

OFF THE MAP

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SHONDALAND

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OFF THE MAP

"Pilot Episode"

ACT ONE

EXT. SOUTH AMERICAN AIRPORT - DAY

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON LILY, twenties, pretty, a bit of an underdog but fights against it. Her outlook is positive, determined, but there's something haunted behind her eyes. She surveys the scene, then breaks into a smile.

LILY

Perfect.

And then we SEE what she sees - this outdoor "airport" is an overgrown field where a few LOCALS wait for charter flights into the jungle. In front of Lily is a SMALL, RICKETY PLANE. It's third world and foreign - not the locale that would excite most girls, but Lily's not most girls.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Going to the clinic?

Lily turns to find MEENA dragging her bags over. Twenties, sexy, Indian-American, grew up extremely poor but you'd never know it. She's unapologetically arrogant, talks a really good game - her only sign of weakness is an asthma inhaler.

MEENA

Figured with the whole... 'George of the Jungle' look you're rocking there.

We SEE that Lily's indeed decked out in jungle safari gear one buys at a mall. Lily nods, proud of the ensemble.

LILY

I like to be prepared.

MEENA

Clearly, fashion be damned. You a doctor?

LILY

Internal medicine, first year.

MEENA

And you're already leaving residency for field work?

LILY

The world needs more doctors in global health and I...needed a change.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDWEST GRAVEYARD - QUICK FLASHBACK

Snow. Cold. We're CLOSE ON LILY'S FACE again. We HEAR --

MINISTER (O.S.)

God giveth and He taketh away, but
when He takes a young person, a life
so promising...it changes us forever.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL we're at a funeral. Mourners in black, a lot of YOUNG ONES. Lily stares straight ahead, emotionally drained, just...numb. Clearly changed forever. And we...

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. SOUTH AMERICAN AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

MEENA

I'm Meena. Mital.

LILY

Lily Brenner.

Meena takes a HIT OFF HER INHALER as A GUY with new Tumi luggage approaches. Thirties, good looking, slick. This is MANNY SILVA. He's caught sight of the plane and isn't happy.

MANNY

This is our ride? Uh-uh. Not okay.

LILY

We're gonna be fine. Planes are
much safer than cars -

MANNY

Except that's not a plane, it's an
aluminum can with wings!

MEENA

Have we met? You look familiar.

MANNY

Manny Silva, M.D. Did I do your
boobs?

(Off Meena's look)

Nah, I don't mess with perfection.
We probably just knocked it.

MEENA

The thought of that is even more revolting than the boob job.

MANNY

Give it time. Out in the jungle, it's all hot and sticky -

LILY

Hey, guess that's not our plane after all.

Meena and Manny turn to see the rickety plane moving off to the field for take off. Manny breathes a sigh of relief.

MANNY

Oh thank you, Jesus.

MEENA

So which one's ours?

There's one plane left on the field - an even smaller, FOUR-SEATER death trap. Makes the first plane look like a 747. As they all realize what they're in for...

MANNY (PRE-LAP)

Oh man, I think I'm gonna --

INT. PROP PLANE - IN THE AIR - DAY

BLEGH! Lily and Meena sit on either side of Manny, who's down out of frame, puking his guts out. If it weren't for the vomiting, they'd all be enjoying the spectacular view - mountains, jungle, ocean, paradise. A miserable Manny rises into frame for a moment, wipes his brow, then drops out of frame again. Lily turns to Meena, trying to ignore Manny.

LILY

So what kind of doctor did you say you were?

MEENA

Infectious disease. I was at St. Mary's in Manhattan.

LILY

Was?

MEENA

How many cases of ebola have you seen in New York City?

(MORE)

MEENA (CONT'D)
 Whatever, I'm over the whole hospital
 hierarchy thing. Too many rules.

CUT TO:

INT. NY HOSPITAL - FLASHBACK

Meena comes out of the locker room, her belongings in a box.
 A SECURITY GUARD waits to escort her.

MEENA
 A little dramatic, don't you think?

SECURITY GUARD
 I'm sorry, M. Hospital protocol.

They begin the long walk of shame down the hall. Around her,
 various RESIDENTS and NURSES stare and whisper. They pass
 the CHIEF OF THE HOSPITAL at a Nurses' Station.

MEENA
 Sir...

CHIEF
 (doesn't look up)
 Leave your badge.

Meena looks at him, stung. Then rips it off her lab coat,
 drops it in front of him. And keeps walking.

CUT TO:

INT. EXT. TRUCK/BUMPY ROAD - NIGHT

Hours later, middle of the night. Our three doctors ride in
 the back of a pick-up truck driven by A LOCAL KID THAT CAN'T
 BE OLDER THAN 13, wise beyond his years, much of that wisdom
 gleaned from American t.v. Torrential rain beats down.

MANNY
 Hey, what's the driving age here?

KID
 Don't worry, I work for the clinic.

MANNY
 That's not what I asked.
 (beat, then)
 I think there's vomit in my sock.

MEENA

At least you don't have bug bites
between your ass cheeks. How do
they even get up there?

LILY

What did you expect? We're in the
rain forest. Being a little tired
and itchy...there are worse things.

Manny and Meena stare at her for a beat with dull eyes, then -

MEENA

I need a nap.

MANNY

This doesn't look like the website.
Didn't they promise us beaches?

LILY

Did you come for a vacation?

MANNY

Of course not. I...came to make a
difference. For the children.

CUT TO:

INT. FANCY PLASTIC SURGEON'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK

Decked out with the latest modern gadgets, impressive fish
tanks, etc. Manny is arguing with an IMPORTANT LOOKING MAN.

MANNY

That's ridiculous! I've never done
anything to embarrass you guys.

The Important Man flips over A NY POST. ON THE BACK A LARGE
FULL PAGE AD WITH MANNY'S SMILING FACE. IT READS: ***It's
Breastcember! Free liposuction with the purchase of breast
enhancements. Visit Plastic Surgeon Dr. Manny Silva, "M.DD".***

MANNY (CONT'D)

It's the economy.
(then, desperate)
You can't do this to me, I have an
image to protect -

IMPORTANT MAN

Forget your image - you took an oath.

