

**UNDER THE BRIDGE**

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TEASER

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. PATIENT EXAM ROOM - DAY (1999)

OVERHEAD SHOT: Five 20-somethings arranged *Breakfast Club* style, each of them holding an index card.

**KATE LANCASTER:** The A student. Curious, open, but never naive. Quietly ambitious. Confident and kind. A classic beauty.

KATE

(reading from her card)

"A nurse pages you in the middle of the night and tells you that your patient who just had hip surgery is feeling chest pain. What do you do?"

**DAN WILCOX:** The Tortured Artist. Gorgeous, dry, a tad broken. He works hard for everything, except sex. That comes easily.

DAN

Depends. How late is it?

**MICHAEL SHAPIRO:** The Class Clown who happens to be brilliant. Charming, affable, a natural leader who loves the limelight.

MICHAEL

And how cute is the nurse?

**AMENI RODRIGUEZ:** The Rebel. Sexy, sarcastic, and opinionated AF. Loud and fearless, she enjoys a good fight.

AMENI

So the nurse is automatically a woman?

**CHARLIE COLEMAN:** The Pragmatist. Thoughtful, deliberate and good. He worries but isn't neurotic. A cautious old soul.

CHARLIE

Could be a pulmonary embolism.

MICHAEL

Maybe the nurse is a cute guy. Dan swings both ways.

Dan rolls his eyes, unfazed. Used to Michael's ribbing.

KATE

"You get to the room. Patient BPM is 140. O2 tension low. What do you do?"

CHARLIE

Blood thinner, supplemental oxygen...

AMENI  
 Arterial blood gas...  
 (to Dan)  
 Are you really bisexual?

DAN  
 That's a personal question considering  
 you don't even know my name.

AMENI  
 He just said your name is Dan. You two  
 went to med school together?

MICHAEL  
 And high school. And junior high. This  
 guy won't stop following me.

CHARLIE  
 Does it specify what month we're in?

KATE  
 Would that matter?

CHARLIE  
 Hospital mortality rates spike in July  
 because of... well... because of us.

AMENI  
 Speak for yourself. I don't plan on  
 killing any patients my first month.

MICHAEL  
 (to Kate, genuine)  
 What would you do?

Kate considers; smart enough to know what she doesn't know.

KATE  
 I'd call a senior resident. In case  
 I'm missing anything.

Dan slips the card out of her hand, lightly brushing her  
 fingers, before reading the answer. She was right.

DAN  
 Guess I know who I'm standing next  
 to during rounds.

Oh, the eye contact. So fucking sexy. Kate blushes, attracted  
 to him. Now Michael rolls his eyes. He's used to this.

MICHAEL  
 Okay, okay. Next question!

Michael reads his index card, forcing all eyes back on him...

**BEGIN MONTAGE:** *You're My Best Friend*, by Queen.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - DAY

Our group, on the move, doing rounds in their scrubs. Their RESIDENT asks a question, all hands go up. Eager beavers...

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Our group sits together, taking notes during a lecture. Dan draws a cartoon of a boy holding flowers and gives it to Kate who smiles. Michael notices and plucks an ACTUAL flower from another STUDENT's hair. Kate laughs. A triangle forming.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - DAY

Ameni is having difficulty drawing blood from a patient. Kate gently assists. Ameni smiles, grateful. A sisterhood growing.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. ER - DAY

Michael, Dan and Charlie trying to restrain a CRAZY PATIENT who accidentally STRIKES Charlie in the face. Dan and Michael abandon the patient for their friend. A bromance expanding.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Michael holds court as the friends share a drink after work. Dan notices a PRETTY GIRL eyeing him. Kate clocks it.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY

Charlie, now a resident, schooling his own interns. He passes Ameni and her new interns. They high-five. Time flying...

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Out of surgery, Kate delivers bad news to a family. When she's done, Michael is there to hold her hand. She takes it.

EXT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. MORGUE - DAY

Kate wheels a BODY into the morgue. Suddenly, the body pops up from under the sheet revealing Michael holding an ENGAGEMENT RING! Ameni, Charlie and Dan emerge from their various hiding places. Charlie films the moment. Ameni cries. Dan smiles, graciously accepting defeat.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Ameni performs an emergency C-section. She delivers the baby and walks it over to the mom on the other side of the curtain. Reveal the mother is Kate. Michael by her side.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

A bottle of champagne is placed on the table. Michael pours as Charlie presents a mock-up of their new company logo for BRIDGE MEDICINE. Our friends toast their new partnership. Laughing, hugging, excited about the future.

ON Kate. Taking it all in. This life. These loves. As she wonders what will happen next...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - MORNING - **PRESENT DAY** (D1)

A now 40-something Kate sits at a conference table. The sparkle behind her eyes has dimmed. She's guarded. A little angry. An iPhone records the meeting for lawyer, GLEN HEATH.

MR. HEATH

Please state your name for the record.

KATE

Dr. Kate Lancaster.

MR. HEATH

And how long have you been a surgeon at Lakewood Hospital, Dr. Lancaster?

KATE

I started my residency in '99.  
Completed my fellowship in '07 --

MR. HEATH

In cardiothoracics, correct?

KATE

Yes, but I haven't practiced in over a year. Fourteen months to be exact.

MR. HEATH

(re: his notes)

I see here you've taken a leave of absence, but still maintain privileges at the hospital. And you've kept a financial stake in your group practice, Bridge Medicine, which has been under contract with Lakewood since --

KATE

2015. Yes.

MR. HEATH

So you are aware of the complaints filed against Dr. Michael Shapiro?

Kate noticeably tenses up. *Tread lightly, asshole.*

KATE

Yes. But my understanding is that the complaints were brought to Lakewood's HR department very recently. And since I haven't been there, I can't speak to the situation with any specificity.

(then, simply)

I'm not the best person to ask.

MR. HEATH

You must have an opinion.

KATE

(challenging)

Why? Because I'm a woman?

MR. HEATH

No. Because you're his wife.

Kate doesn't flinch. Neither does the lawyer. A standoff.

KATE

What's your question, Mr. Heath?

MR. HEATH

To be clear, the complaints do not indicate any predatory behavior. Nothing overtly sexual in nature. Dr. Shapiro is being accused of creating a toxic workplace environment for women.

KATE

Sounds vague.

MR. HEATH

Allow me to be more specific. According to the accuser, Dr. Shapiro consistently chooses male interns to scrub in on his surgeries. She mentions one in which an overweight woman was having a triple bypass, and Dr. Shapiro reportedly said, quote, "I told her to get rid of all the fattening food in her house. I didn't mean she should eat it." The laughter that followed at the patient's expense was, quote, "unbearable."

KATE

Unbearable to the patient? She was unconscious, I hope. If not, you've got a real lawsuit on your hands.

MR. HEATH

Unbearable to the woman who is filing the claim who was present at the time. This example is merely a representation of the "type" of humor Dr. Shapiro often uses --

KATE

I get it. You can stop.

MR. HEATH

Do you disagree with the assessment of your husband's character?

Kate considers the question. Then, leaning ALL the way in:

KATE

This isn't about my husband. This is about a surgeon. One of the top ten cardiothoracic surgeons in California, according to US News & World Report. His jokes may not land him a spot on *The Tonight Show*, but they get him through his day. A day where, at any given moment, he may be holding someone's still-beating heart in his hands. A day most people - including you, Mr. Heath - will never comprehend. So if his sense of humor is offensive, we'll start watching Trevor Noah. Maybe pick up a few tips. Regarding the preference for male scrubs, you may want to check the ratio of male to female interns currently employed by Lakewood. You can't blame Michael for not having enough cards in the deck.

(then)

Any other questions?

He shakes his head. Kate rises, grabs her leather jacket off the back of her chair, and WALKS OUT.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

A sleek, black Audi cruises down the highway, recklessly ignoring the speed limit.

INT. KATE'S AUDI - DAY

Kate's Dita aviators mask her emotions. Her phone RINGS with an incoming call. She lets it ring twice before picking up.

KATE

Hey, babe.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - SAME TIME

Two (male) SURGICAL INTERNS, a team of SCRUB TECHS and an ANESTHESIOLOGIST are present as Michael finishes a routine stent placement. An overweight nurse, LINDA JENKINS, holds a cell phone to his ear, while a younger nurse, TORI BELL stands beside him, keeping his instruments at the ready.

