

CHINA BEACH

"The Gift"

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FINAL DRAFT

March 5, 1990

CHINA BEACH

"The Gift"

CAST

McMURPHY

LILA

DOCTOR RICHARD

K.C.

BECKETT

SARGE

KASS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LIBBY HEISS

GRUNT

CAPTAIN SOUBRA

DOCTOR

LIEUTENANT COLONEL KANE

PHILIP CAPLUTO

OLIVER STONED

CORPORAL

GENERAL NELSON

*

CHINA BEACH

"The Gift"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

WARD

LILA'S OFFICE

TEMP HOUSING

TRIAGE

JET SET

LILA'S TENT

OFFICERS' CLUB
Women's Room

O.R.

ADJUTANT OFFICE

STAFF ROOM

EXTERIORS:

HELIPAD

BEACH

OFFICE

CHINA BEACH

"The Gift"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 OMITTED 1 *

2 INT. WARD - DAY 2

McMURPHY is finishing shaving a GRUNT with bandaged hands. She starts to put some after shave on him.

GRUNT
I don't want that.

McMURPHY
How about English Leather? Bay
Rum?

Lila enters the ward, spots McMurphy, crosses to the foot of the bed. She's holding a clipboard, some paperwork.

GRUNT
No, nothing. With that junk on,
I can't smell you. *

LILA
Lieutenant... *

McMURPHY
We're out of penicillin. *

LILA
I'll order some. Here. This came
for you. Registered mail. *

McMurphy glances at the letter, tucks it in her pocket.

McMURPHY
When will I get the penicillin?

LILA
(making a note)
I don't know.

Kass crosses THROUGH SHOT. *

KASS
How about the diet colas we asked
for? *

LILA
I don't know. *

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY

Why do we keep running out of stuff? I need burn kits, trach sets, sponges --

McMurphy crosses to another grunt, checks his chart. Kass is suctioning a grunt's mouth, about to deflate his tracheostomy tube. Lila follows.

LILA

And I need inventory lists, ward reports, and completed requisition forms to do my job.

McMURPHY

I gave them to you. Three copies. In ink.

LILA

(holds one up)
Wrong boxes, wrong totals, wrong forms.

McMURPHY

I'm a nurse. I spend my time saving lives, not typing lists.

LILA

We all save lives, McMurphy. It's a team effort.

McMURPHY

(wryly)
Yeah, team.

LILA

You would have those supplies right now if you followed proper procedure.

McMURPHY

It's my fault?

KASS

Oh, no... no...

McMurphy and Lila turn to see blood pour out of the grunt's trach tube. His chest turns crimson.

Lila and McMurphy move to him. Kass is already starting to suction him.

KASS

The trach cuff...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

McMURPHY

Medic! Get a screen over here.

The trach cuff has eroded into his artery. He is bleeding out. He will be dead in forty-five seconds. His eyes widen, he looks to McMurphy, reaches out...

McMURPHY

Hold him.

Lila drops her papers, grabs one of his arms, and he locks on to her hand, gripping it tightly.

McMURPHY

You're gonna be just fine.

McMurphy and Lila exchange a look. They both know it's a lie. The blood is pooling on the bed as the nurses and medics slide a screen around them.

LILA

Get the bed down.

3 FLOOR AND SCREEN

3

Legs, feet sliding in the blood, Lila's papers being trampled, the white screen splattered with red, a macabre Jackson Pollock.

4 LILA

4

holding the Grunt's hand. Reflected in her face, we see him weaken, die. The medic, other nurse exit from the curtain...

McMURPHY

Dammit!

*

She looks at Kass, anger at death winning, not at Kass.

*

KASS

(shaken)

*

It was... I didn't...

*

LILA

(to Kass)

*

There wasn't anything you could do.

McMurphy knows it's true. She closes the grunt's eyes. She looks at Lila, then...

*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

McMURPHY

You can let go of his hand now.

Lila unfolds his fingers, gently places his hand on the bed.

LILA

I'll try and find some penicillin.

5 ANGLE ON WARD

5

as Lila comes out from behind the screen, holding her bloody papers and clipboard, red slashes of blood on her uniform. It's silent. Only the NOISE from the compound, the MUSIC on a RADIO. She gathers herself, walks out the doors.

*
*
*

6 EXT. HELIPAD - DAY

6

A chopper takes off, leaving a LT. COL. LIBBY HEISS, along with a civilian camera crew, PHILIP CAPLUTO on film/sound and OLIVER STONED, a producer/director, caught in the rotor blast. Libby's a looker, aviator sunglasses, big smile, aware of her place in the world and where she's going. She's Lila's age, traveling in Class A's.

*
*

McMurphy and a medic wheel a gurney by them, heading for GRU with the dead grunt. McMURPHY is covered in dried blood.

LIBBY

Excuse me, Lieutenant?

They stop. The medic salutes Libby, holding it for the return. Libby looks at McMURPHY, waiting for her to salute... McMURPHY almost rolls her eyes in disbelief, then she salutes. Libby snaps one off, protocol appeased.

LIBBY

Can you direct me to the C.O.'s office?

McMURPHY

(pointing)

Back there, behind tropical medicine...

(salutes)

Excuse me, Colonel.

McMurphy pushes the gurney OUT OF SHOT. 

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

LIBBY

You boys check in, I'll catch up
with you later.

She walks OUT OF SHOT. We HOLD ON the two men,
exchanging a look as they gather up their equipment,
bags.

PHILIP

(freaked)

That was a dead guy, wasn't it?

OLIVER

(intrigued)

Yeah.

7 INT. LILA'S OFFICE - DAY

7

Lila at her desk, listening to the RADIO, surrounded by
paper. She moves a couple of stacks. She picks up a
file, no place to put it. She opens a drawer, drops
it in. Out of the way for the moment. She rubs her
eyes, continues working.

LIBBY (O.S.)

Scooter?

7A ANOTHER ANGLE

7A

Lila looks up, sees Libby. Omigod.

LILA

Libby?

Libby is just as surprised. Lila stands up, knocks over
a stack of papers.

LIBBY

Lila Garreau... I'll be damned.
It is you.

LILA

I can't believe it.

Lila comes from around her desk. Lila offers her hand to
shake, but Libby doesn't see it, moves quickly to embrace
her. Lila is stiff in her arms.

LIBBY

I thought Major Otis was here...
are you the new C.O.?

(CONTINUED)

7A

CONTINUED:

7A

LILA

Temporarily. Doing the work, and getting none of the glory.

