

UNT. MEDICAL PROJECT

Pilot

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Pilot

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

DARK NIGHT. A gentle rain and then... SWOOSH. SWOOSH. SWOOSH. Three tricked-out EIGHTEEN-WHEELERS haul ass past frame. Zeppelin blasts from a cab.

ROBERT PLANT

*Oh, let the sun beat down upon my
face, stars to fill my dreams...*

The steady, muted electronic BLEEP of a cell phone intrudes and we find ourselves in...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The cell phone RINGS, then RINGS again, continues RINGING as we move through the darkened space to find BILLY JOST, the sound slowly rousing him from a deep sleep. He stirs, looks around. The naked 21 year old WOMAN beside him doesn't move. Billy digs around on the floor for his pants among an empty tequila bottle and discarded clothes. Finds the phone in the pocket of his battered jeans.

BILLY

...What...?

Clocks the time on the illuminated bedside alarm. Shit...!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Billy bolts from the door, still pulling on his shirt and jacket - beat-to-shit boots in hand - cradles the cell.

BILLY

I'm gonna need a lift, now. Um.
Hang on...

Billy fumbles with the phone while pulling on his boots and searching for a street sign.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Creston and South...Westbourne.

CLICK. Billy hangs up, looks around. Christ. PEES on a bush.

EXT. GAINESVILLE FAIRGROUNDS - 3 AM

TWO NATIONAL GUARDSMEN open a massive chain link gate and: SWOOSH, SWOOSH, SWOOSH. The eighteen-wheelers blast out onto a huge field. OFF the roar of their engines we match cut to:

INT. GARAGE - PREDAWN

A caged Triumph 650. Rapid shots of: a chrome muffler, a heavy black boot. A helmet: *ROCKSTAR VELOCITY* inked on its side. CAPLUNK, CAPLUNK. The garage door grinds open. VROOM... The bike guns out, it's rider an inch away from decapitation from the rising door. Off rapidly fading tail light...

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Sparks fly as metal poles are welded. AC/DC cranks. The back doors of the semis smash open. An army of ROADIES unload huge black crates, smoke. LOUD, FAST. Then:

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM - NIGHT

PAUL O'BRIAN, 31, handsome and preppy, studies himself in a mirror. Then: Breitling watch on. Check. Electric razor charged and into it's leather travel case. Check. Toothbrush zipped into a plastic bag. Check. Adderall. YES.

PEN (VO)

Stay in your cars.

*

EXT. ENTRANCE TO FAIRGROUND - NIGHT

PEN FAVINGER, 55, spits a wad of tobacco onto the grass as he uses a bullhorn and flashlight to direct motorists.

PEN

You will be called on a first come
first served basis.

PULL UP AND OUT TO...discover hundreds of headlights lined up for miles. White beams as far as the eye can see and then...

EXT. EMPTY CITY STREET - NIGHT

Red traffic lights stretch to the horizon. The Triumph blasts through one after another. Engine echoing into the night.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Nashville Tower. Airevac 471
requesting runway 34 left, over.

INT. C-47 COCKPIT - NIGHT

ADRIAN NOURSE, 55, with the body of a 30-year-old Tri-athlete, settles into the pilot's seat.

NASHVILLE TOWER (V.O.)
Roger Airevac 471, proceed taxiway
six-west to 34 left.

Adrian checks his Timex, pulls five pills out of a small pill case and swallows them without water as he starts the plane's ancient engines. *

EXT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

A rental PT Cruiser pulls into a private airport. Ahead, the C-47 prop plane rests on a runway. HANDLERS load pallets of boxed cargo with forklifts.

Paul, Bally bag in hand, climbs out of the rental and fumbles with the key, BEEP. Turns and is almost run over by a pickup that parks next to him. Paul heads for the truck.

PAUL
Where is he?

The driver, ANGEL, 50 and smoking, points to the truck bed. Paul peers into the bed. Billy, curled up on an oilskin tarp, asleep. As Paul shakes his head...

PEN (PRELAP)
Move. Move. Move.

INT. A GIANT TENT RISES - NIGHT

A Roadie maneuvers a forklift, pulling the cable that lifts the main supports to the massive temporary structure. The tent rises. The circus is in town.

PEN
Clear those lines!

Huge banks of emergency lights BLINK ON, illuminate the controlled chaos. Stacks of fold out tables and chairs are being unloaded, dudes smoking cigarettes push dollies.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - NIGHT

Angel and Paul watch Billy sleep for a beat. Paul swings his bag over the truck bed, knocking Billy's leg. *

PAUL
Morning, sunshine. *

Billy stirs, sits, spills over the side of the truck. Two feet to ground. Angel grabs her bag and a couple others from the truck, slams one into Paul's chest. *

ANGEL *

Thought O'Hare was snowed in. *

Angel moves quickly across the parking lot toward the plane. Paul keeps up. Billy, not really. Five steps behind.

PAUL

Got out before the storm hit.
What's up with Billy? *

ANGEL

Rachel. Said she was gonna come by last night... Didn't. *

Paul nods knowingly. They both know this story. *

BILLY

I can hear you idiots so shut up. *

Angel rolls her eyes, been hearing it for too long and then...VRRRRROOOOOOOM. The Triumph 650 suddenly blasts past the three and roars into a parking spot. All stare.

PAUL

Just what Nashville needs. More white trash before dawn.

A beat, and then the driver's helmet comes off. ANGLE ON... a swath of blond hair falling down a woman's back like a Pantene commercial; her name is KATY.

BILLY

Tell me she's with us.

Katy unstraps a small kit bag and heads for the plane, climbs the ramp up into it's belly. Never looking back.

ANGEL

Just back from Africa. She bites. *

Off Billy, watching Katy disappear inside.

EXT. GIANT TENT - NIGHT

Men HAMMER four-foot metal stakes into the cracked, frozen ground with massive sledgehammers. Ratchet cable guy-lines onto thick turnbuckles, raising the side panels.

Off Pen, supervising it all, motioning and yelling --

INT. C-47 PLANE - PREDAWN

Jump seats line the walls, secured cargo fills the belly.
DENNIS KIM, 25, searches the hold as Billy and Paul climb in.

PAUL
Hey, look who made it.

DENNIS
Where's the saline? *

Angel points. *

PAUL
You look worse than Billy.

DENNIS
I came in from San Jose in a
blender. Used all three air
sickness bags in my row and the
lady next to me's purse. *

Billy watches as Katy secures her bag with a bungee cord.

BILLY
She got a name?

ANGEL
Katy, Billy. Billy, Katy.

Katy grudgingly offers her hand. Finishing strapping herself
in next to Angel as the rear ramp hydraulics pull it closed. *

PAUL
I'm Paul. Obstetrics.

Dennis plops down next to Katy, preps his own arm for a line. *

DENNIS
Dennis, dental. *

BILLY
Nice bike. *

What? Katy stares at Billy as the engines RUMBLE to life. *

BILLY (CONT'D)
So, you a nurse? *

KATY
Doctor.

Oh. Katy puts her iPod earbuds in and closes her eyes. The plane begins to move, Dennis looks to heaven.

DENNIS
Please, Lord, no turbulence...

EXT. THE C-47 PLANE ON THE RUNWAY - PREDAWN

The plane RUMBLES down the runway, heavy, slow. Finally, incredibly, lifting off the tarmac, up into the night sky.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Men on scissor lifts hang overhead lights. Forklifts move in stacks of gurneys, supplies and crated equipment.

PEN
Come on. Four hours and counting.

INT. C-47 HOLD - PREDAWN

The old plane shakes violently in turbulence, Billy could care less, he's asleep again. Dennis holds on for dear life, stares at the ceiling, desperately trying not to get sick. The IV bag swinging wildly back and forth. Incredibly, Katy is reading a medical journal, Paul looks over. *

PAUL
Little chop...

KATY
What...?

PAUL
Chop...
(she still doesn't get it)
Turbulence...

She shrugs noncommittally, sticks her head back in her book. Paul and Dennis share a look. Jesus...

ADRIAN (VO)
This is N421 reporting Gainesville
3000 feet.

INT. C-47 COCKPIT - PREDAWN

Adrian handles the bouncing yolk, very cool.

ADRIAN
You guys awake?

Out the window from high above, the giant tent looks like the spaceship out of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Row after row of cars and trucks and equipment surround it like feeding, twinkling parasites. Miles of headlights snake off into the distance.

EXT. FIELD - PREDAWN

Pen and three of his Roadies stand at the end of the dirt runway and motion with glow sticks to the approaching C-47.

PEN
How you feeling, boss?

*

Adrian blows right past the question.

ADRIAN (VO)
Making a VFR approach to 47 north.

PEN
Two thousand feet cleared. I'm your
end of your runway.

*

ADRIAN (VO)
Roger that.

In the distance, the plane's lights signal its approach and then its landing as it bounces along a dirt runway. Brakes grind, the engine wails until the massive cargo transport finally stops. Three feet from Pen and his men.

INT. PLANE - PREDAWN

As the plane's engines power down, Dennis looks to heaven again, happy to be alive.

DENNIS
Thank you, Jesus.

Paul nudges the sleeping Billy awake.

PAUL
We're here.

BILLY
Where's here again?

PAUL
Somewhere near Gainesville?

*

BILLY
Florida?

Katy unhooks her safety harness, Angel and Dennis too.

KATY
Georgia.

ANGEL

Don't you two ever read your damn
prep packets?

BILLY

Our what?

ANGEL

I don't know why the hell I waste
my time...

*

Her words fade away as Angel moves toward--

EXT. RUNWAY - PREDAWN

The rear door of the fuselage opens slowly. Our team stands
in the white light of the cargo hold. Shocked.

KATY

Wow.

REVERSE TO...the huge tent rimmed by hundreds of cars. Pen
arrives to unload the plane. A forklift moves up the ramp.

