

SCRUBS

"My Applause"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - MORNING

J.D. walks through the parking lot to the hospital entrance.

J.D. (V.O.)

Working in a hospital isn't easy.  
You spend day-long shifts running  
from patient to patient, with the  
occasional nap thrown in if you're  
lucky.

INT. ADMISSIONS - CONTINUOUS

J.D. enters through the hospital's sliding doors.

J.D. (V.O.)

All the while you're battling  
enemies, whether they're sitting  
feet away from you doing Sudoku...

J.D. walks past JANITOR at a table doing Sudoku. Janitor gives a huge smile. J.D. tentatively smiles back. Janitor immediately frowns and shakes his head.

J.D. (V.O.)

...or lurking inside your patient's  
body. But even though we're  
fighting monsters every day, there  
is comfort in knowing we're always  
up against familiar foes. Like...

INT. EXAM ROOM 1 - DAY

J.D. talks to a patient O.S.

J.D.

It's diabetes.

J.D. (V.O.)

Or...

INT. EXAM ROOM 2 - DAY

DR. COX talks to a patient O.S.

DR. COX

Cancer.

J.D. (V.O.)  
Or even...

INT. EXAM ROOM 3 - DAY

ELLIOT talks to a patient O.S.

ELLIOT  
There's an electric toothbrush up  
your bajingo.

INT. ADMISSIONS - CONTINUOUS

J.D. waits for the elevator.

J.D. (V.O.)  
It's like that old saying: better  
the devil you know than the devil  
you don't.

The elevator DINGS as it arrives.

INT. ELEVATOR (FANTASY) - CONTINUOUS

SATAN, pitchfork and red horns included, stands in the  
elevator. J.D. gets on.

J.D.  
Sup, Satan?

SATAN  
Same old, same old. Just here to  
take Mr. Martin in 405 to Hell.

J.D.  
Ah yes, he was very racist.

BACK TO REALITY:

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

J.D. is alone in the elevator. He shakes his head. The  
elevator doors open.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

J.D. steps out as various NURSES and DOCTORS walk by.

J.D. (V.O.)  
But just when you think you've got  
it all figured out, the outside  
world comes in to shake things up  
and throw everything off-balance.

GREEN SATAN (O.S.)  
Morning, doctor.

GREEN SATAN stands in front of J.D., twirling his tail.

J.D.  
Who the hell are you?

GREEN SATAN  
I'm Green Satan. The devil you  
don't know. Get it? Heh.

Green Satan smiles, then lets out an UNEARTHLY ROAR. J.D.'s  
hair BLOWS BACK in a gust of wind.

J.D. looks around and suddenly everyone is wearing FACE MASKS  
and other PPE, J.D. INCLUDED. He glances down at himself in  
surprise.

J.D. (V.O.)  
Well, that's different.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. I.C.U. - AFTERNOON (DAY 1)

(NOTE: unless otherwise stated, all characters besides patients will be wearing masks throughout the episode.)

DR. KELSO addresses a group of hospital personnel including J.D. and Dr. Cox.

DR. KELSO

Listen up, people: due to lack of space, as of today the I.C.U. is officially for Covid patients only. Whenever you enter this room, you are to gear up.

Dr. Kelso gestures to several carts full of PPE.

DR. KELSO (CONT'D)

We may be operating with limited supplies, but there are to be no exceptions. I want you all wrapped up tighter than the presents I give Enid on Christmas. She has weak fingers, poor thing. I like to watch her struggle. Am I clear?

DR. COX

Crystal.

Dr. Cox moves beside Dr. Kelso to address the group.

DR. COX (CONT'D)

And I'd just like to add that this is a very serious situation. We should all listen to and respect Dr. Kelso because he knows what he's talking about when it comes to this sort of thing.

DR. KELSO

Thank you...

Dr. Kelso studies Dr. Cox's face.

DR. COX

It's Perry, Bob.