LIBBY

(a smile)

Well, you sound like a C.O.

Libby wipes her face, dizzy.

LIBBY

(she sits)

I'll never get used to this heat... Get me some water, will you?

Lila turns a fan on them, gets herself and Libby some water.

LILA

You're the last person I was expecting to see walk through my door.

LIBBY

It's a small war.

Lila's look says not small enough.

LILA

You on R & R?

LIBBY

Didn't you get notification?

Lila shakes her head. Libby looks at the mess, the papers. No wonder.

LIBBY

I'm doing a recruiting film for the Chief Nurses' office. I'm gonna need a couple of your gals to be in it. Can you set that up?

LILA

I'm sure I can find someone for you.

LIBBY

(a beat)

So, how you been?

LILA

Fine. Busy. You?

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

Same. Living out of my B-4 bag
and loving every minute of it.
I'm stationed in Washington now,
the Pentagon.

LILA

Pentagon. Must be exciting.

LIBBY

I had breakfast with the
Vice President last week.

(a beat; then)

You look good, Scooter.

LILA

You, too...

Lila looks at Bronze Star, her medals, her silver oak leaves.

LILA

When did you make light colonel?

LIBBY

Two years ago... I bet you'll be
coming up for yours pretty soon...

LILA

(a beat)

I was passed over.

LIBBY

Next time.

LILA

(moving on)

How long you here for?

LIBBY

Couple of days.

(gets up)

Why don't I grab a shower, then
you can give me the grand tour of
this nickel-dime outfit.

LILA

It'll be my pleasure.

LIBBY

I'll buy you dinner at the club.

LILA

(an edge)

We can catch up on old times...

(CONTINUED)

7A CONTINUED: (3)

7A

LIBBY

Make a reservation, will you? Use
my name... something with a view?

LILA

(a smile)

Sure.

LIBBY

(a smile)

See you later, Scooter.

Libby exits. We HOLD ON Lila until her smile fades...

8 OMITTED

8

8A EXT. SHOWERS - DAY

8A

McMurphy rinses the soap frm her hair... looks around.

McMURPHY

You got any creme rinse over
there?

A bottle appears over the top of the wall separating the
showers. She takes it.

McMURPHY

So, what do you think I should do?

WIDEN to include Dr. Richard in the next stall, wearing a
flowered shower cap, soaping up.

DR. RICHARD

I'd put some in stocks, blue chip
mostly, real estate is always a
possibility.

McMURPHY

It's all too weird.

DR. RICHARD

Only if you buy in Los Angeles.

McMURPHY

I don't even remember the guy.

DR. RICHARD

I always say, don't look a gift
corpse in the mouth.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

8A

McMURPHY

Maybe he has a girlfriend or a family... maybe the money should be going to somebody who needs it.

DR. RICHARD

The soldier left the money to you. Don't you have one selfish, greedy, totally indulgent wish in that Catholic head of yours?

McMURPHY

Yeah. But unless you want to turn your collar around, I'm not telling you about it.

Lila ENTERS SHOT in front of the shower. She avoids looking at Dr. Richard.

LILA

Lieutenant, Doctor...

DR. RICHARD

You hear the news? She hit the jackpot. Ten thousand big ones.

McMURPHY

The letter was from the Serviceman's group insurance company...

DR. RICHARD

I was telling her she should diversify. What do you think she oughta do?

LILA

I'd recommend she cleans up her ward.

McMURPHY

I've been off duty an hour. Can't you find someone else?

LILA

'Someone' won't see that it's done right. STAT.

(on her exit)

That's an order.

McMURPHY

What's her problem?

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: (2)

8A

DR. RICHARD

She's jealous.

(her look)

You're young, you're rich, you're
living an exciting life in a
foreign country. I'm jealous of
you.

*
*
*

9

INT. WARD - CLOSE ON McMURPHY - NIGHT

9

kneeling, completing a military corner on an empty bed.

LILA (O.S.)

One hundred-eighty post-op beds,
three surgical wards, two medical,
five operating rooms...

*

CAMERA RISES to reveal Libby and Lila touring the ward,
wearing civvies, approaching McMurphy. Philip and
Oliver trail behind, with the camera and tape deck,
recording stuff.

LILA

Capable of handling any trauma
except for critical neurology.

*

GRUNT

Nurse...

LILA

(not hearing him)

Those we evac...

*

GRUNT

Nurse? Nurse?

LILA

McMurphy? I think he wants you.

GRUNT

I, uh, need a bed pan, ma'am.

McMurphy quickly screens the Grunt, steps out from
behind to give him some privacy.

LILA

Lieutenant McMurphy, this is Col.
Heiss.

McMURPHY

We've met.

LIBBY

We have?

(CONTINUED)

Oliver spots McMurphy.

OLIVER

I'd like to use her. She's perfect.

McMURPHY

What for?

Libby sits down on the bed McMurphy just made.

LIBBY

I'm making a recruiting movie.

They start filming, shooting McMurphy too.

LIBBY

Just keep doing something... take a pulse --

She does.

OLIVER

Don't look at the camera.

LIBBY

You run a spic and span ward, Lieutenant. Scooter must be glad to have you on board.

McMURPHY

Scooter?

LIBBY

(to McMurphy)

That was your major's nickname in London. She was a legend in her own time.

LILA

Lieutenant McMurphy is a triage nurse.

McMURPHY

Scooter, huh?

LILA

She's on her second tour.

LIBBY

You must like the Army.

McMURPHY

Some days more than others.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

You thinking about going the distance?

GRUNT (O.S.)

Nurse... I'm done.

McMURPHY

I don't think I have what it takes to be a lifer.

McMurphy goes behind the screen.

LIBBY

And what is that?

McMURPHY (O.S.)

I don't know, Colonel, but I know I don't have it.

Libby looks around.

LIBBY

(to Oliver)

Let's get some shots of this area.

McMurphy pushes open the screen, holding the bed pan.

McMURPHY

(on her exit)

Excuse me, I want to make the five o'clock pick-up.

LIBBY

She remind you of anybody?

LILA

Some days more than others.

LIBBY

(to crew)

Okay, let's do some exteriors.

The boys head out.

LILA

Don't you want to see the O.R.?

LIBBY

I'm doing a sales pitch, not a documentary, Scooter.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

LILA
 (on their exit)
 Libby, do me a favor?
 (her look)
 Don't call me Scooter.