MICHAEL  
(into phone)  
That was fast. How'd it go?

KATE  
They have nothing.

MICHAEL  
Of course they don't. This whole thing is ridiculous.

KATE  
Which is exactly what I told them.

MICHAEL  
Thank you for that. I still feel terrible that your entire day got ruined with this crap. Are you okay?

KATE  
I'm fine.

He waits for more. Gets none.

MICHAEL  
You sure? You sound upset.

KATE  
I'm just late for an appointment.

MICHAEL  
Go. I love you.

KATE  
Love you, too.

She hangs up. We stay with Michael, trying to discern her tone. He can't. So he shakes it off, goes back to work. He turns to Nurse Linda, still holding his phone to his ear.

MICHAEL  
Thanks, Linda.

Linda puts the phone away as Nurse Tori offers Michael a suture needle.



MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Tori.  
(then, to the doctors)  
Who wants to close?

As our competing SURGICAL INTERNS raise their hands...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

An upscale practice, with a fancy conference room to prove it. Charlie, Ameni and Dan sit with the lawyer, Mr. Heath.

DAN  
She walked out? Was she mad?

CHARLIE  
Of course she's mad.

AMENI  
Yeah, but at Michael. Not us. We didn't do anything.

DAN  
We made her talk to this asshole.  
(then)  
No offense.

CHARLIE  
We're just following protocol. The hospital requested depositions from all the partners. Kate is a partner.

DAN  
She's been on leave for over a year.  
We could have argued --

MR. HEATH  
Better you didn't. As of today, Dr. Shapiro's hospital privileges have been suspended pending further investigation.

Bomb. Dropped. Even Ameni appears shocked.

AMENI  
Suspended? When did that happen?

MR. HEATH  
He was informed by HR right after he got out of surgery. He'll still be able to have patient consults in his office, but all surgeries will be reassigned --

DAN  
Over a couple of crappy jokes? Have  
you guys lost your mind?

CHARLIE  
For how long?

MR. HEATH  
The hospital is eager to move  
things along as quickly as  
possible.

DAN  
I bet you are...

Ameni gives Dan a gentle nudge -- *Be cool.*

MR. HEATH  
To that end, we are proposing that  
Bridge Medicine request a resignation  
from Dr. Shapiro, effective  
immediately.

Bomb. EXPLODED.

CHARLIE  
You want us to fire Michael?

DAN  
(fuck you)  
No. The answer is no --

MR. HEATH  
You've all been deposed and to varying  
degrees, you've each acknowledged an  
awareness of Michael's behavior. One  
could argue this makes you complicit.

AMENI  
Now hold on a second...

MR. HEATH  
Should you refuse to take action,  
we'll start taking depositions from  
every employee who works with Dr.  
Shapiro. Every nurse. Every resident.  
Every intern. If we determine that  
Dr. Shapiro is in violation of  
hospital policy, Lakewood may choose  
to terminate its contract with Bridge  
Medicine and rescind all of your  
privileges. Permanently.

Ultimatum issued, our friends grow quiet. The lawyer gathers  
his things and heads for the door.

MR. HEATH (CONT'D)  
We'll give you forty-eight hours to  
decide. You have my card.

Mr. Heath walks out. A long beat of "holy shit" ensues.

AMENI  
Can I say what no one else will?

CHARLIE/DAN  
Not necessary. / Please don't.

AMENI  
I'm not shocked. That's all.

DAN  
You're not shocked that we're being  
threatened by our employers? You're  
more cynical than I thought. This  
is some mafia bullshit...

Pissed, Dan rises and walks out as the others follow --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE  
They're trying to avoid negative PR.  
If we get rid of Michael internally,  
they can drop the whole thing.

DAN  
Maybe they'll drop it anyway.  
It's a pretty bogus complaint. I  
say we call their bluff.

AMENI  
I disagree. Do you not see what's  
happening in the world right now, Dan?

DAN  
If she says "Time's Up" --

AMENI  
Time is UP.

CHARLIE  
I mean, you basically *made* her say it.

AMENI  
Corporations are under scrutiny  
like never before. And you can't  
tell me that you've never witnessed  
sexual harassment at Lakewood.

DAN  
Of course I have. But I wouldn't  
consider what Michael does --

AMENI  
It's not about what you consider to  
be harassment. It's about what the  
woman accusing him felt.

Rounding the corner, they come face to face with Michael.  
Ameni blushes, sheepish, but Michael appears to be okay.

AMENI (CONT'D)  
Michael... I'm so sorry...

MICHAEL  
I take it you heard the big news.  
Don't worry. It's temporary. I'll be  
back in the OR within the week.

He's doing his best to seem breezy without appearing flip.  
Not an easy dance, but he does a good job. Michael's  
assistant, MARISSA, approaches. File in hand.

MARISSA  
Your 4:30 is here, Dr. Shapiro.

Michael exchanges his coffee for the file and heads towards  
Exam 1, when Charlie steps in front of him.

CHARLIE  
Michael, wait. We need to talk.

MICHAEL  
Can't. My 4:30 is here and Marissa  
gets mad when I'm late.

MARISSA  
You're already late.

MICHAEL  
And you're already mad.

He smiles at Marissa, then notices the look on Dan's face. On  
all of his friend's faces. He stops smiling.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
What did I miss?

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Michael sits behind his desk, having just been given the  
news. He's stewing. A KNOCK before Dan pokes his head in:

DAN  
How you doing?

MICHAEL  
It's not my favorite day. But I still  
have better hair than you, so...

Dan smiles as he walks in, closing the door behind him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
How do you think Charlie and Ameni  
are leaning? You think they're  
gonna want me out?

DAN  
No. I mean, I doubt it? It just  
happened. Everyone is processing...

Michael nods. Not the enthusiastic "*Hell no!*" he was hoping  
for. It's clear he wants to be alone, but Dan is hovering.  
Which is when Michael realizes:

MICHAEL  
You know something.

DAN  
Linda Jenkins.

Michael takes in the name, shocked. Gut-punched.

MICHAEL  
Linda Jenkins? We were just in surgery  
together. I don't believe it.

DAN  
That's what I heard.

MICHAEL  
Linda Jenkins, the nurse? She loves me!

DAN  
Apparently, she does not. But I do. So  
you got that going for you.  
(then, carefully)  
Were you expecting someone else?

It's a loaded question. Michael side steps it.

MICHAEL  
I was expecting some millennial who  
thinks she deserves special treatment  
because she was born. I wasn't  
expecting a veteran nurse who's been  
around as long as I have.  
(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I can't possibly be the worst person that Linda Jenkins has ever worked with.

DAN

Maybe you're not the only person she's complaining about.

Michael nods, considering that.

DAN (CONT'D)

Charlie wants us all to gather at some point tomorrow. Talk things through. Kate should probably be there.

MICHAEL

I'll make sure she comes.

As Dan makes his way out the door, Michael stops him:

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey, thanks for the intel. I owe you.

DAN

That's what 35 years buys you.

MICHAEL/DAN

That and a bottle of beer.

They clink imaginary bottles. An old routine. As Dan slips out, we stay on Michael, still struggling with all of it.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

Expensive taste made to feel homey. Kate prepares dinner. At precisely 6:30, her daughter **LOGAN** (16) walks in the back door, still in her soccer gear and texting. She's an upbeat kid. Kate adores her.

LOGAN

What's for dinner?

She pops a cube of mozzarella in her mouth and hops onto the island, still texting.

KATE

If you eat all the cheese there won't be any left for the ziti.

LOGAN

The ziti is already cooking, liar.

KATE

Is that how you talk to your mother?

LOGAN  
When she's hoarding cubes of cheese  
for no reason? Yes.

Kate hands Logan the salad bowl in exchange for her phone. As they set the table for two, a dance they do...

KATE  
So? How was the game?

LOGAN  
We lost again. Carly sucks but coach won't pull her off the field because he's all Kumbaya-winning-isn't-everything, blah blah.

KATE  
Worst coach ever.

LOGAN  
Exactly. How was your day? Oh! How'd the thing go? With the lawyer?

KATE  
Who told you..?  
(then, realizing)  
I'm gonna kill your father.

LOGAN  
Did you find out what he did? Was it bad?

KATE  
I don't want you worrying about this. Your father is going to be just fine.