*

PEN

People been lining up for days.

*

PAUL

What happened down here?

ANGEL

Georgia Pacific paper plant closed,
took the company sponsored health
clinics with it. Nearest hospital
is over seventy miles away.

*

*

Pen grabs bags from Angel as they step off the plane --

PEN

Welcome to the jungle.

"INSERT SHOW TITLE"

EXT. TENT - PREDAWN

Billy and Paul hustle toward the circus. Ahead, shadows in
motion arc across the lit canvas scrim.

BILLY

She coming?

PAUL

...Who?

BILLY

Right...You're wearing hundred
dollar cologne for me.

*

Billy grins behind his wrap around shades, walks ahead.

DENNIS

He's knows it's dark out, right?

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The lights are up, supplies loaded. Angel leads anxious
VOLUNTEER DOCTORS and NURSES around the huge mobile hospital.

ANGEL

I'm Angel, technically my title is
nurse coordinator and operations
manager, but just think of me as
God. Anything you need, you come
to me. Do NOT bother Doctor Nourse.

*

(sees Adrian crossing)
Adrian...! Wave at this weekend's
volunteers --

He does, but just keeps moving.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

I know you all want to shake the
great man's hand, maybe have him
sign your T-shirt or kiss your baby
-- but he's *busy*. Alright? So leave
him the hell alone.

*

The men and women gawk at the scale of the place.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

In one hour, every chair in this
tent will be filled.

*

(points)
Dental to the left.

Pen's roadies wheel exam chairs into rows.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

General medical to the right. Don't
ask if they have insurance. They
don't. Everything's free. If they
had money, they wouldn't be here.

A stack of chairs suddenly topples off a forklift; Angel
doesn't even flinch.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

We see everything from impetigo to ALS. If we can't help, we refer out. I have a list of specialists up in Gainesville.

They pass Katy hoisting a box of supplies to her area.

KATY

Amoxicillin?

ANGEL

Coming.

(back to the group)

You're gonna see a lot of ice.

VOLUNTEER

Ice?

ANGEL

Crystal meth. It's an epidemic in rural areas.

As if on cue, the overhead lights flicker. Angel yells --

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Pen, that county power?

Pen zips by in a go-cart.

PEN

Generators. County hasn't been able to get out to hook us up yet. Had a big ice storm last week, repair crews are backed up.

Pen's go-cart takes us to Billy setting up cardiac equipment in another area.

BILLY

You're going to blow out a fifteen thousand dollar EKG machine!

PEN

Don't need to hear what I already know.

The lights flicker again, Billy shakes his head.

BILLY

Where are we? Friggen Kazakhstan?

INT. TENT DENTAL AREA - PREDAWN

Angel and the newbies slide past Dennis setting up.

ANGEL
Who's working dental?

A few hands go up.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Lidocaine. Label says it's expired,
but it's not. Use it first.

DENNIS
Well, technically it is. But not by
much and it'll be gone by noon. We
have donuts yet, Angel?

Angel points off, leads the group into...

INT. TENT OB-GYN AREA - PREDAWN

Paul stands on a ladder hanging sheets off overhead ropes, a
duct-taped sign announces "Mammograms".

ANGEL
Mammograms and pap smears come
here. Everything is out in the open
except for surgery. No such thing
as privacy unless you're dead.

A big, scruffy COON HOUND suddenly bolts by with a donut in
its mouth. Angel exits, screaming...

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Somebody get that damn stray outta
here before the health department
shuts us down!

*
*

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL AREA - PREDAWN

Katy talks to a volunteer.

KATY
Wash down each chair as soon as a
patient is moved.

WOMAN'S VOICE
Sorry I'm late.

REVERSE TO...MEG COOPER, 26 and bubbly cute.

MEG

Meg Cooper. Plane from Dallas was late. Physicians Assistant.

Dallas? Katy's already bored but Billy walks past carrying a box, sees Meg and grins.

BILLY

Hey ya, Meg...

*

Meg sees Billy, waves awkwardly, a little embarrassed.

MEG

Hi, Billy...

Off Billy's mock beauty queen wave as he grins --

EXT. TENT - PREDAWN

Adrian speaks with the GUARDS. It's cold; their breath escapes in icy bursts as they speak.

ADRIAN

No one gets in the tent without a wrist band.

Pen drives by in a go-cart and tosses Adrian an apple.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'm not hungr--

PEN

Eat it anyway.

Pen is gone. Adrian tosses a Guard the fruit.

ADRIAN

Compassion. At all times. Get some blankets out here.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - PREDAWN

Angel is finishing with her volunteers.

ANGEL

Eat, pee, do whatever you need to do to find God cause you're gonna need him the next two days.

As Adrian comes back in from outside, passing --

ADRIAN

Gates open in fourteen minutes.

Angel stops. What? Rushes after him.

ANGEL
Fourteen minutes...?!
(catches up to Adrian)
We're not ready.

*

Adrian moves past her but Angel dashes to catch up. Again.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
We only have twenty stethoscopes
and fifty spots at intake.

ADRIAN
Where are the others?

ANGEL
Lost, stolen. Does it matter?

ADRIAN
Share.

*

DENNIS (OS)
Um... Fire in dental.

*

Adrian doesn't react as Angel grabs a fire extinguisher and heads for Dennis. As Adrian starts back outside --

ADRIAN
Twelve minutes. Make it work.

INT. TENT OB-GYN AREA - SAME

Paul's now stocking supplies and setting up a portable ultrasound. Billy comes in.

BILLY
You have any surgi-lube?

Paul points to a box. Billy grabs what he needs, starts to go, then mischievously...

BILLY (CONT'D)
Oh, she's here...

PAUL
...Who?

*

But he knows.

BILLY
Dallas. She's over in medical. New hair-do too.

PAUL
I'll have to say hello later, or
something.

BILLY
Or...Something?

*

Billy goes. Off Paul, sneaking a glance toward medical.

*

EXT. TENT - DAWN

ADRIAN
Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.
My name is Adrian Nourse. I know
it's cold...

The sun is barely rising as we PAN OVER a sea of humanity,
waiting. National Guard stand by keeping order.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
We'll do our best to see everyone
we can over the next two days. Once
you have been given a number, the
guards will direct you inside.

Mothers clutch babies, an elderly man clutches a battered
walker. Men stand with their wives, teenagers with friends.
Brothers with sisters. All sizes. All races. Cold and in
need. Adrian checks his watch, it's exactly 6 AM. He raises
the bullhorn and...

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
Number one...

A PREGNANT WOMAN with a baby steps forward.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
Number two.

A MAN in a wheelchair is pushed forward. Welcome to America.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - MORNING

The tent is now full. An orderly madhouse. Patients
everywhere, overflowing. Lined up at the fifty intake spots.

ANGEL
I need a cuff. CUFF.

WOMAN'S VOICE (PRELAP)
Nineteen foot tape worm coming
through.

A NURSE barges past holding a jar with said worm.

INT. TENT DENTAL AREA - MORNING

Rows of dental patients, all being worked over. Open mouths, X-ray machines. The drone of drills. Find Dennis working over a SKETCHY TEENAGER, flannel, tats, pimples and bad teeth.

SKETCHY GUY
Dude, you seeing ants?

DENNIS
No. Hold still and open wider.

SKETCHY GUY
On my arm! You don't see the ants?

DENNIS
That's a mole. More epi please!

Suddenly a drill from the guy working next to Dennis spins off its clamp, sails over Dennis and his patient.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
These drills SUUUCK. Where the hell did we get 'em?

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL - MORNING

KATY
You found a deer by the side of the road and you ate it?

A teenage boy pitches forward and vomits. *

TEENAGE BOY'S FATHER
It looked fresh... *

INT. TENT OB-GYN AREA - MORNING

PAUL
You're pregnant.

A girl, maybe twelve on a good day, bursts into tears. *

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - MORNING

BILLY
You're not having a heart attack, you had one, maybe a week ago. *

EXT. TENT - MORNING

Adrian with his bullhorn. And the people.

ADRIAN
Ninety five.

KATY (PRELAP)
Prep OR.

INT. TENT MAIN AISLE - SAME

Katy pushes a gurney with a MAN in heavy work boots and a very used Carhartt jacket.

KATY
Burst appendix. Call Jost.

Meg sprints just as...a violent SCREAMMMM erupts.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TENT INTAKE/RECOVERY AREA - DAY

Dennis' sketchy MALE TEENAGER suddenly arches backwards, stands from Dennis' chair in a spasm.

DENNIS
Sit back down, sir. Sir!

But the guys just wanders a few feet, then collapses into a table, smashing onto the concrete floor, hard. Supplies spill across the floor, blood pools beneath the kid's head.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Jesus...

Katy sprints to the scene. Fast, she checks his airway.

KATY
Not breathing.

Checking.

KATY (CONT'D)
No pulse.

Billy runs in. So does Angel. Dennis stands, frozen.

BILLY
What the hell's going on?

KATY
Cardiac arrest.

DENNIS
I just did a couple fillings.

*

BILLY
What'd you give him?

DENNIS
Lidocaine and epi.

BILLY
On meth?

DENNIS
He's high?

BILLY
Look at him!

Billy rips open the kid's shirt and applies the AED patches.

BILLY (CONT'D)
360 non-synchronized. Charge.
(a beat)
Clear!

*
*

ZAP. The kid's body goes rigid for two seconds and then...

BILLY (CONT'D)
No pulse. Recharge.

As the AED recalculates...BOOM a circuit breaker suddenly blows and the tent is pitched into complete darkness.

DENNIS
Crap.

ANGEL
Everybody stay calm. Emergency
generators will kick in...Pen!

*

BILLY
Clear!