10 OMITTED

10 *

11 DR. RICHARD

11

constructs a model of the solar system, using an orange, toothpick, pearl onions, cherries, olives. He's spinning it on a pencil axis as CAPTAIN SOUBRA, in uniform, sits down next to him at the portable bar, orders a soda from the bartender. *

DR. RICHARD
 We're the third pearl onion from the orange. That little brown spot is Asia, and that teenie, tiny bump there is VietNam. Care for a planet?

Soubra takes an olive off, eats it, then offers his hand.

SOUBRA
 Captain Soubra, T.A.G. office.

DR. RICHARD
 Doctor Richard, space explorer.

SOUBRA
 Maybe you can help me. I'm looking for a nurse, a Lieutenant McMurphy. I've got a message for her from an old acquaintance.

DR. RICHARD
 Another broken heart? A suicide note from a former suitor?

SOUBRA
 I beg your pardon?

DR. RICHARD
 You think she's some sweet face, corn-fed, apple-cheeked girl from Kansas, but she's really a cold-hearted vixen who loves to wrap men's hearts around her little finger, and snap them like that.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SNAP. Soubra follows his gaze to McMurphy and K.C.

SOUBRA

You speak from personal experience?

DR. RICHARD

She treated me like a dog...
however, the sex was great.

SOUBRA

Excuse me... and thanks for the
warning.

We FOLLOW Soubra as he walks to K.C. and McMurphy. He
listens. *

11A EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

11A *

A beach BBQ in progress. Portable bar, fire pits, tiki
torches. MUSIC and dancing on the sand. *

K.C. *

I just don't want you to do
something stupid with it.

McMURPHY

Like what?

K.C.

Like giving it to an orphanage.
Promise me I get the chance to
talk you out of anything that
resembles philanthropy.

McMURPHY

What would you do with it?

K.C.

I could double it in six weeks.

McMURPHY

Legally?

McMurphy looks up, sees Soubra. *

K.C.

Money isn't good or evil, it's
just a way of keeping score. I
don't want you to blow a shot
at making some serious cash. You
want to be a nurse the rest of
your life?

(CONTINUED)

11A CONTINUED:

11A

Now K.C. looks up, sees him. Who is this guy? *

SOUBRA

(to K.C.)

Lieutenant McMURPHY, I'm Captain
Soubra.

McMURPHY and K.C. exchange a look. *

SOUBRA

I wanted to congratulate you
on the insurance money...

K.C.

Excuse me, Captain, but she's got
all the financial advice she needs.

Soubra gives K.C. a look, ignores her, continues...

SOUBRA

I'm with The Adjutant General's
office.

(hands her envelope)

I brought you a notification of
death benefits. You've been
named as a beneficiary to a
soldier's policy.

McMURPHY

I already got it. This morning.

SOUBRA

This is a second one, for a total
of twenty thousand.

K.C.

You're kidding? *

SOUBRA

You're to report to the C.O.'s
office at 0830 hours to answer a
few questions. *

McMURPHY

What'd I do? *

SOUBRA

That's what I'm here to find out.
Lieutenant. Good night.

He exits. We HOLD ON them, K.C. giving her a look as
we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 INT. LILA'S OFFICE - DAY 12 *

Soubra questions McMurphy, referring to a 201 file before him. Lila observes.

SOUBRA

On October 20th, you were suspended for three days for losing a body -- *

McMURPHY

What's that got to do with this?

SOUBRA

I'm just trying to get a picture here... if you'd rather not answer the question... *

McMURPHY

The guy wasn't dead. He went back to his unit and never told anyone.

SOUBRA

What about this order to repair for fraternizing with enlisted personnel? *

LILA

I believe that was my order, Captain. It was resolved to my satisfaction.

Soubra makes a note, then hands her two photos.

SOUBRA

You recognize these men?

13 INSERT - PHOTOS 13

of two grunts, studio graduation portraits from the Army.

14 BACK TO SCENE 14

It bothers McMurphy that she doesn't know them.

McMURPHY

It's them, isn't it...

SOUBRA

Both of them died at China Beach.

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY

Men die here every day.

SOUBRA

You must be pretty special to the men. Two soldiers leave you all that money. Says a lot about the kind of nurse you are.

(a beat)

I bet it's hard to be around them when they're dying, when they're in pain.

McMURPHY

It's my job.

SOUBRA

You ever want to try and make it easier for them? You know, the hopeless cases. Send them on their way. A little extra morphine.

(no response)

I know it happens, Lieutenant.

McMURPHY

What are you getting at?

SOUBRA

What do you think?

McMurphy gets up, starts to leave.

SOUBRA

Sit down. We're not finished here.

McMURPHY

Forget it. I don't want the money.

SOUBRA

(an order)

Sit down, Lieutenant.

It's about rank. Lila nods. Do it. She sits, locks eyes with Soubra for a long beat.

SOUBRA

(to Lila)

I'm hereby notifying Lieutenant McMurphy that this investigation will proceed to a full inquiry.

McMURPHY

What?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

SOUBRA

Counsel will be provided for you.

McMURPHY

I didn't do anything.

SOUBRA

She will, I assume, be suspended from active duty during the investigation.

They both look to Lila.

LILA

No, she won't be.

SOUBRA

Major, I don't want to tell you how to run your operation...

LILA

Then don't. This hospital is my command, Captain. She will continue her duties.

He nods, closes his briefcase, and exits...

Lila and McMurphy exchange a look as we hear...

KASS (V.O.)

Army nursing has given me the opportunity to see the world, and to serve my country...

15 EXT. BEACH - RECRUITING FILM CREW - DAY

15

taking a shot of Kass speaking to their camera. Behind her the beach, of the surf. CAMERA PANS TO Lila and Libby, watching.

KASS

As an officer in the Army nursing corps, I work with outstanding medical personnel using the most advanced technology available today... And... I'm sorry... can I start over?

OLIVER

That's a cut.

PHILIP

Gotta reload.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

Just relax, honey. You're doing fine.

Libby motions for Lila to follow ^{er} her a few steps away, out of earshot.

LIBBY

What do you think?

LILA

Pretty dreadful.

LIBBY

She is, isn't she?

LILA

I meant the script.

LIBBY

I wrote it.

LILA

Sorry... it could use a little work...

LIBBY

It stinks... so you can help me come up with something better.

LILA

Oh, no, not me...

LIBBY

I could really use your help. I've got a lot riding on this.

LILA

Meaning?

LIBBY

A shot at moving up again. Full Bird. Chief Nurse of Vietnam.

LILA

That's wonderful, Libby.

LIBBY

I get to pick my next in command. Interested?

Lila's not sure if she should be insulted or flattered.