LOGAN  
I know he's gonna be fine. That's not what I'm asking.

KATE  
What are you asking?

LOGAN  
Should he be?

Kate looks at her daughter, unable to answer...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. EXAM ROOM - EVENING

Marissa closes the door as Michael warmly greets his patient SABRINA SINGH (19) and her father CHATI (50s).

MICHAEL

How is it that I get older and you stay exactly the same?

Michael pulls Chati into a hug. They're like family.

CHATI

If only. How are you, Doc?

MICHAEL

I'm fantastic.

(to Sabrina)

But aren't you supposed to be away at some fancy school?

CHATI

Berkeley. She's had a few fainting spells. Shortness of breath. And now there are these leg cramps --

SABRINA

I told you, those are from rehearsals.

(to Michael, proud)

I got a part in the school musical.

MICHAEL

Excellent. I bet they would prefer you don't pass out.

SABRINA

(to Chati)

Why couldn't you and mom have had me in America like normal people?

MICHAEL

Eh. Rheumatic fever happens here, too.

SABRINA

At least here you get antibiotics...

As Michael performs a basic checkup:

MICHAEL

School is good otherwise? Picked a major? Found a nice boy?

SABRINA

No boys. And no major yet since my Dad refuses to let me choose theater.

MICHAEL

Smart man. Anything else I should know? Aches, pains, increased amount of wine coolers to the system?



SABRINA

I get a little light-headed sometimes.  
But I don't drink enough water.

MICHAEL

Drink more water. Marissa is going to perform an echo. As soon as we have all your test results, I'll give you a call and we'll go from there.

CHATI

You think she'll need surgery?

SABRINA

Could we do it over break? I don't know how many rehearsals I can miss --

CHATI

Sabrina, please...

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I'm just asking, Dad!

MICHAEL

If the leaflets in your mitral valve are fusing together, it might be decreasing your blood flow, which could explain the fainting. But let's wait for the test results.

Michael rises, ready to leave.

CHATI

Doc? I'm sorry. I know it's late and your family must be waiting for you...

Feeling Chati's anxiety, Michael sits back down.

MICHAEL

I got time. Ask me anything except my age. I'll never tell.

He WINKS at Sabrina, making her smile. His lame sense of humor on full display, but it puts them at ease.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT (N1)

Michael walks into the dimly lit house and sees the dishes still in the sink. He goes to the cabinet and pours himself a drink, taking the bottle with him as he heads upstairs...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Opening the door to Logan's bedroom, he sees Kate sleeping in their daughter's bed, spooning in such a way that it obfuscates our view of Logan. He briefly considers waking her, then decides against it. We follow him into...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

... where he DOWNS his scotch and pours himself another. The day has taken its toll. Maybe he's not Superman after all.

EXT. ECHO PARK - THE NEXT MORNING (D2)

Hip-hop pumps through Kate's AirPods as she runs around the lake. Hard. Fast. Like a woman being chased.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BABY ROOM - MORNING

Charlie is asleep on the floor next to his son's crib. His wife, CHERYL, tiptoes in, kisses him on the forehead and hands him a mug of tea. As he struggles to get up...

INT. BLUE BOTTLE COFFEE - MORNING

Not a morning person, Ameni begins her day waiting in line. A SEXY GUY in a leather jacket (who is just finishing his day) stands beside her. He smiles. She considers smiling back.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Dan is practicing yoga, perfecting his half-moon pose. He stretches further, his hand *reaching* until it finds... his dosist pen. He takes a hit of CBD, keeping his pose intact.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

Michael is pounding the last of his coffee when Kate enters the back door, sweaty from her run. As she stretches:

MICHAEL

Made you a fresh pot. What time  
you coming in today?

KATE

You said afternoon --

MICHAEL

I'm just asking.

They're both on edge, dreading the day ahead.

KATE

Is this just a discussion or are  
we taking a vote?

MICHAEL

Not sure. Charlie's running point.  
Although I get the feeling Ameni  
wants to take over. If she walks in  
wearing one of those pink hats, I'm a  
dead man.

Kate smiles, appreciating her husband's ability to always lighten the mood. Even when the axe is over his own head.

KATE

The practice doesn't exist without you. Even Ameni knows that.

She kisses him lightly on the lips. Michael feels a little better as he gathers his things to go.

MICHAEL

Oh! And did I tell you? It was Linda Jenkins who filed the complaint! Remind me never to buy that old crow another birthday card.

KATE

(warning)

Michael...

MICHAEL

I'm kidding! I can't make jokes in my own home now either? Jesus.

It's a tight rope and they're both on it. Pushing down his irritation, Michael heads out. Off Kate, hating all of this.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. AMENI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ameni sits with her patient, LEANNE ELLIS (20s). Young, nervous. Asks A LOT of questions.

LEANNE

... My sister wanted me to ask if I would be able to hang curtains in the birthing room.

AMENI

That's a hospital question. But I'm guessing probably no.

LEANNE

That's what I figured. She had a home birth, so she has opinions on creating a cozy environment...

(off Ameni's stare)

Anyway. Next question. These vitamins you have me taking. I was reading another mommy blog --

Blog? Oh HELL NO.

AMENI

Why don't we start the blood draws?  
Your last glucose screening indicated  
you may be at risk for gestational  
diabetes, so if you do test positive  
today, a lot of what we're doing will  
change anyway...

LEANNE

That screening shouldn't count. If I  
had known we were doing it, I wouldn't  
have eaten a muffin that morning.

AMENI

Muffin notwithstanding. Let's take the  
test, see what happens. You may have  
nothing to worry about.

LEANNE

I can't today. I need to reschedule.

AMENI

Why? Did you forget to fast?

LEANNE

No, I fasted. But I have to baby-sit  
my nephew for a few hours. My sister  
got a job interview last minute, and --

AMENI

Watch your nephew, then come back.  
(before she can argue)  
No buts. No blogs. Just be here.

Off Leanne, clearly nervous...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATORS - DAY

Charlie waits, impatient. The doors open, revealing Kate.  
Charlie beams at the sight of her and pulls her into a hug.

CHARLIE

You're here!

KATE

I'm here.

CHARLIE

It feels like I haven't seen you in  
forever. How are you?

KATE

Good, I'm good...

Charlie looks into her eyes, genuine. Kind.

CHARLIE  
No really. I'm asking.

Kate meets his gaze, struggling to remain casual and honest.

KATE  
You know. Some days are better than others. Today not being one of them.

CHARLIE  
I know. I'm sorry this is happening.

KATE  
It's not your fault.

The doors start to close. Charlie really wants to talk, but:

CHARLIE  
I have to check on a post-op patient. Craniopharyngioma in a four-month old boy. The tumor even had teeth!

KATE  
Fancy. You gonna write about it?

CHARLIE  
I barely have time to operate these days, let alone publish. But maybe. It was an unusual case and the baby fully recovered, so --

KATE  
Of course he did. You were his surgeon.

Charlie smiles. A real one. As he steps into the elevator:

CHARLIE  
God, it's good to see you. I'll be back as fast as I can.

The doors close. Off Kate, exhaling. This is already more difficult than she expected.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kate makes her way towards her office when Ameni walks up, thrilled to see her gal pal and not quite reading the room.

AMENI  
Kate! You made it!

Another big hug. This time, Kate is visibly tense.

AMENI (CONT'D)  
You look great. Did you change your hair? I love it.

KATE  
Thanks.

Ameni feels the chill. Never one to avoid conflict, she addresses it directly. Without attacking.

AMENI  
Are you mad at me?

KATE  
I'm not sure yet.

AMENI  
Look, I don't know what the boys are telling you, but I'm just trying to be realistic. If this were five years ago, even five months ago, we wouldn't be having this discussion. But the world is changing. Mostly for the better, I think. Don't you?

KATE  
I honestly don't know.

Ameni takes that in, surprised but sympathetic.

AMENI  
I get it. This is hard on all of us. And you know how much I love Michael. But there's something larger at stake here. You must see that. As a woman --

KATE  
I'm his wife, Ameni. And you have no idea what it is to be in a marriage.

Ameni reacts, stung. Kate realizes she crossed a line. Before she can apologize, Dan swoops in and pulls Kate into a hug.

DAN  
My mom's in the hospital. Come say hi.

KATE  
Oh no! What happened to Pearl?

