ER

EPISODE 3

STORY BEATS

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# **EPISODE #3: STORY BEATS**

# **TEASER**

- 1. EXT. STREET Greene is walking to work with Corday when he says he'd kill to have one of those. She thinks he's talking about a cute blonde, but he's quick to point out a guy on a Harley. Corday seems surprised to learn that Greene had a motorcycle (and a ponytail) when he was growing up in San Diego. He suggests they get a motorcycle to cruise around on. She thinks it's a dreadful idea—unless they want to be organ donors. An ambulance races into the bay, and Kovac runs out to meet it.
- 2. MAIN ER Abby rushes to a blood-covered college student, STEVE RANDALL, who's being helped in by an equally bloody friend. When asked what happened, the guy says he's got cramps. Turns out they were shooting a student (slasher) film when one of them started having severe abdominal pain. The conversation is cut short by the gurney that Kovac is escorting in. The guy on the gurney's extremely combative, and it takes several bodies to hold him down, including Frank.
- 3. MAIN HALLWAY Carter arrives for his first day back. The main hallway has never seemed so long. Malucci comforts a crying mother. Chen is speaking Chinese to an older gentleman. Cleo charges through in a sprint. Gurneys are flying; a dozen different languages are being spoken. It seems as if all eyes to fall on Carter as he wades through the sea of cops, firemen, and clergy—the homeless, sick, and insane. He pauses to let transpo push through a corpse, whose arm flops off the gurney as he passes. Suddenly, Carter's stopped by a SECURITY GUARD. Carter's doesn't have the proper ID. Weaver has to vouch for him. Welcome back, Carter.

# ACT ONE

- 4. TRAUMA ONE Kovac and Cleo have sedated and stabilized the combative patient, who turns out to have been in a fight. The guy's got a pretty good head lac and a possible broken cheek. Kovac orders the appropriate labs and tests, including a head CT. Frank thinks he recognizes Kovac's patient as BOBBY DIBATTISTA—a former scumbag that shot his partner a few years back. Kovac wonders why, if this guy shot a cop, he isn't in prison. Frank gives Kovac a quick lesson in the atrocities of the American legal system as they move into...
- 5. ADMIT- Where Weaver is introducing TEAM ER—her latest brainchild to unify and motivate her troops. Romano is down in the ER. He makes a disparaging remark about Carter; still none-too-happy to have him working here. Weaver assures him that Carter's only working half-shifts and no traumas. Before he leaves, Romano spots Chen. Asks who's the daddy? Nobody knows. Fine, don't tell me—as long as it's not me. Huh? Malucci figures somebody must know who the father is. Everybody