LIBBY

Guaranteed promotion.

(CONTINUED)

LILA

I don't know what to say...

LIBBY

I don't have the job yet... you'd love Washington. Be a good move for you.

Libby looks at the crew, is suddenly inspired.

LIBBY

(thinking)

Army Nursing is where the action is today. It's not a job. It's a career. A going place for going people.

(to Lila)

How's that?

LILA

It's better... but not exactly...

LIBBY

Well, what would you say?

Lila thinks for a moment.

LIBBY

(shouts to crew)

Don't forget I want some beauty shots...

(to Lila)

Well? What are we gonna say?

They walk for a few steps, then.

LILA

We can say that nursing is a smart choice for a career... There's always a need for qualified nurses...

(Libby's look)

And it's a job where you never will feel more appreciated for what you do... you remember what it was like in Korea?

PHILIP (O.S.)

We're ready, Colonel.

LIBBY

That's not a bad start -- Why don't you write something up and I'll take a look at it.

Libby EXITS SHOT. We HOLD ON Lila.

16 OMITTED

16

16A INT. TRIAGE - DAY

16A

McMurphy is digging in a supply cabinet, taking inventory. Lila enters, carrying a small box, sees her...

LILA

McMurphy...

McMURPHY

I traded shifts with Kass.

LILA

So you don't have to go to the general's reception?

McMURPHY

(re: box)

What's that?

LILA

Penicillin.

McMURPHY

Great. Where'd you get it?

LILA

Don't ask.

McMurphy takes the box, starts putting it away on the shelf.

McMURPHY

I hate receptions. You can't get drunk at them. And all they have to eat are those dried-out sandwiches...

LILA

You've been suspended.

McMURPHY

What?

Lila takes the box from her.

LILA

Captain Soubra went over my head. You're suspended until the investigation is over.

McMURPHY

What am I supposed to do 'til then?

(CONTINUED)

16A CONTINUED:

16A

LILA

You can go to the general's
reception.

(McMurphy frowns)

Go to the beach, read a book, take
it easy.

*
*
*

McMurphy keeps stocking the shelf.

McMURPHY

I don't want to take it easy. I
want to work. This is why I'm
here. This is where I belong, not
at the beach. Can't you do
something?

*
*

Lila takes the box from her.

*

LILA

It's not that simple.

McMURPHY

What's the matter? Don't they
have a 'go over your head'
requisition form you can fill out?

Lila restrains herself. Gives it a beat, then...

LILA

You're not the only nurse in
Vietnam, Lieutenant. Try and
remember that. I don't want to
see you here until it's over.
Understood?

McMurphy nods, hands her the inventory list, exits. Lila
looks at the cabinet, at the list, picks up where
McMurphy left off.

CUT TO:

17 CLOSE - PHOTO

17

of Libby and Lila, taken in Korea. Both in uniform
standing outside a MASH tent.

18 INT. LILA'S TENT - NIGHT

18

Lila and Libby get ready for the officers' club, having a
drink, MUSIC PLAYS ON the RADIO. Libby is looking at
some photos in an album. They are both in their dress
mess uniforms. Lila is finishing her makeup, working on
her hair, in front of her vanity mirror.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

LIBBY

My god, look at this hair... *

LILA

Look at this hair... *

Libby sets the album down, looks at Lila.

LIBBY

Let me fix it. You never could do
the back right.

Libby moves to her, starts to attack the bobby pins.

LIBBY

You ever hear from any of those
people?

LILA

At Christmas. I have cards going
out to friends from three wars.

LIBBY

Never was much of a letter writer.

LILA

I know. I wrote you six times
before I gave up.

LIBBY

They were good letters.

SARGE (O.S.)

Knock, knock!

Lila knows who it is. She looks at Libby.

LILA

(calling out)

Uh, come in.

Lila stands up, pulling her hair free from Libby. The
hair unravels as SARGE enters. And he sees them. He
immediately goes into his NCO routine.

LILA

Sergeant, this is Lieutenant
Colonel Heiss. Sergeant Pepper.He salutes. She returns the salute.

SARGE

Welcome to China Beach.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

Thank you, Sergeant.

SARGE

You ladies going out?

LILA

Yes.

SARGE

Well, you both look real nice.

(to Lila)

Except your hair's falling down.

LILA

Something you wanted, Sergeant?

SARGE

You wanted me to tell you when
the new Paul Newman movie got
here. It's here.

LILA

Thank you... goodbye, Sergeant. *

SARGE

There's a late show at 11:00 if
you decide to leave that other
party early. Probably won't be as
crowded. I think that's the one
I'm going to.

LILA

I think we'll be busy all night. *

SARGE

Oh... well, you'all have a nice
time.

Sarge exits. Lila sits back down again. Libby begins
to work on her hair, looking at her in the mirror.

LIBBY

Lila.

LILA

What?

LIBBY

Scooting around with enlisted men?

LILA

Don't be silly.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

LIBBY

He is handsome in a rough sort
of way... if you like that.

LILA

He's not my type.

LIBBY

You're right... you could do much
better than that.

Libby watches her, pins up the last strand of hair. *

LIBBY

There. Perfect. That's the way
you should wear it.

19 INT. OFFICERS' CLUB - NIGHT (REDRESSED WARD)

19

FOLLOWING Lila as she moves through the crowd. She passes Oliver, Philip and K.C. There's a D.J. SPINNING RECORDS. *

K.C.

Nothing's free, boys.

OLIVER

We'll pay you. How much?

K.C.

It depends on what you want me to do.

We FOLLOW Lila as she passes Dr. Richard and McMurphy.

LILA

Have you seen Colonel Heiss?

DR. RICHARD

She's over there with General Nelson.

LILA

Are we having a good time?

McMURPHY

No. Are you?

LILA

No.

McMURPHY

Good.

at a table. GENERAL NELSON, some colonels. Libby is charming their medals off. They laugh as Lila ENTERS SHOT.

LIBBY

~~Lila, honey, sit down here.~~
~~Everyone, this is Lila Garreau.~~
 (hellos around)
~~We go back a long way.~~ *

LILA

1944. *

LIBBY

~~General, tell that joke again.~~
~~Please? I'm sorry, Lila, but you~~
~~got to hear it. Funniest thing~~
~~I've heard in years. Tell it.~~

NELSON

Aw, Libby...

LIBBY

Go on...

NELSON

Well, there's a rabbi, a priest,
 and a buck sergeant, stranded on
 a desert island... and one ugly
 goat...

Some titters of syncophantic laughter.