DR. KELSO

...Perry. Damn masks. That was surprisingly mature of you.

DR. COX  
 Sure thing. After all, you were  
 around during the Spanish flu.

DR. KELSO  
 Ah, an old joke. How boring. Got  
 that out of your system?

DR. COX  
 For now.

DR. KELSO  
 Wonderful.  
 (to group)  
 Well, what are you waiting for?  
 We're in the middle of a pandemic,  
 people!

The group scatters.

INT. PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

J.D. stares at his watch.

J.D. (V.O.)  
 As terrible as Covid has been,  
 there are a few bright spots, like  
 our daily round of applause. You  
 see, every night at 7pm people open  
 their windows and cheer as a way of  
 saying thanks to all us front line  
 workers out here still working our  
 butts off.

J.D.'s watch BEEPS: it's 7pm. He opens the window. As the  
 sound of CHEERING fills the room we

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM (FANTASY) - NIGHT

J.D. and the other Sacred Heart nurses and doctors stand in  
 the middle of the gym wearing varsity jackets. Bleachers are  
 packed with CHEERING PEOPLE.

A HOT WOMAN in a cheerleader's outfit approaches J.D. She  
 starts to lift her top-

BACK TO REALITY:

INT. PENTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Cox stands in front of J.D.

DR. COX  
Enjoying your moment of glory  
there?

J.D.  
I was just-

DR. COX  
Just taking the least amount of  
praise you can get and letting it  
travel straight up to that overly  
gelled head of yours?

TURK bursts in, out of breath.

TURK  
Did I miss it?!

J.D.  
They just wrapped up.

TURK  
I told them not to put me in  
surgery during clappy time. I told  
them!

J.D.  
Maybe tomorrow, Chocolate Bear.

DR. COX  
Dear God you two are actually the  
biggest idiots in this dump.

REVEAL TODD in the corner, flexing in front of the window.

TODD  
They're cheering for me!

DR. COX  
Okay, second biggest. Let's go,  
Lena.

Dr. Cox exits. J.D. immediately follows.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

J.D.  
Lena, that's a new one.

DR. COX

Yes, today we are going with a "Girls" theme. And I don't mean "girls" the gender, because obviously that's our theme every day. I'm talking HBO's "Girls," the show adored by women and Newbies everywhere. Got it, Hannah Horvath?

J.D.

I do love me some 20-somethings trying to figure it all out in the Big Apple.

J.D. and Dr. Cox walk to the PPE carts. FAST-FORWARD as they don the proper gear. J.D. and Dr. Cox turn to each other. They look identical.

J.D. (CONT'D)

Twinsies!

INT. I.C.U. - CONTINUOUS

They enter the I.C.U. and part ways. J.D. approaches ADAM, 30s. He wears an oxygen mask.

ADAM

Dr. Dorian!

J.D.

Adam, I've told you 100 times: Dr. Dorian is my father...if he went to medical school...and was still alive. Call me J.D.

ADAM

Sorry, J.D.

J.D. studies Adam's chart.

J.D. (V.O.)

Adam's our longest-term Covid patient. He's been here three weeks already and no matter what we do, he just can't seem to kick this thing. It sucks because I really like the guy. Guess that's why I can't wait for him to leave.

J.D.

Heard you were having some chest pain this morning?



ADAM

Yeah, nurse said my lips looked blue too so she gave me this.  
(pointing to oxygen mask)  
Want some?

J.D.

I'm good, thanks. I don't like the sound of that breathing, man. We could put you on a ventilator, but I think that's a little extreme right now. Instead I'm gonna have a nurse try proning you.

ADAM

Cool, can it be that redhead nurse? She's hot.

Adam points to a REDHEAD NURSE.

J.D.

"Proning," not "probing." It's when we put you on your stomach to help improve oxygenation.

ADAM

Oh. Well can you send her over anyway?

J.D.

I'll see what I can do.