In near darkness. BEEEEEEEEEEPPPPPPPPPP. The sound and the screen confirm. Billy's not ready to give up. As he ZAPS the sketchy teenager again we--

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TENT - DAY

Billy is drenched in sweat. The overhead lights surge and then flicker. Still unstable.

ANGEL

Pen...

BILLY

Recharge. 360. Clear!

ZAP, a very long beat... and then, finally, a rhythm.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Start an IV of A-Miodarone and transport.

MEG

Is he stabilized enough to stand the drive?

BILLY

(sang-froid)

Bag the dickhead and get him outta here. Go.

Billy tosses his gloves in a bin and storms away.

ANGEL

(yelling)

Pen, get the damn County out here! We need lights for god's sake.

INT. TENT OPERATING AREA - MORNING

Katy, head lamp on, works on an appendectomy. Meg enters.

MEG

They're trying to find a hospital that'll take him.

KATY

He's stable enough to move?

MEG

According to Billy.

KATY

Is that a yes or no?

Meg gets the point.

KATY (CONT'D)
Can you suture?

*

Meg nods so Katy hands her the needle.

*

INT. TENT MAMMOGRAM AREA - MORNING

Paul examines a YOUNG MAN with a sheet over his groin.

PAUL
How did you bruise your penis?

YOUNG MAN
That's all it is? A bruise. Hell
man, I thought the thing was gonna
fall off.

PAUL
Depending on how you did it, it
still might.

YOUNG MAN
Stuck it in a vacuum cleaner.

PAUL
Really?

YOUNG MAN
I thought--

PAUL
Don't need to know why.

Paul grabs his folder steps outside the sheets.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Next.

*

OFF the young man triple checking it's still there.

EXT. THE ROW OF PORTO POTTYS - DAY

Billy exits and holds the door open for Katy. Dennis exits
the other porto potty, hustles past Billy.

DENNIS
Sorry about the epi screw up.

BILLY
...okay...

*

DENNIS

I should have picked up on the
meth.

Katy stops, comes back, can't hold back.

KATY

How can someone in cardiac arrest actually piss you off? It's like getting mad at a kitten.

BILLY

This is your first clinic. You're gonna need all your energy to handle your own cases, so stay out of mine, okay?

*

*

KATY

Jesus, where did Adrian find you?

BILLY

Little place called Harvard.

Touche. Billy smiles, starts away. She calls after him.

KATY

That explains the arrogance, but what about the stupidity?

But Billy doesn't stop, disappears back into the tent. Dennis smiles, appreciates her effort in defending him. Dennis goes, just missing colliding with the COON HOUND, loping by, ham sandwich in mouth. OFF Katy. Whatever...

*

*

INT. TENT MAMMOGRAM AREA - MORNING

CINDY ISHERWOOD, 31, African American, lies on a table in a gown while Paul performs an ultrasound on her belly.

PAUL

Everything looks good to me. Very healthy thirty-eight week baby.

CINDY

Josephine Mabel Isherwood.

PAUL

A name that's gonna change the world.

Paul scribbles notes on Cindy's chart as she dresses.

CINDY

Gotta get her out first.

PAUL
Your first born was Cesarian?
(she nods)
(MORE)

*
*

PAUL (CONT'D)

So, Cindy. You're healthy, your baby's healthy. You want to tell me why you waited in the cold for two days to see me?

CINDY

C-sections are pre-existing. *

(he doesn't get it) *

We lost our insurance when my husband was laid-off at the plant. We can't get new insurance to cover a Cæsarian.

Paul stares at her, what?

CINDY (CONT'D)

Since I can't give birth vaginally, I can't afford to have my baby.

(and then)

I was hoping you could do it.

PAUL

Do what, a Cæsarian?

She nods. Cindy's eyes fill with tears for a split second. Paul doesn't know what to say, before he can figure out an answer, a TEENAGER suddenly bursts into the exam area.

TEENAGER

Is this where you get those anti-cancer shots for warts?

EXT. TENT - DAY

Adrian hands out blankets. A WOMAN accepts one, but she's too embarrassed to make eye contact.

BILLY (PRELAP)

Jose Garcia?

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - DAY

JOSE, 62, fat and jolly, waves and stands from the crowd.

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - DAY

Billy pastes electrodes on Jose's chest.

JOSE

Maybe it's just indigestion. *

Billy hooks up the lines to an EKG machine. *

BILLY

Mr. Garcia, you're experiencing fainting spells and dizziness.

JOSE

I was on my way to Home Depot.

BILLY

Two days ago?

JOSE

Crashed the car.

BILLY

Doesn't sound like indigestion.

JOSE

There any place around here to order take-out? I've been waiting for hours. I'm starving.

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL AREA - MIDDAY

A man dressed as a CHILI CHEESE DOG passes with a tray of fries and hotdogs. Katy zips around him and...

KATY

Nathan Duncan?

An adorable four year old raises his hand just as...

INT. TENT MAIN AISLE - MIDDAY

...Adrian walks with Pen.

ADRIAN

Gas heaters?

PEN

Cost money.

ADRIAN

We can't let people freeze.

MAN'S VOICE (PRELAP)

I think it's strep throat.

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL AREA - DAY

SAM, Nate Jr.'s Dad, speaks with a thick southern accent. He's young. Very young.

SAM

I went to the library and looked up his symptoms on the Internet.

Nate is scared. His dad takes his hand.

SAM (CONT'D)

Nate's got a real bad headache too.

MEG

He's burning up.

KATY

Is that a figure?

MEG

103.7.

KATY

You're Nate's dad?

SAM

(nervously)

Yes, Ma'am.

KATY

Hey sweetheart, can you open your mouth nice and wide for me?

Nate obeys. Katy swabs the back of his throat.

KATY (CONT'D)

Does your son have any medical allergies?

SAM

No, Ma'am. I don't think so.

KATY

You don't think so or you don't know so?

SAM

Well, he hasn't had to take a lot of stuff for...he doesn't get sick.

NATE

Peanuts.

KATY

What about vaccines? Nate's up to date on all his shots?

NATE
Peanuts, Sammy. I can't eat
peanuts.

Sammy? Katy looks at Nathan. Meg looks at Katy.

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - MIDDAY

Jose's shirt is back on.

BILLY
Tech.

WOMAN'S VOICE
Coming, my liege.

ABBY PATEL, 33 and stunning, enters.

BILLY
Jose Garcia meet...

ABBY
Abby. Patel.

Abby shakes Jose's hand.

JOSE
She's beautiful. You married, Dr.
Jost? *

BILLY
You asking me out? *

JOSE
Been with my wife twenty-two years. *

BILLY
Congratulations. *

JOSE
She made me come down here. Worries
about me... Marriage is a wonder. *

Billy ignores him, hands Abby Jose's EKG printout. *

ABBY
Tachy brady cardiac syndrome.

JOSE
What does that mean?

BILLY
It means you could die soon.
(to Abby)
(MORE)

*

BILLY (CONT'D)
 Let's get him hooked up to an
 external pacemaker.

Jose suddenly looks scared. Billy pats his back.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 Call your wife. Tomorrow morning
 I'm going to save your life.

Exiting. Reading a chart, Billy tries to make out the name,
 finally calls out to the still-teeming waiting area.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 Something Stavola.

An obese WOMAN heaves herself up off a chair.

INT. TENT OB-GYN AREA - DAY

Cindy, the Cesarian woman. Sits, now dressed, emotional.
 Paul stands beside her, trying to console her.

PAUL
 I'm sorry. But I can't operate on
 you before term, and even if I
 could, I can't perform a non-
 emergent surgical procedure here.
 (she nods/still crying)
 Go to an ER in Gainesville when
 your contractions start. They'll
 have to perform the C-section then.

*

Paul is tortured by this conversation, hates it.

CINDY
 They said it'd still cost nine
 thousand dollars.

PAUL
 You don't have to pay it up front,
 they'll do the C-section.

*

She looks up at him, quietly.

CINDY
 We don't have that kind of money,
 we'll have to declare bankruptcy.

PAUL
 I'm sorry, I can't. I wish I could.

She nods. Figured that would be the answer. Stands, shakes
 his hand bravely.

CINDY
Thank you, Doctor.

And goes. Paul stands there, miserable. Meg steps in.

MEG
You have any extra suture kits?

PAUL
Tray, over there.

Meg grabs some. Starts out. Stops. Comes back, kisses Paul passionately. Then leaves. OFF Paul, what a day already --

INT. TENT - DAY

Sam looks worried. Katy pulls a chair over and sits.

KATY
So, what's the deal? You're not
Nate's dad are you?

A beat. Sam doesn't answer.

KATY (CONT'D)
I'm a doctor, Sam. I can't tell
anyone anything you tell me without
your permission.

SAM
I'm his brother.

KATY
Where are your parents?

SAM
My mom's gone. Dad's working.

KATY
Working where?

SAM
He drives a truck.

KATY
How'd you two get down here from...
(she checks the chart)
Pineville?

SAM
...We hitched.

KATY
Two hundred miles?

*

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - DAY

Angel stands in front of the group.

ANGEL
If you do not have a pink sheet
like this...
(holds one up)
You are in the wrong line.

Billy approaches with Abby, wrapped cheese dog in one hand.

BILLY
Lunch.

ANGEL
It's four in the afternoon.
(he holds it out)
I don't eat that junk.

Billy knows she does and sets it on Angel's intake table.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Why are you ignoring your patients?

Angel grabs her stethoscope.

BILLY
Our new doctor have a last name?

ANGEL
Ask her. *

BILLY
I think she likes me. *

ANGEL
I doubt it. Stanford Jones? *

A middle aged MAN, in a blazer, approaches. The overhead lights flicker again. Angel stares up, shakes her head.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Pen!

BILLY
Tell Adrian I have an overnight.

ADRIAN
(passing behind)
You just did. What is it?

