

UNTITLED IAN BIEDERMAN PROJECT

Pilot

Written By

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Imagine Television
20th Century Fox Television

Revised Draft
1/13/09

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Gradually... the demons receded, and
the fog lifted. I got up off the floor,
cleaned myself up, and one more time
I went back out into the world
and started all over again.

Elyn R. Saks
from *The Center Cannot Hold*

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

ON-SCREEN

An "O.R. Live" WEBCAST from the cardiac O.R. of Manhattan Medical Center. DR. VIRGINIA LERNER, 50's, Texas accent, in scrubs, faces the camera as a surgery proceeds in BG.

LERNER

I'm Virginia Lerner -- chief of C-T surgery at Manhattan Medical Center. I'd like to welcome the international cardiac community as well as viewers of the Discovery Channel. Got a real treat for you today. Dr. Margaret Hill performs the first aortic bypass using a valve fashioned from the patient's own pericardium. In addition to being completely unprecedented -- Dr. Hill's innovation has the potential to bring valve replacement to the developing world -- saving millions of lives. Trust me, folks -- you've never seen anything like this before --

INT. MANHATTAN MEDICAL CENTER (MMC) - CARDIAC O.R. - DAY 1

Live inside the O.R. now, Dr. MAGGIE HILL is mid-surgery, her crack surgical team headed by PA EDDIE MOORE, Jamaican, salt of the earth, Maggie's right hand. The Observation Area is full of VIPS. CAMERAS record every angle of the surgery.

MAGGIE

I've harvested a sweet little pericardial patch from which to build the valve --

EDDIE

-- the Hill Aortic Valve --

MAGGIE

In addition to being my PA, Mr. Moore is also my publicist --
(beat)

Using the patient's own tissue, we eliminate the need for an expensive pig valve --

(she SNORTS like a pig)
-- and suddenly this is no longer a rich man's cure.

INT. UNIVERSITAET MAINZ - MEDICAL SCHOOL - LECTURE HALL - DAY

A Webcast of the operation on big screen. 50 German surgical residents laugh at Maggie's pig impression, scribble notes.

MAGGIE (ON-SCREEN)
I'm now inserting the conduit that
will lead from the apex of the
heart to the descending aorta --

INT. HEART INSTITUTE OF JAPAN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

10 Japanese heart surgeons watch a sleek plasma screen --

MAGGIE (ON-SCREEN)
Knock out an aortic anastomosis --

INT. MMC - CARDIAC O.R. - CONTINUOUS

As Maggie does the anastomosis, to Eddie:

MAGGIE
Why would I need gluteraldehyde?

EDDIE
(beat, confused)
Who said anything about
gluteraldehyde?

MAGGIE
(thrown, but proceeding)
So... after the anastomosis, we
test the integrity of the valve --
(irritated)
Can someone turn down that radio?

Everyone looks confused. The O.R. is dead silent. Lerner, concerned, approaches the table. In Maggie's ear:

LERNER
You okay?

MAGGIE
Peachy -- if you like operating in
Times Square --
(beat)
We unclamp the aorta -- and *voila* --
the new valve holds like a champ.
And no pigs were killed in the
making of this film --

Maggie suddenly stares toward the door. Angry:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
How'd *they* get in here?

Heads turn. There's no one there. It's now clear to everyone that Maggie's losing her shit. To Cameramen:

LERNER
Let's wind this up, fellas --

MAGGIE
They're here for the microchips --

EDDIE
Microchips?

MAGGIE
They're implanted in my breasts --

EDDIE
O-kay...

MAGGIE
(re: breasts)
Fine -- you want 'em? Take 'em!

Maggie starts ripping off her clothes while everyone stares.

INT. UNIVERSITAET MAINZ - MEDICAL SCHOOL - LECTURE HALL

The shocked German students stare at the screen --

INT. HEART INSTITUTE OF JAPAN - SAME TIME

The Japanese surgeons watch a naked Maggie jut out her chest:

MAGGIE
Okay, you bastards! Come to Mama!

INT. MMC - O.R. - DAY

Maggie loudly overturns a tray of instruments, sprints bare-ass from the O.R. Loaded beat, then Lerner turns to camera:

LERNER
Like I said -- you've never seen anything like that before...

EXT. LEHMAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - DAY 2

SUPER ON SCREEN: "3 MONTHS LATER"

Maggie, in jeans and sweatshirt, exits, carrying a small suitcase. Her younger sister, CAROLINE HILL, grounded, sardonic, leans against a waiting cab. The sisters hug.

CAROLINE

Ready?

MAGGIE

Define 'ready' --

INT. CAROLINE'S (AND NOW MAGGIE'S) APARTMENT - DAY

Stylish but not extravagant NYC apartment. The sisters move Maggie's stuff into Caroline's former office.

MAGGIE

I really appreciate this, Caroline.

CAROLINE

What are sisters for? And besides,
it's not forever, right?

(off Maggie's look)

I mean -- you're welcome to stay as
long as you need to --

MAGGIE

It's just a transitional thing.
The shrinks are big on support
systems. Forget I'm even here --
(looking around)

Does that window open? I can't
sleep without fresh air --

CAROLINE

Uh -- I'm not really sure --

MAGGIE

Anyway, I'll be at the hospital
most of the time --

CAROLINE

You took the teaching position?

MAGGIE

The circus rejected my application.

CAROLINE

I think that's great, Mags.
Really. Are you...

MAGGIE

Nervous about going back to a place
where everyone's seen me naked?

CAROLINE

... not to mention crazy.

MAGGIE

They already knew I was crazy. I
just took it to the next level --

Caroline smiles, exits. Maggie unpacks several bottles of medication, stares at them. They represent her new reality -- and she resents the hell out of them. A beat, then Maggie opens the top drawer, shoves the bottles in, slams it shut --

EXT. MANHATTAN MEDICAL CENTER (MMC) - DAY 3

Maggie walks with DR. MILO MARCUS, top schizophrenia doc in NYC, brilliant but unpretentious.

MAGGIE

You owe me ten bucks.

MILO

What kind of New Yorker bets
against the Knicks?

MAGGIE

What kind of psychiatrist lives in
denial that his team sucks?

MILO

Hope springs eternal. Been taking
the Zyprexa?

MAGGIE

Let's see. My head's throbbing --
I drink a liter of water every 15
minutes -- and I really need a nap.
So yeah, I'm right on schedule.

MILO

The side effects will lessen over
time. Are you hearing voices?

MAGGIE

(looks around, mock fear)
Wait -- who said that?

MILO

Clever.

They arrive at the main entrance of the hospital.

MILO (CONT'D)

Want me to come in with you?

MAGGIE

Oh sure. 'I'm back -- everything's fine -- and I brought my shrink just in case I freak out again.'

(beat)

I can do this.

MILO

Say no more.

As he starts to go, Maggie grabs his sleeve --

MAGGIE

Though I guess you could hang around the O.R. -- I mean, if it makes you feel better...

MILO

Will do.

Maggie takes a beat, exhales, then heads inside --

INT. MMC - ICU - DAY

Maggie enters the bustling ICU. Lerner, Eddie are there. All non-life-sustaining activity stops, all eyes on Maggie.

MAGGIE

Well -- so much for slipping back in under the radar.

(beat)

So -- obviously last time I was here things got a little...

EDDIE

Wack?

MAGGIE

Yeah. On the upside I'm now the most downloaded babe on You-Tube and Dirty Docs.com --

(beat)

As you all learned in school -- schizophrenia is a physical illness -- just like diabetes, cancer or VD. You treat it -- then go on with your life. That's my game plan. To those of you who intend to treat me with heightened sensitivity and understanding -- don't even think about it. And the first person who starts a 'slow clap' right now -- dies.

As Maggie strides toward the O.R., a handsome doc falls in step. This is DR. BEN EMERSON, JFK Jr. with a stethoscope, Maggie's boyfriend.

BEN
Nice entrance. You okay?

MAGGIE
Now I know how Frankenstein's monster felt --

BEN
What's your first case?

MAGGIE
Esophageal EKG -- with Elliot.

BEN
Well -- you wanted to avoid heightened sensitivity --

MAGGIE
Coming by tonight?

BEN
I don't know -- kinda got used to our conjugal visits when you were locked up. I'm not sure regular sex can measure up --

MAGGIE
I'll wear my straightjacket --

BEN
I'm there.

INT. MMC - C-T O.R. - SCRUB ROOM - DAY

Back to the scene of the crime. Hugely arrogant C-T surgeon DR. ELLIOT SPRINGER is mid triple bypass as Maggie, now in scrubs, supervises a Resident's esophageal EKG.