DAN  
Hip replacement. She's fine. We'll be right back, Ameni.

Ameni heads to her office, but Kate pulls her back. Sincere.

KATE  
I shouldn't have said that. I'm sorry.  
You're right. This is hard.

Ameni nods, feeling better. More like sisters than friends;  
they fight mean, but the bond is deep.

EXT. THE BRIDGE - DAY

An outdoor walkway. Dan and Kate make their way across, arm-in-arm. Harmlessly flirting, as is their way.

DAN  
You went blonde on me.

KATE  
They're just highlights.

DAN  
Well, they're the highlight of *my* day.

KATE  
(laughing)  
Oh my God. You're such a dork.

DAN  
I know. I need new material.

KATE  
You and Michael both, apparently.

And speaking of Michael, he's making his way across the  
bridge from the other side.

MICHAEL  
You two are going in the wrong  
direction. Our office is thatta  
way.

DAN  
Gotta check on Mom. We'll be quick.

MICHAEL  
Please do. I need this day to be over.

DAN  
Yes, sir.

MICHAEL  
And stop manhandling my wife!

He's teasing, but Dan still blushes. As Michael walks off,  
Kate and Dan continue towards the hospital entrance:

DAN  
Only your husband could manage that  
much swagger with everything that's  
hanging over his head.

KATE  
Don't mistake bravado for confidence.  
This is killing him.

DAN  
(more serious now)  
I know it is.

KATE  
You heard it was Linda Jenkins?

DAN  
I did.

Kate shakes her head, clearly upset.

KATE  
I like her.

Which is a slightly different way to say "***I believe her.***" Dan  
picks up on it. Before he can ask any more questions, Kate  
comes to an abrupt STOP at the ER doors.

DAN  
Whoa. Are you okay?

She's not okay. Her pulse is racing. Beads of sweat forming.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Katie? Have you been back to the  
hospital, since --?

She vigorously shakes her head no, not allowing him to finish  
the sentence. Oh fuck.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Okay, sweetie? Listen to me. You're  
having a panic attack.

She nods. She KNOWS this. But that doesn't mean she can make  
it stop. She feels the walls closing in... Fuck fuck fuck....

DAN (CONT'D)  
Breathe. I got you.  
(shouting)  
We need help out here!

Off Kate, heart pounding, as she begins to fall...

END TEASER



ACT ONEINT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. ER - DAY

Kate is in bed, trying to sit up as Nurse Tori approaches with water. She a little intimidated by Kate who is both defensive and embarrassed.

NURSE TORI

I brought you some water...

KATE

I'm fine.

Kate starts to get out of bed, wobbly but determined.

NURSE TORI

Dr. Wilcox said you should wait here until he gets back..?

KATE

I'm not a patient. I'm a surgeon.

NURSE TORI

I know. I'm sorry, Dr. Lancaster. He just asked me to make sure that --

But Kate isn't listening. Off Tori, watching her go...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Michael is sitting at the head of the table, Charlie on his left. Ameni is pouring herself a coffee as Kate hurries in.

MICHAEL

There you are. Where's Dan?

KATE

He's still with his mom.

Ameni sighs, frustrated, as Kate takes a seat next to Charlie. He notices something about her is off.

CHARLIE

You're sweating...

KATE

I ran.

AMENI

I'm a little backed up today.  
Should we do this later, or..?

Hoping to ease the tension, Michael takes the floor.

MICHAEL

Can I say something? I would hope that after all this time I wouldn't need to go on record with anyone in this room about anything. But I can see there's a disconnect happening and I don't want to seem glib. You guys know I've never been a very political person. Ameni, I know this drives you crazy, but it's just not who I am. I'm all about the work. So if I've missed some crucial sea change happening out there in the world, that's on me. But for what it's worth, I'm the same guy I've always been. I haven't changed.

Dan races in, causing everyone to turn away from Michael. If he wasn't finished, he is now.

DAN

Sorry, sorry...

He tries to make eye contact with Kate, who refuses to look at him. Her panic attack is not going to be made public.

CHARLIE

Go on, Michael.

MICHAEL

That's it. I'm done.

Charlie takes the floor, always the diplomat.

CHARLIE

Well, the hospital is putting us in a difficult spot. We could toe the line, wait to see what their investigation turns up --

MICHAEL

(vaguely annoyed)

Nothing's gonna turn up.

Kate gently puts her hand on his arm, quieting him. Dan squirms in his seat, ever so slightly.

CHARLIE

But if it does. Or if whatever they find is enough to make them nervous --

AMENI

That's the issue. We don't know their tolerance level. In terms of how much they're willing to put up with --

MICHAEL

You think they're "putting up" with me? They pay me pretty well for my services. They must like me a little.

AMENI

That's true. They pay you a lot more than they pay me.

DAN

Take it down a notch, Ameni...

AMENI

I'm sorry. I know it's ugly to talk about money, but I can't afford to lose my job right now. Am I the only one still paying off student loans?

CHARLIE

(quietly, looking down)

No. And I just took out a second mortgage, so... money is a factor.

Kate reacts, genuinely surprised by this.

KATE

I had no idea. That's...

(towards Michael)

I mean, that's helpful to know.

Kate wants to be objective, but Michael is getting UPSET.

MICHAEL

Why don't we just take a vote? Raise your hand if you want me out.

DAN

Don't do that. Let's keep talking --

AMENI

What's the point? Especially since we're not being completely honest --

MICHAEL

What aren't we being honest about?

Ameni faces him; not strident but not holding back.

AMENI

The thing is, Michael, not changing isn't something to be proud of. We're supposed to evolve. I don't think it's fair for all of us to be punished for your bad behavior.

All the air leaves the room. Michael goes cold.

MICHAEL

So let's vote. Show of hands. We've  
all got patients waiting.

(then, realizing)

And Kate has places to be, too.

That made it worse. Now everyone is even more uncomfortable.

CHARLIE

Okay then. If that's how you wanna  
do this. All in favor of Michael  
resigning from Bridge Medicine,  
raise your hand.

Ameni raises her hand. Charlie takes a moment to raise his.  
Kate and Michael are clearly NOT raising their hands. But  
Dan... Dan's hand seems to be moving.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Dan?

Michael looks at Dan. Unable to meet his eye, Dan raises his  
hand. Kate is shocked. Michael is betrayed. He bolts up --

KATE

Michael, wait --

But he's gone. The friends immediately start fighting and  
talking over each other:

DAN

(to Ameni)

You just had to showboat --

AMENI

Screw you, Dan --

DAN

What are you, running for office? Or  
do you just love quoting from Alyssa  
Milano's Twitter feed?

AMENI

Perfect reference from a guy who  
still wishes it was 1998.

DAN

Why wouldn't I? Things were a hell  
of a lot better then --

CHARLIE

Hey! SHUT UP!

They do. Because Charlie saying "shut up" is very weird.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
You guys are killing me.  
(deep breath, then)  
Kate? Should I go talk to him?

All eyes on Kate, who has been noticeably silent as she mentally prepares for how to handle Michael.

DAN  
I'll do it --

Dan rises, but Kate stops him. DEAD SERIOUS.

KATE  
Do not go in there.

Kate walks out. Off Dan, suddenly self-conscious.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate walks in to find Michael in a goddamn STATE. Kicking shit, slamming drawers, looking for something. Unhinged.

MICHAEL  
What's the name of the guy? That guy  
we hired who did our trust?

KATE  
The lawyer?

MICHAEL  
Avery something. I took his card. It's  
here somewhere --

She approaches him, tenderly but with caution.

KATE  
Why do you need a lawyer?

MICHAEL  
They want to fire me from my own  
goddamn practice? I'll sue them!

KATE  
Babe, take a breath --

MICHAEL  
They wouldn't even have this place if  
it wasn't for us! Have they forgotten  
where the seed money came from?

KATE  
Let's go back in and keep talking --

MICHAEL

I'm not talking to them. I can't trust them anymore. You're the only person I trust. I need you, Katie.

KATE

You have me.

MICHAEL

I mean, I need you here. In the office. I need you to come back to work while I figure things out.

Kate instinctively starts backing away. She wasn't expecting this and is definitely NOT prepared to have the conversation.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Take over my cases, keep my patients --

KATE

Michael. Wait. I understand you're angry and I want to help. I do. But that's not... I can't do that.