- has their own ideas. Bets are made. So begins the 'Who's the Daddy?' pool. Abby overhears Kovac taking a phone call in Italian. It's brief, but amorous and Abby can't help but eavesdrop, even if she doesn't know what he's saying.
- 6. MAIN ER/CURTAIN TWO Carter is doing scut work. He's getting all the lame ass cases nobody wants... diarrhea, body lice, pinkeye. He's becoming the patron saint of the homeless, which in this case is DESMOND MONORE—a moaning African-American man, who insists that one of the nurses has stolen his teeth. Carter finds his teeth on the floor, and Desmond pops them in before Carter can even clean them off.
- 7. CURTAIN THREE/ELEVATORS Malucci looks over DePalma-wannabe, Steve Randall. Seems the starving college (film) student went on eating binge after his mom came to town and took him and a couple friends to an all-you-can-eat buffet. They didn't know when they were going to eat this well again, so they took advantage of it. Malucci says Randall ate too much—pure and simple. Abby thinks it may be a hot appy. Malucci pulls her out, reminds Abby that she's a nurse, not a doctor—or a med student. Weaver overhears as she passes through, reminds them that doctors and nurses are all part of the same team. Weaver gets pulled away into another conflict where...
- 8. MAIN HALLWAY Kovac has stopped Corday from taking his patient, Bobby DiBattista, up to the OR. Cleo caught Corday and asked her to look over his head CT. Corday says he has a subdural that needs to be drained, and she has a very narrow window in which to do it. Kovac, however, disagrees. He's not ready to send him up. Kovac says he wants to observe. Weaver suggests her team philosophy includes cooperation with the OR in order to achieve optimum medical efficiency. Yeah, whatever, Kerry. Corday pulls a passing Greene into it, expecting him to side with her. Greene, however, sides with Kovac. It's Kovac's ER patient for the moment. Corday says fine and leaves in a snit.
- 9. CURTAIN TWO/ MAIN ER Chen gets a teenager, WILLIE, who's wearing a Blackhawk's toque and complains of earaches. She's more than a little surprised when he pulls off his hat to reveal blood-soaked bandages around his ears—ears that he's mutilated with some self-inflicted, home basement, plastic surgery. Chen questions why he would want Doberman ears. He corrects her, they're Vulcan ears , and he needs them fixed up quick because he's got a sci-fi convention to go to. Chen tells Malik to clean them up, update his tetanus, start him on some antibiotics and call for a plastic consult.
- 10. ADMIT Malucci joins Chen as she heads for the Admit Desk. He asks if she's picked a name for her baby—will it be a traditional Chinese name or something else? He's hoping to get a clue as to the father's identity, but she doesn't bite and blows him off. Abby finds Malucci and pulls him aside. She ran some more tests on college boy, Steve Randall. He's got a slightly elevated WBC, and he's spiked a fever. Carter comes to the desk. He needs some narcotics for his patient, Desmond Monroe,

who is suffering from sickle cell anemia, among other things. Carter has to get another doc to sign off on some morphine. Chen offers to do so. It's an awkward moment for Carter. They're both congenial, but there's a ton of shit boiling beneath the surface that neither one of them is ready to deal with. Malucci picks up on the tension between Carter and Chen --which convinces him that Carter's the father of Chen's baby. Cleo hands Carter another patient.

- 11. CURTAIN THREE -Greene gets a single, welfare mom with two kids (a three-yearold and a four-year-old). The four-year-old was bitten by his uncle. Greene wants to know if social services has been called in. She says no. It's not that big a deal. Greene thinks otherwise until she reprimands the four-year-old for pinching his uncle. Apparently, one child is hers, the other (her grandson) is her daughter's. This makes the three-year-old the four-year-old's uncle. Confusing, a little. As Greene is getting his head wrapped around the family tree he notices that Mom's not looking too good herself. She's working several jobs and taking better care of herself than her children. Greene listens to her lungs. Sounds like pneumonia. Greene orders tests for junior and talks Mom into getting a quick check-up while she's here. While he's been doing this, Malucci has re-entered with Abby to look over college boy. He's miffed, but he can't argue with the labs and calls for a surgical consult to rule out a hot appy. Greene overhears Malucci, who gets on the phone trying to convince Benton to come down to the ER. Benton wants Malucci to give college boy the 'jump test.' But by now, the kid can't even get out bed. Greene takes the phone. Tells Benton to get his ass down here.
- 12. TRAUMA ONE Kovac is looking over his patient's most recent labs. The guy's starting to come around. He wants to know what the hell happened. Kovac tells him and says he managed to save the guy from having his brain operated on. The guy is ungrateful. He just wants to leave. Kovac says he needs to stay for observation. The guy starts getting agitated. Kovac tries to sedate him again, but this time the guy's expecting it.
- 13. CURTAIN THREE/MAIN ER/ADMIT Benton approaches the desk with Malucci and Abby, having seen their patient. College boy has a definite hot appy. He'll take him up. Malucci takes credit for Abby's catch. An obnoxious woman with a headache demands to be seen and Malucci tries to hands her off to Abby. Hey, they're all a team, right? Abby tells the woman they'll get to her as soon as they can—which does little to settle her. Benton tries to schedule the OR at the Admit Desk, but he can't log onto the computer. In the BG, a handful of SWAT police move toward Trauma One.
- 14. EXAM TWO/TRAUMA ONE Carter is cleaning out a wound on a gorked-out patient when the SWAT team move through to Trauma One and surround Kovac and his patient. Kovac wants to know what the hell's going on. Frank enters and tells him his patient has an outstanding warrant and is under arrest. Frank finally got his man.