ELLIOT
Just so we're clear -- I don't tolerate colorful behavior in my O.R. Meaning your instability isn't my responsibility --

MAGGIE
You should really write bumper stickers, Elliot. God knows your patients would be better off --
(to Resident)
You're in too deep --

ELLIOT

I'm quite capable of supervising my own residents. You're here... why?

MAGGIE

To find the man with the largest ego-to-penis disparity on the planet. Your plaque's in the mail.

ELLIOT

Don't you have dinner plans with some little green men?

MAGGIE

(to Resident)

Check both sides of the arch --

(to Elliot)

Does it bother you I had to have a psychotic meltdown for you to become #1 on the surgical service?

ELLIOT

Nope. Must kill you, though.

MAGGIE

You have no idea.

INT. MMC - CT O.R. - OBSERVATION AREA - SAME TIME

Milo observes with Lerner.

LERNER

Knew she was crazy the day I hired her. Gifted ones always are. Used to hum during staff meetings. Stones, mostly. That ain't normal.

MILO

Symptoms of schizophrenia can build for years before a psychotic break.

LERNER

Well -- she sure as hell got her money's worth.

As they exit into --

INT. MMC - ICU - CONTINUOUS

MILO

Despite what Maggie may think,
adapting to this illness is tough --
especially for a life-long
overachiever. Being back here will
make a big difference --

LERNER

Glad to help. She was the top C-T
in the country -- a damn miracle
worker. I just need to know she's
not gonna mistake someone's heart
for a corned beef sandwich --

NURSE approaches Lerner, hands her a chart.

NURSE

The Ransom girl's here --

Lerner crosses to an anxious man, PATRICK RANSOM. His 13-
year-old daughter EMILY is on a gurney -- IV and oxygen mask.

LERNER

Mr. Ransom? Virginia Lerner -- run
the CT service. How was the trip?

PATRICK

I always said I'd never ride in a
helicopter. Now I know why. But
we made it in one piece --

LERNER

I reviewed the file. Your
daughter's heart is very badly
damaged --

PATRICK

I researched every heart program in
the country. Dr. Hill has saved
patients in Emily's condition.

LERNER

Dr. Hill's... on teaching leave.
But I've got a great staff here.
We'll do everything we can --

INT. MMC - CARDIO-THORACIC O.R. - LATER

Elliot finishes off the bypass.

ELLIOT
And... scene. Good for another 10
years of scotch and porterhouse.
(to PERFUSIONIST)
Let the clotting begin --

As Elliot prepares to close, Maggie spots something.

MAGGIE
Right ventricle's swelling.

ELLIOT
You need to up your meds.

Suddenly the BLOOD ALARM sounds.

NURSE
He's crashing --

MAGGIE
Lungs are down.

ELLIOT
Right ostium must be blocked --

MAGGIE
Good wall motion on echo. Do a
crash embolectomy --

ELLIOT
Guy's in bad enough shape without
slashing open his pulmonary artery.
(to Nurse)
100mg of t-PA through the Swan.

MAGGIE
Cancel that --

Nurse freezes. The surgical team exchanges nervous looks.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Thrombolytics won't save this guy,
Elliot. Do the embolectomy --

ELLIOT
If you're so hot for an embolectomy
-- be my guest. We all know what
happened last time you operated --
but if you think you're up to it...

Maggie stares at Elliot. She'd love to shove him out of the way and take over. But she doesn't move. Elliot smiles.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
 Didn't think so.
 (to Nurse)
 Thrombolytics, stat. I'm gonna run
 the ostium --

After several beats, an ALARM sounds.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST
 We're losing him --

ELLIOT
 This'll just take a second --

He works furiously as Maggie looks on, helpless. Several beats. The patient FLATLINES.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
 Paddles. Charge 200. Clear --

Elliot shocks him once. Twice. Nothing. Elliot takes a beat, pulls off his gloves, throws them across the O.R.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
 Time of death -- 3:41pm.

Elliot exits. As Maggie stares at the dead man --

INT. MAGGIE & CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - MAGGIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 3

Maggie's on top of an unseen guy, going at it. As she rolls, sweating, breathless, off Dr. Ben Emerson from MMC:

MAGGIE
 Elliot's such an incredible tool --

BEN
 It was great for me, too --

MAGGIE
 I should've jumped in --

BEN
 A -- your privileges are suspended.
 B -- he was Elliot's patient. And
 C -- it's over now.

MAGGIE
 But it isn't over, Ben. Tomorrow I
 walk into another O.R. and
 supervise another resident for
another surgeon who isn't... me.
 (MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

And if things go south -- I'm stuck
on the sidelines in my short skirt
shaking my stupid pom poms --

BEN

I gotta say -- the cheerleader
thing's kinda hot --

MAGGIE

I'm serious. It'll drive me nuts --
okay, *more* nuts --

BEN

So maybe teaching's not for you.

MAGGIE

What else am I gonna do? I'm a
surgeon -- at least I *was* --

BEN

(changing gears)
Closed on the apartment today.

MAGGIE

66th and York?

BEN

68th and 1st. With the deck.

MAGGIE

The lung doc's moo-hoo-vin' on up.

BEN

Big time. And there's room for 2 --

MAGGIE

I've been thinking about it...

BEN

I'll handle everything --

MAGGIE

(beat)
Look -- I just need some time to
get back on my feet, okay?

BEN

I get it. Open invitation.

Maggie smiles, rolls back on top of Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

More rage-against-Elliot sex?

MAGGIE
Is that a problem?

BEN
(smiles)
I'll take one for the team --

EXT. COLUMBUS CIRCLE - MORNING - DAY 4

Morning bustle. Maggie and Milo sit under the Columbus statue. Maggie sips coffee, feeds pretzel to the pigeons.

MILO
I'd prefer to meet in my office.

MAGGIE
And I'd prefer not to be schizophrenic. Roll with it --
(beat)
Ben asked me to move in. Again.

MILO
And?

MAGGIE
We've only been dating 11 months. People don't shack up till they're together at least... a year.
(to eavesdropping Woman)
I pay this guy 300 bucks an hour. Either chip in or take off --
(as the woman goes)
Ben's done so much for me. And we're great together. Ask anyone.

MILO
I'm asking you.

MAGGIE
(beat, switches gears)
So teaching's not gonna cut it.

MILO
It's only been one day.

MAGGIE
You're the top schiz doc on the east coast. If I said: 'Tomorrow you start an exciting new career as a life coach,' you'd blow your brains out.
(beat)
I need to operate. And I know what you're gonna say --

MILO

I think it's a good idea.

MAGGIE

Okay, so I don't know what you're gonna say --

MILO

Work's healthy. But the stress of surgery could spike your symptoms.

MAGGIE

Watching people die for no reason stresses me out a lot more.

(beat)

I'll need stamina for long procedures. I'd like to cut down on the Zyprexa --

MILO

No way. Schizophrenia's a severe brain disorder. We can most likely find a drug regimen that controls your hallucinations *and* allows you to operate. But you'll need to commit to it -- *unconditionally*.

MAGGIE

Okay, okay --

MILO

Even with total compliance, we can't completely eliminate your symptoms. But you'll be able to do your job. Without meds --

MAGGIE

It's back to Club Dread. I got it.

Maggie pops a Zyprexa. Milo checks his watch, stands.

MILO

I'm excited for you, Maggie. It's a big step. See you tomorrow.

MAGGIE

Same bat time, same bat channel --

As he goes, Maggie spits the pill into her cup, drops it in a garbage can. As she walks away --

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. MMC - LERNER'S OFFICE - DAY 4

Lerner stares hard at Maggie.

LERNER

You're messing with me, right?

MAGGIE

I'm dead serious.

LERNER

Look, Maggie Mae -- I knew a Chinese doc with Tourette's who cursed the nurses between lung resections. An S&M freak who operated in assless leather chaps --
(beat)
Never met a schizophrenic surgeon.

MAGGIE

Actually -- you've had one on your service for the past 6 years.

LERNER

I'm your #1 fan, kiddo. And I know it's been tough as hell on you --

MAGGIE

I'm the reason you've got the top-rated C-T service in the country, Virginia. You need me --

LERNER

The hospital won't go for it.

MAGGIE

They will if you tell them to.

Lerner absorbs Maggie's desperation.

LERNER

Okay -- for giggles -- say the Board signs off. You gonna tell your patients that occasionally you run nude through the ICU screaming your pretty little head off?

MAGGIE

I'm on meds now. But yeah -- I'll disclose my illness to my patients.

LERNER

Look -- I put up with your mad genius routine for a long time -- the tent in your office, that damn poncho you used to wear --

MAGGIE

It was a solar vest --

LERNER

Whatever. I dealt with it 'cause -- no matter how flaky you got -- in the O.R., you were a damn poet.

MAGGIE

I still am. This is just a speed bump. I'm asking you to trust me --

LERNER

It's not just me. Your little peep show made this an international incident. You got committed -- there's an official diagnosis --
(long beat)
Sorry, Maggie. I can't risk it.