CUT TO:

INT. BUMPY ROAD - DAWN

It's stopped raining and we're SEEING A GLORIOUS SUNRISE over the breathtaking jungle. Huge orchids grow at the edge of the foliage, brightly colored birds chirp.

KID

Doctors, welcome to "Cruz Del Sur",
the city of 'the Southern Cross'.

We REALIZE the bumpy ROAD has taken us into THE TOWN OF "CRUZ DEL SUR". It's quaint - colorful stucco restaurants, bars, a couple small hotels, women selling crafts on the street. It's also the town that all tourists going on jungle tours have to PASS THROUGH, evidenced by the billboards and signs all offering different "Jungle Adventures."

KID (CONT'D)

And La Cruz Del Sur hospital.

At the end of the town's main drag, bordering the jungle is our small brick hospital, easily the nicest building in town. Lily, Manny and Meena spot a LONG LINE of PEOPLE - a mix of LOCALS, EX-PATS, ETC. coming out the front doors.

LILY

What are all those people waiting
for?

KID

(amused)
You.

Off Manny, Meena and Lily, suddenly jolted alert...

INT. CLINIC - WAITING/INTAKE AREA - MORNING

It's not your average American E.R. - there are about 20 patients to every staffer and it's total chaos. The Kid leads a wide-eyed Lily, Manny and Meena past STAFFERS and PATIENTS speaking a mix of Spanish and English to --

INT./EXT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A DOCTOR IN HIS THIRTIES, BEN HANLEY. Ben is handsome, badass and charismatic and right now perturbed - cause he's trying figure out how to extract AN ENORMOUS, STILL WRIGGLING STING RAY from a BIG AUSSIE SURFER GUY'S LEG. Assisting him is DR. OTIS ABBOT, a brilliant E.R. doc. He enjoys being brilliant, the ladies, and a good dirty joke.

BEN

I need you to stay still --

AUSSIE SURFER
 You stay still when there's a FISH
 INSIDE YOUR BODY! I NEED DRUGS!

Lily recognizes Ben, grins. She nudges Meena and Manny.

LILY
 That's him. That's Ben Hanley.

AUSSIE SURFER
 What kind of crazy ass witch-doctor
 doesn't have drugs!?

OTIS
 The kind that survives on donations.
 There's a box on your way out.

BEN
 We're just gonna have to do this the
 old fashioned way, okay?

AUSSIE SURFER
 Fine. Just get it out!

Ben takes hold of the stinger. The Surfer freaks from pain.

AUSSIE SURFER (CONT'D)
 NO NO NO LEAVE IT IN LEAVE IT IN!

Otis sighs in annoyance, spots The Kid with the new doctors.

OTIS
 Charlie, do I look like I have time?

CHARLIE
 I'll bring 'em back later, Dr. Abbot.

OTIS
 Nah, they'll just mildew.
 (to the Doctors)
 Don't just stand there. Get in here.

Lily, Manny and Meena drop their bags and move in.

OTIS (CONT'D)
 Hold his shoulders, brace the leg.

AUSSIE SURFER
 NO! Get off me, you assho - hey,
 get the hell away from me -

The Surfer struggles as Lily and Meena each grab an arm,
 Manny crouches down next to Ben, braces the leg.

BEN

Okay. On one, on two --

Suddenly, the Aussie Surfer flails an arm, KNOCKING LILY violently BACK against the wall. BEN AND OTIS EXCHANGE A LOOK, THEN - Otis taps the Surfer's shoulder, POINTS AT BEN.

OTIS

Hey, look at that.

The set up works perfectly - AUSSIE SURFER TURNS DIRECTLY TO BEN AT THE EXACT MOMENT BEN PUNCHES HIM SQUARE IN THE FACE, STUNNING HIM SILENT, MAKING HIM FORGET ALL ABOUT HIS LEG.

BEN

Sorry, mate.

AND THEN BEN USES THE SURFER'S SHOCK TO DEFTLY TWIST AND PULL THE STINGER OUT. Blood sprays everywhere.

AUSSIE SURFER

Aaaauuuugghhhhhh!!!!

Ben rises, unfazed, holding the stingray, smiles charmingly.

BEN

Welcome, doctors. You can start by stitching him up. And you...

Ben tosses the WRIGGLING STINGRAY to the Surfer --

BEN (CONT'D)

Put this back where you found it.

Off Lily, taking it all in, ready for the challenge, we...

FADE TO TITLE CARD.

INT. CLINIC - DAY

Our blood-splattered newbies follow Ben through the clinic.

BEN

We're the only medical center within three hundred miles which means we're slammed all the time. We've got eight procedure rooms, two surgical suites -

MEENA

There's no scrub room. How do you keep it sterile?

BEN

When you got a guy bitten by a ten foot fer-de-lance, you get the venom out - you worry about infection later.

(laughs at their faces)

Welcome to the jungle, doctors. We got fun and games and "clean enough". We don't got sterile.

Ben keeps walking, they follow, trying to digest this.

INT. CLINIC - MED SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

They enter. MEDICAL SUPPLIES and VIALS OF DRUGS, SOME RECOGNIZABLY WESTERN, SOME IN WEIRD LOOKING PURE RAINFOREST FORM, line the shelves. Our doctors begin exploring.

BEN

Our technologies are limited, but that doesn't mean our options are. We're in the middle of the greatest medical resource on earth - the tropical rainforest. Almost every medicine they use in modern hospitals comes from our backyard.

MANNY

(stunned, re: a vial)
Lidocaine?

BEN

Local anesthetic. Comes from the coca plant. Where'd you go to med school again?

MANNY

I know what it is, I just stitched up an eight inch puncture wound, the guy was in excruciating pain and you --

BEN

Said there's no drugs - and there's not - not for puncture wounds. We have anesthesia for one out of ten patients - we don't use it for anything less than major surgery.

As they try to grasp all of this...

BEN (CONT'D)

Forget what you saw in med school, residency - practicing tropical medicine in a third world country is
(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

a different game. The diseases they told you were "cured"? TB, malaria, leprosy...they're not. The diagnoses they told you *have to be made* by million dollar machines, the diseases they told you *have to be treated* with big pharma drugs, they don't. You guys just got out of a time machine - it's 1952. You don't have high tech, you have your brain and your instincts. You're gonna have to get creative, innovate. Do that, and I think you'll find practicing medicine here very rewarding.