NELSON

Stop me if you've heard it...

LILA

Actually, I have...

NELSON

Oh... she's heard it.

Libby gives Lila a look.

LIBBY

General, you feel like shaking
your bootie?

NELSON

If you'll show me where it is,
 I'll be glad to shake it.

The colonels laugh. Libby and the General exit. There's a beat while everyone just looks at each other, takes a drink. //

Lila puts on lipstick. We hear a TOILET FLUSH, and Libby exits a stall, joins Lila, starts to fix her makeup.

LIBBY

Thank God for Max Factor.

(a beat; then)

You need to circulate more. Did you meet Colonel Caraway?

LILA

Not yet.

LIBBY

I'll introduce you. And next time someone asks you to dance, like General Nelson, you should say yes.

LILA

I danced with him once. He stepped all over me. He's a clumsy ox.

LIBBY

That ox has a corner office in the Pentagon. He could help our careers.

LILA

God, Libby, you're the only woman I know who works a combat zone.

LIBBY

There's opportunity here. I'm taking advantage of it. How else do you ever expect to get ahead?

LILA

By doing my job well, fulfilling my duties...

LIBBY

That's where you got it wrong. While women are busy thinking about how to do their jobs better, men are busy thinking about how to get promoted. It took me a long time to figure that out. Now I've got my priorities straight. Do you?

LILA

They keep changing.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

All I want to do is finish my 26
with a pair of birds on my
shoulder.

A last look in the mirror, a touch of hair, adjusting
a skirt...

LIBBY

All right, let's get back in there
and knock 'em dead.

LILA

Before we do, can I ask you
something?

(she nods)

One of my nurses, Lieutenant
McMurphy, has been suspended.
I wondered if you could help
me get her back on duty.

LIBBY

McMurphy?

LILA

You've met her. She's a good
nurse and...

LIBBY

Why was she suspended?

LILA

It's not important. I know she
didn't do anything... *

LIBBY

If you're certain she's innocent,
why not let the investigation
proceed?

LILA

Because it's not fair to make her
go through all this. And I need
her on the ward.

LIBBY

I'll have to think about it...

LILA

What's there to think about?

A long beat where Libby doesn't answer... Then the sound
of INCOMING. *

*
*

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

LIBBY

What's that?

LILA

I think they're rockets.

One HITS... Libby dives for the floor. Lila shakes her head.

LILA

It's all right. They're far away.
It happens all the --

One HITS VERY CLOSE - a WINDOW BLOWS! Lila sits down. Libby is very scared. Lila tries to comfort her. More HITS, CLOSER.

LILA

It's okay, they never... we hear
it, then... Get down!

They go to the floor as one HITS CLOSER, then ANOTHER, and ANOTHER. We hear SCREAMS, EXPLOSIONS, SHOUTING. Several people dive into the room, looking for cover. As they huddle together under the sinks, one ROCKET HITS VERY CLOSE, shaking the room, jarring plaster from the ceiling, a large WALL MIRROR EXPLODES, taking us into BLACK as we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 INT. TRIAGE - SERIES OF CLOSE SHOTS - NIGHT 22

Blood-splattered brass buttons and ribbons, white mess jackets stained with red, satin-trimmed pants cut from legs.

23 ANOTHER ANGLE 23

As Libby and Lila come through the doors, pushing a gurney. They are both shaken, but unhurt. Dr. Richard is at work in his bloody mess dress, examining a wound.

DR. RICHARD

X-ray, I need a skull series.

A medic wheels the man away as he looks up to see Libby and Lila.

DR. RICHARD

Any more?

LILA

They're still digging...

McMurphy enters, wearing a surgical gown over her dress clothes, mask hanging down. *

McMURPHY

We're ready in O.R. Who's up first? *

DR. RICHARD

Take your pick.

LIBBY

(to Lila)

What's she doing here? *

McMURPHY

Go with the stomach case.

DR. RICHARD

Excellent choice.

LIBBY

Lieutenant, you've got to leave. *

McMURPHY

But the party just got started. *

LIBBY

You are on suspension, Lieutenant. *Leave now. *

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY

Right now? That's crazy!

DR. RICHARD

That's the Army.

LIBBY

That's an order. Get out.

McMURPHY

Like hell I will!

LIBBY

Major...

McMURPHY

I'm staying here until we're --

LILA

McMurphy, shut up!

(to Libby)

Libby, for God sakes, what's the point of all this?

LIBBY

~~The point, Lila, is if she stays, you're gonna ruffle the feathers of the full bird who suspended her. You want her up on more charges?~~

*
*

LIA

But we're short of nurses and...

*

LIBBY

You want my help, you do it my way. This is not the time to annoy a superior officer.

LILA

McMurphy, I'm sorry...

McMurphy starts to pull off her gown.

*

DR. RICHARD

Now that you've managed to maintain protocol, who's gonna help me operate.

LILA

You want nurses? You got nurses.

Lila grabs a scrub top, throws it to Libby.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

Oh, I don't remember...

*

DR. RICHARD

Like riding a bike. Once you've assisted at major abdominal surgery, you never forget. Let's scrub. Follow me, ladies.

Dr. Richard leads the way, Lila and Libby follow. CAMERA MOVES TO McMURPHY, looking through the triage doors.

INT. OR - NIGHT

Dr. Richard operates on one patient, Libby assists him. Lila is beside them, working with another DOCTOR.

DR. RICHARD

This isn't a baptismal, Colonel... when I say irrigate, I mean irrigate...

Libby is not doing well. She's sweating.

DR. RICHARD

Got it.

He lifts a piece of shrapnel with the forceps, drops it in the basin.

DR. RICHARD

Kelly clamp.

Libby hesitates.

DR. RICHARD

The Kelly...

She finds it, gives it to him... he attaches it.

DR. RICHARD

Suction...

She picks up the suction, starts to put it in. Dr. Richard grabs it, holds it on the right spot. Beads of sweat are rising on her forehead.

DR. RICHARD

Here... hold it there...

(angry)

No, there! Right there, please!

25 ANGLE - LILA

25

watching Libby.

DOCTOR

Suture... number five thread.

She turns back to her work.

26 ANGLE - DR. RICHARD AND LIBBY

26

He cuts, probes for a moment. He looks up at her.

DR. RICHARD

You all right?

LIBBY

You don't have to yell, you know.

Libby sways on her feet. Dr. Richard steadies her.
Something there.

*
*

DR. RICHARD

If you're dizzy, take a deep
breath.

LIBBY

I'm fine.