INT. MMC - MAGGIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Quirky decor. Maggie storms in, grabs a cheesy snow globe from a collection on her desk, hurls it --

MAGGIE

Risk this!

The globe barely misses the head of a no-nonsense woman, ANNA PECK, 40, suit. As it explodes against the wall:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Whoa -- I'm really sorry --

ANNA PECK

No problem. I hate those things.
(offers her hand)
My name's Anna Peck. I was hoping for a moment of your time --

MAGGIE

If you're looking for a surgeon -- you're in the wrong office --

ANNA PECK

Actually -- I was thinking you might be in the wrong office.

MAGGIE

(with an edge)

Normally I'd be thrilled to engage in pointless word-play with a total stranger -- but my career just imploded -- so if you don't mind --

ANNA PECK

Caught your Aortic Valve demo at the National Institutes of Health. Brilliant work --

MAGGIE

Till my psychotic strip-tease --
(off snow globe)
Damn it. Jerry Lewis gave that to me after I did his bypass.

ANNA PECK

I run a pilot program through NIH -- using the human genome to solve the major health crises of our time.

MAGGIE

Any chance you guys can fix my snow globe?

ANNA PECK

I need a top surgeon to head my C-T unit. Someone bold -- innovative.

MAGGIE

I already have a job.

ANNA PECK

Judging from your entrance it's not going very well.

(beat)

Join my team, your illness will be a virtue -- not a liability.

MAGGIE

Thanks. But I belong here.

ANNA PECK

I hope your bosses agree.

(beat)

As a geneticist I know two things about anomalies like schizophrenia. First -- the world isn't ready to accept them. And second -- they may just save the world.

(beat)

Think about it.

Anna Peck walks out. On Maggie, absorbing this --

EXT. NEW YORK STATE SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE - DAY

Maggie walks with sister Caroline, who is dressed for court.

MAGGIE

I'm not asking you to defend O.J.
I just want my career back.

CAROLINE

The hospital has a strong argument.

MAGGIE

I had *one* bad day --

CAROLINE

I know. I was there, remember?

EXT. MMC - AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Maggie, naked under a blanket, strapped to a gurney, is loaded into an ambulance. A shaken Caroline holds her hand.

MAGGIE

They're trying to kill me!

CAROLINE

I'm here, Maggie. I'm right here --

BACK TO SCENE:

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I'm just not sure it's a good idea.

MAGGIE

Do you really think I'd put
patients at risk?

CAROLINE

Look, you've always gotten
everything you ever wanted --

MAGGIE

Is this the Barbie Dream House
thing again? I asked mom first --

CAROLINE

No one wants to see you back on
your feet more than I do. But I
need to know if this is for your
patients -- or your ego.

MAGGIE

I use my ego to bring the dead back
to life --

(beat)

The Board granted me a hearing in
the morning. I need you there.

CAROLINE

(beat)

If I say 'no' -- you'll just hire
another lawyer, right?

INT. MMC - HEARING ROOM - NEXT MORNING - DAY 5

Maggie and Caroline listen as HOSPITAL COUNSEL finishes her
opening statement before the MMC Medical Board.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

Dr. Hill was a valued member of the
surgical faculty. But her illness
impairs her ability to perform
basic job functions and endangers
patients. Reinstatement would be a
serious mistake.

Hospital Counsel sits. Caroline stands.

CAROLINE

Margaret Hill is the finest heart
surgeon of her generation. She's
also schizophrenic. Contrary to
counsel's assertion -- the two are
not mutually exclusive.

(beat)

My client receives top psychiatric
care. She's never harmed a patient
due to her illness -- or for any
other reason. The Americans with
Disabilities Act prohibits
discrimination against individuals
with mental illness. If this
hospital wants to avoid a federal
lawsuit -- I suggest you reinstate
my client immediately.

Caroline sits. Maggie leans forward, whispers:

MAGGIE

You're kinda scary.

CAROLINE

Runs in the family.

TIME CUT: Milo answers questions from Hospital Counsel.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

As Dr. Hill's psychiatrist, you're convinced she can safely return to surgical practice?

MILO

With proper medication -- yes.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

In a report filed shortly before Dr. Hill's release, you wrote: 'patient is occasionally non-compliant with medication.'

MILO

(beat; damage control)

For individuals confronting chronic mental illness, drug compliance is often a process --

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

Well, in light of Dr. Hill's desire to cut people open for a living -- let's hope her 'process' improves --

TIME CUT: Elliot's on the stand.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL (CONT'D)

Is it true you expressed doubts about Dr. Hill's mental health prior to her breakdown?

ELLIOT

Yes.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

And if Dr. Hill returned to work, could you -- in good conscience -- refer patients to her care?

ELLIOT

Dr. Hill was a gifted surgeon. But given her... condition -- I couldn't recommend her to my patients -- not in good conscience.

MAGGIE

(whispers to Caroline)

That's a trick question. He doesn't have a conscience --

TIME CUT: Maggie's turn under Hospital Counsel's knife.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

You're asking this hospital and its patients to take an enormous risk.

MAGGIE

When patients come to me, I'm their final option. They choose me because I'm the best at what I do. It's a huge responsibility. So if I couldn't continue to work at the highest level, I wouldn't be here.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

Your self-confidence is admirable. But if you screw up -- it's your patients who will suffer.

MAGGIE

And if I'm not reinstated -- most of those patients will die.

This lands on the room. While the Hospital Counsel re-groups, Maggie spots Anna Peck in the back row, watching.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

Schizophrenia is essentially an inability to distinguish what's real from what isn't, correct?

MAGGIE

Yes.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

So you're in the O.R -- you open a patient's chest -- look inside --
(beat)
How do you know what's real?

MAGGIE

(beat; unconvincing)
I just know.

HOSPITAL COUNSEL

(withering sarcasm)
Well -- that's good enough for me.

INT. MMC - HALLWAY OUTSIDE HEARING ROOM - DAY

An unhappy Maggie rounds the corner. Anna Peck is waiting.

ANNA PECK

Why stay where you're not wanted?

MAGGIE
I'm a masochist.

ANNA PECK
Just let me show you our facility.
I promise you'll be impressed --

MAGGIE
I'm sorry -- I have an appointment.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - CAROUSEL - DAY

Maggie paces, checks her watch, clearly waiting on someone as excited kids ride the carousel and softball games proceed behind her. Annoyed, Maggie heads off toward a stone tunnel.

As she enters the dark tunnel, a MAN appears behind her. Maggie walks faster. Before she reaches daylight, the Man grabs her from behind, pushes her against the wall.

MAN
Now where're you rushing off to?

MAGGIE
(breathless)
Please. Don't hurt me --

MAN
This from the gal who left a hand
print on my ass that lasted 3 days?

MAGGIE
(smiles)
Cry baby --

She kisses him. Hard. As Maggie unbuttons his shirt --

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - SHEEP'S MEADOW - DAY

Under a tree, Maggie runs her hands through the hair of TERRENCE JAMES -- ruggedly handsome, edgy charm -- but there's something unpredictable in his eyes. Dangerous.

TERRENCE
I say we do it on the carousel next
time. Show the kids a few things --

MAGGIE
You're sick.

TERRENCE
This is well documented.

MAGGIE

We agreed we wouldn't do this anymore once we got out of the loony bin. It's not fair to Ben.

TERRENCE

Recovery Rule #1: life's not fair.

MAGGIE

Speaking of which, they're trying to keep me from going back to work.

TERRENCE

What'd you expect? People don't get it --

MAGGIE

Then I'll *make* them get it. I need to get back into the O.R.

TERRENCE

And if you don't? Would that really be so bad?

(off her look)

That first day we met on the ward -- you said you were always so focused on becoming a genius doctor -- you never took time to just live --

MAGGIE

I was heavily sedated at the time --

TERRENCE

They drill it into our heads: 'Despite your illness, you can live a normal life.' Well guess what? Normal is way overrated --

MAGGIE

That's 'cause you never needed normal, Terrence. Your family's got more money than God --

TERRENCE

Recovery doesn't have to be about trying to re-construct the pieces of your shattered life --

MAGGIE

(knows where he's heading)
Next stop -- Costa Rica.

TERRENCE

We rent a place on the Caribbean,
make love on the volcano, buy a
couple of Harleys --

MAGGIE

We call 'em donor cycles in the
ICU.

(beat)

Look, it sounds amazing. But I've
got a whole life here --

TERRENCE

(fire in his eyes)

When I first got sick, I thought
I'd have to live the rest of my
life inside a prison made out of
shrinks and pills and hospitals.
It doesn't have to be that way --

(beat)

Insanity isn't a life sentence,
Maggie -- it's a get-out-of-jail-
free card. A chance to start over.
No rules. Just you and me.