They all look inspired by this, especially Lily. Ben turns to leave, passing Otis, who's chuckling in the doorway.

OTIS

A time machine? Now you went and got 'em all gooney-eyed.

BEN

Hey, this is our third rotation of doctors in eight months. I'm pulling out all the stops. We don't have great surf like Costa Rica.

Ben shakes his head, leaves. Otis approaches our doctors.

OTIS

You all speak Spanish?

MEENA/LILY

French. / French.

MANNY

German...and a little French.

OTIS

When in doubt, hand out ibuprofen.

Otis turns to leave. Meena, Lily and Manny exchange a look, like, *that's all the instruction we get?*

MANNY

Uh - Dr. Abbot, you can't expect us to just jump in and work now. We've been traveling for over thirty hours.

OTIS

You're my plastics guy, right?

EXT. CLINIC - DAY

Manny exits, sees Charlie waiting for him in the truck.

CHARLIE

Getting stuck with a house call on your first day. What'd you do to piss off Abbot?

MANNY

Charlie, right? Could you just tell me how I get to the village of...um...

Manny tries to read something off a PIECE OF PAPER. Then gives up and just shows it to Charlie.

CHARLIE

Climb in. I'll take you.

MANNY

Abbot said his patient has virulent TB, I'm not gonna expose you.

CHARLIE

How are you going to talk to the patient? I'm a translator.

MANNY

How *old* are you?

CHARLIE

Trece.

(off Manny's stare)

If you don't know what that means, you need me.

Manny relents. As he climbs into the passenger seat...

INT. CLINIC - BREAKROOM - DAY

A makeshift breakroom/locker room. Meena and Lily are changing out of their blood splattered clothes into clean ones. THROUGH a WINDOW, they can see BEN'S SMALL OFFICE where Ben's ALSO CHANGING OUT OF HIS BLOODY CLOTHES. Meena's openly staring. Lily notices, gives her a look.

MEENA

I'm technically a tourist here. Just taking a mental picture.

Lily joins Meena at the glass window, where Ben's now pulling off his shirt. Lily too, gapes for a moment.

LILY

He does have quite a... career.

Meena snorts, Lily rips her eyes away, embarrassed.

LILY (CONT'D)

I'm serious. He was the youngest chief of surgery ever at UCLA, pioneered the fusion spine technique - he was a *star* and then he gave it all up to build this place from nothing. To help people.

MEENA

Does he also enjoy walks on the beach in the rain?

LILY

I'm not stalking him. I've just always wanted to meet him.

MEENA

Most doctors I know hate the guy. They all wanted to be him, and then out of nowhere he dumps his wife, craps all over the American medical field and takes off for the jungle to drink *cerveza*, give a few malaria shots and feel like Mother Theresa.

LILY

What? That is not -- no!

Meena shrugs, exits. Lily follows her to -

INT. CLINIC - WAITING/INTAKE AREA - DAY

Where it's still FULL OF PATIENTS waiting.

LILY

He's a humanitarian. There aren't many left.

MEENA

Because there's no point. You got a cure for poverty? Besides, if I wanted to help poor people, I grew up with enough of them, I didn't have to go halfway around the world.

Lily stares at her, shocked by her harshness.

LILY

Then why are you here?

MEENA

It's places like these where all the big diseases start - hantavirus, parasites that eat your brain...you discover one of those, that's how you help people. Ten thousand lives saved, boom.

(snaps her fingers)

Hanley can spend the next thirty years handing out aspirin to village hicks, he'll never get that number.

LILY

Wow. You're kind of a...

MEENA

Bitch? Descended from a long line.

LILY

I was gonna say toughie, but...

ZITA (ZEE), a LOCAL nurse in her twenties who's seen it all and is already over it, approaches with INTAKE FILES.

ZEE

You the new ones?

MEENA

We're the Americans.

ZEE

(rolls her eyes)

Oh goody, saved by the *great white hope*.

(then)

I have forty intakes in the lobby waiting to be seen, twenty more standing in line outside and another twenty waiting in a bus. Better get started before it gets busy.

LILY

Before?

Zee reads from the file at the top of the pile.

ZEE

Forty-five year old male, stiffness, tingling and redness in the arm -

MEENA

Could be a parasite, I'll take it.

Meena grabs the chart and takes off. Zee starts to hand Lily another chart when suddenly A LOCAL MAN bursts in, upset --

LOCAL MAN
(accented English)
There's been a car accident.

EXT. CLINIC - DAY

The Local Man, Lily and Zee rush out to find a YOUNG AMERICAN WOMAN, twenties, hippie type, getting out of the Man's car. She's knocked up, arm bleeding, a little bruised.

LILY
Can you tell me your name?

ANNIE
Annie Fisher. Don't worry about me, our taxi driver got the worst of it.

And we SUDDENLY NOTICE that Annie's not the only one hurt - there's a TAXI DRIVER in the back of the car, looking CUT UP AND BLOODY, moaning a little. Ben and Otis rush out.

BEN
What happened?

ZEE
Car accident. Two injured -

ANNIE
My husband - he's still in the car, we couldn't move him. His leg looked like it was broken.

ZEE
- One still at the scene.

As Ben rushes to get the Taxi Driver out of the car...

LOCAL MAN
I'll go back for him now, it's at least a six hour drive, the roads are flooded, driving's impossible --

OTIS
You're taking a rescue team with you.
(re: TAXI DRIVER)
Ribcage is cracked, lung could be punctured.

BEN
Let's get him inside.

Lily suddenly NOTICES ANNIE IS PREGNANT.

LILY
How far along are you?

ANNIE
Seven months.

LILY
(to Zee)
I'm gonna need a gurney.

ZEE
(rolls up her sleeves)
You're looking at it.

So Lily rolls up her sleeves too and they start practically carrying Annie into the clinic. Off Lily, determined to succeed here...

EXT. BUMPY ROAD - DAY

Manny and Charlie have been driving for a few hours now, the mid-morning sun beating down on them. Manny wipes his brow.