DR. RICHARD

It still gets to me sometimes.

LIBBY

I don't remember wounds like these
in Korea.

DR. RICHARD

This is the new, improved war.
(look up)
Colonel, you better sit down.

LIBBY

I'm all right...

And then she goes down, dropping to the floor.

DR. RICHARD

Medic! Medic! The bigger they
are the harder they fall...

*
*

27 ANGLE - LILA

27

unable to move, her hands busy for the moment.

*

28 ANGLE - LIBBY 28

as two Medics help get her up, sit her on a stool, head between her legs, hand her some water.

LIBBY

I'm okay... thank you... let me.

She tries to rise, but passes out again.

29 ANGLE - DR. RICHARD 29

digging back into his patient.

DR. RICHARD

I need a nurse here. Fresh nurses!

Lila ENTERS SHOT, picks up the right instruments, hands them to him, starts to suction the cavity, not missing a beat. She mops his brow with a sponge. He nods to her, seeing her in a different light for a moment before he returns to his work. Lila looks over at Libby.

30 ANGLE - LIBBY 30

being carried out on a stretcher.

We FOLLOW the stretcher to the OR doors. As they open, revealing McMurphy. She's got her mask up. She enters. //

31 ANGLE - LILA 31

McMurphy ENTERS SHOT, exchanges a look with Dr. Dick and Lila, then crosses to the other patient, starts working. Lila and Dr. Richard continue working, a smile in their eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

31A INT. TRIAGE - NIGHT 31A

After the war. Quiet cleaning up. Dr. Richard is examining Libby, still asleep on a stretcher. Lila stands next to him. He listens to her heart, looks up at Lila.

DR. RICHARD

Your friend has a problem.

We HOLD ON Lila... //

Dr. Richard, exhausted from the night before, is being questioned by LT. COLONEL KANE. Captain Soubra paces like a B-Movie lawyer, trying to impress his boss.

SOUBRA

How long have you known Lieutenant
McMurphy?

DR. RICHARD

All my life.

SOUBRA

What?

DR. RICHARD

We first met in the Fifth Century.
I was a stable boy, she was a
princess.

SOUBRA

I remind you that you're under
oath, Dr. Richard.

DR. RICHARD

I've known her long enough to say
I would trust her with my life.
Plenty of guys do every day.

SOUBRA

We're only interested in two guys.

KANE

Excuse me, Captain, but would you
sit down? You're wearing me out.

Soubra sits.

KANE

Did you ever have the Lieutenant
sign your name for you?

DR. RICHARD

A couple of birthday cards,
maybe....

KANE

To medical records.

DR. RICHARD

Yes. On my orders.

SOUBRA

Did you ever allow her to
determine cause of death?

*

(CONTINUED)

-- Kane gives him a look. *

DR. RICHARD
Nurses do it all the time. They look in the body bags, stir around what's left, and make an educated guess.

Kane shoves a stack of papers to him.

KANE
So, you allowed Lieutenant McMurphy, at times, to determine cause of death and indicate it on a soldier's medical records.

DR. RICHARD
I did.

KANE
Those your signatures?

DR. RICHARD
All except these two.

KANE
And who signed those?

DR. RICHARD
Lieutenant McMurphy, she makes that funny little 'R'... she signed them, but on my orders.

SOUBRA
How would you know that? There's no initial after the name, no indication that you ever reviewed the final medical judgment. *

KANE
Captain Soubra, I can ask my own questions, thank you.
(to Richard)
Continue, please.

DR. RICHARD
We work ten, fourteen hours, you lose track of time...

KANE
Then it was your responsibility to validate her findings, wasn't it?

DR. RICHARD
Yes, but...

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

SOUBRA

So, you don't really know what
killed those two men, do you?

Kane gives him a look.

DR. RICHARD

This is just a wild guess, but,
was it the war?

CUT TO:

33 EXT. OFFICE - DAY

33

A hallway outside. Lila and McMurphy wait on a bench,
wearing class "A"s. Dr. Richard exits. Lila and
McMurphy look up, expectantly. He adjusts his tie,
shoots his cuffs.

DR. RICHARD

Don't worry, kid, I didn't tell
'em a thing. You're gonna beat
the rap, no sweat.

McMURPHY

Thank you, George Raft.

DR. RICHARD

That was Edward G. Robinson.

McMURPHY

What did you tell them?

DR. RICHARD

(torn by it)
It's confidential.

The door opens, Captain Soubra sticks his head out.

SOUBRA

Major, we're ready for you now.

He ushers Lila in. The Captain starts to close the door
and McMurphy is after him.

McMURPHY

Captain... I've been sitting here
for five hours.

SOUBRA

Yes...

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY

So when are you going to get to me?

SOUBRA

(checks watch)

I apologize, Lieutenant. I guess we won't have time to speak with you today. You can go. Be back here same time tomorrow.

McMURPHY

You did this on purpose, didn't you?

SOUBRA

Did what?

McMURPHY

What is it, Captain? You got a thing about nurses? Is that it?

DR. RICHARD

McMurphy...

McMURPHY

Or maybe you just got it out for women in general.

SOUBRA

Not if they know their place.

McMURPHY

And where would that be, Captain?

SOUBRA

Not in a war zone.

He closes the door on her. A beat, then she turns to Dr. Richard.

McMURPHY

Why didn't you try and stop me?

DR. RICHARD

I was hoping you were going to deck him.

McMurphy shakes her head. They walk down the corridor as we --

CUT TO:

K.C. and McMurphy wearing bathing suits, sitting on a towel. Libby stands with Philip and Oliver who are filming them.

OLIVER

Let's just do that last part again... and could the Lieutenant look like she's enjoying herself. We're still rolling... whenever you're ready...

McMurphy clears her throat, looks at the camera.

McMURPHY

If you're looking for a career with a future, talk to your Recruiter today. He'll tell you all about the great life you'll have as an Army Nurse. Army nursing is where the action is today.

OLIVER

Cut...

Oliver looks at Libby. Shakes his head. Maybe we can fix it in post.

LIBBY

I think that's it for today.
Thank you.

K.C. looks at McMurphy.

K.C.

Will you be showing this at the Pentagon?

LIBBY

I'm sure we will.

K.C.

(a smile)

I wish I could be there to see their faces.

(whispers)

You think anyone's gonna buy this crap?

McMURPHY

I hope not.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

K.C.

Well, it's the easiest money I
ever made lying down. See ya.

37 ANOTHER ANGLE

37

as K.C. exits, Libby crosses to McMurphy.