BILLY
Pacemaker.

And Adrian's already gone. Abby watches Adrian go.

ABBY
 You know Dr. Nourse?
 (what?)
 I saw that piece they did on him on
60 Minutes. Amazing...

BILLY *
 Yeah...
 (grabs a chart)
 Krewson?

A hug African American man stands, follows Billy back into the tent. Abby hangs back, turns to Angel.

ABBY *
 They said Dr. Nourse saved over ten
 thousand in the Congo.

Angel follows her admiring gaze to Adrian, standing across the way, deep in conversation with the always intense Katy.

ANGEL *
 He doesn't keep track of the ones *
 he saved, only the ones he didn't.

Off Angel and Abby --

INT. TENT DENTAL AREA - AFTERNOON

No slowing down at dental. Dennis moves to the next exam chair. An OLD MAN removes his dentures. Has one tooth left.

OLD MAN
 Think you can save that one, Doc?
 I'm kinda attached to it.

INT. SUPPLY ROOM - AFTERNOON *

ADRIAN
 We have to report it to family
 services.

KATY *
 No we don't because no one's ever
 going to hear about it.

ADRIAN *
 A fifteen year old boy hitchhikes
 two hundred miles with his eight
 year old brother?

KATY
They're both clean, well nourished.

ADRIAN
It's the law.

Adrian takes out his cell phone, dials. *

KATY
My patient, my confidentiality.

ADRIAN *
You culture for strep? *
(she nods) *
What about meningitis? *

KATY *
I'm going to observe him overnight, *
see if we can control his fever. *
(staring at his phone) *
They're a functioning family. *

ADRIAN *
That designed to hurt me? *

WOMAN'S VOICE *
(on phone) *
City and state, please. *

KATY
One day, then they're gone.

WOMAN'S VOICE *
Hello...? *

Adrian's torn, but not for long.

ADRIAN
Gainesville, Georgia. Department of
Family and Child Services.

Katy storms out as--

EXT. TENT - AFTERNOON

Well over five hundred people still wait.

ANGEL
Intake is closed for today.

Angel's gaze lands on a WOMAN in a wheelchair. Though she wears a long skirt, only one leg is visible. Heartbreak.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

If you have a wristband, the gates open again tomorrow at 5 AM. If you don't, I'm sorry, we will not be able to see you this weekend.

Angel walks back toward the tent with purpose but as we move in on her face, her eyes are filled with tears.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - AFTERNOON

Volunteers are cleaning up mounds of medical trash. Pen moves through with a giant trash bag. He sees Angel.

PEN

You good?

Pen puts his hand on her back. More gentle for both than we've seen before.

ANGEL

Where the hell is Adrian?

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL AREA - AFTERNOON

Meg looks over the diminished crowd.

MEG

Tom McGuire.

He stands. Meg unwraps the gauze bandage around his hand.

TOM

Combine got it. My wife tried to stop the bleeding--

Tom's index finger is black.

MEG

With bailing twine?

Meg didn't mean to, but she shamed him.

TOM

It's what we had.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - EARLY EVENING

The area is being converted into an overnight infirmary. Nate and Sam are there, others. Jose groans every ten seconds or so and pitches forward.

BILLY
Got you some dinner.

For a brief moment, Jose's face lights up until...

JOSE

Soup?

BILLY

Low salt soup. *

Billy checks the lines that protrude from Jose's chest to a nearby machine. *

JOSE

I don't want the surgery. *

BILLY

Then you'll die.

He's zapped again. Jesus...

JOSE

How am I supposed to sleep?

BILLY

It sucks being a fat man hooked up to an eternal pacemaker.

JOSE

I have to sign something before you do it, right?

BILLY

Your heart is beating too slowly. An internal pacemaker will keep you alive to eat badly again.

Jose groans and jolts forward again.

JOSE

I can't afford it.

BILLY

I'm free.

JOSE

I don't want charity.

BILLY

You have a whole night to figure out how to thank me. *

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

The Roadies cook gumbo over a propane burner. The coon hound sits patiently at the perimeter of the fire, waiting. Pen arrives with a live chicken.

PEN
I need a hatchet.

ROADIE
Where the hell'd you get that?

The coon hound sits up to attention.

PEN
You want to eat or you wanna talk?

Pen heads to the truck cab. When no one is looking he tosses the hound a hunk of cheese. Yum. Angel passes, sees the dog.

ANGEL
What the hell's that dog still
doing here?

EXT. MOTEL BALCONY - NIGHT

Billy, cigar in hand with a six pack of beer, knocks.

BILLY
You up, sweetheart?

A beat, footsteps scampering and then the door opens. Paul is in sweats without a shirt.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Thirsty?

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Paul's bed is unmade and Billy notices. He also notices the bathroom door is closed. Duh.

BILLY
You can come on out now Meg.

Meg opens the door. She is disheveled but dressed.

MEG
I just had to stop by and--

BILLY
Borrow a stick of butter?

MEG

Go over some scheduling. Stuff. You have a surgery tomorrow?

Billy lies back on the bed. Exhales the cigar.

MEG (CONT'D)

If you need an attending nurse...

BILLY

T-shirt. Backwards. *

MEG *

Right. Thanks.

And with that she is gone. Paul is amazed.

PAUL

It takes you like what, sixty seconds to make a woman run?

Billy tosses Paul a beer.

BILLY

How was your day, honey?

PAUL

Multiple teen pregnancies, genital warts, meth head tried to get a hoover from a Hoover. *

BILLY

He stuck it in the--

PAUL

Yup. Then couldn't find the off switch.

BILLY

Just when you think you've seen everything.

PAUL

C-sections are now considered a pre-existing condition.

BILLY

Yeah? How many weeks to term?

PAUL

Two.

BILLY
Induce her.

PAUL
And lose my medical license?

BILLY
You have one? *

Paul shakes his head. Then: *

PAUL
That new doctor from Africa is hot. *

BILLY
I'm a married man, buddy. *

PAUL
You were a married man. No more. *
(then) *
How's Rachel doing? *

BILLY
...She's good... *

PAUL
When's the last time she saw *
Maddie? *

Billy doesn't answer. Paul takes a moment, carefully: *

PAUL (CONT'D) *
Rachel's not coming back, you know *
that, right? *

Billy doesn't want to talk about it, crumples his empty, *
tosses it toward the trash can, changes the subject. *

BILLY
So, how's Meg?

PAUL
Who?

Billy chuckles to himself.

BILLY
You are screwed, man. You are so
screwed.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - NIGHT

Nate is tucked in bed. Sam sits beside him and reads a book although Nate knows all the words too. Clearly a ritual. In the background, Jose is occasionally shocked.

SAM
I do not like green eggs and
ham, I do not like them with
some jam.

NATE
I do not like green eggs and
ham, I do not like them with
some jam.

Katy stands a bit off, unseen. Watching, silently. Off Katy --

EXT. TENT - NIGHT

People sleep in their cars and run their engines for heat
intermittently. Adrian knocks on a window.

ADRIAN
Blanket?

A MAN, 30, with three kids asleep in back, smiles. He's
missing two teeth and knows it.

MAN
Appreciate it.

Angel arrives, offers Adrian a box. *

ANGEL
Eat. *

ADRIAN
Maybe later. *

ANGEL
You taking your meds? ...Sleeping? *

But Adrian doesn't answer, is onto the next car. Knocks. *

ADRIAN
Blanket? *

OFF Angel, watching this man. The line of cars is several
hundred long and Adrian's going to knock on every window. *

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. A BEEPER.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

BEEP. BEEP. CLOSE ON a digital clock: 4:12 AM. Katy bolts out of bed, thinks it's the clock for a moment. It's not. It's her beeper. She's dressed because she slept in her clothes.

EXT. MOTEL ROOM - SAME

Katy hurries down the exterior balcony and almost slams into Abby, coming out of a room furtively. Katy stops, looks into the open motel door and sees Billy, half naked, passed out on the bed. Abby shrugs, smiles, closes the door after her.

EXT. TENT - PREDAWN

The cab door of the eighteen wheeler opens. Angel looks both ways. No one is around as she crawls out, pulling on her blouse and carrying her coat, but not before leaning back in to kiss a shirtless Pen. Man that guy has tats. Angel pulls on her coat as she hurries away from the semi -- utterly unaware the coon hound is comfortably asleep under the truck.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Katy heads into the tent. Meg is there.

MEG

Sorry to wake you, temp's 104.2.

Katy examines Nate's chest and neck.

MEG (CONT'D)

Why's it keep spiking?

Nate moans in delirium.

KATY

Find Pen, we need a tub, rubber container, anything that holds ice. *

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK. SOMEONE POUNDS ON A DOOR (PRELAP)

INT. MOTEL ROOM - PREDAWN

Billy stumbles out of bed, looks around. Where'd Abby go? But he's not surprised. Billy opens the door in his boxer shorts to find a small Hispanic WOMAN. *

WOMAN

Doctor Jost? *

Billy stares at her blankly.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I'm Gabriella Garcia... Jose
Garcia's wife. *

(...huh?)

He says you need to do an operation
for his heart. *

Billy's finally awake and now finds himself staring at a BIG,
FROZEN, WRAPPED ELK LEG. *

GABRIELLA

It's for you. Jose shot it last
fall. *

BILLY

What do I do with it?

GABRIELLA

You eat it. Elk loin.

He stares at it, what?

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

I know it's not much, but we hope
you can accept it.

(off Billy's face)

We want you to have it for all you
are doing for Jose.

OFF Billy, staring at the leg.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - PREDAWN

SAM

Is he going to be okay...?

Katy doesn't answer, lowers the boy into a tub of ice. Nate's
face is flushed red. Katy strokes his forehead, quietly...

KATY

Come on, Nate... come on...