MANNY
So what kind of nightlife do you guys have around here? Where do you go to...y'know, meet the ladies?
(off Charlie's look)
Yeah, you're probably too young for that. We've been driving for hours. How much further is this village?

CHARLIE
We're done driving.

MANNY
Oh. Great.

Charlie suddenly stops the truck. The road has BEEN WASHED AWAY - there's only tall grass and thick jungle foliage ahead.

CHARLIE
Now we start walking.

Off a less than thrilled Manny as Charlie hops out...

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Meena examines a local, middle-aged FARMER complaining of limb stiffness. The Farmer's holding his right arm, speaking lightning fast Spanish and Meena can't understand a word.

MEENA

Uh-uh, uh-uh. Have you been in close contact with sand flies? Drunk from a fresh water lake?

The Farmer stares blankly at her. Meena pulls on gloves.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Sir, I want to rule out a few communicable diseases so I have to do a full work-up. I'll need you to take off all your clothes. Y'know, strip. Naked. Drop trou.

The Farmer looks alarmed, as Meena pantomimes stripping...

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Charlie leads Manny through a jungle path, dodging thick foliage. A frustrated Manny struggles to keep up while not ruining his expensive boots in the deep puddles of mud.

MANNY

But you only know the stereotype. Good plastic surgery, it's an art.

CHARLIE

You're an artist.

MANNY

Well, yeah.

CHARLIE

Like Picasso. He did many nose jobs.

MANNY

Funny. You're funny. Look, it's not just boobs and butts. Plastic surgery is beautiful, transformative. Makes people feel better.

CHARLIE

Why do people have to feel better if they're not sick in the first place?

Beat. Manny doesn't have an answer for this one.

MANNY

Could you slow down? These are Armani hiking boots!

Charlie turns around, sees Manny gingerly trying to step around a MUD PUDDLE. Charlie REACHES DOWN, SCOOPS UP A BIG HANDFUL OF GUNKY WET MUD, DROPS IT SMACK DAB ON THE SHOES.

CHARLIE

Now you can keep up.

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Lily finishes STITCHING THE LACERATIONS ON Annie's ARM.

LILY

Just a few stitches, not bad at all.
When was your last pre-natal exam?

ANNIE

Maybe five months ago? My husband
tried to ship me home, he wants me
to have the baby in the States but I
hate the whole hospital scene. I'd
rather pop a squat in the jungle...

Lily smiles, moves to give Annie a gyno exam.

LILY

What do you guys do out here?

ANNIE

Peace Corp. I teach, Alejandro -
Ali, he's an engineer. I mean, you
spend years online dating, being
matched up with men "like you" -
same upbringing, same nationality,
nothing. Then you go halfway around
the world...he even sings Brazilian
lullabies when I can't sleep. It's
so gross. You married?

LILY

I...no. Not...anymore.

ANNIE

Sorry, I'm nosy. But it's a great
place to start over. Start fresh.

LILY

(beat)

Good. That's good.

(then, finishing)

I'll have Dr. Hanley take a look to
be safe, but everything looks okay.

ANNIE

Good. 'Cause being beat up and
pregnant with my man stranded on the
side of the road... I'm trying really
hard not to freak out.

LILY

I know it's not Mayo, but you're
both in really good hands here.

Annie smiles gratefully and Lily exits.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

Charlie and a dusty Manny arrive at a village, made of
rudimentary SHACKS with corrugated aluminum roofs.

CHARLIE

The patient Dr. Abbot was treating
lives here.

Charlie pulls out a MASK and GLOVES. They mask up.

INT. SMALL VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

They enter the one room house. Minimally furnished, handmade
appliances, etc. Around the room are clearly marked separate
'living areas' - beds, living room, with two WEAK, SICK
CHILDREN and their FATHER listlessly resting.

MANNY

Oh crap.

Manny rushes to the children, starts examining them. Charlie
TRANSLATES the following to the Father while Manny speaks.

MANNY (CONT'D)

They're all sick...which one was
Abbot treating?

Charlie translates, points to a cot. A SHEET covers a body.

CHARLIE

That one over there. His wife.

Manny pulls down a corner of the sheet to reveal - a YOUNG
WOMAN, DEAD. And been that way for awhile. Off Manny, we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SMALL VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

The BODY of the wife has been covered back up. Manny is medcallying one of the kids while he has a heated argument (through Charlie) with the Father. Manny is angry and so is the Father. Everybody's talking over one another in a cacophony of English and Spanish.

CHARLIE

He's saying he doesn't want drugs -

MANNY

Tell him his entire family has late-stage tuberculosis, it's a bacterial infection, it needs to be treated --

CHARLIE

He's saying he doesn't want drugs.
Not for him, not for the children --

The CHILD Manny is medcallying COUGHS SOME BLOOD on the pillow. Manny wipes it away, puts a damp cloth on the poor kid's forehead. It's hard to look at and Manny's enraged.

MANNY

These kids *are dying!* Of a highly treatable disease! And the only way to reverse the disease, the only way to *save his children's lives* --

CHARLIE

He's saying the medicine from Dr. Abbott is what killed his wife.

MANNY

That doesn't make sense!

CHARLIE

He's saying it, not me.

MANNY

Okay, just -- tell him antibiotics, these drugs, they take time to work --

CHARLIE

He says they made his wife worse. So he made her stop the medicine, and start taking a medicinal tea ---

MANNY

THEN IT'S HIS DAMN FAULT SHE'S DEAD!

And it just sits there. Awful. Ugly.

CHARLIE

I'm not gonna say that.

Beat. Manny stares at the shivering child for a long moment, then pulls up the thin sheet covering her and stands up.

MANNY

Then I've done everything I can do.

Manny starts angrily packing up. Charlie speaks quietly.

CHARLIE

What about the body?

MANNY

What about it?

CHARLIE

We can't just leave it here. It's a health hazard.

MANNY

So is treating TB with jungle tea.
(off Charlie's look)
Where's the nearest morgue type place?

CHARLIE

300 kilometers.

MANNY

What about some kind of funeral home?

CHARLIE

Right next to the morgue.

Off Manny, realizing it's all on him...