(beat)

Trust me. Losing your mind is the
best thing that ever happened to
you.

On Maggie, tempted --

INT. MMC - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU) - HALLWAY - LATE DAY

A bored Maggie on rounds with 3 CT Surgical Residents.

MAGGIE

And if your patient doesn't respond
to adrenaline?

RESIDENT

Open heart massage?

MAGGIE

On a penetrating wound? How do you
feel about a heart omelette?

Lerner appears. Maggie approaches as the Residents move on.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Tell me I was never that clueless.

LERNER

Worse. You knew *everything* --
'cept your limits.

(MORE)

LERNER (CONT'D)

(beat)
Just heard from the Board --

MAGGIE

(beat; future at stake)
And?

LERNER

You may wanna grab a lottery ticket
-- 'cause this is your lucky day.

(beat)
You're reinstated for a period of 6
months. Hack it, you're back for
good. So much as drop a stitch --
you're gone.

Maggie is overwhelmed, as close to tears as she'd ever allow herself to be in public. Lerner hands Maggie a chart.

LERNER (CONT'D)

Emily Ransom, 13, end-stage heart
failure. Everyone's thrown up
their hands. Hell -- she oughta be
dead by now.

(beat, hands her chart)
As I recall, that's your
department.

Maggie takes the chart like it's made of gold.

MAGGIE

I know they wouldn't have signed
off without your okay.

LERNER

The Board doesn't give a damn how
many high risk patients we lose --
long as they don't get sued.

(beat)
But I do give a damn. And that's
why you're back.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

LERNER

Don't thank me. Just make this
work.

As Lerner goes, on Maggie, betraying a shadow of doubt --

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. MMC - ICU - HALLWAY OUTSIDE EMILY'S ROOM - DAY 6

Maggie approaches a patient room, stops. She fought for this moment -- but she's definitely got some butterflies.

She exhales, paints a confident look on her face, enters --

INT. MMC - ICU - EMILY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emily Ransom lies in bed. Her father Patrick sits nearby. Emily is pale and thin, but full of attitude. Off chart:

MAGGIE

Good morning. I'm Dr. Hill --

PATRICK

Dr. Margaret Hill?

MAGGIE

Maggie. I see Emily's been hospitalized before -- in Indiana --

EMILY

We saw you on CNN. You saved those Siamese twins --

MAGGIE

Got to meet Anderson Cooper.

(beat)

I'll start your pre-op workup --

PATRICK

I requested you when we got here -- they said you were on leave --

MAGGIE

Leave of my senses, actually.

(beat; a bit awkward)

3 months ago -- I was diagnosed with schizophrenia. I'm just getting back to work --

(off their shock)

On the upside, I'm very well rested.

EMILY

Whoa. Totally freaky.

PATRICK

Emily --

MAGGIE

It's okay. It is kinda freaky.
But it's under control.

EMILY

So you have, like, 12
personalities?

MAGGIE

That's multiple personality
disorder. My brain messes with me
sometimes -- I see and hear things
that aren't really there. You have
any questions -- feel free to ask --

Maggie exits --

INT. MMC - ICU - HALLWAY OUTSIDE EMILY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A concerned Patrick Ransom catches up with Maggie.

PATRICK

Dr. Hill?
(she turns back)
I was wondering -- how many
patients have you seen since...
you've been back?

MAGGIE

Actually, Emily's my first.

PATRICK

Uh-huh. Look, the thing is --
you're a great doctor -- but this
other situation --

MAGGIE

I know it's a lot to digest --

PATRICK

That's an understatement. I just
don't think this is a good idea --

Maggie levels him with her best imperious-surgeon stare.

MAGGIE

Your daughter's dying. There's a
handful of surgeons on the planet
who can save her. I'm one of them.
(beat)
Do you want me to save your
daughter, Mr. Ransom?

PATRICK

(beat)

Yes.

MAGGIE

Then let's get started.

INT. MMC - ICU - LIGHT BOXES - DAY

Maggie, Emily's file under her arm, passes Elliot --

ELLIOT

Heard you're putting a BiVAD in the Ransom girl --

MAGGIE

You're welcome to take notes.

ELLIOT

She's got advanced Kawasaki's Disease -- her coronary arteries are shot -- had 2 MI's --

MAGGIE

And a BiVAD pump will keep her going till we locate a new heart --
(off his look)
I take it you disagree?

ELLIOT

I'd go ventricular plication -- chop out the dead tissue, pull the walls back together --

MAGGIE

Plication's a stall to see if she improves on her own. She won't.

ELLIOT

So you'd rather blow holes in her heart for a BiVAD? That buys you a short window to find a new organ. Provided that happens before she dies -- there's a good chance she won't survive the transplant.

(beat)

You're acting like a surgeon with something to prove. And you're taking a big fat risk --

MAGGIE

(smiles)

Which is why I'm #1 on the service.

Point Maggie. Ben approaches.

ELLIOT
Fine. Let's ask a third party.

Elliot takes Emily's file from Maggie, hands it to Ben.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Your girlfriend says BiVAD. I say
plication. Break the tie.

BEN
I'm sorry -- do I have 'Moron'
stamped on my forehead?

MAGGIE
Go ahead. Let him down easy.

Ben takes a beat, reviews the file. He looks up.

BEN
(beat)
BiVAD.

Maggie smiles. Elliot shakes his head, as he walks away:

ELLIOT
Pussy.

MAGGIE
The truth hurts.

BEN
Yeah. Actually -- her Swan numbers
don't look that bad --

MAGGIE
(beat)
Wait -- you agree with Elliot? Why
didn't you say so?

BEN
Look -- it's your first case back --

MAGGIE
And I might fall apart if you
disagree with my course of
treatment?

BEN
No -- I just thought --

MAGGIE

-- that I'm some fragile mental patient you need to protect?

(beat)

I'm not.

As Maggie stalks off, on Ben, stung --

EXT. SARABETH'S CAFE - CENTRAL PARK SOUTH - DAY

Caroline stares at Maggie, fork frozen over her salad:

MAGGIE

It just kinda... happened...

CAROLINE

A torrid sexual relationship with a fellow mental patient doesn't 'just kinda happen,' Mags --

MAGGIE

It was a mistake --

CAROLINE

Oh you've transcended the realm of simple mistake. You're deep in abject betrayal territory here --

MAGGIE

And I feel like a total bitch.

CAROLINE

So why are you telling me this?

MAGGIE

Because I thought it was over. And now... I'm not so sure --

CAROLINE

(beat, shakes her head)

Ben's the last guy on the planet who deserves this --

MAGGIE

I know --

CAROLINE

He did your laundry. You were in an *asylum* and this guy washed your underwear -- in *Woolite* -- and the whole time you're in there getting busy with some rich pretty boy --

MAGGIE

I get it, Caroline. If I needed a lecture, I'd call mom --

CAROLINE

Considering Dad couldn't keep it in his pants for 5 minutes -- she'd probably have some useful insight.

(beat)

First the schizophrenia -- now infidelity. Never thought you and dad would have so much in common.

This is clearly a sore spot. Maggie is stung.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Cheap shot.

(beat)

Are you gonna tell Ben?

MAGGIE

I don't know.

Caroline takes a bite of salad, can't help herself.

CAROLINE

So is it -- y'know -- great?

MAGGIE

Beyond.

CAROLINE

Better than Tommy Devlin?

MAGGIE

The best. Ever.

CAROLINE

(beat)

If you do decide to tell Ben? You may want to leave that part out.

INT. MMC - CT O.R. - SCRUB ROOM - DAY

Maggie scrubs for Emily's surgery, fights her anxiety. Eddie pops his head in from the O.R.

EDDIE

Ready to go?

PRE-LAP the sounds of a BEATING HEART --

INT. MMC - CT O.R. - DAY

CLOSE ON: a heart pumping in an open chest. The heart SLOWS DOWN until it finally STOPS -- dead.

NURSE (O.C.)
Full arrest. Pump flow's strong.

PULL BACK to find Eddie and team in place. Maggie stares at Emily's inert heart -- as her own pounds hard enough for both of them. Deep breath:

MAGGIE
Showtime...
(beat, off heart)
Little girl with the heart of a
fat, 60-year-old chain smoker.

EDDIE
Welcome back.

We see the drive console of the BiVAD -- a computer that will control the mechanical pump in Emily's heart from OUTSIDE her body. In the surgical theater above, Lerner observes Maggie.

MAGGIE
So let's pop this puppy in. I'll
do the anastomosis first --
(beat)
Man, her vessels are a trainwreck --

ON SCREEN, Maggie deftly sews an outflow valve into the aorta. Eddie smiles.

EDDIE
You still got it, sugar.

MAGGIE
I never lost it, sugar.