EXT. FIELD - PREDAWN

Just before dawn, shadows move between cars. Volunteers pick
up trash from the field. Think Woodstock. Adrian sits behind
the port-johns on a crate, he's pale, frail. Vomits into a 55
gallon trash barrel. Takes a deep breath, wipes his mouth. *
He's in some distress and pain. Gathers himself, drinks from *
an orange juice. Swallows more of his pills. OFF his lone *
figure as he tries to find the strength for another day -- *

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - PREDAWN

Meg, Abby, nurses and volunteers in T-shirts marked as such, wheel/carry patients from the overnight infirmary.

ANGEL

We can take two in general. Put Mr.
Garcia in OR prep.

*
*

Jose is awake. He jolts forward again with the pacemaker.

*

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. A go-cart backs into a stack of medical supplies and knocks them over. Adrian sails through.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Adrian. No...

*

ADRIAN

Yes...

ANGEL

We aren't ready!

*

But Adrian is gone. OFF Angel, frustrated --

*

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Get ready! Here they come!

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL AREA - PREDAWN

Nate is wrapped in blankets on a cot; Katy is beside him. She has been there for hours.

SAM

He's better?

KATY

Getting there.

Adrian steps in.

ADRIAN

I need to see you.

INT. TENT SUPPLY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Katy enters. Prepared for what comes next. And pissed.

ADRIAN

Two reps from Child Services will
be here at ten.

(she stares daggers)
You do that spinal?

*
*
*

KATY

No.

ADRIAN

He's symptomatic of meningitis.

KATY

I called the CDC. There hasn't been a case of meningitis around here for twelve years.

ADRIAN

His father's a truck driver, right? He travels around.

KATY

Fever came down. No stiffness in the neck. It's strep.

ADRIAN

With a headache?

KATY

I'm not sticking a needle into that little boy's spine.

ADRIAN

Then I'll do it.

KATY

The hell you will. He's my patient.

ADRIAN

This isn't personal. Don't try and make this into something between you and me --

KATY

Why the hell did you bring me back here anyway? You have plenty of other doctors who want to do this.

*
*
*

ADRIAN

You're too addicted to risk.

*

KATY

That's funny coming from you. I was happy in the Sudan, you should have left me there.

*
*
*

(she goes/calls back)

Stay away from my patient!

*
*

Off Adrian, watching Katy go --

INT. TENT OR - PREDAWN

Billy, in scrubs, enters the mobile surgery 'suite'. It's a small room under a tarp with walls made of crates.

BILLY

You decide whether you want to live
or die yet?

Billy uses a stethoscope to listen to Jose's heart.

JOSE

Can you take this thing off,
please?

BILLY

Nah. I'm gonna make you suffer for
a few more hours.

Jolt. Jose pitches forward involuntarily and sighs. *

BILLY (CONT'D) *

Make you remember not to stuff
yourself with nachos and dip.

JOSE

All we immigrants eat is cheese and
guacamole, huh?

BILLY

You said it. Not me.
(indicating)
I'll make a small incision right
here near your shoulder.

Billy holds up an internal pacemaker.

BILLY (CONT'D)

These two wires go through the
subclavian vein which leads into
your heart.

(another wire)

This one goes into the lower
chamber, the ventricle and this one
goes into the upper chamber--

JOSE

Atrium.

(Billy smiles/surprised)

Twenty five years for Parks and
Rec. You remember the word atrium.

BILLY

Battery gets replaced every seven
years, otherwise you're good to go.
(with clipboard)
You ready to sign the consent form?

JOSE

You get my elk leg?

BILLY

Not sure how to get it home.

JOSE

But you're gonna take it?
(Billy nods)
Give me the damned form.

*
*

EXT. TENT - PREDAWN

Adrian stands at the head of the line. It is exactly the same
size as the day before.

ADRIAN

If you are here for dental or
vision care, and you hold a number
higher than one thousand and nine,
I'm afraid your chances of seeing a
doctor today are slim.

People react. Reality sucks. It's killing Adrian.

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - DAWN

A WOMAN sits across from Angel in a maid's outfit. Her mother
(a grandmother), MS. BOIES, 72, sits quietly.

WOMAN

I can never tell how bad she's
feelin', she won't say nothin'.

Angel nods but her focus is on the stethoscope as she listens
to the older woman's breathing.

ANGEL

Can you take a deep breath for me,
Ms. Boies?

Ms. Boies struggles.

WOMAN

I have to be at work in three
hours.

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Can someone see my mother before
then? I can't lose my job. I got
two kids.

*

ANGEL
Another breath, please.

The grandmother is frightened. She can't get her breath.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Just relax...breathe...

There is panic in the older woman's eyes. Rightfully so. *

PAUL (VO)
Jeremy Lardner.

INT. TENT MAMMOGRAM AREA - MORNING

Paul, neat as ever, faces row after row of patients. JEREMY, 60, stands.

PAUL
How can I help you Mr. Lardner?

JEREMY
I've been pissing too much, gotta get up ten, fifteen times a night.

PAUL
When was your last prostate exam?

JEREMY
My last what?

EXT. FIELD - MORNING

Pen arrives to find an electric company FORMAN staring up at a WORKER in a cherry picker above. The coon hound rolls in something smelly a few feet away.

PEN
Hoping you folks were gonna get out here yesterday.

FORMAN
Twenty-six miles of rural line went down between you and a substation, but we're hot now, gonna hang a transformer off the 4400 volt line. You on generator?

PEN
Yup. But it's not enough juice to run lights and the operating room equipment.

FORMAN

We worked all night to get this
line out here for you. We're gonna
get you up fast as we can.

*

PEN

Thanks...

The Foreman looks at the mass of people waiting, shakes his
head sadly, Jesus...

FORMAN

How many people are out here?

PEN

Couple thousand, maybe more.

*

The Foreman whistles softly, wishing he could have done more.

*

INT. TENT OR - MORNING

Gabriella, dressed in a gown, gloves and mask, sits beside
Jose, holds his hand as Abby and Billy enter.

BILLY

Ready?

Jose nods. Gabriella smiles, speaks softly to him in Spanish.

Billy nods to the anesthesiologist, grabs betadine to swab
the masked incision area just as...the lights flicker. Again.
Billy waits.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hard to cut in the dark.

A beat. The lights steady. Gabriella looks nervous. Abby
flips on a high powered flashlight and uses it to highlight
the incision point. Billy grins, grabs a scalpel.

*

EXT. TENT - MORNING

Adrian greets a white Ford Focus.

ADRIAN

I appreciate you coming all the way
out here.

RONNY ANDERSON, 45, African American, and her co-worker, LUCY
MILLER, exit the car. Ronny studies the people in line.

RONNY

Impressive work ya'll are doing.
Thought you worked mostly in the
third world.

ADRIAN

This is the third world. Adrian
Nourse.

LUCY

Lucy Miller.

Off Katy, watching from the tent entrance, very unhappy.

INT. TENT OR - MORNING

Abby attends while Billy operates. Jose's unconscious, his
wife stoking his hair. The overhead lights still flicker, but
Abby is steady with the flashlight.

EXT. TENT - MORNING

Meg brings Paul coffee. A beat. She hesitates, is nervous -- *

MEG *

You doing Jacksonville next month? *

PAUL *

Probably. I'm not sure yet. *

MEG *

I got a new job. *

PAUL *

Yeah...? *

MEG *

I wasn't really looking or anything
and it's a little less money, but
it's a great opportunity. *

He's not really listening, doing some quick paperwork. *

PAUL *

Sounds great. *

MEG *

...It's in Chicago. Mercy. *

He stops writing, frozen. Doesn't look up. *

MEG (CONT'D) *

Paul? *

PAUL

...Oh.

*

MEG

Oh? ...That's it?

*

Paul still hasn't looked up, is very still. Not exactly the reaction she was hoping for.

*

*

MEG (CONT'D)

You don't want me to come?

*

*

PAUL

...I want you to do whatever you think'd be best for your career.

*

*

*

MEG

(studies him/then)

...Right.

*

*

(turns to go/wounded)

*

I should get back to work --

*

PAUL

...Meg...

*

But she's gone. OFF Paul --

INT. TENT SUPPLY AREA - MORNING

Sam taps his foot nervously. Katy stands, jaw tight. Adrian offers Ronny a chair. Sam stares at Katy.

SAM

I thought...it was confidential.

It's an accusation. Katy can't meet his gaze.

RONNY

Sam, you don't need to be nervous.

SAM

You're from the County, right? You want to separate me and Nate.

RONNY

I just want to ask you a few questions. So you're fifteen?

Sam doesn't answer at first.

KATY

Sam...?

SAM
...yeah...

RONNY
Where's your dad?

SAM
He's a trucker. He's gone like two weeks every month and that's when I take care of my brother.

RONNY
And your mother?

SAM
She died.

Ronny writes this down. Meg enters. Winded. She nods to Katy and without a word, Katy is up and out.

RONNY
Why did you tell the doctors you're Nate's dad?

SAM
So I wouldn't have to talk to you.

INT. TENT MAIN AISLE - DAY

Katy and Meg hustle down the main aisle.

MEG
BP's crashing.

A Roadie stands on a very tall ladder, replacing a light. TWO VOLUNTEERS push carts with lunch.

VOLUNTEER
If you want a turkey sandwich raise your hand.

Several hands fly up as Katy goes by, grabs a glass off a table and hurries to Nate.

MEG
Tamiflu isn't working.

KATY
So it's definitely not viral...

MEG
What if it's bacterial meningitis?

KATY

It's not.
 (off Meg's look)
 We just haven't found the
 underlying cause yet...

Katy quickly examines Nate's bare chest an inch at a time.
 She has a hunch.

MEG

What are you doing?

Katy is looking for something...something...

KATY

Got it.