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Otis, Ben and Zee expertly medical the Taxi Driver.

OTIS

Breath sounds are steady, I don't see signs of internal bleeding -

BEN

We get tagaderm in yet?
(Zee shakes her head)
Throw me the duct tape then.

As Ben begins to dress the Taxi Driver's wounds with duct -

OTIS

What's your take on the new shipment?

BEN

Little soon to tell, don't you think?

OTIS

I got good instincts about people.

BEN

No, you just don't like people.
There's a difference.

OTIS

Know what I don't like? These kids come here for a few months, green as grass, they could give a crap about the work, they're just padding their resume with a little third world do-gooding so they can go back to their big careers and sleep soundly for the next thirty years.

BEN

So let 'em. All I need is one. If this work becomes a passion for even one doctor, I can live with that.

They work in silence for a beat, then -

ZEE

Hundred pesos says they're all gone by the end of the week.

OTIS

I'll get on that.

They laugh, Ben shakes his head, smiling.

OTIS (CONT'D)

We done here? I think I saw one of the rookies trying to cavity search a patient.

The Taxi Driver moans, slipping in and out of consciousness.

BEN

Don't worry, your cavities are safe.

Ben and Zee finish up as Otis exits to...

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

- Where he interrupts Meena now doing a medical on the same Farmer from earlier. He's in a gown, traumatized.

OTIS

Dr. Mital. What are you doing?

MEENA

He presented with limb stiffness and numbness. I did a full body check for lesions - I don't want to alarm you but I haven't been able to rule out worm induced lymphatic filariasis or worst case, hemorrhagic fever.

Otis takes this in for a moment, then turns to the Farmer and says something rapidfire fast in Spanish. The Farmer says something back. Otis nods, then pulls out a packet of IBUPROFEN from a drawer, hands them to the Farmer. He nods gratefully, begins hurriedly pulling his clothes back on, eager to escape. Otis turns back to Meena.

OTIS

Very thorough, doctor. But sometimes it's not hemorrhagic fever, it's just good old-fashioned tennis elbow.

MEENA

That's highly unlikely. We're in one of the biggest hot zones for infectious disease. How would someone get tennis elbow? From using a machete or something?

OTIS

Or from playing tennis.

Otis heads out, amused. Off Meena, irritated...

INT. CLINIC - BEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Lily hovers in the doorway, working up the courage to interrupt Ben, who's pulling off gloves, washing his hands.

LILY

Do you have a second to check on my patient? The baby's stable, but she's pretty worried.

BEN

You're the internist.

LILY

Lily Brenner. And I am honored to be working for you, I've read all your papers and your book on poverty and global health twice -

BEN

I don't know how you got through it once, it's boring as hell.

LILY

Are you kidding - how you sold your house for medical supplies...you gave up your whole life to do this. It's such an inspiration.

Ben shakes his head, he hates the hero-worship stuff.

BEN

That's one way to look at it.

LILY

...What's the other one?

BEN

Just don't be so quick to model yourself after me --
(changing the subject)
You always wear your hair like that?

LILY

...What?

BEN

Your hair. You always keep it up?

LILY

No...I mean, I don't always...why?

Ben suddenly reaches over and PULLS OUT LILY'S LOOSE BUN. HER HAIR FALLS TO HER SHOULDERS. It's a sexy, intimate gesture and Lily is a little transfixed -- UNTIL SHE SEES A LARGE BUG SKITTERING DOWN HER SHOULDER TO HER ARM.

LILY (CONT'D)

AAH!

BEN

Wearing it up is like hanging a 'for rent' sign for every nesting insect in the jungle. Over a thousand species. I'd keep it down.

LILY
 (trying for nonchalant)
 Oh, cool, yeah. Thanks for the tip.

Ben goes. Lily shakes off her revulsion, follows him.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE HILLSIDE - DAY

ON THE BODY, WRAPPED IN A SHEET, NOW PLACED IN A SHALLOW GRAVE on a dirt-filled hillside. REVEAL Manny standing over it, sweating bullets from the heat and the sheer exertion of lugging around a dead body. Manny turns to Charlie.

MANNY
 Maybe you should say something.

CHARLIE
 Like what?

MANNY
 I don't know. Something in Spanish.
 Like a...tribal prayer or something.

CHARLIE
 I'm not in a tribe.

MANNY
 Look, I'm... I'm asking for a little
 help here. Okay? I don't...I'm a
 doctor, not an undertaker.

CHARLIE
 I'm a translator.

Beat. Manny takes a deep breath, takes one expensive Italian shoe, shoe-shovels a clump of dirt onto the dead body, mutters -

MANNY
 Our father who art in heaven...

It's dark and grim. As another clump of dirt goes flying...

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Meena now examines the lymph nodes of an OLD LOCAL WOMAN, 90s, who doesn't speak a lick of English.

MEENA
 You don't have lymph node involvement,
 so I'm gonna guess trypanosomiasis
 is out...I don't see signs of
 parasitic activity...
 (beat, then)
 Don't tell me you play tennis.

The Old Woman stares back at her blankly. Meena sighs.

MEENA (CONT'D)
It's just a cold. A common, boring,
easily-treatable cold.

INT. CLINIC - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Meena walks the Old Woman out, trying to talk to her with her iPhone's Spanish/English Dictionary App.

MEENA
(in terrible Spanglish)
Make certain...watch. If make...fever
return to...here for visitation.

As Meena hands the Old Woman a BOTTLE OF IBUPROFEN, she catches Otis passing by, amused by her terrible Spanish.

OTIS
Look alive, doc. Around noon we get
our "ebola rush."

MEENA
Oh, ha ha. Hilarious.

Meena glares at Otis as he enters a nearby exam room. She turns to go, passes Otis' exam room, sees --

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

OTIS PREPPING A NEEDLE, THEN GIVING IT TO A DISHEVELED LOOKING EX-PAT GUY. THE EX-PAT'S GOT A TUBE TIED AROUND HIS ARM, SHOOTS HIMSELF UP WITH THE NEEDLE. The Ex-Pat leans back, takes a deep breath and closes his eyes in relief. Meena stares - it looks like Otis just gave the guy a drug fix.