J.D. walks to the other end of the I.C.U. On his way he passes Dr. Cox. He reads over the chart of KAREN, 60s.

DR. COX

How are you feeling, Miss Simms?

KAREN

Terrible. I'm supposed to be in Rio right now, but instead I got this stupid virus. And the Clorox certainly didn't help.

DR. COX

Come again?

KAREN

The Clorox I drank. It just made things worse!

DR. COX

You tried to kill yourself?

KAREN

Of course not!

DR. COX

Forgive me for not keeping up with the sixty-plus lingo these days: is Clorox the name of a funky new retirement home cocktail?

KAREN

No...

DR. COX

Then ya tried to kill yourself.

KAREN

That's not it at all. I drank Clorox because I don't want to die.

DR. COX

I take it back. Not suicidal, just cuckoo!

KAREN

My throat was feeling scratchy so I thought I'd nip it right in the bud with some bleach. The President said it could work!

DR. COX

Dear God.

Dr. Cox WHISTLES for the ward's attention.

DR. COX (CONT'D)

Okay listen up everyone: these beds right here are reserved for sick people, not folks who take medical advice from an orangutan who gets his jollies from watching the national death toll ramp up so far it's like he's trying to get the high score on Covid Frogger. So if I find out one of you drank bleach for any reason other than you can't stand to spend another waking moment on this piss-poor excuse of a planet, I will personally shove both my feet so far down your damn throat it'll look like I'm wearing you as a pair of pants. Understood?

The patients nod. Dr. Cox walks past J.D. and shoves Karen's chart in his chest.

DR. COX (CONT'D)  
I don't do crazy, Jessa. This one's yours.

Dr. Cox storms off.

INT. PATIENT'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

LAURA, 30s and pregnant, rests in bed. Elliot reads her chart as Carla takes Laura's blood pressure.

ELLIOT  
Says here you were brought in with shortness of breath, severe headaches, and swollen hands. We're going to run some tests but it sounds like you're suffering from preeclampsia.

LAURA  
Is it serious?

ELLIOT  
It can be. The good news is the best treatment is delivery, and you're already at 37 weeks so the risk to your baby is minimal.

LAURA  
Oh God, I'm going to have the baby already?

ELLIOT  
I know it's earlier than expected, but-

LAURA  
It's fine. It's just, my Mom was supposed to be in the delivery room with me. But she's in New Jersey and with everything going on...

CARLA  
She can't get here.

ELLIOT  
If it makes you feel any better, Carla's Mom couldn't be at her delivery either.

LAURA  
Was she out of town too?

ELLIOT

Well she was in Heaven. So technically, yes.

CARLA

Correct, I have a dead Mom. Thank you again for the reminder, Elliot.  
(to Laura)  
Is there anyone else we can call? Friends, the father...?

LAURA

My friends aren't really the "I'm cool with showing you my vagina"-

ELLIOT

(muttered)  
Bajingo.

LAURA

-type. And no father. Just me, my baby, and the open road.  
(off Elliot and Carla's confused looks)  
Oh, and an anonymous sperm donor.

ELLIOT AND CARLA

Oooh.

ELLIOT

Good for you!

CARLA

Yeah, I had to actually do it with a guy for my baby. Way overrated.

LAURA

Aw, can I see a picture? Of the baby. Not you doing it. Unless you want to show me you doing it, in which case hey, I don't judge.

Carla takes out her phone and shows a picture to Laura.

CARLA

Izzy. My husband and I work at the hospital so she's staying with my mother-in-law until things settle down. We do socially distanced visits whenever we can.

LAURA

You're tougher than me. I don't think I could handle being away from my baby like that.

CARLA

You get used to it.

But it's clear from Carla's face: she misses Izzy.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

J.D. and Turk walk through the hospital.

TURK

Man I cannot wait to go home and take off this mask.

J.D.

I don't think they're that bad.

TURK

Dude seriously? These things are so annoying.