Michael dials it down to about an 8. Thinking he's hearing her, without realizing he's talking over her.

MICHAEL

We don't have a choice. Look, honey, I've given you as much time as I could. I would've given you another year if that's what you wanted, but they backed us into a corner here--

KATE

(caustic)

You gave me the time. You did that.

Michael stops what he's doing. Fuck. He just stepped in it. Kate's walls are officially up.

MICHAEL

No. That's not --

KATE

I never realized time was yours to give. You're quite powerful.

MICHAEL

You know that's not what I meant...

KATE

I think it's exactly what you meant.

MICHAEL

What do you want from me? What the hell does everyone want from me?!

He's so fucking frustrated, so genuinely confused by what's happening to him, she almost feels bad for him. ALMOST.

KATE

Nothing. I don't want anything from you, Michael.

MICHAEL

Then help me fix this.

KATE

You're such a genius? Fix it yourself.

And with that, she walks out. Off Michael...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATORS

Kate stands at the elevators, keeping her anger in check as Dan approaches, anxious to catch her before she leaves.

DAN

Hey, wait up... Are you okay?

KATE

Are you kidding? Of course I'm not okay. What were you thinking --?

DAN

I'm talking about before. Your panic attack. Do you need me to write you another prescription?

For a second, Kate can't decide if he's an idiot or the kindest man she's ever met. Both may be true. Before she can respond, the elevator opens and Chati emerges, clearly upset.

CHATI

Kate? Is that you?

KATE

Chati, hi --

CHATI

I just got a call from the hospital. They want to schedule Sabrina for surgery, but I haven't even spoken to the Doc yet. Is he around?

KATE

Michael's in a meeting, but Dr. Wilcox here can help you. He's our internal medicine specialist and can answer any questions.

(before he can argue)

It was good to see you, Chati.

With that, Kate steps into the elevator, leaving an ill-prepared Dan to deal with Chati. The implications of the decision they just made landing squarely on his shoulders.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Ameni is readying the glucose test for Leanne, who is VERY anxious and talking a mile a minute. Ameni's mind is elsewhere so she misses the signs.



LEANNE

Dr. Rodriguez? I was thinking maybe we could split the test up.

AMENI

Excuse me?

LEANNE

I didn't realize it would take over three hours and I have a million things to do today. So maybe we do one blood test now and another one next week --

Ameni's patience has run out. For many, many reasons.

AMENI

Leanne, I don't know what you've heard from your sister or your blogs, but this test is not optional. Gestational diabetes is serious. Extra glucose in your bloodstream can trigger your baby's pancreas to make too much insulin which could cause her to grow so large that she gets wedged in your birth canal. Early labor can also put your baby in distress --

LEANNE

I don't want to hurt my baby --

AMENI

Then let's take the test and see where things stand. I'll be right back.

We exit the room with Ameni...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

NURSE CAROL prepares the tray of needles. Ameni eyes Michael's office, his door still closed.

AMENI

Maybe I should go apologize.

NURSE CAROL

He already left.

Ameni sighs. *Shit*. She grabs the tray and heads back into --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- which is now empty. Leanne totally bolted. Womp, womp.

AMENI  
Seriously?!

EXT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. BACKYARD - DUSK

Kate is pulling weeds from the garden, trying to practice her mindfulness as Michael approaches. Hat in hand.

MICHAEL  
I'm an idiot.

Kate doesn't look up. She's still pissed.

KATE  
No argument from me.

He kneels beside her, in the dirt, getting on her level.

MICHAEL  
You were right. I was angry. I  
wasn't thinking things through.  
But I am now.

She looks at him, knowing this isn't just an apology.

KATE  
And you still want me to come back.

MICHAEL  
The hospital is assigning Sabrina's  
valve replacement to Wallace.

Kate cringes, instinctively.

KATE  
Ugh. I *hate* that guy.

MICHAEL  
Me too. Sabrina Singh has been my  
patient since she was nine years  
old. She deserves better than some  
third-rate cowboy who doesn't give  
a crap about her or her family.

KATE  
Of course she does.

She's softening. He can feel it.

MICHAEL  
I would never ask you to rush into  
anything if I didn't know that you  
could handle it. But you're ready,  
Katie. I really do think it's time.

Now would be the moment for Kate to mention her panic attack. But she doesn't, because she loves him. And he needs her. And that's marriage.

KATE

I'll help you with Sabrina.

Michael is too relieved to notice her trepidation. He pulls her into a hug.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm not promising anything else --

MICHAEL

Of course. We'll take it one case at a time. But I have a feeling the minute you're back in the OR, you're gonna realize how much you miss it.

KATE

I'm not so sure about that.

MICHAEL

I am. It's not healthy the way you've been holding onto all this guilt. Thinking everything was your fault, like you could have saved her --

But Kate isn't ready to have this conversation. She rises to her feet as she wipes the dirt off her hands.

KATE

Send me Sabrina's file.

MICHAEL

You want to go through it together now? I can bring you up to speed --

KATE

I have to make dinner for Logan.  
Email me whatever you think I need.

Michael watches as Kate walks towards the house, the sun setting behind her. So many things he wants to say...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. FRONT DOOR - MORNING (D3)

Charlie pulls out his keys, ready to open the office for the day but it's already unlocked. At 6:00 am? Unusual.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - MORNING

Charlie walks down the hall and sees Kate in her office, on the computer. She feels his eyes on her and looks up:

KATE  
I'm taking over Michael's valve replacement.

CHARLIE  
(hopeful)  
Does this mean you're coming back?

KATE  
It's only temporary. Would you mind closing my door? I have to prep.

Oh yeah. She's icy. Without argument, he does. Fuuuuuuck.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. BREAK ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Charlie is making a pot of coffee when Dan walks in, confused.

DAN  
Is Kate in her office?

CHARLIE  
She's taking over Michael's valve replacement.

Dan beelines for her door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
I wouldn't go in there.

DAN  
She should not be back in the OR.

CHARLIE  
We don't tell Kate what she can or cannot do. Remember when she wanted to run the marathon in her third trimester?

DAN  
I'm serious. She's not ready.

CHARLIE  
You may be right. Unfortunately, it's not our decision to make.

DAN  
But kicking Michael out of the practice was our decision. I'm just trying to follow your logic here.

Dan is feeling guilty and trying to pick a fight, but Charlie refuses to engage.

CHARLIE

Nobody forced your hand, Dan. You cast your vote all by yourself.

DAN

Could've been handled better.

CHARLIE

You wanna take over the managerial aspects of this practice? Be my guest.

With that, Charlie heads into his office. Dan stares at Kate's door, conflicted and concerned.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. ELEVATOR - MORNING

Ameni steps off the elevators, determined to have a better day. As she walks in the front door --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- past the reception desk --

AMENI

Good morning, Carol. I have a date with a drummer tonight so let's stay on schedule...

Before Ameni can step into her office:

CAROL

Leanne Ellis left a message for you.

Ameni pushes down a sigh, refusing to get upset. She grabs the message, reads it, and is immediately INFURIATED.

AMENI

You have GOT to be kidding me!

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Charlie is at his computer when Ameni bursts in:

AMENI

My patient is requesting her records be transferred to a different doctor.

CHARLIE

Again, I'm not actually an administrator. I'm a neurosurgeon.

AMENI

She's dumping me! She who canceled five appointments with ZERO notice. You know how many times I charged her for that? Never. Not once!

CHARLIE

I cut into people's brains. It's a very serious job...

AMENI

I'm not doing it.

She dumps the message onto his desk. Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE

Ameni. If your patient wants to see another doctor --

AMENI

My patient is a moron who trusts blogs over doctors. You can forward her records to MommyKnowsNothing.com!

With that, Ameni storms out. Charlie calls after her:

CHARLIE

I don't forward records! I'm a surgeon! I'm very important!

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. KATE'S OFFICE - MORNING

Kate is only half-listening to the hullabaloo outside. Sabrina's file with Michael's notes is in front of her, but her eyes are drawn to the framed photo on her desk. **A family photo of Michael, Kate and Logan on the beach.**

Kate smiles at the memory, picks up her phone to call her daughter. It goes straight to voicemail. *"This is Logan. Leave me a message and I'll probably call you back."* As it BEEPS, there's a KNOCK at Kate's door. She hangs up as Michael's assistant, Marissa, pokes her head inside.