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#### ACT TWO

- 15. INT. TRAUMA ONE/TRAUMA HALLWAY The SWAT team wants to haul off Kovac's patient, but Greene has intervened. This patient isn't going anywhere. Greene pulls Kovac aside. Tells him he doesn't have to let them take his patient, Kovac doesn't care. He's convinced the guy can go upstairs and remain under observation in the jail ward. It's Kovac's patient, and he'll allow him to be arrested.
- 16. ROMANO'S OFFICE Benton finds Romano having his office redecorated with a display case full of vintage (and horrific) surgical instruments. Benton confronts Romano about being locked out. Romano says he's lost his hospital privileges because he doesn't work here anymore. But Romano would like to give Benton another chance and offers him the per diem gig. Benton is pissed beyond words.
- 17. ADMIT Malucci is trying to prove his theory about Chen by chatting up Carter, but his subtle approach is anything but. Cleo comes up asking for someone to help her retrieve a female patient out of the men's room. Carter jumps at the chance to get away from Malucci. Greene comes up to see Frank installing his cop computer, compliments of the boys in blue. Greene's dead-set against it. Feels it's a rights violation. Weaver, however, thinks it's great. Maybe they should run all suspicious or violent patients through the computer. A safe environment is a healthy environment. How can Greene be against anything that will help protect the staff?
- 18. HALLWAY/EXAM THREE/HALLWAY Carter retrieves Cleo's teenage patient, CANDY, from the men's room, but Cleo barely acknowledges the gesture or Carter for that matter. Candy's a frequent flyer (street kid/prostitute) that has a crush on Carter and has been known to turn tricks in the washroom. She hasn't seen Carter in a while. He says he's been on vacation, which gets a frosty look from Cleo. Candy's got chlamydia in her throat from unprotected oral sex. She asks if she can get some pills for her boyfriends too. Cleo says no way. Candy's a repeat customer with a history of STD's. Her boyfriends need to come in, but Candy insists they won't. Carter asks Cleo to step out. He disagrees with the way Cleo is handling this, but Cleo doesn't give a damn. This isn't his patient. She'll treat Candy, but she's not giving out meds for her to distribute to her tricks. She moves off. Abby passes, asks how he's doing. Carter complains about Cleo and the scut work. Abby hasn't a lot of sympathy since she's stuck nursing. She grabs a bedpan from a nearby rack and heads off to a Code Brown.
- 19. MAIN ER Cleo runs into Benton on his way out. She asks if she can get his opinion on something, he says no. Tells her he's been locked out. She wants to talk to him about it, but he's too pissed, and she's too busy. He tells her to page Corday if she's got a problem. In fact, page them all day. She tells him she's not surprised by any of this. It's just more of the institutionalized racism. He'd still have a job if he was white—just look at Carter. Benton isn't in the mood to go there. She thinks she's on his side, but this is the last thing he wants to hear. He storms out as the MIC comes to life with an incoming trauma.

- 20. SUTURES Weaver almost wipes out on the floor because of the water, compliments of MR. KAMATOVIC, a patient who has wrapped himself in a soaking wet blanket. He insists he has a family history of spontaneous combustion. He shows her burn marks on his arms as proof. He insists he'll go up like a Roman candle if they don't keep him wet—and for God's sake, keep that oxygen bottle away from him. Weaver orders an IV of 'flame retardant' liquid and tells Mr. Kamatovik she's going to have to call somebody from the burn unit to run a spontaneous combustion test on him. Malucci comes running in to tell Weaver they've got multi-traumas en route and wipes out on the water. He lands flat on his back. He won't admit that he's got the wind knocked-out of him, but he remains prone as Weaver heads out yelling for someone to get a mop.
- 21. CURTAIN THREE/HALLWAY Greene gets tests back on Mom and kids. Kids are great, but Mom has pneumonia. He wants her to get some treatment and in the interim, he asks one of the nurses to see to it that everybody gets lunch. Weaver pulls him out. A walkway at a convention center collapsed, and they're getting several major and minor.
- 22. AMBULANCE BAY/TRAUMA HALLWAY Corday meets the first ambulance with Chen. It's a teenager with a severed arm. Carter wants to help, but Weaver tells him no. Instead, Carter takes the obnoxious bitch in Chairs with a headache as Greene and Weaver team up on a woman with a crush injury.
- 23. TRAUMA ONE Corday orders her patient's severed arm to be cleaned and prepped for reattachment as she and Chen race to stabilize the victim.
- 24. EXAM ONE Headache woman is rambling on and moaning in pain. She's a stressed out grade three teacher with a tension headache that's making her wish she was dead. But Carter's focus is on Kovac and Abby rushing by with some patient who has a chunk of rebar sticking through his abdomen. Headache lady realizes Carter isn't paying attention and chastises him for it. He tells her what's happened, but she could care less about the others. She's had a headache for about a week. He looks into the trauma room to see...
- 25. EXAM TWO/TRAUMA ONE/TRAUMA TWO Weaver and Greene fight to keep their crushed woman alive with twin chest tubes and the works. Weaver's screaming for Benton, only to learn that he left. She moves into Trauma One to see Kovac and Malucci working to keep rebar guy alive. They're fighting like cats and dogs and arguing over treatment, but they're working as a team.

### **ACT THREE**

26. TRAUMA TWO – Corday and Chen stabilize the amputation and Corday sends him upstairs to finish the reattachment. She moves into...

- 27. TRAUMA ONE Kovac, Abby, and Malucci have done all they can for rebar guy. They're screaming for a surgeon, but Corday's got a patient of her own that needs her upstairs now. Weaver enters; she and Greene need a surgeon for their patient as well. Corday says Anspaugh's on his way in and will meet them upstairs. But this still leaves them a surgeon short. They all have to bring their patients up to the OR themselves. What? They've all done surgeries. They can assist. It's not ideal, but they've got no choice. Kovac tells Abby to come up with him to the OR. Weaver reminds him that Abby's not really a med student. Kovac doesn't care. He's not really a surgeon.
- 28. ADMIT Weaver wades through a hallway full of lesser injuries, including a femur fracture in an elaborate sci-fi costume, who's refusing to allow Malucci to cut his pants. Weaver runs into Doyle-- down to see combustion man. Weaver's now two doctors, one surgeon and one nurse short. Doyle says she'll admit combustion man, but she has no intentions of staying to help. Hell, this is one of the reasons she got out of the zoo.
- 29. OR 1/OR 2/OR 3 Abby helps Kovac in the OR as Corday hops between the three ORs, talking them through their surgeries, while she attempts to save a trauma of her own. Things are going well until Kovac's patient almost rolls off the gurney. Needless to say, tempers are short. Anspaugh arrives and jumps in to take over for Kovac.
- 30. HALLWAY Cleo sees Candy leaving with some meds and stops her. Sombody's given her a bunch of doxycycline for her 'boyfriends'. Cleo wants to know who gave it to her, but Candy's has enough of this uppity doctor and leaves. In the BG, another angry patient is led away in handcuffs, thanks to Frank's cop computer.
- 31. CURTAIN TWO/BED ONE Chen talks to Spock boy. She tries to find out why he did what he did. Is there something else going on? The kid says he thought it would be cool to have pointed ears. What's the big deal? Chen tries to suggest that maybe he should talk to someone, which pisses him off. She's got pierced ears. People get tattoos, liposuction, implants, face lifts... What's the difference? Well, for one, people don't do it themselves.
- 32. CURTAIN TWO/BED TWO Malucci is treating costumed femur fracture as he explains his theory about Chen and Carter to Takata. Unfortunately, Chen's been treating Spock boy in the next bed and pulls back to the curtain to confront Malucci. She makes it very clear that it's none of his business. Malucci is actually moved by the conversation and says he won't bring it up again. Chen leaves, satisfied that she's set the record straight. Malucci says that was awkward. No wonder she's so upset. He never would have guessed that Chen doesn't even know who the father is. But...he always pegged her for a party girl. It's weird, she's even more sexy to him now. Takata's grossed out by the whole conversation.

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33. EXAM THREE/HALLWAY - Carter gets bladder boy only to have the kid wet himself. The kid's really embarrassed, but Carter makes him feel better. Carter steps out to order some tests, only to be pounced on by Cleo. She tears into him for giving Candy the morning after pill. Carter says he didn't, maybe Abby did. Cleo doesn't believe him. She makes it very clear that she's never going to believe him again and doesn't think he should even be working here.

34. OR – Corday struggles to complete her operation and help the other docs. Greene's patient starts to go South, but Corday can't come to help him because she's at a delicate juncture in her own operation, as are Kovac, Anspaugh, and Abby, who have to watch helplessly as Greene's patient slips away. Romano comes charging in and starts freaking at seeing all these ER docs in his OR. He jumps in to help Greene with a barrage of condemnations. Despite Romano's presence, the woman's condition worsens. Romano can save her life, but because of Greene's meatball surgery she's going to lose the use of her legs.

## ACT FOUR

- 35. OR HALLWAY Post-op, Romano's still raging about ER docs in the OR and Greene's paralyzing this poor woman. Anspaugh shuts him up saying the ER docs kept them all alive long enough for them to get to the OR. Romano isn't so sure that was a good thing. Corday tries to comfort Greene. He did the best he could. Greene isn't buying it. He's not a surgeon. If he'd just had a little help earlier. He was doing such a good job of tying off bleeders and keeping this woman in the game. If Corday had given him two minutes. She insists she didn't have two minutes to give. And if she'd tried they'd have lost two patients instead of one. He heads back to ER as Kovac and Abby step out of the OR, exhausted. Corday congratulates them on a good save. It may not have been pretty, but they were efficient. She heads back inside, leaving them alone. The OR action has made Abby realize that she really wants to be a doctor after all—too bad it took being a nurse again to convince her. Kovac says if she wants it bad enough, she has to go for it, so she does-and kisses him. Both of them are surprised by her actions. Abby rambles off an apology. She must have got caught up in the moment. She doesn't know what she was thinking. She knows he has a girlfriend. He tells her the Italian bird has left—thank goodness. She was driving him crazy. In that case, Abby takes back her apology.
- 36. SUTURES/HALLWAY Psych transpo can't find Weaver's patient. Spontaneous combustion man has disappeared in a trail of alcohol wipes. Weaver searches through the halls. Finally she finds him, having locked himself in a washroom. She tries to talk him out. He says he needs to be in wet sheets or he'll explode. Weaver's running low on patience. Tells him he's got to the count of ten. She gets to about seven when the door bursts open and this guy erupts in a full burn, having set himself on fire. Malik stops the guy with a wheelchair and Malucci puts him out with a fire extinguisher.