J.D.

There are some benefits...

CUT TO:

INT. ARENA (FANTASY) - NIGHT

J.D., Turk, and Dr. Cox, all masked, perform boy band moves on stage in front of SCREAMING FANS. A pop song with PERFECT VOCALS plays.

DR. COX

(over singing)

I can't believe these idiots are buying this.

J.D.

Just enjoy the ride, Coxy!

BACK TO REALITY:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

J.D.

We'd be bigger than Milli Vanilli.

Dr. Kelso walks down the hall. He stops various MASKED PEOPLE.

DR. KELSO  
 (to Male Doctor)  
 Dr. Dorian?  
 (to Female Nurse)  
 Dr. Dorian?  
 (to Leonard the hook-  
 handed security guard)  
 Dr. Dorian?

Dr. Kelso finally reaches J.D. and Turk.

DR. KELSO (CONT'D)  
 (to J.D.)  
 Dr. Dorian?

J.D.  
 Yes?

DR. KELSO  
 Damn masks. Can't tell a face from a baboon's ass. No offense. Is it true you're thinking about putting one of your Covid patients on a ventilator?

J.D.  
 Yes, Adam Daniels. He's been here a few weeks and his breathing's taken a turn for the worse. We tried proning but it's not helping.

DR. KELSO  
 Need I remind you that we have limited supplies, which includes ventilators? If you decide to hook him up to one of those things you better be damn sure he needs it, because you'll be taking it away from someone else. A son, a mother, a grandfather - all wonderful people with greedy families who could sue us if their loved ones die.

J.D.  
 I'll keep that in mind.

TURK  
 Your compassion is truly inspiring, sir.

DR. KELSO  
Who are you?

TURK  
It's Dr. Turk.

DR. KELSO  
Damn masks.

Dr. Kelso spots TED in the corner staring at a wall.

DR. KELSO (CONT'D)  
Ted, what are you doing?

TED  
Just admiring the scenery. Hey, you recognized me with my mask on!

DR. KELSO  
You're flopsweat in a very sad human suit, Ted. Impossible to miss. I told you before only essential workers should be here. Lord knows your presence is unnecessary even on a good day. Go home.

TED  
But Mom says I'm not allowed back in bed until the virus is over.

DR. KELSO  
Your marital issues are not my problem!

J.D.  
I think you mean "maternal issues."

DR. KELSO  
I know what I said.

Dr. Kelso exits. Ted starts taking in huge gulps of air.

J.D.  
Are you okay?

TED  
I heard breathing in too much CO2 from your mask could kill you. Fingers crossed!

J.D.  
That's not true.

TED

Aw man!

Ted whips off his mask and throws it on the ground.

ORDERLY (O.S.)

No mask!

ORDERLY rushes in and TACKLES Ted.

TED (O.S.)

Aw man!

INT. I.C.U. - MORNING (DAY 2)

J.D. enters.

J.D. (V.O.)

It's funny how people suffering  
from the same exact virus can react  
so differently.

J.D. approaches Karen and checks her vitals. Her breathing is labored. She now wears an oxygen mask.

KAREN

Treat me with hydroxychloroquine.

J.D.

I'm sorry?

KAREN

Hydroxychloroquine. It cures  
Coronavirus!

J.D.

That's a malaria drug.

KAREN

Well the President said-

J.D.

I know what he said, but the  
evidence points to it being  
ineffective against Covid.

KAREN

But-

J.D.

Look, it could destroy your heart.  
I just can't. There are some other  
things I'd like to try, though-



KAREN

You have no idea what you're talking about. Go away.

Karen rolls over, her back to J.D. He starts to leave.

INT. I.C.U. - LATER

J.D. checks on Adam, who lies on his stomach. His breathing's gotten worse.

J.D.

We're not seeing any improvement with your breathing. I'm gonna give you an injection of epinephrine to see if that helps improve airflow in your lungs.