KATE

Heading over now. Thanks, Marissa.

Marissa shuts the door behind her. Off Kate, deep breaths...

INT/EXT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

Michael is on a ladder, installing a Nest camera - one of those items men keep on their To-Do list for a rainy day - when Dan walks up. Michael stiffens.

DAN  
We gotta talk.

MICHAEL  
I have nothing to say to you.

DAN  
Fine, I'll talk. You listen.

MICHAEL  
You can go to hell.

Michael climbs down the ladder and heads inside --

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dan follows him, refusing to be ignored.

DAN  
Kate should not be operating.

MICHAEL  
I love how you *still* think you know  
my wife better than I do...

DAN  
She's not ready.

MICHAEL  
Get out of my house --

DAN  
She had a panic attack yesterday.  
Walking into the hospital. She  
couldn't breathe, man.

This stops Michael. But he refuses to let Dan see it.

MICHAEL  
I said get out of my house.

DAN  
Did you ever stop to think that maybe  
I'm trying to protect you?

MICHAEL  
From what?

DAN  
From yourself! Goddamit, Michael.  
Get your head out of your ass!

MICHAEL  
I haven't done anything wrong.

Dan looks him in the eye, a devoted friend.

DAN  
Are you sure about that?

He's genuinely asking, but Michael won't flinch. Off Dan, walking out the door.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. SCRUB ROOM - DAY

ON KATE, meticulously scrubbing her hands as she remembers:

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - FLASHBACK

In fragmented imagery we see:

BLOOD on Kate's hands as she repairs a damaged heart.

The land line RINGING in the OR.

Kate's SCALPEL dropping to the floor.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. SCRUB ROOM - DAY

Fuck, fuck, fuck! And *breathe...* Refusing to succumb to another panic attack, Kate recuperates as she heads into --

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- where Sabrina Singh lies on the table, prepped and ready.

KATE  
Hi, Sabrina. I'm Dr. Lancaster.  
Remember me?

SABRINA  
Of course. Hi, Dr. Lancaster.

At which point, Kate realizes that the nurse standing beside her is none other than Linda Jenkins. *Shit.*

KATE  
Hello, Linda.

NURSE LINDA  
Welcome back, Doctor Lancaster.

It's clear that Linda has no idea that Kate knows. *Awkward.* Kate nods to the ANESTHESIOLOGIST, signaling she's ready.

KATE  
Sabrina, I'm going to ask you to count backwards. Starting from ten, okay?



SABRINA  
Ten... Nine... Eight...

And she's out. Nurse Jenkins removes the modesty sheet, which is when Kate sees GIANT BRUISES on her upper thigh.

KATE  
What are these? Are they in the notes?

NURSE LINDA  
I don't think so. It looks like she fell down a flight of stairs...

KATE  
Or she was hit.

As Kate inspects the bruising, we hear loud BEEPING coming from the monitor.

NURSE LINDA  
Blood pressure is spiking.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
She's going into respiratory failure.

KATE  
Bring her back. NOW.

All eyes on the anesthesiologist who gets to work. The tension mounts as we wait for Sabrina's eyes to open. One beat. Two beats.

SURGICAL INTERN  
What's happening?

The anesthesiologist shrugs; clearly she should be awake by now. FUCK. Kate turns to Linda:

KATE  
We need neuro in here. Call Charlie.

Linda rushes to the phone as Kate keeps her eyes on Sabrina --

KATE (CONT'D)  
Come on, Sabrina. Come on...

Three beats. Four beats. And then -- Sabrina opens her eyes. Off Kate, exhaling. The immediate crisis over, she now has a medical mystery on her hands. **What the hell was that?**

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. NURSES STATION - DAY

Kate is looking over Sabrina's chart as Charlie emerges from the patient's room.

CHARLIE

I'd like to run a few more tests, make sure there are no signs of neurological damage. But it's good that you got her out as quick as you did.

KATE

It doesn't make sense. Nothing in her workup or medical history suggests a perioperative stroke would be likely.

CHARLIE

Sometimes they just happen.

KATE

Maybe. But I'm not putting her back on the board until I know more.

For the first time, Kate seems energized. Engaged. Charlie notices, but is afraid to mention it. Instead, he heads off:

CHARLIE

I'm here if you need me...

KATE

Hey, Charlie? Thank you.

It's not a huge moment, but it's enough. Charlie continues on his way as Kate goes back to the chart, determined.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. RECEPTION - DAY

Charlie walks in, just as Ameni exits her office and is intercepted with a message from the RECEPTIONIST:

RECEPTIONIST

Leanne Ellis called again. That's three times in the last two hours.

Ameni takes the message and pointedly TEARS IT UP.

CHARLIE

You're not even curious why she's requesting another doctor?

AMENI

I told you. She's crazy.

CHARLIE

Or maybe she's scared.

AMENI

Of what? Going a few months without having a muffin for breakfast?

CHARLIE

Maybe. Maybe it's something else. You're her doctor. Figure it out.

AMENI

I don't want to figure it out. Why are you bugging me about this?

CHARLIE

Because you're angry, Ameni. And I understand, I do. Cheryl walks around all day screaming at the TV --

AMENI

God, I love your wife.

CHARLIE

No one is saying you aren't entitled to your rage. But it's seeping into your work and you're better than that.

Ameni takes this in, realizing he may be right.

AMENI

Okay, fine. Let's say my patient is experiencing some kind of phobia --

CHARLIE

As bad as your fear of snakes.

Ameni instinctively recoils.

AMENI

Ew! No! Why you gotta bring up snakes?

CHARLIE

Because it's your phobia. Which is why you won't hike Runyon with me anymore.

AMENI

Hell no, I won't hike Runyon!

CHARLIE  
Which seems crazy...

AMENI  
I mean, we barely made it out of there alive, but I get it. Phobias are real. But if she's scared of gestational diabetes, and does wind up testing positive, there's not much I can do. The diet sucks, but there's no wiggle room --

CHARLIE  
Why don't you determine what the problem is first, then find a solution you can both live with.

Off Amení, considering Charlie's wisdom.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. RECEPTION - DAY

Michael walks in, uncomfortable as Marissa, Carol and other STAFFERS eye him. Isn't he not supposed to be here?

MICHAEL  
Katie in her office?

Marissa nods, feeling badly for him.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. KATE'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate is working at her desk when Michael walks in.

MICHAEL  
Hey. We need to talk --

KATE  
Why didn't you mention Sabrina's bruises to me earlier?

MICHAEL  
What bruises? Wait, are you already out of surgery?

KATE  
On her upper thighs. They look like... I'm not sure. I'm wondering if she might be in an abusive relationship. Which wouldn't cause a stroke, but--

MICHAEL  
Sabrina had a stroke? What happened?

KATE  
(slightly annoyed)  
I have no idea, Michael. That's what  
I'm trying to figure out.

MICHAEL  
Okay, well, Sabrina doesn't even  
have a boyfriend so you can rule  
out whatever weird road you're  
going down.

KATE  
How do you know that?

MICHAEL  
I asked her.

Kate shakes her head, amazed and yet... not surprised.

KATE  
You asked your nineteen-year-old  
patient if she had a boyfriend. And  
you wonder why you got suspended.

MICHAEL  
I didn't come here to fight --

KATE  
Why did you come here?

MICHAEL  
To make sure you were okay. Dan  
told me what happened yesterday--

KATE  
(growing angry)  
Oh my God. Of course he did --

MICHAEL  
We can talk about it later. Right  
now we should focus on my patient --

KATE  
MY patient. She's mine now, remember?  
She's unraveling. He feels it. He takes a beat.

MICHAEL  
Okay. Hey. I'm sorry. Talk to me.

KATE  
I can't. I have to make dinner...

MICHAEL  
No, you don't.

KATE  
Why? Are you gonna do it?

Michael hesitates. Unable to look at her. Kate nods, steely.

KATE (CONT'D)  
That's what I thought.

MICHAEL  
Katie...

He steps in her path. Kate SHOVES him out of her way with surprising force as she races out the door.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

CAMERA is framed exactly as it was in the teaser with Kate at the stove, preparing dinner. At precisely 6:30 pm, the door opens and Logan walks in.

LOGAN  
What's for dinner?

Before Kate can answer, she hears the front door open. Panicked, she turns her head as Michael walks in --

KATE  
No, no. Please don't be here. She  
won't stay if you're here...