EX-PAT
Thanks, buddy. You're a lifesaver.

OTIS
Anytime you need it, I'm here.

Off Meena, not knowing what to make of this...

INT. CLINIC - ANNIE'S EXAM ROOM - DAY

Ben and Lily enter to find Zee medicalling Annie, who's HEMORRHAGING badly. Ben and Lily rush over.

ZEE
She just started hemorrhaging, I
heard her down the hall.

ANNIE

Oh god, it hurts...what happening!?

BEN

It could be delayed trauma from the accident, we're gonna do an ultrasound and find out.

Ben pulls Lily aside, as he pulls on gloves.

BEN (CONT'D)

When you gave her an exam, did you use a curved speculum?

(off Lily's nod)

You might have detached her placenta. I need you to run and get gauze and vicryl...as much as you can carry.

Lily's stunned, wants to ask questions, but Ben's already turned back to Annie. So Lily runs.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Manny follows Charlie as he leads the way back to the truck through thick brush. They walk in silence for a long beat.

CHARLIE

I was just giving you a hard time before. I get it. Plastic surgery.

MANNY

Yeah?

CHARLIE

Makes people feel good. That's something.

Off Manny, angry at that father, angry at himself...

INT. CLINIC - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Meena walks in, is about to pick up another CHART, when she SPOTS - the OLD WOMAN. Sitting in a chair, just...waiting.

MEENA

You're still here? We're all done.

Silence.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Look, you're perfectly fine. It's just a little chest congestion. You can go home now.

But the Old Woman doesn't move. Meena sighs, frustrated.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Or don't. But I have other patients.
With other... pedestrian ailments.

Meena heads back towards the Intake charts - where she almost bangs into Lily who is racing to the cupboard for supplies.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Geez! Watch it!

LILY

Gauze! Where's the gauze?

As Meena helps her dig through the front cupboards...

MEENA

Guess what my epic discovery was today that will surely change the face of tropical medicine as we know it? Finding a piece of mango in a kid's nose. Or papaya, one of those. Digging fruit out of kid's orifices isn't exactly what I had in mind -

LILY

I punctured the placenta.

MEENA

What?

LILY

Of a pregnant woman! Whose husband is stranded somewhere in the jungle - like she didn't have enough to worry about...it's a rookie mistake, I should've known better.

MEENA

Well, yeah. But it's not always fatal.

Meena finds gauze, hands it to her. Lily stops, the realization hitting her.

LILY

Oh god, she's gonna die. She's gonna die and it's my fault...

Off Meena, as Lily grabs the gauze and rushes away...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CLINIC - ANNIE'S EXAM ROOM - EVENING

Ben's ultrasounding a panicked Annie, Lily's assisting. The hemorrhaging has stopped - for now.

ANNIE

Can you see anything? Is the baby --

BEN

Annie, you've got a placental abruption - the placenta has partially detached from your uterus, we need to deliver as soon as possible by c-section.

ANNIE

But my husband...if we can just wait for him to get here...

BEN

Annie -

ANNIE

I know I'm like this hardcore nature chick, but I'm...not super excited about being flayed open like a fish...I don't wanna do it alone...

BEN

If we wait too long there's a chance the baby could start losing oxygen.

Annie takes this in, scared, a few tears escape. Ben sighs.

BEN (CONT'D)

We can wait until dawn. If he's not here by then...

Annie nods, grateful. Ben leaves --

INT. CLINIC - OUTSIDE ANNIE'S ROOM - EVENING

A panicked Lily close on his heels.

LILY

Can't we airlift her out? If she could just get to a city hospital, they have the equipment --

BEN

The airlift's called in. There's bad weather in San Helena, they can't get here until tomorrow.

Lily nods, trying to hide how freaked she is. Ben sees it.

BEN (CONT'D)

You made a mistake. Have feelings about it later.

Lily nods again, turns to leave, passes Meena, who's got her bags, ready to go home for the night.

MEENA

So I guess there's some apartment upstairs we're sleeping in, probably a craphole, but I've got the key so -

But Lily doesn't answer, just keeps walking. Meena reacts, then runs after Ben, who's heading to his office.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Um, Dr. Hanley, I'm Meena Mital.

BEN

I know who you are. I hired you.

MEENA

Well, maybe you don't recall my resume - I'm an infectious disease *specialist*.

BEN

You're a resident, Dr. Mital.

MEENA

If you wanna be technical...look, I'm not hating on all the sick, poor people you got in here...but I've been dealing with that stuff all day and what I'm more interested in working with is pathogens, parasites, real communicable threats -

BEN

Most doctors who come down here find that simply connecting with people can be rewarding in itself.

MEENA

(mutters)

Shooting up junkies I could do at home.

BEN
What did you say?

MEENA
Nothing.

Meena turns to leave. Off Ben, suddenly disturbed...

EXT. CLINIC - NIGHT

Otis has a smoke outside, taking in the quiet beauty of the nighttime jungle, the symphony of sounds... Charlie and Manny pull up. Grimy and exhausted. Otis smiles.

OTIS
How was your field trip, Plastics?

MANNY
Your patient's dead.

Otis takes in this news, clearly stunned.

OTIS
I've had her on clavulanate for two weeks. Her counts were improving -

MANNY
And then her husband stopped the meds. The whole family's got TB now, he doesn't want anyone treated.

Manny pulls a SCRAP of PAPER out of his pocket - it's like a wrapper from the plane or something. Some writing on it.

MANNY (CONT'D)
I didn't know the exact procedure here, in terms of AMA's and stuff, so I just had the guy sign this.

Manny hands Otis the paper. He reads it aloud.

OTIS
"I am refusing treatment against medical advice."

MANNY
So at least you're covered legally.

OTIS
This is a joke, right?

MANNY
It's a little makeshift but I think it'll do.

OTIS

I mean you. Being a doctor. It's gotta be a joke.

MANNY

Hey - you don't even know me --

OTIS

Really? I don't? You drive a BMW, maybe a Lexus. You screw all your patients, the pretty ones between the sheets, the rest on procedures that don't make 'em look a minute younger, just less human. Your practice is what, eighty percent covering your own ass and twenty percent medicine? Ninety, ten? That's not how it works here. It's not about how much cash you can score off a quick tit job, it's about helping people survive. Some of who got dealt a hell of a bad hand --

MANNY

This isn't my fault, she was *your* patient, she died on *your* watch -

Otis flinches, but won't let Manny see it affects him.