Katy presses the glass against an almost invisible rash on
 Nate's back. The dots bruise rather than fade.

KATY (CONT'D)

Nate, your throat hurt more than
 four days before you came here?

Nate nods.

MEG

Staph?

KATY

Secondary infection off the sore
 throat. Get him on an antibiotic
 drip.

*

Nate's eyes are wide, still frightened.

KATY (CONT'D)

Hey, little man. Guess what, we
 figured you out.

INT. TENT MAMMOGRAM AREA - DAY

Paul examines Ms. Boies, the grandmother. Her skin is bluish.
 Paul reads the pulse oximeter.

PAUL

She here alone?

ANGEL

Her daughter brought her in but she
 had to get to work. I told her I'd
 look after her mom.

PAUL
Start intravenous antibiotics, now.

ANGEL
Pneumonia?

PAUL
Where's Billy?

ANGEL
OR, Katy's with child services.

PAUL
Ms. Boies, we need to get you to a
hospital immediately.

The older woman's breathing is labored. She is very scared
and simply clutches Paul's hand. It's heartbreaking. *

INT. SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

Katy ducks back into the Family Services conference.

RONNY
So you take Nate to school when
your dad is working?
(Sam nods)
Sam. Do you feel like you have a
good home?

SAM
Yes, Ma'am. My dad loves us but he
has to work. Mom's gone but we're
still a family.

Katy stares at Adrian. Meg enters again, very concerned.

MEG
Doctor Nourse?

Yes. KATY Yes. ADRIAN

What? They're both Dr. Nourse?

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - DAY

Billy listens to Mrs. Boies's chest. She's hooked to an IV.

BILLY
Bilateral rails. Fever's 102.3.

Paul nods, steps outside the exam area on his cell phone.

PAUL

I understand how far it is, but if you don't get an ambulance out here now, this could turn into a life threatening--

(a beat/he's agitated)

72. Alert and oriented. But her oxygenation is 87. No. She does not have health insurance.

CLICK. Paul can barely contain his rage.

BILLY

Well?

PAUL

They won't come. Not worth the cost of gas.

(then)

Give me your phone.

BILLY

What?

PAUL

Your phone. They might recognize my number calling back.

(dials)

Yes, I'm calling from the mobile medical clinic. We have a 52 year old female manifesting signs of severe respiratory distress.

Billy knows where this is headed, grins.

BILLY

...52?

*

Paul shrugs.

PAUL

Let me check...

(waits a beat/then)

Yes. Yes. She does have insurance.

CLICK. Paul hangs up. Tosses the phone back to Billy.

PAUL (CONT'D)

On their way.

OFF Billy, grinning, we --

TIME CUT TO:

*

EXT. TENT - DAY

An ambulance pulls onto the field, sirens wailing. Paul rushes to greet the EMTs.

EMT
Where's the patient?

PAUL
Inside. Fever's 102.5 with fluid in both lungs.

EMT
She on a ventilator?

PAUL
Ventilator, what's that? *

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - DAY

CLOSE ON...the blue bag over Ms. Boies' nose and mouth. Abby works furiously. The air she pumps is the only reason the grandmother is still alive. The EMT studies the tent, then the line of patients watching Abby. He checks his paperwork.

EMT
This is the 52 year old? *

PAUL
52? I said 72. They must have written it down wrong.

The EMT is no fool, after a beat...

EMT
Does she have insurance?

PAUL
Pretty sure she does.

EMT
Show me the card.

Paul stares him down. Then:

PAUL
Guess she doesn't. My mistake.

EMT
(to his partner)
Right. Let's go.

BILLY
It's an emergency.

But they're going. Paul grabs the EMT's arm.

PAUL
She'll die if you leave.
(nothing)
Please. Take her. You have to drive
back anyway.

EMT
Not up to me. Call headquarters.

PAUL
Where's that?

EMT
Orlando. Who knows, they might send
another unit out.

The EMT pulls his arm away, starts out. BAM! Paul SLAMS him *
into the waiting line, toppling chairs. A thin pale WOMAN
screams. Billy tries to pull Paul off as he wails on the EMT
and Angel sprints in. OFF the chaos--

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - AFTERNOON

FFFTTT. FFFTTTT. From above and with no other sound, we see Paul bagging furiously while Billy performs compressions on the grandmother. Angel pushes onlookers behind a screen.

PAUL
We could try a thoracotomy.

*
*

BILLY
In the field?

PAUL
DO IT!

Katy looks at Billy. Billy nods.

KATY
Bolos another 2 liters.

OFF Billy, scalpel in hand, Paul continuing to bag --

EXT. TENT - DAY

The utility worker in the cherry picker ratchets in one final connection, signals down to the foreman, who throws a switch on the pole.

FORMAN
You're hot.

Pen smiles, nods. Signals a roadie who throws a switch. Heads back for the tent as the ambulance, siren OFF, casually exits the field. OFF its back panes and the words: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES...

INT. TENT

Katy follows Adrian toward the supply area as the overhead lights flicker, and finally, grow stronger. Katy's professional but worn thin.

KATY
You deal with the EMT's?

ADRIAN
They say they won't report it.

KATY
You believe them?

ADRIAN

I told them if they reported it I'd go to the local news. "Heartless HMO kills devoted grandmother."

KATY

You should go to the media anyway.

ADRIAN

I just might.

Adrian knows she wants to fight. But he doesn't.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

How's the boy?

KATY

It's Staph. He's responding to the additional antibiotics.

She means "you were wrong". He doesn't take the bait.

ADRIAN

Good.

He holds the sheet back as Katy enters. Ronny and Lucy (the DCFS ladies) are seated, waiting.

KATY

I literally have like two minutes, can we cut to the chase?

There's nothing greeting in her tone.

RONNY

To be honest with you, this is way below the bar of what we would consider a 911 situation.

KATY

So you're not putting them into foster care?

RONNY

No. The older brother loves his younger sibling. He brought him here. We'll talk to him about the wisdom of hitchhiking. Get him some transport vouchers.

(then)

We fight like hell to keep families together.

Katy stares at Adrian accusingly.

KATY

Thanks.

And she's gone. Off Adrian we --

INT. TENT MAMMOGRAM AREA - DAY

One of Paul's eyes is black from the fight. Abby helps a woman position herself for a mammogram. Her TWO kids sit quietly.

WOMAN TWO

No, it's alright. That one was nursing just six months back.

Adrian steps in, motions for Paul to join him, he's angry.

ADRIAN

You--

They step away, find a spot in the chaos to speak privately.

PAUL

I know. I screwed up.

ADRIAN

Do you have any idea how difficult it is to convince County health officials and state regulators to let us come into their communities? What do you think a felony assault arrest of one of our volunteer physicians would do to our chances of ever setting up another clinic in Georgia, or anywhere else in the country for that matter?

PAUL

I know, I'm sorry...

Adrian stares off, not sure what to do.

ADRIAN

I can't take the risk, I need you to pack up your things.

PAUL

No... Adrian...

ADRIAN

These people have no one other than us. No where else to turn. I can't jeopardize --

PAUL

(urgently)

When I went to med school, this is what I thought I'd be doing. Not sitting in my office signing insurance forms. I spend more time in my practice on paperwork than with my patients. Here, I'm alive, I make a difference. This is why I wanted to be a doctor. Don't send me home, please...

*

Adrian considers him, torn.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Please... It'll never happen again, I promise.

ADRIAN

You're an excellent doctor. Passionate and skilled. Can you put that passion into your patients, instead of allowing it free rein over your emotions?

*
*
*
*
*

PAUL

Yes.

Adrian takes another beat, then nods.

*

ADRIAN

Alright then. Get back to work.
(starts off)
If you want to take risks, take them on your patients' behalf.

*
*

And Adrian is gone. Off Paul, relieved and now thinking --

INT. TENT INTAKE AREA - SAME

ANGEL

Holy Jesus.

REVERSE TO...our hound now INSIDE and peeing on a table leg.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Oh, hell no...PEN!!!

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - DAY

A thin WOMAN/METH HEAD banters on. She is clearly high. Her rotten teeth evident every other line.

METH HEAD

Feels like a train just driving
right down the center of my chest.

But Billy isn't listening. He's studying the woman's skeletal
eight year old SON.

METH HEAD (CONT'D)

It beats real fast and then goes
back to normal. Freaks me out. My
husband--

BILLY

You're married?

METH HEAD

Husband. Friend.

BILLY

Dealer...This your son?

METH HEAD

...Yeah...

Billy crosses to the eight year old.

BILLY

What's your name?

SON

(scared)
Brandon.

BILLY

How old are you?

BRANDON

...eight.

BILLY

Mind if I take a listen to your
heart? Brandon?

METH HEAD

Why you need to do that?

BILLY

Shut up and sit the hell down.
(to Brandon, gentle again)
Pull up your shirt, would you
please, Brandon.

INT. TENT, INTAKE AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

Lucy carries her paperwork past Angel who has already heard about the ruling on Nate and Sam's case.

LUCY

I want to leave you a couple of bus vouchers for the kids. *

(as she writes them out)

So, Dr. Nourse started this whole thing by himself?

ANGEL

Who?

She looks in the direction of Adrian, who's already off on another task.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Oh, Adrian. Yeah.

LUCY

Amazing. Ya'll do all this a couple a times a month?

ANGEL

Yep. All over the country.

LUCY

And everyone's a volunteer?

ANGEL

Most everyone. Couple of us full-timers make enough to keep us in Big Macs and cheap apartments. *

Lucy is in awe of the place, it's size, the sheer enormity of the operation and patients served. *

LUCY

Where's the money come from?

ANGEL *

...What money?