EMILY (O.C.)
Do you guys always talk so much?

Maggie looks over at Emily, who is awake on the table.

EMILY (CONT'D)
*I mean, it's just my aorta -- why
not check your e-mail?*

Maggie stares at her, frozen for a beat, groping for reality. Lerner catches the moment, concerned --

EDDIE (O.C.)
Everything okay?

Maggie looks at Eddie, then back to Emily, who is once again unconscious. Covering:

MAGGIE
Yeah -- let's do this.

As a thrown Maggie gets back to work, on Lerner, worried --

INT. MMC - ICU - EMILY'S ROOM - NIGHT 6

Maggie enters. Emily is conscious but a bit groggy.

MAGGIE
How're you feeling?

Emily smiles weakly, re: the BiVAD drive console that controls the pumps in her heart:

EMILY
Kinda cool having a computerized heart -- unless it crashes.

MAGGIE
It'll hold out till we find you a donor organ --

Maggie picks up a wallet-size photo of a 13-year-old boy.

EMILY
Alex Crawford.

MAGGIE
Cute.

EMILY
I haven't seen him in 2 months --
(beat)
We haven't really done anything...

MAGGIE
There's plenty of time for that --

EMILY
Maybe. Maybe not.

Maggie absorbs Emily's fatalism for a beat.

MAGGIE
You and I have something in common. We'll both be fighting a disease for the rest of our lives. And the only way we can lose -- is to stop fighting. Got it?

Emily smiles, nods. As Maggie turns to go:

EMILY

You ever been in love, Dr. Hill?

MAGGIE

That's kinda complicated --

(beat)

Life gets kinda confusing when you
get older -- feelings aren't always
clear --

(beat)

I guess the truth is -- I'm not
really sure what love is --

Maggie looks up. Ben stands there. He's clearly overheard.

BEN

Dr. Land needs a consult in O.R. 2.

MAGGIE

Ben --

But he turns on his heel and goes. On Maggie -- shit --

INT. MMC - ICU - HALLWAY OUTSIDE EMILY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maggie follows Ben out --

MAGGIE

Ben -- hold on --

But he's gone. Elliot approaches, hands Maggie a document.

ELLIOT

Latest UNOS list. Emily Ransom
dropped from #4 to #7. Helluva
wait with a BiVAD in your chest --

(beat)

Hate to say I told you so --

On Maggie, *fuck* -- her night going from bad to worse --

EXT. MMC - NIGHT

Maggie, still in scrubs, crosses the street in front of the
hospital, passes an alley, hears a familiar voice --

TERRENCE (O.C.)

Hey, doc, it hurts when I do this.

Maggie turns to see Terrence, leaning against a motorcycle,
looking like a ruined movie star, smiling at her.

MAGGIE
What are you doing here?

TERRENCE
(re: motorcycle)
I was thinking we get yours in
robin's egg blue --

MAGGIE
Terrence --

TERRENCE
We've been through something no one
in that place can understand --
seen things they'll never see --

MAGGIE
I can't just run off to Costa Rica.

TERRENCE
Fine. We'll stay here. It's a big
city. Plenty of room to get lost --

She stares at him, absorbs his passion.

MAGGIE
Look, I care about you. But this
can't happen. 'We' can't happen.
I'm sorry. The answer is 'no'

As they stare at each other, the heat rising:

MAGGIE (PRE-LAP) (CONT'D)
Yes! Yes!

INT. MAGGIE AND CAROLINE'S APARTMENT -- MAGGIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

MAGGIE
(passionate)
Yes! Oh God...

Maggie and Terrence go at it fast and furious.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
This is absolutely the last time --

TERRENCE
Definitely --

As the passion rises, the DOOR FLIES OPEN, Caroline enters:

CAROLINE
Hey, Mags, are you here?

REVERSE from Caroline's POV: Maggie sits on her bed, staring straight ahead, trance-like. She's very much alone.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Maggie? What're you doing?

Maggie slowly comes back to reality. It's like being jolted awake from an incredibly realistic dream. She looks around, realizes Terrence isn't there. Disoriented:

MAGGIE
Can you... give me a minute?

CAROLINE
(off-balance)
Sure.

Caroline exits. SLOWLY PUSH IN as Maggie, mind racing, trying to define reality. She's frightened, confused, realizing Terrence doesn't exist --

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - WOLLMAN ICE RINK - DAY 7

Milo and an emotionally drained Maggie watch the skaters.

MAGGIE

It felt so real...

(beat)

He felt so real.

MILO

Why didn't you tell me about Terrence earlier? We could've dealt with it right away --

MAGGIE

I guess I was embarrassed. An affair in the nut house? Not exactly Romeo and Juliet --

MILO

I became a psychiatrist to hear all the sordid dirt -- not to mention that full disclosure is the only way to make meaningful progress --

MAGGIE

I feel like a complete lunatic.

MILO

You were disoriented. Vulnerable.

MAGGIE

So my brain cooks up Terrence the stud muffin to save the day?

MILO

Actually -- yes. Hallucinations aren't always random. Your mind creates them for a reason --

MAGGIE

But I *connected* with this guy from the first time I met him -- it was like he *knew* me --

MILO

That's because he is you.

Maggie absorbs this for a beat.

MAGGIE
So what about...?

MILO
The sex? Unusual. Not
unprecedented --

MAGGIE
Trust me -- it's unprecedented.

MILO
You need to be on your full dosage
of Zyprexa, Maggie --

MAGGIE
I also *need* to perform a high-risk
transplant. I've got things under
control --

MILO
Clearly.

Maggie takes a beat, changes direction --

MAGGIE
I had a heart to heart talk with a
patient the other night. First
time ever --

MILO
You understand what it's like to be
a patient now. You can empathize --

MAGGIE
I'm a surgeon -- not a shrink. I
don't *do* empathy -- it's a
distraction. And God knows I've
got enough of those right now --

Milo knows Maggie is feeling out of control. Beat.

MILO
Now that you know Terrence isn't
real -- if you stay on your meds --
he should disappear over time.

Maggie watches a loving young couple skating together.

MAGGIE
What if I don't want him to
disappear?

MILO

Engaging hallucinations threatens
your ability to function at a basic
level -- let alone be a surgeon.

(beat)

Terrence isn't real. Our goal is
to keep you in the real world.

MAGGIE

I know. There's just one problem --

(beat)

I think I'm in love.

INT. MMC - ICU - HALLWAY - DAY

Patrick Ransom approaches Maggie.

PATRICK

Any word on a donor heart?

MAGGIE

Should be soon.

PATRICK

You said the BiVAD could only keep
Emily alive for a short time --

MAGGIE

We have to be patient --

PATRICK

(pissed/scared)

Don't talk down to me -- I know the
stats on people who die before an
organ becomes available --

MAGGIE

I realize this is difficult --

PATRICK

When we met -- you promised you
could save my daughter --

(starting to lose it)

You promised --

Patrick walks away. A beat, then Maggie spots Eddie at the
Nurses Station. She pulls him into a private area:

MAGGIE

Where's Emily Ransom on the
transplant list?

EDDIE

Up to #6 -- few days, tops.

MAGGIE
 She won't last that long.
 (beat, loaded)
 I have a feeling her stats are
 about to go south -- rising
 creatinine level, decreasing
 ejection fraction --

EDDIE
 (disapproving)
 Why not throw in a little v-fib for
 flavor? That'll push her up to #1.

MAGGIE
 Do we have a problem?

EDDIE
 Docs cook the books to get organs
 every day. We never did.

MAGGIE
 Installing the BiVAD was my call.
 There were other options -- I
 rolled the dice --

EDDIE
 You did what you thought was right.
 Since when do you look in the
 rearview mirror?

Maggie knows he's right -- but she digs in.

MAGGIE
 UNOS is supposed to make the system
 fair. You see anything fair in
 letting a little girl die?
 (off his silence)
 Get me a damn heart --

INT. MMC - HALLWAY OUTSIDE O.R. - DAY

Maggie runs into a blood-spattered Ben. Awkward.

MAGGIE
 Double lung transplant?

BEN
 The fun never stops.

MAGGIE
 (beat)
 Look -- what I said earlier --

BEN

I don't have a problem with what you said, Maggie. Might've been nice if you'd said it to me --

(beat)

I was thinking about our first date. You sent the halibut back -- twice -- the pinot was too fruity --

MAGGIE

Well it was --

BEN

And I remember thinking -- she's the most amazing woman I've ever met, but God help the guy who tries to live up to her expectations --

MAGGIE

Ben --

BEN

I've cut you a ton of slack because you've been through hell. And also because I happen to be in love with you. But I'm not some crutch for you to lean on while you get back on your feet --

MAGGIE

I know that --

BEN

A lot of guys take off when their girlfriends get committed. But I stayed. And while that doesn't mean you're obligated to love me back -- I do think you owe me the truth about how you feel.