OTIS

I screwed up, that's on me. But today, all those children you left there, that's on you -

MANNY

So I should've forced drugs on them? What was I supposed to do?

OTIS

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ACT LIKE A DOCTOR. You're supposed to treat people.

Otis puts out his cigarette and gets close into Manny's face.

OTIS (CONT'D)

At first light tomorrow, you haul your ass back there. You save those people's lives. Every last one of them. Or don't bother coming back.

Off Manny, trying to resist the urge to punch him...

INT. CANTINA - LATE NIGHT

Right next to the clinic is a cute little hole in the wall cafe, which caters to tourists by day and locals at night. It's a great place to hang out - there's music, a TV always playing int'l soccer games and it's the only place in town with a working AIR CONDITIONER. Which is what Lily's sitting in front of when Meena enters.

MEENA

Some kids got a cage match going outside - scorpion vs. tarantula. I put money on the spider, more legs.

Meena pulls up a chair, sits. Looks at Lily's watch.

MEENA (CONT'D)

No wonder I can't sleep. It's like eight a.m. in New York. Hey, share the air.

Meena scootches her chair over so that the cool air is blowing on her too.

LILY

I read an article on this place a year ago - I was so excited to come here. I studied the latest on tropical diseases, I took a cultural sensitivity course, I even did an outward bound weekend so I could survive if I got lost in the jungle. I went camping with delinquent teens! And some of those girls were scary...

MEENA

Well, that was just stupid.

LILY

I wanted this to work. I thought... I could be different here.

Just then, Manny enters, pulls up a chair, pissed.

MANNY

I just lost a hundred pesos! Someone paid that scorpion to take a dive.

MEENA

Spider won? Sweet.

MANNY

(re: air conditioner)

Let me get some of that, it's hot as hell. Y'know what'd be nice right now? The BEACH they promised us. I bet it was Abbot. Guy's a douche. Calls me a bad doctor.

LILY

I was a bad doctor. That's why I left residency - I stopped caring. I was dragging myself through the day, forgetting patients, who they were, how to help them...I thought - I better stop before I kill somebody.

Lily laughs at the irony. Manny looks to Meena, confused.

MEENA

She maybe killed a pregnant woman today.

Lily's laughing harder, getting a little hysterical.

LILY

And her baby! Don't forget the baby...c'mon, it's a little funny - I travel 4000 miles to murder someone on the first day? I'm not a doctor, I'm an assassin!

Manny and Meena quietly wait for Lily to stop laughing. Slowly, she does. And then just looks so devastated. Beat.

MEENA

At St. Mary's, if you didn't graduate from Harvard or Hopkins they didn't give a crap about you. You never got on cases, I guess they figured you'd weed out eventually. So this resident in my class - she started moonlighting at Queens, picking up E.R. shifts. She was doing eight hours in Queens, twelve hours at St. Mary's...it was brutal but by the end of our first year, she was killing those Harvard kids in rounds.

(beat, then)

One day after a night of moonlighting, 72 hours without sleep, she was on the peds floor, dosing out morning meds.

(MORE)

MEENA (CONT'D)

She gave twelve kids the wrong medicine, three went into cardiac arrest, one died. Girl got herself kicked right out of residency.

A long beat as we (not Lily or Manny yet) realize why Meena was fired.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Killing someone doesn't make you a bad doctor. It just makes you a doctor.

As the three sit in silence, taking this in...

EXT. JUNGLE - DAWN - ESTABLISHING (DAY 2)

The sun rises over the jungle. Another gorgeous day in paradise.

EXT. CLINIC - DAWN (DAY 2)

Yawning, Manny stumbles outside, finds Charlie again waiting for him. He stops, suddenly awake.

MANNY

You knew we'd be going back.

CHARLIE

I just --

MANNY

Translate. I know.

And they take off.

INT. CLINIC - BEN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Ben and Otis talk quietly but heatedly.

BEN

I want to know what she meant.

OTIS

How long is it gonna take for you to trust me? Another year, another five?

(shakes his head)

You don't get it, you've never done anything wrong in your life, you're goddamn Ghandi -

BEN
 (darkly)
 You know that's not true.

OTIS
 I screwed up. I let you down. But
 you never let me forget it.

Otis suddenly notices Lily standing in the doorway, her arms full of extra blood bags.

OTIS (CONT'D)
 I'll prep the O.R.

Otis pushes past Lily out the door. Ben looks at Lily.

BEN
 You got blood. Did you get any sleep?

LILY
 (shakes her head no,
 then)
 Annie's husband, is he...

BEN
 No word yet.
 (beat, then)
 C'mon, let's go deliver a baby.

INT. CLINIC - O.R. - DAY

Zee rushes around in the b.g., preparing for the C. Lily gets Annie settled on the table. Otis approaches.

OTIS
 Annie, I'm giving you a shot of
 epibatidine in your belly. It's an
 extremely diluted form of the venom
 of a frog we have down here -

ANNIE
 You're shooting me up with...frog?

OTIS
 The epibatidine is the closest thing
 we have to an anesthesia block.

LILY
 Like nature's epidural.

OTIS
 Not quite as effective, but yeah.

But Annie's panicking now. As Otis moves to inject her...

ANNIE

I can't believe Ali hasn't called
or...something's wrong. He should
be here by now.

LILY

There's no cell service and with the
roads flooded, they probably...

ANNIE

It's been *hours* and hours, Lily.
Even if they had to carry him and
walk, they'd be here - *something is*
wrong! I changed my mind, I don't
want to do this - I wanna wait 'til
we hear something -

LILY

Annie -

ANNIE

I can't do this without him...please,
just STOP! Get me out of here!

Ben's in the doorway. Hearing this, he calmly approaches.

BEN

The rescue team just radioed in,
they'll be here within the hour.
They had to stop for the night.

ANNIE

What about my husband, is he -

BEN

His leg is fractured in six places,
I'm guessing he's not the happiest
camper right now, but he'll be fine.