(and then)

Adrian raises what he can. We beg, borrow and steal the rest. People donate supplies and equipment. The community brings the food, gets us some motel rooms and the porta johns. *

Angel is watching Adrian surreptitiously. She's concerned. *
 He's found a spot to sit down, out of the way behind the *
 intake area. He's clearly spent. *

LUCY

It's almost enough to renew my
 faith in people. Don't see much in
 my work that can do that.

ANGEL

Hell, feel free to take as much as *
 you want. Only thing around here we *
 have too much of is faith.
 (realizing)
 Hey, who took my Purell?! *

And she's gone. Off Lucy, soaking it all up --

INT. TENT CARDIOLOGY AREA - LATE DAY

Billy hooks eight-year-old Brandon up to an IV. The child is
 scared, frail and hangs his head. An image from Dickens.

METH HEAD

What the hell are you doing--

BILLY

Your son is severely malnourished
 and the lack of potassium has
 affected his sinus rhythm.

METH HEAD

He's sick? I came in here 'cause my
 heart--

BILLY

Your son's starving to death.
 You're killing him with your meth
 habit.

METH HEAD

Meth? No. Not me, I don't do that
 stuff.

She's terrified and not very convincing.

BILLY

There are two women from Child
 Services around here somewhere.
 You want me to call them?

METH HEAD

NO! Please, I won't do it no more.

BILLY

...right...

METH HEAD

No. No. I swear it. I don't want them to take Brandon again.

Billy's rage boils to the surface.

BILLY

We're gonna get your kid on an IV and then we're gonna give him something to eat. You want to stay out of jail, sit your ass down over there and shut up! Now!

*

INT. TENT MAIN AISLE - DUSK

Angel passes Roadies as they slowly begin to disassemble the non-essential items in the tent. Paul approaches.

PAUL

Angel?

ANGEL

I was looking for you, the daughter of our grandmother is back.

Christ, they share a look, that's not going to be easy.

PAUL

I need a patient's file from yesterday.

ANGEL

We've already packed up yesterday's paperwork. You got a name?

PAUL

Cindy something. I did a pre-natal work-up. She needs a C-section.

ANGEL

Boxes are on the trucks.

BILLY

Paul...!

Billy almost knocks her over getting to Paul.

BILLY (CONT'D)

How much money you have in your pocket?

PAUL
What?

BILLY
Come on. Just...

Paul reaches in and pulls out a wad. Billy snatches it.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Angel.

ANGEL
It's important?

He nods. She pulls out her money and gives it to Billy.

BILLY
Later.

Billy shouts toward Pen. We go with him.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Pen, what can you do with an elk flank?

PEN
A what?

BILLY
An elk leg.

Billy motions its ridiculous size. Pen shrugs.

PEN
I can make steaks and chili.

BILLY
In the medical freezer. Brown wrapper. Hard to miss.

Billy hustles toward his tech, Abby.

BILLY (CONT'D)
You're local right?
(she nods)
You got a car?

EXT. TENT - DUSK

Billy suddenly steps in front of the waiting crowd, followed by Abby. He grabs the bullhorn.

BILLY

I have \$622 for the first person
who tells me where I can find the
bastard who's cooking all of the
local meth.

ANGLE ON...at first a few reluctant hands, followed by sea of
arms in the air.

INT. TENT OR - DUSK

We pass by Jose in the post surgical area. IE: a small
screened off section of the tent. His wife is by his side.

JOSE

Come on, Momma, one burger.

GABRIELLA

Jose. Decide right now.

JOSE

I just had surgery, I'm weak.

GABRIELLA

You can sit home ALONE and eat all
the crap you want. Or--

JOSE

Fine. Hand me a carrot.

Keep moving to FIND...a simple gold cross in JENNA'S hand.

PAUL

Your mother's pneumonia took hold
and we just couldn't beat it.

Jenna, the grandmother's daughter still in her maid uniform.
Angel watches, stricken.

JENNA

We didn't have the money to see a
doctor --

She hangs her head. OFF Angel, stepping in to comfort her --

EXT. TENT - DUSK

Over two hundred people still remain. Adrian walks to the
front of the group reluctantly, facing the deadly chore.

ADRIAN

Ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry. At this point, we do not have enough supplies to take any more patients.

WAITING MAN
We waited for nothing?

WOMAN
I got here two days ago!

ADRIAN
We'll be doing another clinic in
Knoxville in a few months.

WAITING MAN
What good's that gonna do? Barely
had enough gas to get here.

Adrian is dying inside.

ADRIAN
I have handouts listing other local
free clinics...

WAITING MAN
They ain't really free!

WOMAN
And they sure as hell aren't local!

People move back to their cars. Men, women, children of all
races. Denied again. As Adrian hands out a few fliers...

ANGEL (OS)
I told you to beat it!

REVERSE TO...Angel chasing the coon hound out of the tent
with a broom. The dog carries a wad of gauze in its mouth.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
...Pen! I'm gonna get my gun!

INT. TENT OR - DUSK

Paul is scrubbed in. Meg is too, she adjusts an IV bag as the
monitor registers his Cesarian woman's vitals. Cindy's
husband, DAVID, watches, gowned, nervous.

MEG
Don't bear down. Take a breath.

Cindy lies on the table, a blue gown obscuring her lower
half, and she screams. Meg swabs her forehead.

PAUL
Meg, you're noting this?

MEG

Yes.

PAUL

Cindy. You developed preeclampsia.

Meg, confused, looks at the BP monitor. 142 over 98. *

PAUL (CONT'D) *

I've had to induce you otherwise
you and your baby would be at risk.

Cindy screams.

MEG

Do not bear down. Breathe with me.
Come on. One....

Paul works methodically.

PAUL

Since you are not capable of giving
birth vaginally... I'm going to
have to perform a Cesarian section.
Immediately.

Off Meg, incredulous and unhappy we -- *

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DUSK

Abby hurries after Billy as he charges up a hill.

ABBY

What are we doing?

Billy knocks on a broken door to a run down mobile home.

BILLY

I'm big fan of preventative
medicine, how about you?

A dog barks inside. A man screams.

MAN(OS)

Shut the hell up.

WHOP. The dog yelps. A rail-thin TWEAKER opens the door.

TWEAKER

Yeah. Who the hell are you?

Billy holds up his medical license for a second.

BILLY

We're from the county health department and we're here to give out free flu vaccines.

The tweaker studies Abby. Not Billy.

TWEAKER

I don't like shots.

BILLY

It's the law. Gotta do it.

Abby looks at Billy. What? The Tweaker hesitates.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I can call the Sheriff, get him out here to convince you.

INT. TENT OR - DUSK

Paul now works over Cindy's draped surgical area.

PAUL

Almost...almost...

Paul lifts up a baby girl. Umbilical still attached.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Hello, Josephine.

The baby cries. Cindy breaks into a giant smile as Paul delivers the infant to her mother's chest...

CINDY

Oh my god....

Tears roll down Cindy's cheeks.

CINDY (CONT'D)

She's beautiful.

PAUL

You want to cut the cord, Dad?

Meg helps him but she's not happy. Cindy motions to Paul.

CINDY

Doctor, come here.

Paul leans into her.

CINDY (CONT'D)
No, closer.

Paul lowers his ear to her mouth.

CINDY (CONT'D)
God bless you.

EXT. SHACK PORCH - SUNSET

*

ABBY
Just a little pinch.

The dude grins a mouth full of rotten teeth as Abby injects the 'vaccine'.

TWEAKER
That it?

BILLY
That's it.

TWEAKER
That wasn't too bad...

The tweaker smiles and then...falls backwards out cold.

*

BILLY
Here, help me drag him.

ABBY
What did you give him?

BILLY
Sodium Pentothal. He'll wake up in,
oh, about twenty minutes.

Abby and Billy drag the dude's body down the 'yard' to a ditch. Abby can't help but laugh.

*

EXT. TENT - SUNSET

Away from the tent where no one can hear. Meg is angry.

*

MEG
Her blood pressure was fine. She
didn't have preeclampsia. You
induced her to--

PAUL
Insurance company declared her C-
section pre-existing.

MEG
It's unethical, probably illegal.

*

PAUL
I delivered a healthy baby.

MEG
What am I supposed to do if someone
asks me about it, lie for you? *

PAUL
Is that what you're really angry
about, or is it about earlier -- *

MEG
Earlier? *

PAUL
Yes, what you told me. *
(she stares at him) *
...Your job opportunity... *

She stares at him. If she had a gun, she'd likely shoot him. *

MEG
You know what Doctor? Go to hell. *

Off Paul, watching her storm away -- *

INT. METH TRAILER - SUNSET

Billy kicks in the door -- pay dirt. A meth lab. He starts
rummaging around, looking. Abby follows him in, finds Billy
dousing the floor with a gallon jug of some sort of chemical. *

ABBY
What are you going to do?

BILLY
Bring any marshmallows?

Billy motions Abby back onto the porch. Pulls a lighter from
his pocket and...WHOOSH, the fire takes hold. The flames
frame Billy's silhouette as he swaggers casually back to
Abby's car. Pulls out his cell phone, dials...

BILLY (CONT'D)
Yeah. I got a fire out here.
Clearwater Road. ...And there's
some guy passed out in a ditch....

KABOOM. The meth shack explodes. OFF Abby's amazed face:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. TENT - TWILIGHT

The lights on the eighteen wheelers are lit. The music cranks. Roadies load crates back onto the rigs. A buffet table has been set up with stacks of ELK steaks and a huge pot of chili. What's left of the elk leg still revolving on the spit above the open fire. Volunteers grab food as they pass. The coon hound gnaws a massive hunk of elk meat. Yum.

INT. TENT OUTAKE AREA - DUSK

The dental line is still fifty long. The dentists drill. Dennis is there in the mix: gown, gloves, mask...

DENNIS
 (a la Karen Carpenter)
*I'm on the top of the world,
 looking down on creation...*

Angel gives him a wave goodbye.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
 A la prochaine.

