Now Kara shares Lucas' dislike of Samuels -

KARA

Sorry, but I'm about to be fired.

RICHARD SAMUELS

No, no, I talked to the board already. They're not going to fire you, Dr. Martins, they're going to make you a saint.

LUCAS

What do you want, Samuels?

RICHARD SAMUELS

I'm going to start a research facility at the hospital. You guys can work together, save all the lives you want. And you'll have everything you need to do it, state of the art all the way. You just have to agree to work with me.

And off Lucas and Kara knowing this guy is the devil, but wondering if selling their souls to him might be worth it...

FADE OUT.

END PILOT