Maggie takes a beat. This is painful --

MAGGIE

I care about you, Ben. Without you I wouldn't be back here now. But the fact is -- I'm just trying to keep my head above water. And you're asking me a question I can't answer --

(beat)

The truth is... I don't know how I feel.

Ben stares at her for a long beat. Half-plea, half-demand:

BEN

Well you need to figure it out.

As he heads back into surgery, Maggie's BEEPER goes off. As it does, over the hospital P.A.:

P.A.

Code Blue, 5 East ICU --

As Maggie breaks into a SPRINT --

INT. MMC - ICU - EMILY'S ROOM - DAY

Maggie flies in. Eddie and 2 ICU Nurses work as a panicked Patrick looks on. As large equipment carts fly in --

MAGGIE

Talk to me.

EDDIE

Zero blood pressure -- ton of blood
in the chest drains --

MAGGIE

She's got a hole in her ventricle.
I need a chest tray, stat --

The tray appears instantly. Eddie upends a bottle of IODINE on Emily's chest as Maggie GLOVES. She grabs a SCALPEL in one hand and a pair of WIRE CUTTERS in the other.

In a single deft SLICE, Maggie cuts Emily open. With the wire cutters Maggie SNIPS the wires holding Emily's rib cage together. Emily's heart isn't beating, and it's bleeding into her chest through the blown ventricle --

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Keep pumping fluids -- I need to
block that hole --

Maggie plunges her hand into the sea of blood in Emily's chest, searches for the ventricle --

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Okay, I got it --

Emily pops her head up:

EMILY

You should've listened to Elliot.

Maggie ignores this hallucination. INSIDE EMILY'S CHEST we see Maggie stick her finger in the hole in Emily's ventricle, stopping the blood flow.

EDDIE

Should I book an O.R. so we can
close the ventricle?

MAGGIE

Too late for that --
(mind racing)
I need bovine pericardium and GRF.

EDDIE

You gonna patch her?

MAGGIE

It's her best shot.

The materials fly in. Eddie fashions the patch, places it in Maggie's free hand. Maggie digs into Emily's chest. **INSIDE EMILY'S CHEST:** Maggie pulls her finger from Emily's ventricle, patches the hole -- but it keeps bleeding.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

The patch won't hold --

EDDIE

You gotta hurry --

Maggie struggles to patch the ventricle --

EMILY

There goes the junior prom --

Maggie ignores this -- till another voice chimes in.

TERRENCE (O.C.)

Jeez -- you said your job got
messy but, *man*. No wonder you
freaked out --

Maggie reacts -- sees Terrence standing behind Eddie.

EMILY

Who's the hottie?

TERRENCE

Seriously -- you're choosing *this*
over Costa Rica?

Maggie struggles to focus, manipulates the patch. Finally:

MAGGIE

Got it.

NURSE

Pressure's coming back. I'm
getting a pulse --

Maggie's exhales. She looks back to Terrence -- but he's gone. A beat, then Maggie abruptly exits.

EDDIE

And that -- people -- is why she
gets the big money.

INT. MMC - ICU - SURGEON'S LOUNGE - MINUTES LATER

A blood-spattered Maggie collapses in a chair, spent.

TERRENCE (O.C.)

Whatever they're paying you -- it's
not enough --

Maggie turns. Terrence sits at the table, messing with a stethoscope. She takes a beat. Struggling.

MAGGIE

You're not real.

He crosses to her, places the stethoscope on her heart, slides his free hand onto her ass. Listens.

TERRENCE

Funny. Your heart says I'm real.
(offers the ear pieces)
Take a listen --

Maggie starts to melt, then stands, moves away.

MAGGIE

I'm trying to put my life back
together. And you're a major
distraction.

TERRENCE

Ever think you may be focusing on
the wrong thing?

(beat)

You save lives. That's cool.
Unless you use it as an excuse to
avoid living your own --

MAGGIE

You've had too much therapy.

TERRENCE

You deserve to be happy, Maggie.
No one will ever understand you
like I do.

MAGGIE

Don't remind me. I've been waiting
to feel this way my whole life --

TERRENCE

(smiles)
That's why I'm here.

MAGGIE

Thank you.
(beat)
Now I need you to go.

As Maggie turns away, FIND a troubled Lerner, watching the
drama through the glass door --

INT. MMC - LERNER'S OFFICE - LATE DAY

Lerner sips scotch, reviews a file, as Maggie enters.

MAGGIE

You rang?

LERNER

Taking a stroll down memory lane.
(reading from file)
'I intend to become the top cardio-
thoracic surgeon in the country.
If not on your service -- then on
someone else's.'
(beat)
Ten seconds past your internship
and already a cocky little snot.

MAGGIE

That's what you loved about me.

LERNER

It wasn't just your resume. You
had the edge. No altruistic crap
about saving lives -- just naked
obsession -- total focus. Still
got it?

MAGGIE

Of course.

LERNER

You ask me -- arguing with yourself
in the coffee room shows a serious
lack of focus.

MAGGIE

(thrown, then defiant)
Maybe you didn't hear -- I just
patched a ventricle with cow heart
and some Elmer's Glue --

LERNER

Outstanding.
(beat)
But you were seeing stuff during
that BiVAD implant the other day --

MAGGIE

I can do this, Virginia.

LERNER

(pours another scotch)
UNOS found a heart for Emily Ransom
-- 'cause she crumped, not 'cause
you and Eddie screwed with her
chart --

MAGGIE

That wasn't Eddie -- it was me.

LERNER

Surgeons make calls and live with
the consequences. Life and death.
Takes a helluva lot of confidence.
You used to have that.

(takes a drink)

I can't stop you from walking into
that O.R. tomorrow morning. But a
little girl's life depends on your
total focus. You can't bring it?
You need to walk away.

On Maggie, torn --

FADE OUT:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. MMC - ICU - EMILY'S ROOM - NIGHT 7

Emily look likes death barely warmed over as Maggie enters.

EMILY

It's weird to think someone had to
die for me to keep on living --

MAGGIE

People die every day. The cool
ones do some good on their way out.
Be grateful -- not guilty.

(beat, dreading this)

Emily -- Dr. Springer will be
performing your transplant.

EMILY

(off-balance)

You're kidding, right?

MAGGIE

He'll do a great job --

EMILY

I didn't come here for Dr.
Springer. I came here for you.
Why are you doing this?

MAGGIE

I'm doing it for you. My illness
is unpredictable --

EMILY

Is the hospital messing with you?
My dad'll sign whatever they want --

MAGGIE

It's my decision. I want you to be
safe --

EMILY

(pissed)

You said the only way we can lose
is to stop fighting -- and now
you're quitting on me?

MAGGIE

I'm sorry. But I promise --

EMILY
 (cuts her off)
 Don't. Just get out --

Maggie absorbs the rebuke for a beat, exits --

INT. MMC - ICU - HALLWAY CONTINUOUS

A troubled Maggie exits with Emily's chart. As she starts to walk, Terrence appears at her side.

TERRENCE
 I knew you'd come to your senses --

MAGGIE
 Leave me alone --

TERRENCE
 There's nothing keeping you here
 now. We can disappear --

Maggie keeps walking. Terrence calls after:

TERRENCE (CONT'D)
 Maggie --
 (now Terrence/Elliot)
 Maggie!

Pissed, Maggie finally turns back, yells:

MAGGIE
 Damn it -- just leave me alone!

Maggie's mortified to find Elliot standing there. Beat.

ELLIOT
 Sure. I just need Emily's chart.

An embarrassed Maggie hands it to him. As she goes --

EXT. MMC - NIGHT

An agitated Maggie exits the hospital, probably for the last time. The window of a taxi lowers. It's Anna Peck.

ANNA PECK
 Going my way, Dr. Hill?

INT. NIH LABORATORIES - NIGHT

Peck leads Maggie down an antiseptic hallway. They stop in front of a large door marked GENOME RESEARCH UNIT.

ANNA PECK

Allowing you inside this door is a serious breach of our security protocol. Everything you see must be held in strictest confidence.

MAGGIE

If you don't trust me -- why am I here?

Peck takes a beat, then enters a code into the sophisticated computerized lock, pushes the door open --

INT. NIH LABORATORIES - GENOME RESEARCH UNIT - CONTINUOUS

Peck leads Maggie into a working lab the likes of which we've never seen. Gleaming glass and steel, crystal clear blue light. Doctors and techs at sleek work stations. Awesome.

MAGGIE

Your tax dollars at work --

ANNA PECK

Actually the bulk of our funding comes from private sources.

Peck points to a towering 30-foot liquid-crystal depiction of the HUMAN GENOME. Each gene is shown in a rotating 3D image along with complex chemical information.