LIBBY

I want to thank you for helping
out.

McMURPHY

Just following orders. *

LIBBY

I can still thank you, can't I?

(no response) *

Lieutenant, I know what you're
going through isn't easy... *

McMURPHY

Were you ever suspended? *

LIBBY

No...

McMURPHY

With all due respect, you can't
know, can you? *

(no response)

Are we done here? *

Libby nods. McMurphy exits. We HOLD ON Libby. *

38 INT. LILA'S TENT - NIGHT

38

Libby is packing her B-4 bag. Lila enters.

LIBBY

I called Saigon to check in, and
General Abrams is due there
tomorrow, and they're going crazy.
Said for me to get back right
away...

LILA

How long have you known?

LIBBY

I'm okay... my heart is just fine.

(CONTINUED)

LILA

That's why you've been so tired. *

LIBBY

It's not that serious. I'm
treating it with medication.

LILA

Why are you taking chances with
your life? *

LIBBY

Because I am two years from
retirement, I'm not going to be
thrown out on some medical
disability. *

LILA

You're gonna die with your boots
on. *

LIBBY

I'm going to tough it out, then
I'll have the surgery.

LILA

If you live that long. *

LIBBY

I wouldn't expect you to
understand.

LILA

No, I don't. I think there's
more to life than an Army career. *

LIBBY

That's because you don't have one.

LILA

(angry)

Well, maybe if you'd told them the
truth about what happened that
night in Korea, I would. *

LIBBY

They would have court-martialed
me. I was AWOL!

LILA

You were getting married.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

You offered to take my shift. It was your idea. You signed my name.

LILA

And you got the Bronze Star. *

LIBBY

Everyone at the MASH unit got the Bronze Star for that night.

LILA

Except me. I earned it. I probably would have been a general by now.

LIBBY

You're right, I should have told them... because then I wouldn't have had to live with it all these years, waiting for you to blow the whistle.

{ Libby is suddenly dizzy. She sits down on the bed.

LILA

Libby... you all right?

{ Libby nods, opens her pocket, gets a pill, takes one.

LILA

Lie down...

{ She does. Lila takes her pulse, becoming the nurse for a moment. A beat; then...

LIBBY

Everytime I was promoted, everytime someone brought it up, I felt ashamed... like a fraud. You had my whole life in your hands, and I began to hate you for it.

Handwritten scribbles and a signature-like mark.

LILA

I wouldn't have done that to you. You were my friend.

A long beat while they look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

You always were a better nurse than I was. The men asked for you. They never asked for me. There was a time when I would have given anything to have the men look at me like that. You always had the gift. I knew I didn't have it, so I went after something else. And now I don't know if I'm going to get it.

LILA

Let me arrange for a complete physical in the morning. I think you ought to know exactly what you're up against, what your choices are.

Libby nods. We HOLD ON them as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

39 INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY 39

Sunlight streams in as Captain Soubra adjusts some blinds, then slaps a stack of legal pads on a desk. MUSIC CARRIES us through the following scenes:

CUT TO:

40 INT. TEMP HOUSING - DAY 40

McMurphy, in her slip and bra, pulls on her Class A skirt.

CUT TO:

41 OMITTED 41 *

41A INT. OR - DAY 41A *

Behind a screen, Libby is taking off her skirt, carefully folding it, placing it on a chair.

CUT TO:

42 INT. STAFF ROOM - CLOSE - PENCIL SHARPENER AND PENCIL 42

being ground down. It's pulled out, we FOLLOW it as Soubra raises it to his face, touches the point with the tip of his finger; like a man checking the edge on his favorite cutting blade.

CUT TO:

43 INT. TEMP HOUSING - CLOSE - McMURPHY'S HAND 43

pinning the medals on her blouse. We WIDEN as she adjusts them, looks at herself in a mirror.

CUT TO:

44 OMITTED 44 *

44A INT. OR 44A *

Libby pulls on the open-back exam gown, naked underneath, barefoot, looking and feeling vulnerable now.

CUT TO:

- 45 INT. WARD - CLOSE - LILA - DAY 45
looking at something O.S.
- 46 LILA'S POV - WARD 46
and the activity. A room of nurses and medics, one writing a letter for a grunt, another giving a sponge bath, someone changing a bandage, another stroking a fevered brow. We LINGER ON a last image: a nurse holding a hand in silence, just being there.
- 47 BACK TO LILA 47
as she turns, walks through the triage doors.
- 48 INT. ADJUTANT OFFICE - CLOSE - DOOR 48
as it opens, revealing McMurphy. She steps in, salutes.
- 49 ANOTHER ANGLE 49
Captain Soubra and Colonel Kane are seated behind a desk. There's a single chair in front of them. Soubra nods, indicating she's to take a seat.
- 50 CLOSE - CHAIR 50
as McMurphy sits INTO FRAME. Her face is stone.
- 51 OMITTED 51 *
- 51A INT. OR - CLOSE - SCREEN CURTAIN 51A *
as it's pulled back revealing Libby.
- 52 ANOTHER ANGLE 52
Lila adjusts the screen. She's there to assist. Dr. Richard nods to Libby, indicating the exam table, with the stirrups up.
- 53 CLOSE - EXAM TABLE 53
Libby stretches out INTO FRAME. Her face is rigid with fear.

SOUBRA

Did you recall having any conversations with him?

McMURPHY

I'm sure I did. I talk to everyone.

SOUBRA

Did he ever mention making you his beneficiary?

McMURPHY

No.

KANE

This is a photocopy of the letter the Insurance Company received requesting a change in the policy. Do you recognize the handwriting?

*

McMURPHY

No.

KANE

Here's a sample of your handwriting from the charts. Notice any similarities?

McMURPHY

(a beat; then)

I don't remember writing this. Sometimes you just put down what they say. You try not to pay attention because it's so personal.

*

*

KANE

Do you remember mailing this letter for him?

McMURPHY

No.

SOUBRA

Did you change the name in the letter?

McMURPHY

You think I did that?

SOUBRA

Somebody did.

McMURPHY

It wasn't me.

(CONTINUED)

SOUBRA

Somebody erased one name and wrote in yours.

McMURPHY

It wasn't me!

McMurphy hears herself, struggles to control her temper. A beat.

KANE

Captain Soubra, that's enough out of you. I'll take it from here.

(a beat; then)

A month later, Corporal Hunter was wounded again, returned to China Beach. He died on your shift that night following surgery.

McMURPHY

So?

KANE

Isn't that unusual?