ADAM

Sounds good to me.

J.D.

I don't want you to worry. We're gonna beat this thing.

ADAM

It's cool. I trust you.

J.D.

Thanks, man.

J.D. starts to leave.

J.D. (V.O.)

Some are terrified, while others just kinda take things in stride. Fortunately I've been a doctor long enough to know I can help my patients cope no matter what gets thrown our way. But that's when I heard the four words that will make any doctor feel like he just got punched in the gut.

The screen splits.

On the left, Karen rolls back over to face J.D.

On the right, Adam turns to face J.D.

KAREN AND ADAM

(simultaneously)

Dr. Dorian.

On the left and right J.D. turns.

KAREN  
Don't let me die.

ADAM  
I'm okay with dying.

END SPLITSCREEN.

INT. PATIENT'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Elliot stares down at a chart as she enters Laura's room.

ELLIOT  
How are we doing in here?

Elliot hears SNIFFLING. She looks up: Laura's crying in bed.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)  
Laura?

LAURA  
I want my Mom.

ELLIOT  
I know you're scared, but this is the safest option for you and the baby. You're both going to be okay.

LAURA  
I just don't want to be alone. Will you stay with me? During the delivery?

ELLIOT  
Ooh, I'm not really big on seeing other women's hoo-hoos. I mean I saw Carla's when she had Izzy but that's just because she's my blff-  
(off Laura's confused look)  
Oh, B-L-F-F: best Latina friend forever. Plus Turk was stuck in an ice machine and her Mom was, you know-

Elliot makes a hanging motion.

LAURA  
Oh my God, she killed herself?

ELLIOT  
Oh no, just the whole dead thing.

LAURA  
Why is that the motion you make for  
"dead?"

CUT TO:

INT. REID KITCHEN - 1980S (FLASHBACK)

LILY and SIMON REID are in the middle of a heated discussion.  
Simon holds up a pair of socks.

SIMON  
Where's the maid? She knows my  
socks are supposed to be pressed  
every morning.

LILY  
I told you last night: her sister  
called, apparently she found  
Consuela  
(makes hanging motion)  
in her closet.

REVEAL LITTLE ELLIOT sitting at the breakfast table.

LITTLE ELLIOT  
What's  
(makes hanging motion)  
mean?

LILY  
It means Consuela died, darling.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PATIENT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ELLIOT  
No idea. I probably shouldn't be in  
the room with you anyway.

LAURA  
Why?

ELLIOT  
Because...um...there's this whole  
rivalry between OB/GYNs and  
endocrinologists! Super  
competitive.

LAURA

Wow, I had no idea. I don't want to make anyone uncomfortable...

ELLIOT

Then it's settled! No Dr. Reid in the delivery room.

LAURA

Well, thanks anyway.

Elliot turns to leave. She does a tiny CELEBRATORY FIST PUMP.

INT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Every other table is occupied. Carla and Turk eat together. J.D. joins them with a tray. They're all maskless.

J.D.

(to Turk)

God I missed your face.

TURK

I've missed thine wondrous visage.

(off J.D.'s look)

That's right I just went Shakespeare on your ass.

J.D.

Fancy!

Carla pushes food around her plate.

TURK

Not hungry, baby?

CARLA

Just making a face. Izzy loves it when I do that with her food.

Carla holds up her plate. It looks nothing like a face.

J.D.

Wow. So...abstract. How is Mocha Cub?

CARLA

She's great. Why? What did you hear?

J.D.

Nothing, just wondering.

CARLA

Oh, because she's with our mother-in-law instead of at home with me and Turk you think she's not being taken care of? For your information, Turk's mother happens to be very responsible.

TURK

Carla chill he's just asking about Izzy.

CARLA

"Chill?" "*Chill?*" Why don't you tell your girlfriend to stop randomly bringing up our daughter, then I'll "chill."

J.D.

But you said - the face - and the food...

SFX: BEEP

J.D. checks his beeper.

J.D. (CONT'D)

Oh thank God it's a code.

J.D. runs off.

INT. I.C.U. - MOMENTS LATER

J.D. enters. Dr. Cox and nurses work on Adam and Karen.

DR. COX

Their lungs are failing.

J.D.

We've gotta get them on ventilators.

DR. COX

Only one left.

J.D.

What?!

DR. COX

We've got too few machines for too many breathing problems. You do the math. Who gets the last one?

J.D. FREEZES.

J.D. (V.O.)  
 And there it was: the fate of two  
 patients rested in my hands.

REVEAL J.D. DRESSED AS GOD in a long white beard and robe.

J.D.  
 (to Karen)  
 Well on one hand, you're old and  
 tried to drink Clorox.  
 (to Adam)  
 But on the other hand, you said you  
 don't mind dying. Decisions,  
 decisions.

BACK TO REALITY:

DR. COX  
 J.D.! Make a call or lose them  
 both.

J.D.  
 She's higher risk. Put Adam on the  
 ventilator, push epinephrine for  
 Miss Simms.

Nurses tend to Karen and Adam.

J.D. and Dr. Cox stand still as nurses FAST-FORWARD around  
 them, trying to keep Adam and Karen alive. They watch as  
 Karen's monitor FLATLINES.

J.D. (V.O.)  
 But in the end it didn't really  
 matter.

J.D. covers Karen with a sheet. The action is now  
 concentrated around Adam. Despite their efforts, his monitor  
 eventually FLATLINES.

J.D. (V.O.)  
 We lost them both anyway.

J.D. covers Adam with a sheet.

INT. PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

J.D. sits on the couch, devastated. He glances at his watch:  
 it's 6:59pm. He looks at the window, already open.

His watch beeps: 7pm. CHEERING can be heard outside. J.D. hesitates, then shuts the window.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM (FANTASY) - DAY

J.D. is back in the gym, alone this time. Trash scatters the empty bleachers.

Hot Woman appears out of nowhere and approaches J.D. She starts to lift up her top. J.D. shakes his head, pushing her hands down.

J.D.  
I don't deserve them.

BACK TO REALITY:

INT. PENTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CHEERING continues faintly outside. J.D. covers his ears.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PENTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

J.D. is still on the couch, ears covered.

Dr. Cox enters and WHISTLES for J.D.'s attention. J.D. uncovers his ears.

DR. COX

It's 7 o'clock. Shouldn't you be practicing that pageant wave on all your adoring fans right about now?

J.D.

Not tonight.

DR. COX

What's the matter there, Marnie? Finally realizing fame ain't all it's cracked up to be?

J.D.

I had the chance to save Adam or Karen today with that ventilator. And instead I lost them both.

DR. COX

And?

J.D.

I don't think that exactly makes me applause-worthy.

DR. COX

Hell you wouldn't be applause-worthy even if you somehow had managed to save both those patients. Who, for the record, were probably going to die no matter what you did.

J.D.

So what, that's it? Just forget about it?

DR. COX

Damn right that's it. We spend every waking moment in this hellhole fighting death, Newbie. Sometimes we're lucky enough to win the occasional battle.

(MORE)



DR. COX (CONT'D)

Today wasn't one of those days. But that doesn't mean we wave the white flag.

J.D.

I'm not in the mood for one of your little lectures. But even if I was, let me make something very clear: this has gone way past winning the "occasional battle." This virus is a war, and guess what? It's the fourth quarter and we're losing.

DR. COX

Wars don't have quarters.

J.D.

That's great. We're in the middle of a pandemic and you can't even take that seriously.

J.D. starts to leave.

DR. COX

Where are you going?

J.D.

To find some peace and quiet.

DR. COX

Hate to break it to you, but we're in a hospital. There's no such thing as peace and quiet.

J.D. keeps walking.

DR. COX (CONT'D)

J.D.