ANGEL
 That'll be Jacksonville.

DENNIS
 See ya in two weeks.

Dennis clicks his heels, salutes and goes back to work.

EXT. C-47 - DUSK

Adrian sits into the cockpit. Pulls his headset on.

ADRIAN
 Evening ATC. This is Airevac N421.

INT. TENT GENERAL MEDICAL AREA - DUSK

Chairs are loaded, tables folded as Sam approaches Katy.

SAM
 Doctor?

KATY
 Thought you'd already gone. Did you
 get your bus vouchers.

SAM

Pen is gonna take us back. He said
he has to go that way anyway.

Katy smiles, really? Nods.

KATY

Nate still doing okay? *

SAM

Yes, Ma'am.

KATY

Good.

Sam smiles, then hugs Katy. Doesn't let go for a long time. *
Then, finally, he lets Katy go, walks away. Off Katy we -- *

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT *

Jose's wife, helps him gingerly and tenderly into their well- *
worn car. Jose leans up and kisses her gently on the cheek *
before climbing in. From across the parking lot, Billy *
watches. After a beat, Billy turns to go, but his cell phone *
rings, stopping him. He pulls it from a pocket, looks at the *
number. Smiles -- *

BILLY

Hey, babe... *

EXT. TENT - NIGHT *

The tent structure is coming down. Pen directs a forklift as
it reloads the trucks.

PEN

You're good. You're good.

ANGEL

Tell me you called the pound.

REVERSE ANGLE TO...the coon hound sits beside the cab,
waiting patiently for Pen.

PEN

Animal control should be here any
minute. *

ANGEL

He ate four elk steaks.

PEN

So did you.

Angel goes. Pen watches her shake it. Back to the Roadies.

PEN (CONT'D)
Okay. Let's get on it, people.

The hound follows Pen. His forlorn eyes stare holes in Pen's soul. Too bad.

PEN (CONT'D)
You, git now.

The dog hesitates. Pen stomps and the hound puts its tail between its legs.

PEN (CONT'D)
GIT!

The dog lowers its head, looks back once, then disappears into the night. Tough to watch, but part of the journey.

EXT. TENT AREA - NIGHT

Meg arrives. Finds Paul finishing the last of his paperwork on the hood of a car, under the glare of the work lights.

MEG
Don't ever do that to me again.

PAUL
You're right. I'm sorry.

She nods, satisfied. Starts off. Then stops, turns.

MEG
I really like you.

PAUL
...I really like you too...

MEG
...So, see you next clinic?

He nods. They stand there quietly for a moment. Then:

PAUL
...Are you going to take the job?

She doesn't answer. Instead, comes back to him, kisses him on the cheek, turns and goes. OFF Paul. Motionless.

SAM (VO)
Move over.

INT. EIGHTEEN WHEELER - NIGHT

Sam and Nate are squeezed into the cab with the coon hound, now happy, sitting up beside the two kids. Pen climbs in. Starts the motor up with a rumble. Fumbles with the CB.

SAM
His breath stinks like a fart.

PEN
Here.

Pen hands Nate the CB receiver.

PEN (CONT'D)
Say something.

NATE
What?

PEN
I dunno. That you're coming home.

Nate is thrilled. He holds the receiver and screams.

NATE
I love you daddy.

OFF Pen, smiling to himself. As the truck pulls out we --

EXT. THE FIELD - NIGHT

As the trucks pull away from the fairgrounds, nothing left now but the piles of trash and rows of porta-johns. We watch as the truck tail-lights disappear into the night and --

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Abby watches from beside her car as Paul and Billy hustle up the ramp and up into the belly of the plane. Billy stops at the top of the ramp, she waves gently, he nods back. Engines revved, he steps in to --

INT. THE C-47 - NIGHT

Billy straps himself next to Angel and Paul. Paul studies him, something's off --

PAUL
What?

BILLY
What, "what"?

*
*
*
*
*

PAUL
You're uncharacteristically
chipper.

BILLY
You ready to admit you're wrong?

PAUL
I doubt it.

BILLY
Rachel called, she wants to come by
the house tonight.

PAUL
You call Maddie, tell her to hide
the silver?

BILLY
She's getting it together, she
wants to talk.

Paul's skeptical, but relents in support of his friend.

PAUL
That's great, Billy...

BILLY
Hey, where's the new girl?

He means Katy, there's a conspicuously empty jump seat. Paul
points forward to the cockpit.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Of course she is.

INT. C-47 COCKPIT - NIGHT

Katy slips into the co-pilot seat. Pulls on her headset.

KATY
Battery switch on.

ADRIAN
Battery SW on voltage check OK.

She looks over, Adrian is a little sweaty, pale.

KATY
...You okay, Dad?

ADRIAN
Yeah... Let's go home.

OFF Katy hitting the throttle --

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

A BMW pulls into a driveway in a wealthy, tree-lined neighborhood. Paul gets out, stops. Stares up at his stunning Chicago brick home. A beat, heads inside with his bag. *

INT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Paul sets down his stuff. He is exhausted... *

WOMAN'S VOICE

Where the hell have you been...? *

COLLEEN O'BRIEN, a beauty but overdone. Stands in the open archway leading into the huge, and equally overdone living room. She's seething. *

COLLEEN

You said ten, it's almost -- *

PAUL

The plane out of Nashville was -- *

COLLEEN

I'm exhausted, I'm going to bed. *

She sweeps past him, heading for the grand staircase. Doesn't stop to kiss him or touch him. Halfway up the stairs, she finally does stop. Turns to him. *

COLLEEN (CONT'D)

Oh, I ran into Sheila and Rod at the fund raiser last night. I said we'd have dinner with them tomorrow at the club. Seven o'clock. Try to be on time for a change. *

And she's gone. Paul watches her disappear. Steps into the archway, looks into the huge living room. Grand piano in the corner, fresh flowers, Architectural Digest perfect antiques and hardwood floors. Off Paul, framed in this personal hell -- *

INT. INDUSTRIAL BUILDING LOBBY - NIGHT

Katy wait for an ancient industrial elevator, finally gives up, bolts impatiently up the beat-up stairs with her duffle bag. Shoves out into the fourth floor hallway and hustles down the hall for a big metal sliding door.

INT. FACTORY LOFT - NIGHT

Katy unlocks the door, drops her bag. Waits. From the rear of the huge loft emerges MILES, her incredibly hot session player/painter boyfriend. She rushes to him, leaps into his arms. As Katy and Miles kiss passionately we --

EXT. FARMLAND - NIGHT

Billy gets out of a cab in front of a small, slightly rundown farmhouse. Exhausted, he shuffles to the front door. Digs for his keys. But the front door opens and MADDIE JOST, Billy's six year-old daughter leaps into his arms. *

MADDIE

Daddy! *

Billy spins her around in his arms. *

BILLY

Hello, Maddie. How's my girl...? *

Billy kisses Maddie as GRACE, grey hair swept back into a bun, sixties, arrives. Irritable and unhappy. *

BILLY (CONT'D) *

Hi, Mom... *

GRACE *

Come on, Maddie. Back to bed. You should have been asleep hours ago. *

Billy sets his daughter down. Grins secretively to her. *

BILLY *

Go on, I'll be up in a minute. *

Maddie heads up the stairs. Grace is already gathering up her things, pulling on her coat. Billy is looking around. Grace watches Billy, knows what he's looking for -- *

GRACE *

She's out back. *

Clearly disapproves. Billy's surprised, out back? *

GRACE (CONT'D) *

I invited her in, but she didn't want Maddie to see her. *

Billy hasn't moved. Grace motions for him, go on -- *

EXT. BILLY'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Billy steps out the door. A woman is out in the yard, smoking a cigarette, her back to him. He walks slowly toward her.

BILLY
Rachel...?

She turns. Once beautiful, now clearly in trouble. Her hair hangs lank, her eyes are wild, her cheeks hollow. She tries to cover, smile reassuringly, but Billy knows.

RACHEL
Hey...

She stubs out her cigarette in the grass, straightens her hair. Billy looks off, it breaks his heart. She comes to him, trying to recover some of the spark that used to unite them.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Your Mom said you were out with Adrian again. Where did you go?

BILLY
(almost inaudible)
...how much...?

She either ignores him or didn't hear him.

RACHEL
Maddie looks good.
(Billy doesn't answer)
I saw her through the curtains.
She's growing up fast...

BILLY
How much do you need, Rachel?

She looks up at him, resembling nothing so much as a small, frightened deer.

RACHEL
Six hundred -- if you can spare it.
I got a job, I get paid next --

BILLY
No problem...

He turns away from her, starts back toward the house mechanically. We stay with Billy, watching his anguish wash over his face. As he heads up the back steps we --

EXT. MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

Pen watches from the front of the eighteen-wheeler as Nate and Sam leap from the cab and race toward the front door. A big semi-tractor parked beside the house. A MAN steps out of the house. Nate leaps into his arms. Sam turns around to see, Pen pulling out in the road. As the massive rig takes a turn down another country road, we STAY ON: MOBILE EMERGENCY MEDICAL UNIT carefully painted on the rear doors. Red tail lights disappear around a bend as...Zeppelin kicks in again.

INT. OLD RENTED SCHOOLHOUSE - NIGHT

Adrian enters. Is greeted by RAMONE, his three-legged dog. Adrian tosses his bag on the floor. His hands are shaking from exhaustion. The room is nearly bare, very austere. Adrian crosses to a giant calendar on the wall, picks up a small marker hanging on a string. Marks off "Gainesville".

In the flickering light one word stands out more than the others: CHEMO. Tomorrow. Tuesday. And every Tuesday. Adrian stares at it for a beat, then crosses to his desk and picks up a file marked "Jacksonville". Off Adrian we --

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FADE TO BLACK.

THE END