MAGGIE

Okay -- that's pretty sweet.

ANNA PECK

We call it the road map. It'll lead us into a disease-free future.

MAGGIE

Don't tell the drug companies.

ANNA PECK

Let me show you something.

Peck leads Maggie to a huge, high-tech glass display case.

ANNA PECK (CONT'D)

Take a look.

Maggie walks up to the glass, peers in. Off her shock:

MAGGIE'S POV

Inside the case are HUMAN ORGANS. Dozens. Lungs. Livers. Brains. Hearts. Organized by surgical category. Stunned:

MAGGIE

My God...

ANNA PECK

God had nothing to do with it. We made these ourselves.

MAGGIE

Synthetic?

ANNA PECK

100% human tissue. We've genetically altered human fetuses to create redundant organs. Once harvested -- we can maintain them for up to 2 years.

MAGGIE

Are they viable for transplant?

ANNA PECK

That's where you come in. I need a surgeon of your caliber to oversee the transplant unit. One day soon we'll replace a faulty human brain as easily as changing a tire --

(beat)

No more mental illness. What do you think?

MAGGIE

Honestly? It sounds like you're starting the 4th Reich in the middle of Manhattan. It's incredible science -- but the potential for abuse --

ANNA PECK

If the patient you abandoned tonight was in our program -- she'd be at the mall instead of the ICU --

MAGGIE

Maybe -- but there are limits.

As they walk toward the door, Maggie's symptoms kick back in. Colors begin to flare. Dimensions begin to bend. Maggie's face betrays her distress.

ANNA PECK

Are you okay?

MAGGIE

I'm fine --

ANNA PECK
That's a lie. You're having
symptoms right now.

MAGGIE
I have to go --

Peck opens the door, faces Maggie.

ANNA PECK
This is the future. The perfection
of human anatomy. The power to
change lives -- including your own.
The power to cure yourself --

This lands hard on Maggie, sensing potential liberation from
her illness. As she looks back over Peck's shoulder, watches
the Genome Wall MELT, Maggie goes --

INT. MMC - ICU - NURSES STATION - NIGHT

Elliot stares at some scans as Ben approaches.

ELLIOT
Fluid build-up around the lungs.
You're the resident vascular genius
-- can I pull off a transplant?

BEN
(off scans)
Should be okay. I thought the
Ransom girl was Maggie's patient.

ELLIOT
Little Miss Sunshine took off. You
didn't know?
(off Ben's look)
Sounds promising.

BEN
Don't start, Elliot --

ELLIOT
You could have any woman in this
place, pretty boy -- in this city.

BEN
Relationship advice from the guy
whose idea of commitment is
breakfast the next morning --

ELLIOT
Unlike Maggie, who's an expert on
commitment --

(MORE)

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

(off Ben's glare)

It was the same thing all through med school, boy-o. Premium Chicago talent everywhere, and I'm stuck rooming with a serial monogamist -- and a psycho-magnet to boot --

BEN

Look, Maggie's having a real tough time -- and you're not helping.

ELLIOT

Maggie's sick. And that sucks.

But *you're* not.

(beat)

It's time you got back in the game.

EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT (VIRTUAL REALITY EFFECT)

As the Stones' "Shattered" plays, Maggie wanders the city, mind reeling, symptoms flaring. Tourists stare at her, whisper. Traffic lights alternate wildly; neon lights sear her eyes. Some of the world moves faster -- some is slowed down. Sound is distorted -- circular, carnival-like.

Maggie tries to dial her cell phone, but it falls to the ground, smashes apart. She spots a vacant phone booth, heads for it. But when she arrives, a man is now on the phone.

MAGGIE

Please -- I need to use the phone -- it's an emergency --

The man turns. It's Terrence, who smiles broadly:

TERRENCE

I'm on with the travel agent. 2 one-way tickets to paradise. Grab your sun-block, baby --

As Maggie backs away, runs off into the night --

INT. LEHMAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - DAY ROOM - DAY 8

Early morning. Milo enters with NURSE, spots a calm Maggie across the room sitting on the couch watching NY 1.

NURSE

Came in last night. She wasn't psychotic, but she was on her way --

Milo nods, crosses to Maggie.

MILO
Fancy meeting you here.

MAGGIE
Who says you can't go home again?
Guess I missed this place.

MILO
You all right?

MAGGIE
A few syringes of sanity and I'm
back on planet earth.

MILO
You cut your Zyprexa.

MAGGIE
I needed to operate.

MILO
And how's that going for you?

MAGGIE
If the hospital doesn't work out --
there are other places I can work.
Places where I'll be appreciated --

MILO
Such as?

Maggie wants to tell him about Anna Peck, but she gave her word. Milo takes her silence as evidence she was bluffing.

MILO (CONT'D)
We had an agreement. You stay on
your meds.

MAGGIE
Sue me.

MILO
Actually, I'm referring you to
another psychiatrist.

MAGGIE
(thrown)
You're breaking up with me?

MILO
When you treat schizophrenia, there
aren't many success stories. And
you could be a great one, Maggie.
You could give people hope --
(MORE)

MILO (CONT'D)

(beat)

But it's clear I can't get through
to you. Maybe someone else can --

Milo turns, starts to go. Maggie starts to panic --

MAGGIE

I'm sorry, okay? I'm a stubborn,
sarcastic, egomaniacal jerk --

MILO

You forgot 'manipulative' and 'self-
destructive' --

MAGGIE

Fine. But I need you --

Milo stares at her for a long beat.

MILO

Why'd you really go off your meds?

MAGGIE

Because I'm a doctor. And every
time I take one of those damn pills
I feel weak -- and dependent -- and
vulnerable. I save lives. I can't
be sick. I can't be a patient.
That's not who I am --

MILO

It's who you are now.

(beat)

And unless you accept that --
you'll end up spending the rest of
your life in a place like this.

On Maggie -- knowing he's right --

FADE OUT:

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

EXT. LEHMAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - MORNING

Maggie exits. Caroline's there with 2 designer coffees.

MAGGIE

We have to stop meeting like this.

CAROLINE

You okay?

Maggie smiles. Caroline returns it.

MAGGIE

Define 'okay' --

CAROLINE

Define 'okay' --

Caroline hands Maggie one of the coffees. As they walk --

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I hear you walked out on a patient.

MAGGIE

Trust me. She's better off.

They turn onto 5th Avenue, pass the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Excited kids pile out of a line of school busses.

CAROLINE

Seen Terrence lately?

MAGGIE

Milo told you?

CAROLINE

You said we could talk if it's urgent. He thinks this qualifies.

MAGGIE

Turns out the man of my dreams
really is the man of my dreams.

(beat)

Ever feel like life is mocking you?

CAROLINE

Well -- maybe you should start
feeling *really* sorry for yourself.
'Cause that'll help --

MAGGIE

(stung)

What's that supposed to mean?

CAROLINE

It means you get the first bad break of your life -- and yes, it's really bad -- but instead of dealing -- you throw in the towel. Refusing to take your meds is patently idiotic, Maggie --

MAGGIE

Don't feel like you need to tap dance around my feelings --

CAROLINE

I changed my whole life around for you. Did it ever occur to you that having escaped your all-consuming shadow -- I might not be psyched to re-claim the role of baby sister who never measured up?

MAGGIE

But I'm nuts now. By comparison, your stock's gone way up --

They sit on the steps. As the kids run past them:

CAROLINE

The only way you're ever gonna be happy is if you get your life back.

MAGGIE

I know. I'm just not sure how --

CAROLINE

(beat)

Remember the time Glenn Bernard stuck your face in his cat's litter box? And you hung him from the swingset by his underwear?

MAGGIE

He got off easy.

CAROLINE

You didn't need a savior then. And you don't need one now. The only person who was ever strong enough to save you -- was you.

MAGGIE

But my job is to save my patients.

CAROLINE

Dr. Marcus thinks being a surgeon
is your best shot at having a real
life. Now if I was dying -- and
you asked me which doctor I wanted --
- I'd choose the one whose life
depended on keeping me alive.

(beat)

You save them. They save you.
Sounds like a pretty good deal --

On Maggie, considering this --

INT. MMC - ICU - DAY

Patrick catches up with Elliot.

PATRICK

Dr. Springer -- I have a few
questions about Emily's transplant.

ELLIOT

(brusquely dismissive)

Why don't you bounce 'em off our
transplant coordinator?

Elliot crosses to Lerner, hands her an x-ray. Off x-ray:

LERNER

Aorta's pretty fragile --

ELLIOT

Once I rip out the BiVAD -- I'll
have a sense of where I stand --

MAGGIE (O.C.)

You'll be standing outside the O.R.

They turn, see Maggie approaching, in scrubs --

ELLIOT

Dr. Demento, I presume?