McMURPHY

That he died? No. That he came back through my ward? No. I've had the same men come through here three, four times. They always ask if I remember them. I always lie and say I do...

KANE

Would you take a look at this photograph. Maybe it will jog your memory.

He hands it to her. She looks at it. The graduation picture.

KANE

I want you to try and recall what took place from the time Corporal Hunter arrived in triage, until you discovered that he was dead.

McMURPHY

I don't know if I can.

KANE

I want you to try... please, it's important.

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY

It's not that I don't want to...
it's just they all run together
sometimes...

Kane looks at his notes, prompting her...

KANE

You were an hour into your shift...
A convoy had been attacked. Forty-
four wounded, eighteen with
critical burns.

McMURPHY

We got a radio message from the
chopper pilots, telling us what
was coming...

(a beat)

We never had that many burn cases
at one time... the smell was... A
couple of nurses got sick. The men
didn't even look like bodies, just
sacks filled with charred meat...
crispy critters.

(their look)

We have names for all of them...
the bigger the injury, the bigger
the joke. The biggest jokes are
the ones you find yourself wishing
would die, because you can't
imagine sending them home to their
mothers like that...

McMurphy takes a glass of water from the table, drinks.

McMURPHY

The corporal had multiple gunshot
wounds. I cleaned him up, flushed
his wounds with a gallon of saline,
mopped him down with Betadine.
It's hard work scrubbing the jungle
out of them. So dirty. You find
mud, sticks, parts of their uniform,
belt buckles, Zippo lighters
embedded in the flesh. You don't
stop to think about what you're
doing, or you wouldn't be able to
do it... you find yourself pushing
a guy's intestines back into his
belly, telling him he'll be fine
... you try to match legs and arms
you've picked up from the floor.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY (CONT'D)

You hope you get them with the right body. That's kept me awake some nights, thinking I've sent some boy off with two left feet.

McMurphy stops. Thinking, hurting.

KANE

Go on...

McMURPHY

Some of the men had been waiting in the sun before they came in, they had maggots in the wounds. I've gotten used to the smell of burned flesh, but the maggots always make me puke.

Soubra doesn't look up, continues writing.

McMURPHY

Maybe I should say vomit... can you change that to read 'vomit'? I wouldn't want to offend anyone.

KANE

Please, go on, Lieutenant.

McMURPHY

I want him to change that. Change it!

SOUBRA

Keep this up, Lieutenant, and I'll hold you in contempt.

KANE

Shut up, Captain.

(a beat)

What happened next?

McMURPHY

(a beat; then)

I scrubbed in and assisted on a dozen cases. When I got back to my hootch, I didn't go to sleep right away. You can't. You're maxed out and feeling like you just stepped off a carnival ride. So I lied there and replayed the whole shift, what I did, what I should have done.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

McMURPHY (CONT'D)

I fell asleep for a few hours.
Then I went on the post op ward,
checked on the men, to see which
ones pulled through.

(a beat)

I don't remember him dying... I
don't remember. I wish I did. I
wish to God I did.

SOUBRA

You seem to have remembered that
night very well, Lieutenant.

McMURPHY

I didn't... They're all like that.
I just picked one at random.

KANE

(a beat; then)

You have anything further to say?

She shakes her head. A long beat.

KANE

Lieutenant, it's the opinion of
this officer that there's no
evidence of misconduct here.

SOUBRA

Colonel, I want to go on record...

KANE

Shut up, Captain... you've wasted
enough of my time.

(to McMurphy)

I apologize for putting you
through this. You'll receive your
beneficiary payments in a couple
of days. You're dismissed.

Philip throws Libby's bag into the waiting chopper,
climbs up with Oliver to wait for Libby.

LIBBY

Here, for you.

{ Libby hands her an envelope.

(CONTINUED)

LIBBY

It's my recommendation that you succeed me in this job. If it all doesn't work out, they'll be looking for someone.

LILA

I don't want it, Libby.

LIBBY

Don't decide now. Think about it. It's the least I can do.
(a beat)

Now give me my medical file so I can get out of here.

Lila hands her the file.

LILA

It's yours to do with as you please. Dr. Richard wrote down the names of some specialists in Tokyo.

LIBBY

Thank you.

LILA

You will contact them?

A long beat while they look at each other.

LIBBY

You've always been a better friend than I was. You know that don't you?

They embrace. Libby steps back, salutes, Lila returns the salute.

Libby climbs into the chopper. They fly away.

Lila, watches them go as Sarge ENTERS SHOT, stands beside her.

SARGE

Hi.

LILA

Hi.

SARGE

Paul Newman's still here. You interested?

(CONTINUED)

LILA

Always.

SARGE

(re: letter)
What's that?

LILA

Nothing. Nothing at all.

She tears it in half. They walk off together...

McMurphy is checking the beds, tucking in her boys. We can hear the DISTANT RUMBLE of the WAR.

LILA (O.S.)

Night shift, reporting for duty.

WIDEN to include Lila, wearing her OD outfit, dressed like McMurphy.

McMURPHY

You're early.

LILA

Old habits die hard. I like to hit the ground running.

McMurphy picks up a clipboard.

McMURPHY

We've got two new post op patients, one for discharge, and...

(whispers)

a real scared kid in the last bed over there.

LILA

You thought about what you're going to do with the money?

McMURPHY

Nothing right now.

LILA

That's smart.

McMURPHY

I can't. Nobody in Vietnam will cash my check. I'm broke until payday.

(CONTINUED)

LILA

I'll see if I can arrange for a
a loan.

Lila picks up a chart, reads it. McMurphy walks away,
turns... *

McMURPHY

Major, you don't have to tell me,
if you don't want to, but I'd
sure like to know how you got
the name Scooter. *

LILA

(a beat; then)

When I was stationed in London, I
was dating more than one man. In
order to get around, I purchased
a small Italian scooter.

McMURPHY

And...

LILA

And that's how I got my nickname.

McMURPHY

So, you were scootering more than
one guy at a time?

LILA

(a small smile)

Something like that.

(a beat; then)

How do I look?

McMurphy tucks in a scissor, adjusts her tourniquet
rubber.

McMURPHY

Like you belong here.

LILA

We do belong here, don't we,
Lieutenant?

McMURPHY

Yes, ma'am. We do. It's good
to be back.

LILA

Yes, it is.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

GRUNT (O.S.)

Nurse?

Lila's head turns. She looks back at McMurphy who smiles. He's all yours... Lila nods, goes to the GRUNT. We HOLD ON Lila as we --

*

FADE OUT.

THE END