She turns again, and Logan is gone. Which is how we finally understand - she was never here at all.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Logan...!

Kate begins to sob. Michael puts his arms around her. If he holds her tight enough maybe he can save her. Save them.

MICHAEL  
Tell me what to do and I'll do it.  
Just tell me what to do.

KATE  
Bring her back.

MICHAEL  
I can't. I wish I could.

KATE  
When I walked into that OR today...  
I froze. All I could think about  
was the last time I was there. I  
remember the phone ringing.  
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I remember racing out to meet the ambulance. By the time I got there, she was gone. She was already gone...

Michael just holds her tighter, trying to absorb her pain, but unable to feel his own.

MICHAEL

It's okay, baby. It's okay...

KATE

I know you think I'm crazy --

MICHAEL

I don't --

KATE

Making dinner every night for someone who isn't coming home.

MICHAEL

If that's what your counselor told you to do. If it's helping --

KATE

Is it helping? I don't know.

MICHAEL

Then why do you do it?

KATE

Because...

(trying to explain)

You don't understand. I don't feel guilty that I couldn't save her life. I feel guilty because I wasn't there when she was alive.

MICHAEL

Oh, Katie...

KATE

I should have been making her dinner all along. That's what moms do. They make meals for their children... they make time. Maybe if I had done that. If I were home that night --

MICHAEL

Don't do that. You were the best mother in the world. You showed Logan what it was to be passionate about your work. To care about other people.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Our daughter didn't just love you.  
She wanted to be you.

Kate shakes her head, refusing to believe it.

KATE

If we were closer she wouldn't have  
lied. She would have told me where  
she was going that night instead of  
getting into that car --

MICHAEL

Teenagers lie to their parents.  
It's in their DNA. Think about the  
lies we used to tell our parents at  
that age.

Kate smiles, allowing herself to feel better for a moment.  
She's also slowly realizing something else. Michael sees the  
gears in her brain shifting.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

KATE

When you did your intake with  
Sabrina. Was Chati in the room?

MICHAEL

Of course.  
(then, realizing)  
You think she lied about something.

KATE

I'm not sure. But those bruises...

MICHAEL

You should go talk to her.

KATE

Come with me.  
(before he can argue)  
You're her doctor. She trusts you.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

We catch up with Sabrina, Michael and Kate mid-conversation.  
Chati is asleep on a nearby cot. Sabrina looks worse for the  
wear. Extremely run-down and having difficulty breathing.

SABRINA

... I don't know why I lied about  
having a boyfriend. I guess it's  
just automatic at this point?

(MORE)



SABRINA (CONT'D)

Like, it's the only way to have any privacy. My dad is on my case about everything.

KATE

I understand. But I have to ask... the bruising on your thighs --

Sabrina blushes, deeply embarrassed.

MICHAEL

The marks are very specific.

KATE

You're in a safe space, Sabrina. Anything you tell us --

Sabrina realizes what they're asking without asking. Now she's even MORE humiliated.

SABRINA

Oh God, no! It's nothing like that. I swear. They're from...

She hesitates. This is so fucking embarrassing.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I had my fat frozen.

MICHAEL

You did what?

KATE

By a doctor?

SABRINA

They're not doctors. They're like, trained technicians or something. It wasn't surgical so I didn't think I had to mention it.

(then, admitting)

Also, my Dad would kill me if he knew how I spent my food money.

MICHAEL

But why? You're a perfectly healthy weight, Sabrina.

SABRINA

Healthy is just a nice way of saying "fat." And my costume for the play... the skirt is really short...

Sabrina starts coughing. Her phone DINGS with a text. All this exertion is getting to be too much.

KATE

Get some rest. I'll be back to  
check on you in a bit.

Sabrina picks up her phone as Kate and Michael step outside --

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- where they can speak semi-privately. Nurse Tori is at the  
nurse's station nearby, glancing at them every-so-often.

MICHAEL

The fact that she thinks she needs  
to freeze her fat --

KATE

I know. It's crazy...

But Michael is in his own head right now. Suddenly and  
acutely aware of his mistakes, and feeling guilty.

MICHAEL

I shouldn't say the things I say.  
It's insensitive. It's... childish.

Kate places her hand on his shoulder, intimate. Affectionate.

KATE

So stop saying them.

Michael nods. It's not the same as an apology, but might be  
more important. It's recognition. It's taking responsibility.  
At which point, Nurse Tori approaches, deeply uncomfortable.

NURSE TORI

I'm sorry, Dr. Shapiro, but you're not  
supposed to be here...

MICHAEL

I know, Tori. I'm leaving --

KATE

In a minute. If anyone has a  
problem, they can talk to me.

Suddenly, we hear that damn BEEPING again. They look into  
Sabrina's room. Her phone crashed onto the floor. Her body  
appears lifeless.

KATE (CONT'D)

We need an OR! NOW!

As Kate and Michael race to save Sabrina...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOURINT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. SCRUB ROOM - NIGHT

Kate is scrubbing her hands, preparing for emergency surgery when Michael rushes in.

MICHAEL

I checked Sabrina's blood work. The labs showed abnormal antibody proteins.

KATE

I know. But we already tested for Hep C. It came back negative --

MICHAEL

Maybe an autoimmune disease? We can run a few more tests...

Suddenly, the light bulb goes off --

KATE

Cryoglobulinemia. Think about it. You can go your whole life without presenting symptoms and it's not dangerous, unless you subject yourself to unusually low temperatures --

MICHAEL

-- which she did when she froze her fat. The clumps of insoluble proteins didn't melt the way they were supposed to. Instead, they created clots.

KATE

Which would explain the stroke.

And THAT is what teamwork looks like. From inside the OR, the anesthesiologist signals they are ready for Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)

(thinking quickly)

We can use a mild hypothermic CPB to bring her esophageal temperature down to 34 degrees. Unless you think we have time for a plasma exchange?

MICHAEL

I don't think you do.

KATE  
(fuck)  
I don't either.

For a split second, Kate hesitates. Michael faces her.

MICHAEL  
Just get in. Get out. You got this.

Kate nods. Michael pulls up her surgical mask as she heads into the OR, determined.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate marches into the OR and delivers orders to her staff, back in the groove. This time, she seems much more confident and ready to roll.

Michael watches from behind the glass. As Kate commands the OR, cutting into her patient and ultimately saving Sabrina's life, Michael stands on the sidelines. Relieved. Proud. And clearly in love.

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. AMENI'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ameni is looking over a case file when there is a knock on her semi-open door. She looks up to find Leanne.

LEANNE  
I got your text.

AMENI  
Leanne. Come on in.

Leanne does, but she's nervous. Not sure where this is going. Ameni grabs the file and takes a seat beside her, changing her approach. Her tone is much gentler. Her demeanor, open.

AMENI (CONT'D)  
I'm working on a theory I'm hoping you can either confirm or deny. In going over your chart, I noticed you opted out of all the recommended genetic testing which required a blood test.

LEANNE  
Yeah. So?

AMENI  
I also noticed that every appointment where you late-canceled, you were scheduled for a blood draw. And the other day, when we were supposed to test you for gestational diabetes, you literally ghosted me. In person.

LEANNE

Sorry about that. But what kind of sadist came up with that test? Four blood draws in three hours? That's just sick.

Ameni closes the file, pleased.

AMENI

Theory confirmed. Have you ever heard the term Hemaphobia?

LEANNE

No. Do I have it?

AMENI

It's a fear of blood tests.

LEANNE

Oh. Yeah. I definitely have that.

Ameni laughs. Leanne blushes, but she also relaxes a bit.

AMENI

Why didn't you tell me this before?

LEANNE

I don't know. It's embarrassing? Also, you're kind of intense.

AMENI

I am that. But I'm also your doctor. At least, I'd like to be.

LEANNE

I'd like that, too. Especially since you won't release my records.

Ameni smiles; maybe Leanne isn't such an idiot after all.

AMENI

I guess I'm a little confused. We've done blood draws in the past and they never seemed to bother you.

LEANNE

They always bother me. Most of the time, I can't get through one without fainting. That's why I always have to lie down. But the thought of having FOUR in a row made me so anxious, I thought I might have a miscarriage.

AMENI

I know the feeling. Try hiking Runyon Canyon during a heat wave.