J.D. finally pauses, his back to Dr. Cox.

DR. COX (CONT'D)

In case you hadn't noticed, this is uncharted territory for all of us. All you can do is your best. And last time I checked your best does not include walking away.

J.D. exits. Dr. Cox stares after him, defeated.

Turk SLIDES in, panting.

TURK

Did I miss it?!

REVEAL Todd flexing in front of the window.

TODD  
Nope, just in time.

Dr. Cox GROANS and exits.

INT. PATIENT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Laura's in bed. She spots Elliot rushing past her room.

LAURA  
Dr. Reid!

Elliot freezes: she's been caught. She enters Laura's room.

ELLIOT  
Hey, you!

LAURA  
Good news: I asked my OB/GYN and she said it's totally fine if you're in the delivery room! It was actually kinda weird, she said she'd never even heard of an OB/GYN/endocrinology rivalry.

ELLIOT  
(fake enthusiasm)  
Wow! That's great! So proactive of you to ask!

LAURA  
So you'll do it?

ELLIOT  
Look Laura, I just...um...I don't think...I mean...I have to go check on something.

Elliot rushes out. Laura stares after her, heartbroken.

INT. ADMISSIONS - MORNING (DAY 3)

Turk and Carla enter the hospital.

CARLA  
Your Mom sent some pictures of Izzy. Does it look like she grew?

Carla shows Turk her phone.

TURK

Since we saw her on Tuesday?

CARLA

Yes! I barely recognize her!

TURK

Baby that was two nights ago.

CARLA

But that's what babies are like at this age. One day Izzy's just a tiny wrinkly elf and then boom, you wake up and there's an actual person sleeping in her crib.

Janitor walks over.

JANITOR

Aw, where's the little baby?

CARLA

At our mother-in-law's and she's doing just fine, not that it's any of your business. Okay, is she growing like crazy? Yes. And does it suck we're not there to see it? Yes. Would I give up both my legs to cuddle her right now? Of course. But I can't do that because there's a stupid virus going around and if I touch my baby after 14 hours working in a hospital I might literally kill her. So that's where our "little baby" is. Is that okay with you? Is it?

Carla exits in a huff.

JANITOR

I was talking about Dorian.

INT. CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Dr. Cox, unmasked, sits at a table by himself aggressively eating a salad. Elliot sits across from him with a tray of food. She takes off her mask.

ELLIOT

Dr. Cox, I don't know what to do.

DR. COX

Wear a padded bra? Take your washer's spin cycle for a joy ride? Fill a four-chambered gun with three bullets and hope today's your lucky day?

ELLIOT

(not listening)

My patient's pregnant and her Mom can't be in the delivery room with her so she wants me to be there instead.

DR. COX

I'd go with the gun.

ELLIOT

I'm serious. Delivery rooms really freak me out. They're like that scene from *Alien* but with lots more blood and way poopier. None of us signed up for this Covid stuff, but I'm dealing with it. Why should I have to keep putting myself in these stressful situations?

DR. COX

How 'bout because you're a doctor?

ELLIOT

Great, thanks a lot.

DR. COX

Geez Barbie I don't know what you want me to say. I'm kinda having some Covid problems of my own with your whinier half.

ELLIOT

J.D.? What happened?

DR. COX

Two of his patients died so last night he decided to throw what we in the medical community refer to as a "royal hissy fit."

ELLIOT

Weren't you the one who tried to drown himself in scotch after three patients died?

DR. COX

I may have tried to inject myself with a syringe of Glenlivet. What's your point?

ELLIOT

I'd think you'd be able to offer him a little more empathy.

DR. COX

I told the kid it wasn't his fault. What else do you want me to do?

ELLIOT

How about fight for him the same way we fought for you?

DR. COX

Tough words from a trained doctor too damn scared to watch the birth of a baby.

Elliot grabs her tray, ready to leave.