MAGGIE

Thanks for babysitting my patient,
Elliot. I'll take it from here.

LERNER

Let's talk about this --

MAGGIE

(a line in the sand)

There's nothing to talk about.

INT. MMC - O.R. - DAY

Maggie, Eddie and team with Emily open on the table.

MAGGIE
I'm pulling the BIVAD --

As Maggie removes the device --

EDDIE
Heard you had a wild night.

MAGGIE
Damn paparazzi --
(beat)
Grab that tube --

Maggie sees the team is uneasy. To the room:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I had a moment. The moment passed.
(off their looks)
And I promise to keep my clothes
on.

EDDIE
Works for me --

MAGGIE
Damn. The Kawasaki's weakened the
aortic tissue -- totally friable.

EDDIE
Can we still do the transplant?

MAGGIE
We don't have a choice --

Emily goes on bypass. On a BIG SCREEN we watch Maggie cut
Emily's scarred heart out of her chest, hand it to Eddie.
Scrub Nurse opens a COOLER, reveals the donor heart.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
No matter how many times I do this,
it still feels like a magic trick.

Eddie places the new heart in Emily's chest.

EDDIE
Abracadabra.

INT. MMC - O.R. OBSERVATION AREA - LATER

Lerner and Elliot watch Maggie work.

ELLIOT
She shouldn't be down there.

LERNER
It's my call, Elliot. She's worth
the risk.

ELLIOT
And if it was me falling apart
instead of her -- would it still be
worth it?

A loaded beat. Lerner's silence is his answer.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Well -- you may be willing to
gamble with the lives of our
patients -- but I'm not. So when
Maggie screws up -- I *will* take her
down. And when your ass is on the
line for endorsing this little
fiasco -- don't expect my support.
It won't be worth the risk.

As Elliot walks out --

INT. MMC - O.R. - SAME TIME

Maggie finishes up the transplant.

EDDIE
Pretty good fit.

MAGGIE
Let's take her off bypass. How
she's doing?

EDDIE
Kid's a trooper --

MAGGIE
I love a happy ending --

Suddenly, a PLUME OF BLOOD gushes to the ceiling.

EDDIE
Aortic blow-out!

MAGGIE
Get pressure on it --

Maggie and Eddie work desperately to stop the bleeding.
After several tense moments, the red gusher subsides.

EMILY
(covered with blood)
I'm not a doctor -- but this is
bad, right?

MAGGIE
 Massive dissection of the ascending
 aorta. Get her back on pump --

EDDIE
 Pump only buys us a few minutes.
 Aortic reconstruction will take a
 lot longer --

MAGGIE
(beat, runs the options)
 Put her into circulatory arrest --

The team reacts. As does Lerner from above. Big long shot.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 I want every ice cube in this
 hospital in here. Now --

As the nurses sprint out, Emily turns to Maggie --

EMILY
I should've gone with Dr. Springer.

INT. MMC - O.R. - DAY (TIME CUT)

BUCKETS OF ICE are poured around Emily's head and legs.

MAGGIE
 What's her body temp?

EDDIE
 15 degrees Celsius. Brain waves
 are flat.

MAGGIE
 Turn off the pumps.

The machines keeping Emily alive draw to a halt. Eerie.
 Emily is technically dead. Nurse sets a CLOCK on a tray.

EDDIE
 You've got 29 minutes to build this
 kid a new aorta --

INT. MMC - O.R. - DAY (TIME CUT)

Images blend as Maggie furiously fashions a new aorta. Lerner watches from above, Nurse wipes sweat from Maggie's brow, the team moves with intent precision. As precious time ticks away, CLOSE ON CLOCK. PULL BACK on Maggie. To Eddie:

MAGGIE

Trim back the tissue --

EDDIE

3 minutes --

MAGGIE

We're almost there --

EMILY

You're never gonna make it --

MAGGIE

Rotate the tube -- I'm gonna attach it to the ventricle --

As Maggie struggles to concentrate, Emily chimes in:

EMILY

And by the way -- I'm freezing my ass off over here --

MAGGIE

(to Emily)

Be quiet --

Eddie shoots Maggie a confused look.

EMILY

Pardon me -- but this is my life we're talking about --

MAGGIE

Shut your mouth --

EMILY

Screw you --

MAGGIE

(fed up, exploding)

I said shut the hell up!

The room freezes. Lerner stares down, concerned. Maggie takes a beat, then finishes the graft. Quietly:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Hit the pumps. Warm her up.

INT. MMC - HALLWAY OUTSIDE O.R. - MINUTES LATER

Exhausted, Maggie sits against the wall. Lerner approaches.

MAGGIE

Those were medical exigencies. I played it by the book --

LERNER

I particularly liked the exigency where you screamed at your unconscious patient --

MAGGIE

You want to come after me? You'll get a hell of a fight --

LERNER

Actually, I came to say -- win or lose -- that was some of the best cutting I've ever seen.

Maggie smiles, grateful. After a beat:

MAGGIE

So what'd you really say to the Board to get me reinstated?

LERNER

Told 'em you had their home addresses --
(off Maggie's look)
-- and that while God decides when it's your time to die -- around here -- he's gotta go through you.

INT. MMC - O.R. - DAY

Maggie walks to the table. Eddie points to the EEG.

EDDIE

We got brain waves.

MAGGIE

That's only half the battle. Take her off bypass --

Everyone stares at Emily's chest. As the pumps stop, her beating heart slows down. Then stops.

EDDIE

Wanna shock her?

MAGGIE

Give it a sec. C'mon, Emily --

Several long, excruciating beats -- then slowly, inexorably, the heart comes back to life. Eddie and Maggie bump fists.

EDDIE

Kid just got a second chance.

MAGGIE

I know the feeling --

INT. MMC - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU) - HALLWAY

Maggie, in civies, heads out. Elliot approaches.

ELLIOT

The conquering hero returns.

MAGGIE

This whole rivalry thing is so unnecessary. And we can move past it as soon as you embrace the fact that I'm better than you. I have.

ELLIOT

Your patient went down in flames -- and you put out the fire. Problem is -- you lit the match.

(beat)

You're reckless. And today you got lucky. It's just a matter of time till your luck runs out --

Elliot walks away. Maggie absorbs this indictment for a beat, knows there's truth in it. Patrick Ransom approaches.

PATRICK

Dr. Hill?

(beat)

I don't know what to say...

He embraces Maggie. She's uncomfortable at first. But as he holds on, weeping, she puts her arms around him. On Maggie -- allowing her professional distance to fall away --

EXT. MMC - LATE DAY - MINUTES LATER

Maggie exits, runs into Ben on his way in.

BEN

Heard you saved the Ransom girl.

MAGGIE
Caught a few breaks --

BEN
Nice work --

MAGGIE
(as he goes)
Ben?
(he turns back)
Don't give up on me.

BEN
(beat, smiles)
Couldn't if I wanted to.

As Ben heads inside, Maggie spots Anna Peck seated at a sidewalk cafe, staring right at her. Maggie approaches:

MAGGIE
Shouldn't you be hard at work
reinventing the human race?

ANNA PECK
I can't do it alone.

Maggie takes a long beat -- a moment of decision.

MAGGIE
I keep my day job. And no one
finds out I'm working with you.

ANNA PECK
Done. One caveat. When you create
a new paradigm -- the old rules
don't apply. Radical challenges
require radical solutions. I need
to know you can live with that.

Peck puts out her hand. Beat. A conflicted Maggie takes it.

ANNA PECK (CONT'D)
Welcome aboard.

INT. MAGGIE AND CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 8

Maggie and Caroline watch "A Beautiful Mind."

CAROLINE
Even in old-guy make-up -- Russell
Crowe's totally do-able.

MAGGIE
You need a boyfriend.

CAROLINE
 Tell me about it.
 (beat)
 How'd you know it was starting?

MAGGIE
 What?
 (off her look, gets it)
 Oh. Well... it was subtle at
 first. Random sounds. Why?

CAROLINE
 Dad. Then you. I could be next.

MAGGIE
 No way.

CAROLINE
 Why not?

MAGGIE
 Because I'm your big sister and I
 said so.

CAROLINE
 You used to be my hero because you
 could save lives with your bare
 hands. I was in awe --
 (beat)
 Then I saw you on your bed that
 night, lost in your own world --

MAGGIE
 Sorry I let you down.

CAROLINE
 (smiles)
 Now you're my hero for just getting
 up in the morning --

As Maggie hugs her sister --

INT. MAGGIE AND CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - MAGGIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maggie, ready for bed, stares into the mirror. A tablet of Zyprexa sits on the night table. As she reaches for it, she feels a hand on her shoulder. She turns:

It's Terrence. A long beat. This is dangerous. But love always is. She goes to him. On their passionate embrace --

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW