

Episode Three

"Second Chances"

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ER

"Second Chances"

TEASER

FADE IN:

ON BLACK

BTO's "Taking Care of Business" takes us into...

EL TRAIN/PLATFORM (CHICAGO) (8:15 AM)

And like the song says, everyone is taking the 8:15 into the city. The KID wearing the Walkman (source) moves through the train and stands beside CARTER, who is waiting for the doors to open. The train pulls into the station and Carter steps off with the Walkman kid and a handful of others. He continues along the platform, passing a couple of STREET KIDS sitting in a corner. Addicts? Maybe. Carter tries not to think about it and keeps moving down the stairs out into...

CUT TO:

STREET

Carter comes down the stairs. He hits the street to find a homeless guy holding up a sign--God Bless. Carter hands him some change without even breaking his stride and continues toward the hospital. He pauses to watch an ambulance pull into the bay. Is he ready for this? He squares his shoulders and heads in another entrance.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY

Carter makes his way through the hallway. It's busy, but with no one we recognize, which is just the way he'd like to keep it.

MALUCCI'S VOICE

Carter!

Maybe they said Carver. Suddenly, MALUCCI comes up behind him. No such luck.

MALUCCI

Hey, Carter.

Carter puts on his best game face.

CARTER

Hey, Dave.

MALUCCI

It's good to see you, man.

CARTER

You too.

MALUCCI

Really? Did you miss me?

(beat)

Seriously, how you doing?

CARTER

I'm okay.

MALUCCI

Yeah? Good. That's good... Well, I gotta hop, the chief's training me on the sternal saw today.

CARTER

Really?

MALUCCI

Yeah, hopefully we'll get somebody who needs their chest cracked.

CARTER

I'll keep my finger's crossed.

MALUCCI

Thanks, man.

(beat)

Hey, if you're free for lunch-chili dogs on me.

CARTER

Sure.

Malucci heads off and Carter continues on. MARQUEZ passes.

MARQUEZ

Hey, Carter.

CARTER

Hi, Chuny.

MARQUEZ

I'm glad you're back.

CARTER

Thanks.

He continues, coming across CHEN, who is comforting an ELDERLY COUPLE as she speaks to them in CHINESE. She spots Carter staring at her pregnant belly. She shrugs and smiles, then continues speaking with the couple. HALEH cruises through pushing a homeless guy, MOONY, in a wheelchair.

HALEH

It's about time you showed up, Carter.

CARTER

Haleh.

MOONY

Maybe now I can get some badly needed medical attention.

HALEH

Hush, Moony. The only thing you need is a bath.

Haleh wheels the patient away as Carter continues toward the lounge. But just as he's about to go inside.

SECURITY GUARD'S VOICE

Hey!

Carter turns to see a HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD closing in on him.

SECURITY GUARD

Where do you think you're going?

CARTER

I work here.

Carter opens his coat to reveal his hospital ID card.

SECURITY GUARD

That's an old ID.

CARTER

I've been away.

The Security Guard spots WEAVER passing in the hallway.

SECURITY GUARD

Doctor Weaver, this one of yours?

WEAVER

Yes, he is.

SECURITY GUARD

Sorry, Doc.

The Security Guard saunters off.

WEAVER

You'll need to get a new ID from administration before you leave today.

(off his nod)
Welcome back, Carter.

Carter nods and heads into the...

LOUNGE

Carter opens his locker. Nothing's been touched since he left. He seems almost hesitant to pull on his lab coat. Corday and Greene come barging in, mid conversation.

GREENE

I like hardwood floors.

CORDAY

We can have hardwood floors, but with sisal area rugs.

GREENE

Is that anything like shag? (off her look)

What? C'mon, no guy knows what sisal is.

Greene and Carter suddenly become aware of Carter.

CORDAY

Hello, Carter.

GREENE

Hey.

CARTER

It's a natural floor covering made from South American plants.

GREENE

What?

CARTER

Sisal. It's good and durable.

CORDAY

Thank you, Carter.

GREENE

Yeah, thanks a load.

CORDAY

It's nice to see you back, Carter. Good luck today.

CARTER

Thanks.

Corday kisses Greene.

CORDAY

We'll talk about this later.

GREENE

I can hardly wait.

She exits. Greene grabs himself a coffee.

GREENE

I bought a house.

CARTER

That's great.

GREENE

It's nothing huge, but it's pretty cool.

Carter nods.

GREENE

So, you ready to rock and roll today?

CARTER

Yeah.

GREENE

If you need anything. You wanna talk about a case, or a patient, or anything--just come find me.

CARTER

I'll do that.

Greene nods and heads out. Carter fills his pockets with the tools of his trade. He pulls out his stethescope and wraps it around his neck, then slams his locker.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

OB SCRUB ROOM

ABBY is scrubbing up when another NURSE enters looking for your.

NURSE

Abby, they're calling for you downstairs.

ABBY

Downstairs?

NURSE

I guess the ER's short today and they requested you.

ABBY

Oh yeah, well too bad. I'm scrubbing in for a C-section.

NURSE

Doctor Coburn told me to step in so you could go down.

ABBY

Oh, this so sucks.

Abby tosses her scrub sponge into the sink and heads out.

CUT TO:

ADMIT - CONTINUOUS

Carter enters to find KOVAC running the board, assigning patients to Malucci, Chen, and CLEO.

KOVAC

Let's empty this board. Who wants testicular torsion in Three?

CHEN

I'll take it.

MALUCCI

Be gentle.

KOVAC

Malucci, how about the LOL in Two with pneumonia?

MALUCCI

Can I use the sternal saw on her?

(CONTINUED)

KOVAC

No, but she'll need a central line.

MALUCCI

My what big veins you have, grandma.

Malucci grabs the chart. Kovac spots Carter.

KOVAC

When did you get back, Carter?

CARTER

Today's my first shift.

KOVAC

This is good news. We've got a head trauma coming in. Guy was in a fight. Head and facial lacs, don't know how bad it is.

CARTER

I'm only doing minor medical today.

KOVAC

Oh...Okay.

(to Cleo)

Cleo, set up Trauma One, we'll work it together.

CLEO

Okay.

Cleo takes the chart, and Kovac finds a consolation case for Carter.

KOVAC

How about a gluteal rash?

Carter takes it.

ROMANO'S VOICE

Nothing worse than a chapped ass.

All eyes turn to see ROMANO has snuck into their midst.

ROMANO

Or so I'm told.

(beat)

Glad to see you've climbed back up on your horse, Carter.

Romano gives Carter a friendly slap on the back.

(CONTINUED)

ROMANO

Let's hope your Drugstore Cowboy days are behind you.

Carter doesn't know how to respond, but Weaver comes to his rescue.

WEAVER

Did you need something, Robert?

ROMANO

I was looking for a doctor who use to work here. Tall, dark, and arrogant. Went by the name of Benton.

WEAVER

Peter was just here. Do you need him?

ROMANO

No, what I need is a hundred thousand dollars to cover the EMTALA ["em-tala"] violation he had us hit with.

(beat)

If there's another violation we could lose our Medicare. It's imperative that every patient who walks through that door gets a medical screening and stabilization.

WEAVER

I'm glad you said that, Doctor Romano. Because this is precisely what Team ER is all about.

Weaver starts putting TEAM ER stickers on everyone's coats.

CLEO

Stickers?

WEAVER

Team ER stickers. In order to facilitate and expedite patient treatment we must begin to function as a team.

(beat)

Attendings, residents, students, nurses, clerks. We're all here for one thing. To provide the best possible care for our patients.

Weaver reaches Romano, who stares bullets at her, daring her to put the sticker on his lab coat. Screw it, she slaps it on his chest.

WEAVER

Even the surgeons are part of the team, aren't they Doctor Romano?

ROMANO

Yes they are. As a matter of fact, they're the captains of the team. And it's very important that the other players, remember that, or else they might find themselves as free agents.

The Ambulance Bay doors open and Kovac and Cleo jump at the opportunity to get away from Romano as ZADRO pushes in the combative BOBBY DIBATTISTA (34). We follow them.

ZADRO

BP 140 over 95. Pulse 96.

KOVAC

Settle down.

DIBATTISTA

You want some of this?!

Dibattista rips out his IV.

CLEO

He's pulled his IV. Give me some four by fours.

KOVAC

Tape his head, we've got to stabilize his neck.

Suddenly, DiBattista pulls himself up off the backboard.

KOVAC

Heads up!

DiBattista takes a swing at Cleo. Once. Twice. She ducks both blows.

DIBATTISTA

I'll take your head off, bitch!

CLEO

Call me that again and I'll tape your mouth shut.

KOVAC

Somebody get restraints.

Frank comes from behind the desk to lend a hand.

KOVAC

If you don't hold still you could wind up paralyzed.

DIBATTISTA

I'll paralyze you, Boris.

FRANK

Bobby DiBattista.

DIBATTISTA

Who the hell are you?

FRANK

Frank McCabe. I use to be with the one ten.

DIBATTISTA

I should known you were a cop. You're too fat to be a doctor.

Frank straight-arms the guy across the chest, slamming him back onto the gurney. Cleo jumps in and slaps a piece of tape across DiBattista's head as the others restrain him and push into...

TRAUMA ONE

DIBATTISTA

Sonovabitch!

CLEO

You know this guy?

FRANK

He's a two-bit punk I sent to jail, twice.

KOVAC

Why'd they let him out?

FRANK

Probably got out on some damn appeal. Only things worse than criminals are criminal lawyers.

KOVAC

So what are your orders, Doctor Finch?

CLEO

CBC, Coaqs, lytes, Type and screen and get a c-spine.

KOVAC

Sounds good.

ELEVATOR/LOBBY

Malucci is outside Curtain Three with Marquez.

MALUCCI

Mister Wallace can be discharged.

Romano approaches the elevators. He spots Chen inside Curtain Three talking to a patient.

ROMANO

So who knocked up Chen?

Malucci and Marquez react. Is he talking to them. Neither has an answer.

ROMANO

Fine, don't tell me. As long as it wasn't me.

DING! Romano steps on the elevator.

MALUCCI

He wishes.

(to Marquez)

So who did?

MARQUEZ

(shrugs)

Nobody knows.

Malucci seems intrigued as Weaver and Abby pass through and we stay with them into...

MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Abby is on Weaver's heels like a terrier on a house cat.

WEAVER

It's a simple case of supply and demand. I have a short supply of nurses, so I demanded you come down here.

ABBY

But I'm an OB nurse not-

Weaver turns on her.

WEAVER

Are you planning on coming back to med school?

ABBY

Yes, but-

WEAVER

You'll see more medicine here than upstairs. This is a learning opportunity, Abby. You'll be way ahead when you come back to the ER as a student... Once you catch up on your med-school tuition.

Weaver continues on.

ABBY

Yeah, in about two years...

Abby looks over to see Kovac has witnessed the exchange. He gives Abby a sympathetic look.

KOVAC

It's really not so bad down here, Abby.

PATIENT

My penis is gonna explode!

JARVIK wheels past a PATIENT who's curled into a fetal ball in agonizing pain.

JARVIK

(to Abby)

How are you at untying knots?

Kovac shrugs to Abby.

ABBY

We don't get many exploding penises upstairs.

Abby heads off to help Jarvik and we go off on Kovac.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN TWO

Carter is looking through the Wood's lamp into the eye of MR. DUNCAN, a homeless man in his late fifties.

DUNCAN

That light's only making it hurt more.

CARTER

It's not the light, Mister Duncan, you've got a corneal abrasion.

DUNCAN

You mean pink eye?

CARTER

No. It's a scratch on your eyeball.

DUNCAN

The nurse said pink eye.

CARTER

No. I think some dirt probably got trapped under your eyelid.

DUNCAN

How on earth would that happen?

Duncan's got enough dirt above his neck alone to scratch his eyes out.

CARTER

I don't know. Maybe the wind blew it in. But not to worry, we'll put some antibiotics in your eye so it won't get infected.

DUNCAN

Will that make it stop hurting?

CARTER

We'll give you something for the pain.

DUNCAN

Do I get a patch?

CARTER

That won't be necessary.

DUNCAN

But the ladies like the pirate look.

Duncan winks at Carter with his good eye.

CARTER

I'll see what I can do.

CUT TO:

MAIN HALLWAY/CURTAIN THREE

Greene is scrutinizing a X-ray with Cleo.

GREENE

I can't see anything. You need pulmonology to come down here and examine her.

CLEO

I've been paging them every five minutes for half an hour. Her sats are down to ninety two.

GREENE

Call the attending, tell them you're Kerry Weaver, that usually scares somebody into coming down here.

Chen comes up and grabs Greene.

CHEN

Doctor Greene, I've got a nine year-old boy who got hit in the larynx with his skateboard. He's pretty hoarse.

GREENE

Any signs of sub-Q emphysema?

CHEN

No, the airway's okay, no stridor, good sats, and he's handling his secretions.

Greene and Chen head into Curtain Three where the young man in question, BRIAN, is sitting up in bed. Malucci is on the phone as he examines a college student in the next bed.

GREENE

Did you visualize the cords?

CHEN

Our scope's being serviced. I thought Head and Neck could bring one down from the OR. But I've been waiting three hours.

GREENE

We need to scope this kid. I'll call the attending.

CHEN

I tried. They're all scrubbed in on a case.

GREENE

This is crazy.

MALUCCI

He's too damn sick for a jump test!

GREENE

(to Chen)

Hold on.

Greene moves to Malucci.

GREENE

What's the problem, Dave?

MALUCCI

Two days of vomiting and diarrhea, Benton says it's not a good story for an appy. Okay, I'll buy that. But Stewart here wakes up this morning with periumbilical pain that's moved to the lower right quadrant. He's got guarding and rebound tenderness.

GREENE

You tell Benton that?

MALUCCI

Yeah, he won't come down. Wants me to give him the jump test.

Greene gestures for the phone. He hangs it up.

GREENE

Follow me.

MALUCCI

Where are we going?

But Greene doesn't offer an answer.

CUT TO:

EXAM THREE

Weaver is looking over a bite wound on the hand of ALBERT(4) as his mother GLORIA (42) tries to wrangle another child (3). Haleh is helping out.

GLORIA

Albert, sit still so the doctor can look at your hand.

ALBERT

It hurts.

HALEH

We'll give you some medicine to make it better, but you have to let us clean out the germs.

WEAVER

(to Haleh)

Irrigate the wound, Haleh, and start him on some Augmentin.

(beat

This looks like a human bite, Gloria.

GLORIA

His uncle Charlie bit him.

WEAVER

(to Haleh)

Has social services been called?

HALEH

Not yet.

GLORIA

You don't have to do that.

WEAVER

We are required to notify them whenever we suspect abuse.

Albert is swinging his legs on the bed and almost kicks the younger child.

GLORIA

Albert, don't kick your uncle Charlie!

ALBERT

He's trying to bite my foot.

Gloria grabs little Charlie and puts him on her lap.

WEAVER

This is uncle Charlie?

GLORIA

(nods)

This is my grandson.

WEAVER

You're babysitting?

GLORIA

24-7 for the past two years--if that's babysitting.

(beat)

My daughter got mixed up with this guy with a drug problem. She got pregnant, I got Charlie.

WEAVER

Where's his mother now?

GLORIA

I got a postcard from New Orleans in the summer.

Gloria breaks into a COUGHING fit.

WEAVER

How long have you had that cough?

GLORIA

A couple months. It's nothing serious. It comes and goes.

Weaver listens to Gloria's lungs.

WEAVER

Do you smoke, Gloria?

GLORIA

It's the only vice I have. And I never light up around the kids.

WEAVER

I'd like you to get a chest x-ray.

GLORIA

I'm fine. I just needed you to look at Albert's hand.

WEAVER

It'll only take a few minutes. As long as I'm here...

GLORIA

Okay.

WEAVER

Good. Haleh, let's get some chest films on Gloria too.

HALEH

Coming up.

CUT TO:

OR HALLWAY

BENTON is writing up some post-op notes at the nurses' station when Greene and Malucci come past pushing a gurney.

GREENE

Hey, Peter, how's that ruptured appy?

BENTON

Ruptured? I thought it was a rule out.

GREENE

It was ten minutes ago, but I'm sure it's ruptured by now.

BENTON

Doctor Malucci didn't give me a good story for an appy.

MALUCCI

I gave you-

Greene gestures for Malucci to keep quiet.

GREENE

Your job is to consult, Peter, not to second guess a diagnosis without even seeing the patient.

BENTON

What's this?

Benton pulls back the sheet on the gurney, revealing a bunch of equipment including a fiber-optic scope, and a digital pressure transducer.

GREENE

We need this equipment downstairs.

BENTON

It belongs to the OR.

GREENE

And the surgeons can bring it back once they've come down to the ER to use it.

BENTON

There's a surgeon's conference today. We're short staffed up here as it is.

Greene pushes on with Malucci.

MALUCCI

Maybe we should grab another rapid infuser while we're up here.

GREENE

I don't think so.

MALUCCI

How about an intra-aortic balloon pump?

Greene looks at Malucci like he's mad.

GREENE

Dave, you scarin' me.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN TWO

Chen arrives to find WILLIE, a twenty-something Chicagoan in a Blackhawks' toque.

CHEN

Willie, I'm Doctor Chen. Says here you've been having earaches.

WILLIE

Yeah.

CHEN

Can you take off your hat, so I can take a look?

Willie takes off his toque to reveal bloody gauze wrapped around his head.

CHEN

What happened?

WILLIE

I couldn't stop the bleeding.

Chen unwraps the bandages to reveal that Willie has given himself Spock ears by cutting them into points.

CHEN

Who did this?

WILLIE

I did?

CHEN

With what?

WILLIE

Kitchen shears.

CHEN

God. You did this on purpose? (apparently)

Didn't it hurt?

WILLIE

What do you think? I tried to numb 'em first with ice and took and took a whack of Tylenol, but they're still pretty sore.

CHEN

I bet. Why on earth would you want to give yourself Doberman ears?

WILLIE

They're Vulcan.

CHEN

Right...

(to Takata)

Yosh, lavage the wounds, then wrap them in saline gauze. Give him tet tox point five and run in a gram of Ancef. I'll call plastics and psych.

WILLIE

Psych? Wait a second. I'm not crazy.

CHEN

You mutilated yourself with a pair of kitchen shears, Willie.

WILLIE

So, I thought it'd be cool to have Vulcan ears. What's the big deal? Lots of people alter their appearance with face lifts and lip injections—even butt tucks, right?

Willie looks at Takata.

TAKATA

Not me.

CHEN

That's true, Willie. But they don't do it themselves.

(beat)

Look, it's not going to hurt you to talk to somebody, right?

WILLIE

Well, how long's it going to take? The sci-fi convention's today, and I'm already running late.

CHEN

We're moving at warp speed, here, Willie.

Chen steps out and heads toward...

MAIN ER/ADMIT

Malucci slides up to Chen with the black suitcase.

MALUCCI

I got a present for you.

He hands her the suitcase.

MALUCCI

One fiber-optic laryngoscope compliments of the OR. The light source is in Exam Two.

CHEN

Tell me you didn't steal this.

MALUCCI

I didn't steal it.

Yeah, right.

CHEN

Well, however you got it, thank you.

MALUCCI

No problem.

(beat)

So, you pick out a name for the little one, yet?

CHEN

No.

MALUCCI

You planning on something traditionally Chinese or something more Western?

CHEN

I haven't given it much thought, Dave.

Carter joins them at the desk.

CARTER

I've got a corneal abrasion that needs some Vicodin.

CHEN

I'm sorry, Carter. I didn't realize he needed pain meds. I'll take it for you. There's an otitis in Exam Two you can have.

CARTER

He was triaged as pink eye. There's nothing to do but give him the meds.

CHEN

It's okay, I'll do it.

Chen takes Carter's chart from him. She catches Carter staring at her belly as they move away from the desk.

CARTER

I guess congratulations are in order.

CHEN

Thanks.

CARTER

I also heard you were up for Chief Resident.

CHEN

I was, but I turned it down.

CARTER

Oh.

Back at the desk, Malucci watches Carter and Chen. There's an apparent tension between them.

MALUCCI

Did you see that?

RANDI

What?

MALUCCI

Carter and Chen?

RANDI

What about them?

Malucci looks at Randi as if she's dense.

MALUCCI

C'mon, it's obvious something's going on between them...

(beat)

Hello? Chen's carrying Carter's kid.

RANDI

You're crazy.

MALUCCI

Think about it a minute.

Randi considers it.

RANDI

Yup, you're crazy.

CUT TO:

SUTURES

Kovac is suturing the scalp of an old timer with some help from Haleh.

KOVAC

Please stop moving.

ELDERLY MAN

I can't find them.

KOVAC

What?

ELDERLY MAN

My teeth. That nurse stole them.

HALEH

What would I want with your teeth?

ELDERLY MAN

I've heard stories.

Kovac moves around and steps on something. He looks down to see the man's teeth on the floor. Kovac picks them up and hands them to Haleh.

KOVAC

Haleh, could you wash these-

ELDERLY MAN

Aha!

The Elderly man grabs them and shoves them in his mouth before Haleh can clean them off. Kovac and Haleh grimace. As he's looking at Haleh, Kovac sees Corday wheeling his patient out of Trauma One.

KOVAC

Could you finish up? And update his tetanus!

Kovac heads out into...

TRAUMA HALLWAY

Kovac meets Corday escorting his patient, Bobby DiBattista toward the elevators.

KOVAC

Where are you going with my patient?

CORDAY

OR. Doctor Finch showed me his CT.

KOVAC

I am still observing him.

CORDAY

He's got a subdural.

KOVAC

Yes, but it is small. There is no evidence of midline shift or cerebral edema.

CORDAY

But he may have an underlying coagulopathy due to his drinking. He's a setup for a massive secondary bleed.

Weaver is in the hallway, looking at an X-ray and becoming increasingly aware of the escalating argument and decides to intervene.

KOVA

His PT, PTT were normal and his platelet screen was normal.

CORDAY

He's altered.

KOVAC

So would you be if your blood alcohol was point two four. He is improving as his alcohol level drops.

WEAVER

Is there a problem here?

KOVAC

Yes, she is stealing my patient.

CORDAY

I believe the word you're looking for is 'saving.'

WEAVER

Okay, time out. Look, our job is to provide the best treatment for the patient, period. Our team philosophy requires cooperation between the ER and the OR.

CORDAY

Oh please...Mark!

Corday grabs Greene as he passes.

CORDAY

Would you please talk to your people.

GREENE

My people?

CORDAY

The OR's got a skeleton staff today as it is and I have a very narrow window in which to do this. So I'd much rather go in now while he's stable, than later when he's crashing.

KOVAC

He does not meet the criteria for surgical intervention. It is a small subdural in the anterior fossa, without focal signs, an improving level of consciousness, and no mid line shift. As long as he is monitored closely with serial exams and follow up CT he will be fine.

All eyes fall on Greene. It's a lose--lose situation and he knows it. He's going to regret it, but here goes...

GREENE

I think Elizabeth has a point...

CORDAY

Thank you.

GREENE

But he is Doctor Kovac's patient. And if Luka wants to observe-

CORDAY

Fine. But don't got stat paging me when he gets in trouble.

KOVAC

I won't.

Corday turns on Greene.

CORDAY

And you, don't take any more equipment from my department.

GREENE

I wouldn't have to take it if the surgeons came down when we asked.

CORDAY

There's not much sense of us coming down if we can't take the patients.

Corday exits without even looking at Greene as Kovac wheels his patient back to Trauma One, leaving Weaver with Greene.

GREENE

Go team...

Weaver just glares at him as she heads off.

CUT TO:

ADMIT

Benton approaches the desk and attempts to log onto the computer with Malucci in tow.

MALUCCI

I told you it was a hot appy.

BENTON

Did you order pre-op labs?

MALUCCI

Not yet.

BENTON

You should have.

MALUCCI

I was waiting for your surgical expertise.

BENTON

A med student could tell this guy had an appy.

MALUCCI

C'mon, admit it. It was a good catch. You should let me scrub in.

Benton looks at Malucci. Not a chance.

MALUCCI

But the Chief's training me on the sternal saw today, so I gotta stick around.

BENTON

Is everything down here messed up?

(CONTINUED)

MALUCCI

What's wrong?

BENTON

I can't log onto the computer.

MALUCCI

Let me try.

Malucci punches in.

MALUCCI

I got in okay. What's your password?

Benton isn't going to give Malucci his password. He tries again.

MALUCCI

Maybe you forgot it.

Romano is passing with two other surgeons, on their way to the conference.

BENTON

Doctor Romano.

ROMANO

Peter, you still down here?

BENTON

I can't log onto the OR network.

ROMANO

Dammit. They weren't suppose to do that until tomorrow. I wanted to surprise you.

(beat)

Oh well, no time like the present. You can't log on because your privileges have been revoked.

BENTON

You've revoked my computer privileges?

ROMANO

Computer, OR, ER, mens' room, you name it.

BENTON

What is this, a joke?

ROMANO

Do I look like I'm laughing? You cost me and the hospital a hundred large. And we have to recoup that money from somewhere. You left me no choice. I was forced to eliminate the attending position.

Everyone's attention is focused on them as their conversation escalates.

BENTON

So what is my position here?

ROMANO

You have no position here, Peter.

BENTON

You're firing me?

Benton is pissed.

ROMANO

Look, Peter, I don't like this any more than you do. You're going to be a good surgeon one day, and I'd like you to be here at County. If I could, I'd give you a second chance, but the only way I can even think about keeping you here right now is on a per diem basis.

Benton storms out.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXAM TWO

Carter is in the process of irrigating a young boy's ear with a large syringe. The kid's got a towel draped around him and water is going everywhere.

KIL

My brother said it's going to lay eggs, and when they hatch, all the babies will eat my brain.

CARTER

No, we're not going to let that happen. But you should never put anything in your ears, especially insects.

KID

My brother said he'd give me a dollar if I let it crawl inside. He gave my friend Eddie fifty cents to eat a worm.

Suddenly, a POLICE OFFICER enters the room with his gun at his side. Carter is momentarily spooked.

KID

Are you going to arrest somebody?

The Police Officer ignores the question and we follow him as he passes through into...

TRAUMA ONE - continuous

Kovac is checking Bobby DiBattista's vitals when the Police Officer enters from Exam One and another enters from the Trauma Hallway. Frank is not far behind them.

DIBATTISTA

What's going on?

POLICE OFFICER

You're under arrest, Mister DiBattista.

DIBATTISTA

Give your head a shake, pal. I'm in a freakin' hospital here.

KOVAC

We have a prison ward upstairs.

(CONTINUED)

DIBATTISTA

(to Frank)

You did this.

FRANK

That's right.

CUT TO:

EXAM THREE

Cleo is using an otoscope and tongue depressor to look at the throat of MOIRA GARVEY (16) as her mother, MRS. GARVEY looks on.

CLEO

Say, ah.

MOIRA

Ahhh.

MRS. GARVEY

I brought her in a couple weeks ago with a sore throat, but it hasn't gotten any better.

CLEO

I see some exudate.

MRS. GARVEY

What's that?

CLEO

A sign of inflammation. Looks like strep. Did you take all the medication the doctor prescribed last time?

MOIRA

Yes.

Cleo palpates Moira's lymph nodes.

MRS. GARVEY

She can't miss any more school.

CLEO

I'm going to order a couple tests to rule out a viral infection. Viruses can give you a pretty nasty sore throat and the antibiotics won't help.

Cleo steps out into...

HALLWAY

Abby is pushing a patient in a wheelchair with a guy who's got his hand stuck inside the mouth of a mounted bear's head.

CLEO

Abby, can you run a rapid strep, mono spot, and gram stain the culture?

ABBY

Sure.

Abby takes the culture and patient stickers from Cleo, then continues on. We stay with Abby, who doesn't get far before Malucci steps out of Curtain Three.

MALUCCI

Abby, just the person I wanted to see.

(notices patient)

Bear attack?

Abby's face suggests he get to the point.

MALUCCI

Yeah, I got a quartet of business men with food poisoning. Give 'em 10 of Compazine MI and plug them into IVs.

(beat)

You might want to get some buckets from housekeeping, too.

ABBY

Buckets?

MALUCCI

I think it was an all-you-can-eat buffet.

As Malucci heads off, Abby looks in to see FOUR JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN in various states of gastric upheaval.

ABBY

(to no one in
particular)

Anybody else need anything? Bring it on.

CUT TO:

TRAUMA HALLWAY

DiBattista is getting unruly as the Police Officers escort his gurney out of Trauma One with Kovac, who is signing off on the paperwork allowing him to be transferred upstairs.

DIBATTISTA

If I'm being arrested, I get a phone call.

POLICE OFFICER

There's a phone upstairs.

DIBATTISTA

You're going to regret this.

Greene comes up to investigate the commotion.

GREENE

What's going on?

KOVAC

They're moving him up to the jail ward.

GREENE

(to Cops)

Hold on, you can't move him until we release him.

POLICE OFFICER

He just did.

The Police Officer gestures to Kovac.

GREENE

You don't have to release him until your ready, Luka.

KOVAC

His subdural hasn't changed. They can observe him upstairs just as easily.

GREENE

I'm probably sleeping on the couch tonight because I fought to keep him down here.

KOVAC

The man's a criminal, he should be in custody. Sorry.

Kovac nods and the Cops take DiBattista away.

Greene just shakes his head and heads toward Admit as Chen comes out of Curtain Two and calls for Abby, who's restocking a supply cart.

CHEN

Abby, can you suture a head lac?

ABBY

No. I'm nursing.

CHEN

Sorry, I forgot. Can you clean up then?

ABBY

That's what nurses do.

Okay. Chen moves off. Greene makes eye contact with Abby.

GREENE

How's that going, Abby?

ABBY

It's not.

He's sorry he asked. She disappears into the hallway as Greene reaches Admit. Malucci is doing charts as Frank wires up a police computer.

GREENE

What's this?

FRANK

Police computer. We can run a check on any suspicious characters before they become a problem.

MALUCCI

Cool, huh?

GREENE

No. This isn't a police precinct.

MALUCCI

Tell that to Doctor Weaver, she approved it.

Weaver comes up to the desk.

WEAVER

Approved what?

GREENE

Patient's rights violation.

MALUCCI

I think it's a good idea.

GREENE

You would, Dave.

(to Weaver)

People will stop coming in who need medical attention.

WEAVER

You mean felons?

GREENE

We have to be a safe haven for everyone, Kerry.

WEAVER

Relax, Mark, we're only going to use it to screen the criminals.

GREENE

Based on what? How they look?

FRANK

I can spot a con a mile away.

Frank heads out.

GREENE

That's great, what do we do when Dudley Do-Right isn't working?

WEAVER

Part of our job is to ensure we have a safe environment for our staff and patients. This will help us coordinate with the police department.

MALUCCI

I think it's a good idea.

GREENE

It's got to be against hospital policy.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN TWO

Carter is writing his notes in the chart as he finishes up an exam on a patient.

CARTER

I'm going to give you some antibiotics. Next time you want your nipples pierced go to a professional, Mister Harkins.

The patient (65 if he's a day) gives Carter an enthusiastic thumbs up. Carter steps out to find Abby cleaning up the other bed area.

CARTER

Hi.

ABBY

Hey, Carter. How are you doing?

CARTER

Great.

She looks at him skeptically.

ABBY

Don't B.S. me, Carter.

CARTER

Okay. It sucks. Everybody's treating me like I'm damaged goods. I'm doing more scut than medicine.

ABBY

It could be worse.

CARTER

Oh yeah, how?

ABBY

You have to treat anybody for maggots today?

Carter shakes his head. Abby's trumped him.

ABBY

Be honest, Carter.

Abby moves off for her next nursing adventure and Carter heads to the desk where Greene's working on the computer.

CARTER

Anything on the board that's even remotely interesting?

GREENE

There's a UTI in Exam Two.

CARTER

I was hoping for something a little more challenging than a bladder infection.

GREENE

There are no small patients, Carter.

MALUCCI

What about dwarves?

Malucci comes up to the desk and racks a chart as Greene moves off.

MALUCCI

So, Carter, you've known Jing-Mei for a while, right?

CARTER

I knew her before she was Jing-Mei.

MALUCCI

So, do you know who put the bun in her oven?

CARTER

Even if I did, Dave, I wouldn't tell you.

MALUCCI

That's not a definitive 'no,'
Carter. You two haven't been...

Carter's look suggests Malucci not go there.

MALUCCI

C'mon, Carter, give it up. Are you gonna be a daddy or what?

Carter grabs the UTI chart and heads for the sanctuary of Exam Two.

MALUCCI

(to Frank)

It's definitely Carter. You dog.

Frank gives Malucci a disapproving look.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN THREE

All four Japanese Businessmen are leaning over one of the beds. Each has an emesis basin in their hands and IV's in their arms as Abby preps four syringes.

ABBY

Sometimes this medicine can give you muscle spasms.

The Businessmen speak in Japanese which is SUBTITLED.

JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN #1

(in Japanese)
What did she say?

ABBY

Don't worry, it's easily reversible with Benedryl.

Abby nods as if they're understanding her.

JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN #2

(in Japanese)

I've heard of tourists getting their kidneys stolen in American hospitals.

ABBY

You'll all feel much better once you get rehydrated. Okay?

She smiles at them, then goes down the line, prepping their butts with alcohol wipes then slamming the syringes home. Weaver and Haleh enter to see Abby's assembly line in action.

WEAVER

You need a hand in here, Abby?

ABBY

Everything's under control.

Abby dumps her sharps and exits.

HALEH

She's good.

Weaver throws an X-ray up on light board.

WEAVER

Gloria, the boys are both fine, but you've got pneumonia.

GLORIA

I've had it before.

WEAVER

Yes, well, I'm afraid you've got it again. We're going to give you some IV antibiotics.

GLORIA

I can't do that right now. I've got to get to work.

WEAVER

It will only take about twenty minutes.

GLORIA

But I have to get these guys home for lunch, then drop them at my sister's.

WEAVER

If you don't get this treated you'll only get sicker. You'll wind up missing work instead of just being a little late.

(beat)

Haleh can even call your boss if you'd like.

GLORIA

Okay.

WEAVER

Good. Haleh, could you see to it that everyone gets some lunch, too.

HALEH

Sure will.

GLORIA

Thank you.

WEAVER

You're welcome.

CUT TO:

EXAM TWO

Carter is looking over DENNIS JAMES (13), a paraplegic with a bright smile and a book bag as big as he is.

CARTER

How did the paralysis develop?

DENNIS

I got hit by a car on my bike. I would have been killed if I hadn't been wearing a helmet.

CARTER

Says here you think you've got a urinary tract infection. Does it burn when you urinate?

DENNIS

Not really. I can't feel much of anything below my waist. But I can sense pressure in my stomach when I have to go. That's when I know to catheterize myself.

(beat)

Most the time, it's about every six to eight hours, but lately I've had to do it more often. Usually that's the sign that I have an infection.

CARTER

You put in your own catheters?

DENNIS

Yeah. My grandmother use to help me, but she passed away in February.

CARTER

Where do you live now?

DENNIS

At the nursing home. We lived there together, but now that she's gone it's just me.

(beat)

I know, it sound pretty lame, but it's okay. A lot of the old folks don't get many visits from their families, so they like having me around. It's kind of like having twenty grandparents now.

CARTER

I'll send in a nurse to get a urine sample. You might need some antibiotics.

DENNIS

I can do it myself.

CARTER

It's okay, I'll get a nurse to do it.

DENNIS

Do you think I could get some extra catheters while I'm here? Sometimes the nursing home forgets to order them for me.

CARTER

I think we can manage that.

DENNIS

Really?

(off Carter's nod)

Thanks.

Dennis is genuinely moved by Carter's offer.

CUT TO:

SUTURES

Weaver enters and almost goes right on her ass because of the water on the floor.

WEAVER

Whoa! Where did all this water come from?

MARQUEZ

Mister Kamatovik soaked his blanket in the sink.

The patient, MR. KAMATOVIK (35) is sitting in the bed wrapped in a soaking wet blanket that has gotten water everywhere.

KAMATOVIK

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make a mess.

WEAVER

Why is your blanket wet, Mister Kamatovik?

KAMATOVIK

I was afraid I was going to burn. I have a family history of spontaneous human combustion.

WEAVER

Really.

KAMATOVIK

I was getting dangerously hot. I even started to smolder.

Kamatovik's arm darts out momentarily revealing a burn.

WEAVER

How did you do that?

KAMATOVIK

It just started burning.

WEAVER

We'll have to clean that and put a dressing on it.

KAMATOVIK

But I have to stay wet or I'll go up like a Roman Candle.

(beat)

And you better get that Oxygen away from me unless you want this whole place to explode.

WEAVER

Okay, Mister Kamatovik, just try to relax. I'll shut off the oxygen in the hallway.

(to Marquez) Chuny, start Mister Kamatovik on a litre of flame retardent saline and get somebody down from the special burn unit.

MARQUEZ

Okay.

Marquez nods knowingly.

WEAVER

Don't worry, Mister Kamatovik, we've got you covered.

Malucci comes running in the room.

MALUCCI

Hey Chief!

Suddenly, he disappears from frame as he slips on the wet floor and goes down hard.

WEAVER

Are you okay, Doctor Malucci?

MALUCCI

Yeah.

(beat)

We got a multi trauma coming in.

WEAVER

You sure you're okay, Dave?

MALUCCI

Oh, yeah.

Malucci sucks up the pain as he tries to regain his breath.

MALUCCI

Remember, I'm training on the sternal saw today.

But Weaver's already heading out the door into...

TRAUMA HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Weaver makes her way toward admit.

WEAVER

I need housekeeping to mop up Sutures.

As she passes Takata heading in the opposite direction.

WEAVER

Yosh, ready the trauma rooms.

She shouts to Greene as he comes into the hallway and walks along with her.

WEAVER

What is it?

GREENE

Walkway collapsed at the convention center.

WEAVER

We're short on surgeons, Mark. We can only take one major.

CUT TO:

AMBULANCE BAY

An ambulance comes whipping into the bay and ZADRO jumps out as Corday comes through the doors to meet them. The patient he pulls out is on a backboard with a c-collar and has two IV's in place.

ZADRO

Twenty-three-year-old man, crushed pelvis. Fell at least fifteen feet when a walkway collapsed. Systolic of 50 at the scene. Intogated for agonal resps. Pressure's up to 60 with two liters.

Corday rubs his breast bone.

CORDAY

Open your eyes, Sir.

No response.

CORDAY

Any evidence of head trauma?

ZADRO

Not that I appreciated, but it wouldn't surprise me.

As they push into...

TRAUMA HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Weaver joins them as they move down the hallway.

WEAVER

What have we got?

CORDAY

Hypotensive, open book pelvic fracture. Possible head trauma, possible intra-abdominal bleed.

WEAVER

(to Jarvik)

Lily, set up two units of O-neg on the rapid infuser. We're going to need the MAST suit.

CORDAY

Get ultrasound in here, now!

Weaver spots Kovac escorting in another patient on a gurney and breaks off to meet him.

WEAVER

What's this?

KOVAC

Blunt chest trauma, tachy at 120. Decreased breath sounds on the right.

(to Abby)

Abby!

Abby runs over to help Kovac as they wheel toward Trauma Two. Weaver stays to confront Greene.

WEAVER

(to Greene)

I said we could handle one major.

GREENE

They've got 30 critical patients on scene, Kerry. I told them we could handle three major and ten minor.

WEAVER

We can't treat critical patients if we don't have surgeons or OR's.

GREENE

Tell that to the victims.

WEAVER

You're putting them in jeopardy by-

GREENE

We may not need the OR, and if we do we can stabilize and triage them to surgery one at a time.

WEAVER

And what if we do, Mark?!

Carter comes running over.

CARTER

Can I help?

WEAVER

No.

CARTER

Looks like we're getting slammed.

WEAVER

All the more reason for you to pick up the minor medicals, Carter. No trauma.

Jarvik shouts from Trauma One.

JARVIK

Doctor Weaver, we need you.

Weaver heads for Trauma One. Carter's clearly feeling like a vestigial organ. He can only watch as Greene grabs the next arriving gurney from OLBES.

GREENE

Put him in Curtain Two. Give me the greatest hits, Olbes.

OLBES

Thirty-two-year-old male...

CUT TO:

TRAUMA ONE

Weaver enters as Zadro is pushing back out. The patient is on the trauma gurney and Corday is examining his pelvis as Marquez assists.

CORDAY

Oh, damn!

WEAVER

What's wrong?

CORDAY

It's an open fracture. There's active bleeding through the perineum.

WEAVER

What do you need?

CORDAY

A central line would be nice.

(to nurse)

Get me two rolls of kerlex and irrigation saline. I'll pack this off.

ALARM.

MARQUEZ

Pressure's down to 60.

WEAVER

Squeeze in the O neg and grab four units of type specific.

Weaver is waiting to do the central line, snaps at nurses.

WEAVER

And a steri-drape, now.

Corday looks over, sees Kovac in Trauma Two.

CORDAY

How's the other patient?

WEAVER

Looks like they're putting in a chest tube. Elizabeth, you should check on him.

CORDAY

I can't leave this patient.

WEAVER

I can handle this.

CORDAY

This patient needs the MAST suit inflated, he needs an abdominal ultrasound, a retrograde urethrogram, a suprapubic foley and either a pelvic embolization or application of the external fixator. You can't possibly do all that at once, and I am not leaving until he's stable.

WEAVER

The other patient's a blunt chest trauma. He might be bleeding out.

CORDAY

If he is, I'm sure Doctor Kovac will come get me.

WEAVER

(to Marquez)
I need 3-0 nylon and opsite.

MARQUEZ

Got it.

Marquez heads for Trauma Two.

WEAVER

And tell Mark Greene we are closed to Trauma!

Marquez takes us into...

TRAUMA TWO - CONTINUOUS

Kovac is working on his chest tube as Abby hangs the thoraseal. The patient is on a backboard, c-spine, and nasal oxygen. ALARMS are sounding.

ABBY

Thoraseal is up and ready.

KOVAC

(pushing)

Okay, I'm in.

Abby grabs a fistful of blood tubes.

ABBY

I'm sending off CBC, chem panel, PT/PTT, type and cross four units.

KOVAC

Sounds good. O-silk.

A nurse starts to move for it, but Abby beats her to it. The alarm stops.

ABBY

I got it.

(beat)

Pulse ox up to 92.

KOVAC

Only 200 cc's out the chest tube.

Abby sees the horror in the patient's face. She strokes his head.

ABBY

(to patient)

You're doing okay, Sam. You're going to be okay.

The patient tries to smile.

KOVAC

I need X-ray for a portable chest.

Abby moves to the phone, punches the number, and stretches the phone back to the bed.

ABBY

(to Kovac)

You want foley and a hemocue.

KOVAC

Ah, yeah.

Kovac smiles at Abby's thoroughness. Carter can be seen watching from Exam Two.

CUT TO:

MAIN ER/EXAM TWO

Carter clearly wishes he was in on the trauma as he steps into Exam Two.

CARTER

Did the nurse come in and get a urine sample?

DENNIS

No. What's happening out there?

Carter looks into the chaos in Trauma One.

CARTER

A walkway collapsed at the convention center.

DENNIS

A lot of people got hurt, huh?

CARTER

Yeah.

DENNIS

That's too bad. I'm sure they never even saw it coming. Oh no...

Carter looks back to see a growing puddle of urine under Dennis' wheelchair.

DENNIS

I couldn't tell I had to go.

CARTER

It's okay.

DENNIS

I should have cathed myself but I was waiting for the nurse. I'm sorry.

CARTER

It's no big deal, Dennis.

Carter starts to clean him up. Malik enters to grab some supplies and sees Carter cleaning up.

MALIK
I'll get to him in a minute, Carter.

CARTER

I got this, Malik. They need you in the traumas.

MALIK

You sure?

CARTER

Yeah. Go.

Malik heads out.

DENNIS

Thanks. Most doctors don't like to do this stuff.

We go out on Carter as he goes about the task at hand.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

MAIN HALLWAY

A woman with green skin gasps for air like a carp on a river bank as Malucci listens to her lungs.

MALUCCI

Was there a lot of dust when the causeway collapsed?

The patient nods as she tries to catch her breath.

MALUCCI

It must have aggravated your asthma.

Takata comes running up with some X-rays.

TAKATA

Films on your ankle in Three. I put the lip lac in sutures, and we sent the head injury up to CT.

Malucci throws the films up on a box.

MALUCCI

Looks good. No break. Wrap the ankle. Prep the lip and start Princess Pistachio on 60 of prednisone, repeat the treatment in 30 minutes.

Takata heads off with his orders as Malucci heads toward Admit where a patient is being led away in handcuffs, compliments of Frank.

FRANK

Check it, Malooch, we caught another one.

ALIEN BOY

Aggh!

DUMAR wheels in a guy in a sci-if suit who's in severe pain.

MALUCCI

Dude, what happened? You crash your saucer?

DUMAR

Twenty-three-year-old male with hip pain. BP 130 over 85, pulse 110. No obvious deformity.

MALUCCI

Find someplace to park him. Titrate 10 of morphine.

They pass Curtain Two where Greene is getting in trouble.

GREENE

I need a surgeon.

MALUCCI

Good luck.

Malucci moves his patient into the space of the nurse's station as we stay with Greene.

GREENE

Where's Benton?

JARVIK

I think he quit.

GREENE

This guy's got a bad tib-fib fracture, and he's losing foot pulses. I need a surgeon now.

JARVIK

We're short surgeons because of the conference. I thought we were limiting traumas.

GREENE

It's a little late for that now, Lily.

JARVIK

I'll ask Corday to come out.

GREENE

And get me the digital pressure transducer -- it should be in Trauma One.

Jarvik heads into...

TRAUMA ONE

Weaver is running the ultrasound probe over the abdomen as Corday busily preps a table-full of hardware for the external fixator.

WEAVER

Liver and spleen look over.

CORDAY

Excellent, the bleeding must be limited to the pelvis.

Jarvik enters.

JARVIK

Doctor Corday, we've got a patient with a probable compartment syndrome.

CORDAY

I'll be tied up here for better part of an hour.

JARVIK

Then I need the digital Stryker.

WEAVER

Check the OR.

MARQUEZ

No, it's under the sink. Doctor Greene borrowed it from OR.

CORDAY

Stole is more like it.

Weaver and Corday share a look as Jarvik grabs the instrument.

CORDAY

Fine, let him use it. But have him come and tell me the results of his pressure readings.

ALARMS

MARQUEZ

Systolics down to 70.

WEAVER

Another two units of packed cells and start the FFP.

Haleh comes in.

HALEH

Doctor Weaver, Frank ran Gloria, your pneumonia mom, through his computer and now the cops are coming to arrest her.

WEAVER

For what?

HALEH

Writing bad checks.

WEAVER

Dammit, Frank.

(beat)

Elizabeth, are you okay for a minute?

As Corday uses a surgical screwdriver to insert long screws into the patient's pelvic bones.

CORDAY

Fine.

Weaver heads out, glancing into Trauma Two where Abby and Kovac are working frantically.

CUT TO:

TRAUMA TWO

Kovac and Abby are in sync.

ABBY

Urine dip is negative for blood, hemoglobin is 11.6.

KOVAC

Let's get him a unit bed.

ABBY

Working on it.

(changing a saline

bag)

Third liter of saline up at three ten.

ALARMS

MALIK

Pressure is down to 60. Tachy at 130.

ABBY

Sats are down, crank up the ohtwo.

KOVAC

Absent breath sounds on the left side. Two of versed, ten of norcuron. I'll intubate. Abby, I need you to put in a chest tube.

ABBY

I can't. I'm a nurse.

KOVAC

This guy needs a chest tube.

ABBY

Then you do it.

KOVAC

I have to intubate. You know how, now get to it.

Abby hesitates. Malik nods his support.

ABBY

Open a tray, prep the left chest. I need sterile gloves and a 10 blade.

KOVAC

(to Malik)

Bag him. 8-0 E.T. tube.

Malik hands it to Kovac.

MALIK

I checked the cuff.

KOVAC

Let's get the sats up to 90.

Abby makes her incision in the chest.

ABBY

Long kelly.

KOVAC

Suction on, please.

ABBY

32 French chest tube.

KOVAC

Stop bagging, give me some chrichoid pressure. Here we go.

Abby pushes her chest tube in as Kovac intubates.

ABBY

Chest tube's in, hook up the thoraseal.

KOVAC

Okay, got the airway. Bag him.

ALARMS stop.

MALIK

Sats up to 96. Heart rate down to 88.

Kovac listens to the lungs.

KOVAC

(to Abby)

Nice work.

MALIK

Thanks.

Abby and Kovac share a smile as she hooks up the chest tube.

CUT TO:

DRUG LOCKUP/HALLWAY/CURTAIN THREE

Weaver grabs a Z-pack from the drug lockup and heads into Curtain Three to find Gloria and her kids. Weaver hands her the Z-pack and proceeds to pull her IV, which is almost empty.

WEAVER

This is Zithromax. Take two pills tomorrow and one a day for the next four days.

Gloria picks up on Weaver's urgency.

GLORIA

Is something wrong?

WEAVER

You have to get out of here. The police are on their way to arrest you.

GLORIA

What?

WEAVER

Apparently, there's a warrant for your arrest for some bad checks. I'm sorry.

GLORIA

Sometimes I have to bounce a check to buy some time, but I always pay things off eventually. I've got two jobs.

WEAVER

I know. I'm sorry.

GLORIA

Thanks, for everything.

WEAVER

You're welcome.

Weaver herds them out the opposite door.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN TWO

Greene has the huge Stryker needle buried in the patient's lower leg.

GREENE

Anterior compartment pressure is 65.

JARVIK

That's high?

GREENE

Normal is 30. He needs a fasciotomy now. Get me 10cc's of one percent lidocaine for a femoral nerve block, prep and drape the entire leg.

JARVIK

You can't do that down here.

GREENE

We either do this now or he'll need an amputation.

JARVIK

Corday wanted to talk to you first.

GREENE

Corday's busy with a critical patient. She'll join us when she can.

Inside Trauma One, Corday sees them prepping and draping the leg as she works on the external fixator. She shouts to him.

CORDAY

What are the pressures?

Greene looks up, gives her the OK sign.

CORDAY

What are you doing?

Greene draws up the lidocaine.

GREENE

I'll switch to a 22 gauge for the injection.

CORDAY

Mark, wait!

But he's not.

CUT TO:

EXAM TWO

Dennis has been cleaned up and is in the process of folding a paper airplane when Carter enters.

So I've got good news and not so good news.

DENNIS

Not so good?

CARTER

You do have a UTI, probably from putting in the catheters. (beat)

The good news is, I have a prescription for some antibiotics. If you follow the directions and make sure you take all of the pills, you'll be better in no time.

DENNIS

I will.

Dennis takes the scrip.

CARTER

And I grabbed you some catheters. If you start to run low again, call the ER and leave me a message. I'll send some over.

He hands Dennis the cath packs.

DENNIS

Thanks. Here, I made this for you.

Dennis returns in kind with an elaborate paper airplane.

CARTER

Hey, thanks. This is pretty cool.

DENNIS

It's supposed to look like an F-22 Raptor.

CARTER

You like jets?

DENNIS

Yeah. I wanted to be a fighter pilot. Now I just make paper airplanes. But some of my designs really go. Check it out.

Dennis opens his satchel to reveal a number of different paper airplanes.

CARTER

You ever fly in a jet?

DENNIS

No. I've never been in a plane.

CARTER

Ever?

CUT TO:

ADMIT

Cleo is wiping a patient off the board when Randi hands her some labs.

RANDI

Doctor Finch, you've got labs back on your sore throat.

Cleo takes the labs. She looks them over as Carter approaches the desk.

CLEO

Ah, crap.

RANDI

What's wrong?

CLEO

I've got a sixteen-year-old with gonorrhea in her throat. Her mom brought her in. Now I've got to find a way to tell her without her mom finding out.

CARTER

You want me to help?

CLEO

No thanks, Carter. I'll think of something.

Cleo heads off. Carter can't help but feeling a little dejected. He looks at the paper airplane and launches it down the hall. It swoops past several patients and nurses.

TRAUMA HALLWAY

Weaver comes around the corner and gets the airplane right in the side of the head.

WEAVER

Malucci!

Malucci and Takata are trying to remove Alien Boy's costume to get a look at his hip as Weaver approaches.

MALUCCI

What?

WEAVER

Grow up!

MALUCCI

What'd I do?

ALIEN BOY

Agggh!

MALUCCI

Yosh, get me some scissors.

ALIEN BOY

No! Wait! Don't cut my costume, man.

WEAVER

What are you doing to this patient, Doctor Malucci?

MALUCCI

I'm trying to get this thing off to take a look at his hip.

ALIEN BOY

I made this myself! I'll get it off.

MALUCCI

Fine.

(to Yosh)

Get a PA pelvis and a right hip film and give him another 10 of morphine.

KIM

Doctor Weaver.

Weaver turns to see DR. KIM LEGASPI from psych.

WEAVER

Please tell me you're here to lend a hand.

LEGASPI

No. But I will free up a bed and admit Mister Kamatovik.

WEAVER

I appreciate that, but we could really use another pair of hands down here, Kim. You must have done an ER rotation.

KIM

I did. I hated it. Bye.

Kim waves as she heads back upstairs. Weaver moves toward the Trauma Room to the sound of Alien Boy's screaming.

CUT TO:

EXAM THREE

Cleo is in with Mrs. Garvey and Moira.

CLEO

I can give her a shot that will clear up the pharyngitis.

MRS. GARVEY

Is the shot stronger than the pills?

CLEO

It's a different medicine.

MRS. GARVEY

They should have given her that the first time. Will this keep it from coming back?

CLEC

That's difficult to say.

Cleo's thinking of how to answer when Carter comes to the rescue and introduces himself.

CARTER

Hi, I'm Doctor Carter. You must be the one with the sore throat.

Moira nods.

CLEO

This is Missus Garvey and her daughter Moira.

CARTER

Moira's body's going through a lot of changes right now. It's very important that she gets the proper nutrition, rest, exercise—things that not only affect her health now, but in the future as well.

(beat)

We have a great adolescent health services department. If you'd like, Missus Garvey, I could show you while Moira's getting her shot. We've got lots of free literature I can give you.

MRS. GARVEY

Okay.

(to Moira)
I'll be right back.

Carter leads Mrs. Garvey out of the room.

MOIRA

I have to get a needle?

CLEO

Yes. I didn't want to say anything in front of your mother, but you have an STD in your throat.

MOIRA

What? I'm a virgin.

CLEO

There's more than one way to get an STD, Moira. You contacted gonorrhea by having oral sex and you need to be treated.

MOIRA

Oh, God.

CLEO

Your boyfriend needs to be treated as well.

MOIRA

You're not going to tell my mom?

CLEO

No. But you have to promise me you're going to practice safe sex and bring your boyfriend in.

Moira nods.

CUT TO:

TRAUMA TWO

Weaver walks in to see Kovac is stitching up a leg laceration and Abby sewing in a chest tube.

ABBY

Another O-silk, please.

WEAVER

What are you doing?

ABBY

(busted)

Sewing in a chest tube?

WEAVER

You're no longer a medical student. Nurses do not sew in chest tubes. Do they Doctor Kovac?

KOVAC

She looks like she's doing just fine.

WEAVER

No. No. No. Our malpractice insurance no longer covers her doing anything beyond the scope of nursing practice.

KOVAC

We were shorthanded. The patient would have died if she didn't put in the chest tube.

WEAVER

You let her <u>put in</u> a chest tube?!

KOVAC

It was like you said: team work.

Weaver steams as she gloves up.

WEAVER

Dr. Kovac, you are to write in the medical record that you put in the chest tube yourself, do you understand? Abby, step back.

ABBY

I'm almost finished.

WEAVER

Step back. I've got it. Update the patient's vital signs.

Abby peels off her gloves and returns to her nursing duties in silence.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN ONE

Chen zaps a guy in a hospital cafeteria uniform with Haleh assisting.

CHEN

Clear.

She zaps cafeteria man.

HALEH

Still in V-fib.

CHEN

Another round of Epi. Continue CPR.

Malucci comes up takes over bagging.

MALUCCI

Where'd this guy come from?

CHEN

Cafeteria employee.

MALUCCI

How long's he been down?

CHEN

Close to twenty.

MALUCCI

Long odds on this one.

HALEH

Pulse ox down to 88.

CHEN

(to Malucci)

Can you check the ET tube

placement?

She listens for breath sounds as he checks the tube.

MALUCCI

So, Jing...

CHEN

Jing-mei.

MALUCCI

Right. When are we going to meet

Daddy?

CHEN

Hold compressions. Anything?

HALEH

Nope. Still in V-fib.

CHEN

One last time. Charge to 360.

(to Malucci)

What are you talking about?

MALUCCI

The father. Of your baby? Everybody's kind of curious as to the identity of this lucky guy.

CHEN

My pregnancy is none of your business, Dave.

HALEH

Ready.

CHEN

In fact, nothing remotely concerned with my personal life is anybody's business. And I don't appreciate your intrusive inquiries.

MALUCCI

I was just curious to meet the guy.

CHEN

Well get over it. It's rude and unprofessional.

MALUCCI

You're right, Doctor Chen. I'm sorry.

HALEH

We're charged!

CHEN

Okay! Clear.

She ZAPS the patient.

MALUCCI

No joy here.

CHEN

That's it. Time of death: fourteen thirty-eight.

They stop CPR. As Chen moves away, they start disconnecting everything. Haleh exchanges a look with Malucci.

MALUCCI

That was uncomfortable. Man, who'd have guessed. No wonder she's so upset.

HALEH

What are you babbling about, Dave?

MALUCCI

Isn't it obvious? Chen doesn't even know who the father is.

HALEH

You are certifiably insane.

MALUCCI
I always knew she was a party
girl. You know what's really
weird is that she's looking even
sexier to me now.

HALEH
Insane and depraved.

ADMIT - CONTINUOUS

Chen approaches the desk where Frank is working at his computer.

CHEN

Hey, Frank, can you run a name though the computer for me?

FRANK

Sure. What is it?

CHEN

David Malucci.

Frank looks up at Chen. Huh? She gives him a look. What the hell? He starts typing.

CUT TO:

TRAUMA ONE

Corday is working on a large framework of metal struts and supports that emerge from the patient's pelvis. She tightens a bolt with a surgical wrench.

MARQUEZ

Pressure's up to 110.

CORDAY

Excellent. Let's get him up to the unit.

They roll out the door.

CORDAY

Tell them I'll be up in a little while to put in a suprapubic catheter.

She spots Greene making his second long fasciotomy incision.

CORDAY

Mark? What in God's name are you doing?

GREENE

Fasciotomy.

Greene starts to pack the incision with moist gauze.

CORDAY

Why didn't you get me?

GREENE

You were busy.

CORDAY

You could have at least discussed the case with me.

GREENE

There was no time.

CORDAY

You have no business of doing a fasciotomy in the ER.

GREENE

If I'd waited any longer, you'd be doing a below-the-knee amputation in the OR. You could have been stuck in Trauma for another hour.

Corday unpacks the gauze from the first side to inspect Greene's work.

CORDAY

Do you even know how to do a fasciotomy?

GREENE

I opened the compartments, the pulses are stronger. It worked.

CORDAY

How deep did you cut here?

GREENE

Deep enough.

CORDAY

Deep enough to cut the anterior tibial nerve, I'd say. Your patient may have a foot paralysis.

Greene gives her a look.

CORDAY

Oh, God. You extended the lateral incision too far. If you cut the posterior tibial nerve, he's lost sensation to the sole of the foot. This patient may never walk again.

GREENE

He had pain, he had paraesthesias and he was losing his pulses. There was no time to wait.

CORDAY

(to Nurses)

We're taking him to the OR. I'll re-explore and debride.

(to Greene as she exits)

Mark, you should never have done this procedure without a qualified surgeon. You better start praying there's not a disastrous outcome.

And we go out on Greene's reaction to being admonished in front of everyone.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

ADMIT

Things have settled down as Malucci wipes another patient of the board.

MALUCCI

Doctor Dave: Fourteen, Death: Zero.

Weaver passes on her way to the desk.

WEAVER

Nice job on triage, Dave.

MALUCCI

Thanks, Chief.

She unplugs Frank's computer.

FRANK

Hey!

WEAVER

Sorry, Frank, but this isn't working.

FRANK

Whattaya mean? We made two arrests. It would have been three if that mother hadn't escaped.

(aside)

Between you and me, I think one of the staff tipped her off.

A freaky looking punk from TRANSPO comes to the desk.

TRANSPO

He's gone.

WEAVER

Who's gone?

TRANSPO

(checks his orders)
Mister Kamatovik. He was suppose

to be in Sutures. I checked the whole ward. He's AWOL.

WEAVER

I'm sure he didn't get far, c'mon.

Weaver heads out to find him.

ELEVATOR/LOBBY

Carter is pushing Dennis to the elevator in his wheelchair.

DENNIS

Where are we going?

CARTER

You'll see.

Carter hits the elevator button. As they're waiting, Cleo comes out of Curtain Area Three.

CLEO

Carter. Thanks for helping with that patient's mom.

CARTER

Hey, no problem.

Cleo nods and starts off. That's it?

CARTER

Cleo...

She pauses. Carter steps away from Dennis.

CARTER

Do you have a problem with me being here?

DING! The elevator arrives.

CLEO

Why would I?

She turns and goes. Carter returns to Dennis.

CUT TO:

SUTURES/HALLWAY

Only a woman with a head lac is in here as Weaver searches for Mr. Kamatovik.

TRANSPO

I told you.

Weaver notices a bunch of foil alcohol wipes packs strewn on the floor.

TRANSPO

What's all this?

WEAVER

Alcohol wipes. He thinks he has to stay cool to avoid spontaneous combustion.

Weaver follows the discarded wrappers to the Men's Room with Transpo in tow. Weaver wraps on the door. Malucci is nearby reading an X-ray.

WEAVER

Mister Kamatovik, are you in there?

KAMATOVIK'S VOICE

Yes.

WEAVER

You need to come out so we can run some more tests.

KAMATOVIK'S VOICE

I can't. I'm burning up.

WEAVER

That's why you need to come out so we can help you.

KAMATOVIK'S VOICE

Do you have wet blankets?

WEAVER

We can get some. But you have to come out in the next ten seconds or I'm going to have to call security.

MALUCCI

You want me to bring him out, Chief?

WEAVER

Please.

Malucci starts to enter the men's room when the door suddenly bursts open and Kamatovik emerges in flames, having set himself on fire.

MALUCCI

Whoa!

Weaver grabs a fire extinguisher off the wall and lets him have it.

TRANSPO

Freaky. I've never seen spontaneous human combustion before.

Weaver shoots Transpo a look as she discards the extinguisher and starts barking orders.

WEAVER

(to Transpo)

Don't just stand there, get a

gurney!

(to Malucci)

Set up a burn tray. He needs two IV's and saline dressing.

KAMATOVIK

I told you. I told you...

WEAVER

Somebody notify the burn unit.

CUT TO:

OR HALLWAY/RECOVERY ROOM

Greene stops at the desk to ask the SHIFT NURSE about his patient. She points and he proceeds toward one of the recovery rooms. He enters to find Corday sitting at the bedside writing in the chart. For an instant he considers coming back later. But as Chuck Connor use to say on Thrill Seekers: "It's better to face danger than wait for it."

GREENE

How's he doing?

CORDAY

Just waking up. We debrided quite a bit of necrotic tissue.

GREENE

How about the nerve function?

CORDAY

Too early to tell.

Greene has to find out for himself. He talks to the patient loudly.

GREENE

Mister Pooler, push down on the gas.

Greene and Corday watch the foot.

There's a little movement, not much, but it's something.

GREENE

Very good.

Greene pulls out a cotton swab.

GREENE

Say 'now' when I touch your foot.

He waits a beat and then touches the sole of Pooler's foot.

POOLER

Now.

Greene tries a different spot.

POOLER

Now.

GREENE

That's good, Mister Pooler. Get some rest.

Greene heads out and Corday follows him back into the hallway.

GREENE

Looks like the nerves are intact.

CORDAY

I could have told you that based on my operative findings. You still shouldn't have done the fasciotomy in the ER.

GREENE

Yeah, well I did, and he's going to recover.

CORDAY

Yes, he was very lucky.

GREENE

You mean that we were both working?

They both know that's not what she meant.

GREENE

So, are you almost ready to go?

CORDAY

Hardly. I've got at least another two hours here.

GREENE

I'll pick up some dinner on my way home. You want anything in particular?

CORDAY

How about something from Bombay Star?

GREENE

Is that beside that sisal rug shop?

She throws him a look. She's barely amused.

GREENE

Okay. Indian it is.

As he's walking away.

GREENE

Give me a shout when you're on your way, and I'll run you a hot bath.

CORDAY

With bubbles?

GREENE

That's extra. But let me see what I can do.

Corday watches him as he walks away. How can she not love this guy? The sound of pounding leather takes us to...

CUT TO:

BOXING CLUB

This ain't crunch. It's a real gym that smells like sweat and blood. It's a place for broken bones and broken dreams. Skipping ropes snap, speed bags blur, and in a shadowy corner Benton wails on a heavy bag that's been patched with duct tape.

CLEO

Is that supposed to be Romano?

He turns to see Cleo. Not a face he expected to see.

CLEO

I've been looking all over for you.

BENTON

How'd you know to come here?

CLEO

I called Carla.

This gets a disapproving look from Benton.

BENTON

I bet she was happy to hear from you.

Cleo shrugs. Benton turns his attention back to the heavy bag.

CLEO

You okay?

BENTON

Been better.

CLEO

Would you like to talk about it?

BENTON

Nope.

CLEO

I think you should speak with Anspaugh and-

BENTON

I said, I don't want to talk about it.

CLEO

Okay... So what are you going to do? You gonna stay here playing Rocky all night?

Cleo reaches out and touches his shoulder. He stops swinging. Catches his breath.

CLEO

Let's go home, Peter.

Benton nods. He grabs his towel and starts out with Cleo. One of the other boxers stops what he's doing to check out Cleo.

BENTON What are you looking at?

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOF - NIGHT

Carter is on the roof with Dennis.

DENNIS

This one is a modified version of Ken Blackburn's 1998 World Record design.

CARTER

You sure you want to launch it?

DENNIS

It's just a piece of folded paper until you let it fly.

CARTER

Then let her fly.

Dennis tosses the paper airplane off the roof. It flies out over the city.

DENNIS

Wow.

CARTER

It looks like it could go forever.

DENNIS

Theoretically, it could, if the wind kept blowing and it kept finding up currents.

Carter's BEEPER goes off.

CARTER

I think your ride's here.

DENNIS

I'm out of airplanes anyway....
Thanks, for bringing me up here,
Doctor Carter.

CARTER

You make some more airplanes, we'll do it again sometime.

DENNIS

I'd like that.

CUT TO:

MAIN ER

The Quartet of Japanese Businessmen are feeling much better and are in the process of taking some digital video of themselves with Abby when Kovac passes through and exchanges a smile with Abby.

ABBY

Okay, gentlemen, thanks but I have to get back to work.

JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN #1

Domo Arigato.

ABBY

Domo Arigato.

Abby bows her way toward the Ambulance Bay.

AMBULANCE BAY - CONTINUOUS

Kovac is getting some air when Abby exits to find him.

KOVAC

You're popular today.

ABBY

Oh, yeah. I'm everybody's favorite nurse.

KOVAC

How long will you have to do this?

ABBY

Until I can pay my tuition, which at this rate will be about six years.

KOVAC

What?

ABBY

Well, maybe only a few months, but it feels like years. I'm so over all of this right now.

KOVAC

But you're a good nurse, Abby.

ABBY

Yeah, but see, that's the problem. When I'm nursing, everything's great. But when I'm a med student, I screw up even the simple things-things I can do with my eyes closed.

KOVAC Sounds to me like it's all in your head--and your uniform.

ABBY

I don't know...

KOVAC

I do. What you did in that trauma today wasn't nursing. Was it?

ABBY

I guess not.

KOVAC

You're a good nurse, but you also have the potential to be a great doctor, Abby. You just need to believe in yourself as much as the rest of us believe in you.

Abby suddenly kisses Kovac. He's surprised, but not

ABBY

I'm sorry. I can't believe I-

HALEH

Abby.

Abby and Kovac turn to see Haleh standing in the doors. Did she see them?

HALEH

You got a code brown with Mister Pozoni.

ABBY

Again? How much can one man eat?

Kovac smiles as Abby tries to extricate herself with a certain amount of style.

I've got to...head back...inside. I'll see you...yeah.

KOVAC Confidence, Abby.

Abby heads back inside feeling like she just kissed somebody under the monkey bars. She carries us into...

MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Abby passes Malucci who is walking with Carter to the

MALUCCI It was like--Whomp! And the guy just burst into flames.

CARTER There's no such thing as spontaneous human combustion, Dave.

MALUCCI I was there. I saw it. There were no matches, no lighter, no nothing.

FRANK He's right. I answered a missing person's call once. All we found was the old gal's legs, everything else was burnt to a crisp. But the chair she was in was barely singed.

MALUCCI See? I once had a guy walk in the clinic when I was in the islands that had been dead and buried for three days.

FRANK

Like a zombie?

CARTER Who signed his death certificate, Dave? You?

MALUCCI That's funny, Carter. Remember when I said I was glad to see you back. I lied.

COP David Malucci?

Malucci turns around to see a uniformed Chicago Cop.

MALUCCI

It's Doctor Dave.

COP

I have a warrant for your arrest, Doctor Dave.

MALUCCI

What is this, a joke?

Malucci looks at Frank and Carter.

COP

Are you aware that you were supposed to appear in court on August sixteenth for a number of traffic violations?

Oops.

MALUCCI

Yeah. I talked to somebody about that.

COP

Well now you're going to get to talk to the judge.

The Cop pulls out his cuffs as Chen wanders past on her way home. She waves to Dave as she exits.

MALUCCI

Whoa, whoa, hold on here. There's been a misunderstanding. I'm working here. Saving lives. Cops' lives.

CARTER

I'll cover for you, Dave.

MALUCCI

Carter.

Carter just shakes his head as Malucci tries to talk his way out of this while he's being escorted out into the Ambulance Bay. Greene comes up to the desk to see Malucci being escorted outside.

GREENE

Did somebody just arrest Malucci?

CARTER

Yup.

GREENE

Huh...

(beat) So, how was the first day back,

CARTER

Good. Kinda slow, but it was okay.

GREENE Glad to hear it. You just about finished?

Carter signs off his last patient with a flourish.

CARTER

I...am...officially...out of here.

He racks the chart.

GREENE

I need you to do one more thing.

Carter looks up to see Greene has a urine specimen cup in

CARTER

Sure.

Carter takes the cup and heads toward the men's room.

CARTER

You coming with me?

GREENE That's the rules.

Carter doesn't like it, but he accepts it. They walk down the hallway in silence then enter the...

MEN'S ROOM

Greene follows Carter into the men's room. Carter goes to one of the urinals and unzips. Greene stands nearby, a little too close for Carter's liking.

> GREENE Sorry, Carter, but I gotta witness the entire process...Trust me, it's no treat for me, either.

Carter tries to go, but it's a little unnerving.

GREENE

So, you see any good movies lately?

CARTER

No.

Greene nods and waits patiently.

GREENE

You want me to run some water or something?

Carter just throws him a look. We got out on the two of them in silence.

FADE TO BLACK:

ON THE EX. PRODUCER CARD

SFX - Pee finally hitting the cup.

END OF SHOW