DR. COX (CONT'D)

Look, you want my advice? Being a doctor is thankless and difficult and, yeah, disgusting. But we owe it to our patients - and ourselves - to give every situation our all.

ELLIOT

And what about our friends?

DR. COX

Newbie is not my friend.

ELLIOT

Fine, *colleagues*. Don't they deserve that, too?

Dr. Cox deflates under Elliot's gaze.

INT. ON-CALL ROOM - NIGHT

Carla sits on a bed, maskless. She cries as she scrolls through pictures of Izzy on her phone. Turk enters.

TURK

Baby? You okay?

CARLA

I miss Izzy.

TURK

I know. Me too.

Turk sits next to Carla. He takes off his mask.

CARLA

It's not fair. We're sacrificing time with our daughter to be here every day helping patients. Meanwhile there are people out there who can't even be bothered to put on a stupid mask.

TURK

People are morons. You're a nurse, no one knows that better than you.

CARLA

I just want things to go back to normal. Like when I pretend to nibble Izzy's toes and she can't stop laughing.

TURK

Yeah she always cries when I do that.

CARLA

Because you actually bite her!

TURK

Okay a: that was one time. And b: my sugar was low and you know her toes look just like tiny Tootsie Rolls! Look, one day, 20 years from now, Izzy is gonna ask us what we did during the pandemic. And we'll be able to sit her down in our house on Mars and tell her that we were out here helping as many people as we could.

Carla puts her head on Turk's shoulder.

CARLA

You're right.

(beat)

But we're not living on Mars.

TURK

Shhh we can talk about that later.

EXT. SACRED HEART ROOF - NIGHT

Dr. Cox leads J.D. onto the roof.

DR. COX  
Come on, Shoshanna.

J.D.  
You really seem to know a lot about  
"Girls"...

DR. COX  
Shut up and pay attention.

Dr. Cox looks at his watch.

J.D.  
To what?

DR. COX  
Just wait. And...now.

LOUD CHEERS and APPLAUSE fill the air.

J.D.  
Oh, a reminder that I suck. How  
nice.

DR. COX  
I'm gonna stop you right there,  
Newbie. Yes, we had a bad day.  
Probably gonna have another one  
tomorrow, and the next day, and the  
day after that. But we're fighting,  
one patient at a time. And  
that...that ain't nothin'.

MUSIC CUE: "All I Need" by AWOLNATION

J.D. (V.O.)  
And it was then I knew it would be  
okay. Not because we'd never lose  
another patient to Covid...odds are  
we would. Or because the virus  
would just magically disappear one  
day...odds are it wouldn't.

INT. DELIVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Laura SCREAMS as she delivers the baby. Elliot SCREAMS in  
horror as she holds her hand.

J.D. (V.O.)  
 But because as alone and helpless  
 as we all felt, there would always  
 be someone there to hold your hand.

EXT. TURK'S MOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Turk and Carla stand on the front steps of a modest home. A glass door separates them from MRS. TURK, who holds IZZY.

J.D. (V.O.)  
 Or make you smile.

Carla bends down to Izzy's feet and opens her mouth wide.

CARLA  
 Num num num.

Izzy LAUGHS and CLAPS. Turk moves in to copy Carla. Izzy immediately starts CRYING. Carla puts her hand on Turk's arm.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
 Uh-uh baby.

Turk steps back. Carla bends back down to Izzy's feet.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
 Num num num.

Izzy LAUGHS again. Turk and Carla smile.

EXT. SACRED HEART ROOF - NIGHT

J.D. (V.O.)  
 Or even be your own personal  
 cheering squad.

DR. COX  
 I'm not gonna clap for you.

TODD (O.S.)  
 What about me?

REVEAL Todd standing on the roof's edge, flexing in his banana hammock.

DR. COX  
 Not a chance.

Dr. Cox claps J.D. on the shoulder as they look out over the city, CHEERS echoing in the distance.

END OF SHOW