- 37. EXAM THREE Carter cleans up bladder boy, which is typically a nurse's job. The kid's really grateful. The kid's positive attitude in the face of a lifetime of adversity gives Carter a moment of introspection. He's never had a doctor spend as much time with him as Carter, which leads him to comment that Carter's the best doctor he's ever seen.
- 38. ADMIT Greene checks in as Weaver's sending spontaneous combustion man up to the burn unit. Greene learns from Weaver that Frank's made two more collars today. Frank corrects her—three. He just got a hit on some TB woman in Curtain Three. The boys in blue are on their way to pick her up. Apparently, Greene's single mom has a warrant for writing bad checks. Carter asks about obnoxious headache woman. Nurses say she's fallen asleep. Carter's instinct is to let her sleep—which is certainly what the nurses want.
- 39. EXAM ONE/MAIN ER Carter attempts to awaken obnoxious headache woman to speak with her. Unfortunately, she doesn't respond and starts to crash. Carter asks for her head CT. It's ugly. She's got a tumor that's preventing her cerebrospinal fluid from circulating. Carter calls for neurology as he attempts to keep her alive. Weaver jumps in and calls to Malucci—telling Carter to step away.
- 40. CURTAIN THREE/HALLWAY Greene checks in on single mom, who has fallen asleep. Lets her know about Frank's running her through the police computer. She explains she was just trying to buy herself some rent time, robbing Peter to pay Paul. Greene suggests he admit her. They can't arrest her if she's been admitted. But if she's admitted, there's nowhere for her kids to go. She wants to leave. Greene agrees to give her some meds, if she promises to come back here in a day or so, or get to another hospital. She says she will, but Greene knows he ain't gonna see her here again. Greene grabs some Z-packs from the drug lock-up and sneaks her out an employee entance.
- 41. EXAM ONE Neurology arrives to see Carter's headache woman. Determines she's gonna need an emergency ventriculostomy. Carter watches helplessly as they drill a hole in her head that squirts all over Carter and the window (as seen from outside).
- 42. ADMIT Greene pulls the plug on Frank's computer. Weaver intervenes. Greene says because of this, a woman who should have been admitted is without proper medical treatment. They're job is to treat and to heal, not arrest people who are coming to them for help. He's pissed to the point that no one dares argue with him.
- 43. HALLWAY Abby is heading to Doc Magoo's for a coffee with Kovac when Cleo stops Abby. Wants to know if she gave the doxycyline to Candy. Abby says she did. Cleo goes off on her, thinking she did so at Carter's bequest—it's not bad enough he breaks hospital policy, now he's got others doing it for him. Abby isn't in the mood for a spanking—especially in front of Kovac. She stands up to Cleo. What would Cleo prefer, to have this girl spreading an STD throughout the community. Cleo would prefer she practice safe sex. They both have a valid point. But in the end, Cleo

says she was her patient, not Carter's and certainly not Abby's. She threatens to write her up and Abby tells her to go for it. Kovac and Abby walk away. Neither says anything for a beat. Finally Kovac says something to the effect of Abby standing up to Cleo—she can be pretty tough. She even scares him sometimes. Abby says she's not afraid of Cleo. She's small, but she's wiry. Kovac is confused. Wiry?

- 44. MENSROOM Carter, who is now wearing scrubs, is calling it a day. He's exhausted, but in a strange way content. Greene's glad to see he survived his first day. He hands Carter a cup. He needs a urine sample—not only that, he has to watch the entire process. Carter realizes it's going to be a long road back.
- 45. GYM Benton's beating the hell out of a heavy bag when Cleo finds him. She's been looking all over for him. Maybe even a little worried about him. He still doesn't want to talk about it. So what's he going to do, play Rocky all night? It's better than beating Romano to a pulp—well, maybe not better, but at least it's legal. She talks him into coming home. (It's not as much sexual as it is her wanting to take care of him.)
- 46. GREENE'S HOUSE Greene is at home, soaking in the tub, drinking beer. Corday arrives home. She's late. Things are still a little frosty between them. She asks if he wants to know where she was. He says sure...but he doesn't mean it. She tells him anyway. She was with his OR patient. He moved his foot. It's too early to tell anything definite, but it's a good sign. The fact that she even went to try and find out means a lot to Greene. She kisses him and he pulls her into the bathtub.