Before Leanne can question that one, Ameni reaches into her desk drawer and pulls out a GLUCOSE MONITOR.

AMENI (CONT'D)

How would you feel about having your finger pricked?

LEANNE

(hopeful)

Seriously?

AMENI

The machine costs about sixty dollars. You can find it at any pharmacy, but insurance won't cover it --

LEANNE

I am so fine with that.

AMENI

We'll still have to do one proper blood test. But after that we can use this to check your levels. Okay?

Leanne can only nod. She's so relieved she might cry. Off Ameni giving her patient a much-needed hug...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. FRONT DOOR - THE NEXT MORNING

Again, Charlie assumes he is the first to arrive. Again, he's wrong. The door is already unlocked. He heads inside...

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Kate is rinsing out her coffee mug, still wearing the same clothes she had on the night before. But instead of looking tired, she seems invigorated. The adrenaline still pumping.

CHARLIE

Did you sleep here last night?

KATE

I was at the hospital with Sabrina.  
(before he can ask)  
Everything's fine. Surgery went great. She should be back to school in a week or two.

Kate walks out of the break room --

INT. BRIDGE MEDICINE. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- Charlie follows, trying to keep things light between them, just in case she's still mad.

CHARLIE  
Well it's nice to have you back.  
Even if it's only temporary.

KATE  
Actually, I might be coming back  
for good. I think I'm ready.

CHARLIE  
Really? That's fantastic!

KATE  
But only if we reinstate Michael.

At which point, Michael emerges from Kate's office.

MICHAEL  
Hey, Charlie.

Never one to enjoy confrontation --

CHARLIE  
Oh boy.

Just then, Ameni approaches.

AMENI  
What's going on? Why is Charlie's  
face like that?

And then she sees Michael. She's equally surprised.

AMENI (CONT'D)  
Oh. Hi.  
(then, nervous)  
What's happening?

KATE  
We'd like a revote.  
(then, noticing)  
Morning, Dan.

REVEAL Dan, who has just arrived.

DAN  
Did I miss a group text?

Michael can't yet bring himself to look at Dan. Their relationship is different. More... fraught.

AMENI

Michael, I feel awful about the other day, but I'm not sure enough has changed to warrant a new vote.

KATE

Exactly. Nothing has changed. Not since the day we decided to form this practice. Do you remember that day? I do. Like it was yesterday. I remember coming up with our founding principles and then writing them down in crayon on a Chili's napkin while getting wasted on Watermelon margaritas...

DAN

Ooof. I remember those margaritas.

CHARLIE

I don't. Although I vaguely remember the fried pickles.

AMENI

You guys...

MICHAEL

You're right, Amen. I've made mistakes. I intend to correct them. If that means going to sensitivity training or back into therapy --

CHARLIE

You've been to therapy?

MICHAEL

I'll do whatever it takes. If you'll fight for me, then I'll make damn sure I'm worth fighting for. I want you guys to be proud standing by my side. The way I'm always proud to be standing by yours.

And just in case that wasn't enough...

KATE

The thing is, we're not just business partners. We're friends. All for one and one for all is the only way we've ever worked. Why stop now?

Off our group, a decision to make...



INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. BOARD ROOM - DAY

An intimidating room reserved for Important People. We are midway through a meeting where Kate, Charlie, Dan and Ameni sit on one side of the table. Mr. Heath, Lakewood's CHIEF OF STAFF, some HR REPS, and several BOARD MEMBERS on the other.

Kate has the floor.

KATE

... So while we respect your need to pursue the complaints filed against Dr. Shapiro, we respectfully decline your recommendation to remove him from Bridge Medicine.

CHARLIE

Of course, we plan to cooperate fully with your investigation.

DAN

And we support the movement behind it.

AMENI

But we're not breaking up the band.

Kate looks at Ameni, they share a small smile.

MR. HEATH

Very well. In that case, we will continue with our depositions. You should be aware that the board may decide to widen the scope of the investigation to include all of you. As a precautionary measure, of course.

Another threat. Kate holds their gaze, steely-eyed.

KATE

You boys wanna go fishing? Be my guest. You'll be hearing from our lawyers.

Off Kate and the rest of our group... ALL IN.

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. ELEVATORS - MOMENTS LATER

Kate presses the button as Charlie approaches.

CHARLIE

Do we even have lawyers?

Kate laughs, releasing some of the pressure.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
You call Michael yet?

KATE  
I was gonna wait until I got home. I think he's still feeling a little sensitive about... everything.

CHARLIE  
I don't blame him. You were right, Kate. We should have worked harder to find a solution together. One we could all live with.

KATE  
I'm sorry I didn't know about your financial situation. I wish you would have told me...

CHARLIE  
To be honest, it sorta snuck up on me. Cheryl hasn't gone back to work since Otis was born, and --

He stops himself, suddenly uncomfortable.

KATE  
You're allowed to talk about your son in front of me, Charlie.

CHARLIE  
I know...

Kate smiles sadly. She knows how difficult this is for him. The sweet, old soul.

KATE  
I saw the picture Cheryl posted the other day. I can't believe how big he's gotten.

CHARLIE  
I think about you... I pick up the phone to call and check in but I always hang up because I have no idea what to say. I can't imagine what it's been like for you.

KATE  
You don't have to say anything. You can just call and hang up.

Charlie smiles, the tension finally lifting.

CHARLIE

I know it's selfish, but I've missed having you around. Not just because it takes some of the burden off me, but... I miss you. My friend. I just wish I could get the old Kate back.

Kate wraps her arms around her friend.

KATE

Me Too.

**MUSIC UP:** *You're Missing*, by Springsteen.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. FRONT DOOR - EARLY EVENING

Kate walks in the front door. Her arms laden with grocery bags, dry cleaning, and the mail.

KATE

I'm home.

She drops the mail and the clothes on the entrance table as she heads towards...

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She stops when she finds Michael at the stove, preparing dinner. She looks at the table and sees place settings are set for three. She looks at her husband, afraid to ask.

MICHAEL

Watching you last night... the way you faced your fear and conquered it. It made me realize, I've been afraid, too. It's easier for me to go to work. Push it down. Not feel anything --

KATE

I know --

MICHAEL

But I don't want to do that anymore. I want to try. I want to heal. I just... I don't know how.

KATE

I can help you.

Kate helps Michael bring the plates of food to the table. They sit down together. Michael follows Kate's eyes to the door as they wait for it to open. After a beat, Logan enters.

LOGAN

What's for dinner?

The music continues as we...

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Dan takes a seat at the bar, orders his standard:

DAN  
Club soda with lemon.

He eyes a PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN sitting across the way. She smiles at him. He nods to the seat beside him. Knowing this is how he's going to spend tonight. For better and for worse.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie watches TV on the couch with his eight-year-old daughter, ELLA. His two-year-old son, OTIS, plays on the floor with the dog as his wife, Cheryl, carries in a bowl of popcorn. This is the first time we've seen him fully relaxed. Welcome to Charlie's happy place.

INT. KATE AND MICHAEL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

Back to Kate, Michael and Logan, sharing a meal. This small, shattered family taking a step towards healing together...

INT. LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL. CAFETERIA

Ameni sits alone at their old cafeteria table, picking at a salad while scrolling through her smart phone. After a beat, Nurse Tori approaches:

NURSE TORI  
Hey, Dr. Rodriguez. You're working late tonight.

AMENI  
Unfortunately, babies don't keep regular hours.

NURSE TORI  
Mind if I sit with you?

Ameni shrugs, too tired to argue. It soon becomes clear that this isn't a casual meal. Tori has something on her mind.

NURSE TORI (CONT'D)  
Can I ask you a question about Michael?

Ameni looks up. The fact that she's calling him "Michael" already isn't a great sign.

AMENI  
You mean Dr. Shapiro?

NURSE TORI  
Yeah. Sorry.

AMENI  
Whatever you're about to say, you  
should probably take up with HR --

NURSE TORI  
It's not like that. I mean... that's  
the thing. I don't really *know* if it's  
like that or not.

Ameni sighs. Not enjoying this, but if she's the goddamn  
savior of all women she can't very well ignore this one.

AMENI  
What is it, Tori?

NURSE TORI  
The thing is... Michael and I... we're  
kind of together.

Off this bombshell, we --

**SMASH TO BLACK**

END OF PILOT