Lily and Annie both breathe a huge sigh of relief.

LILY

So Ali will be here just in time to
meet his new baby.

ANNIE

I am going to murder that man for
getting out of this.

LILY

Maybe let us cast his leg first.

ANNIE

Okay, but then murder.

Lily and Annie smile, connected. The O.R. resumes...

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

A sweaty, dusty Manny and Charlie arrive, once more, at the family's house. They glove and mask up once more.

CHARLIE

What's your plan?

MANNY

My plan? My plan is to...express
the dangers of refusing treatment.

CHARLIE

So pretty much what you did yesterday.
'Cause that worked.

MANNY

You're a little bully, you know that?
And they call us imperialists...

Manny pushes through the front door. As Charlie follows...

INT. CLINIC - SURGERY ROOM - DAY

Ben, Otis, Zee and Lily are in the middle of Annie's C-section. Tense. Quiet. Not a lot of beeping machines - things are being done by hand. Lily holds Annie's hand.

BEN

Cutting through the uterine wall -

OTIS

Placenta's holding steady. You're
gonna feel some pressure now, Annie.

ANNIE

Oh god...I can feel it pulling...

LILY

It's okay. It's gonna be okay.
(quiet, to Zee)
She can *feel it*. She needs more of
the epibatidine.

ZEE

It's a toxin, we can't give her more.

BEN

The placenta's in the way. Hang
another bag of blood, Zee.

OTIS
One more big pull, okay, Annie --

Annie SCREAMS IN PAIN as Otis and Ben lift the PREEMIE BABY OUT - it's way too blue, way too small, and way too quiet.

LILY
Annie, it's a girl.

ANNIE
Is she... Can I see her?

Otis hands the baby girl to Ben and Zee, who start breathing into her premature lungs with a MAKESHIFT VENTILATOR.

BEN
(quietly, to Zee)
Breath sounds shallow, pulse rapid...

ANNIE
What's wrong...why isn't she crying...

Annie's eyes start to roll back, she's passing out.

LILY
She's losing consciousness!

OTIS
The placenta's ruptured. She's hemorrhaging -- hang another bag --

LILY
This is the last one.

OTIS
She's going through it too fast.

LILY
Can we do FFP or autotransfuse -

OTIS
This isn't Mayo, we don't have it -

BEN
Switch from BA to O neg -

OTIS
I've only got a couple left.

Ben thinks fast, the pressure mounting. He makes a decision.

BEN
(to Zee, re: baby)
Keep her lungs open and bp stable.

Zee nods. Ben turns back to Otis, re: Annie.

BEN (CONT'D)
Switch from saline to LR, and make
this bag last as long as possible.
(to Lily)
You - come with me.

And Ben runs out. And Lily follows.

INT. CLINIC - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Meena walks a patient out, a YOUNG LOCAL WOMAN.

MEENA
Stay on the antibiotics, come back
if it doesn't heal, okay?

Meena turns to grab a CHART, sees the Old Woman there. Back,
again. Sitting in the same spot she was yesterday.

MEENA (CONT'D)
Oh for the love of God.

She crosses over to her, annoyed.

MEENA (CONT'D)
You're back? I told you it's just a
virus, there's nothing I can -

The Old Woman lifts her head and WE SEE SHE'S GASPING FOR
BREATH, HER FACE BLUE. She collapses on the floor. Meena
starts CPR, shouts to a LOCAL ND CLINIC STAFFER NEARBY.

MEENA (CONT'D)
Crap! She's in anaphylaxis. Get me
epinephrine - an epi shot -

Meena mimes stabbing the epi in the leg. The Staffer runs...

MEENA (CONT'D)
AND DON'T TELL ME WE DON'T HAVE IT!

EXT. CLINIC - JUNGLE AREA - DAY

Ben's quickly pushing through the jungle foliage, skillfully
ducking leaves and branches. Lily struggles to keep up.

BEN
The milk from young, green coconuts
has an electrolyte balance close to
blood plasma - under a scope they're
identical. In World War Two, they
used it when they ran out of fluids.

LILY

But she's hemorrhaged so much already,
how's she gonna drink enough to -

BEN

She's not gonna drink it.

LILY

*You're gonna put coconut milk in her
veins!?*

BEN

We could go door to door for blood
donations but that'd take a while.

LILY

Won't it kill her?

BEN

She'll need a transfusion later but
it's our best shot to get her stable.
Don't worry, I've done this more
than any other guy down here.

They reach some TALL COCONUT TREES. Lily's flabbergasted.

LILY

You have? How many times?

BEN

Once.

LILY

Oh. Great.

BEN

Hope you played little league.

LILY

What? Why?

BEN

I throw, you catch.

And as Lily watches, stunned, BEN TAKES A FLYING LEAP UP AND
BEGINS TO CLIMB THE COCONUT TREE. AND WE...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CLINIC - JUNGLE AREA - DAY

Ben reaches the top of the tree - he's at least THIRTY FEET UP. Lily's on the ground, breathless, petrified.

BEN

You ready for this?

No. But Lily nods anyway, holds her arms out to catch it. Ben starts to drop it, hesitates, suddenly a little nervous.

BEN (CONT'D)

You can't miss, okay? You gotta catch it when I drop it.

LILY

I know. If it breaks, it's unsterile.

BEN

Yeah, that's one of the reasons.

LILY

What's the other?

BEN

If it hits you in the head from this height, you're pretty much dead.

LILY

Oh.

BEN

Okay, one...two...

And it's so tense, both Lily and Ben sweating it out...

BEN (CONT'D)

Three.

And Ben drops it, it WHOOSHES down...and against all odds, Lily CATCHES it. Ben breathes a huge sigh of relief.

LILY

Oh my god! I did it!

BEN

Good job. Let's go for another...

The SECOND ONE DROPS. Lily fumbles, BARELY catches this one. Ben winces. Lily laughs, giddy with adrenaline.

LILY
 Hey, I rock at this! I'm all like,
 Willie Mays basket catch --

Ben shakes his head, tries to hide a smile.

BEN
 Brenner.

LILY
 Yes?

BEN
 We have ten more to go. Keep it
 together.

As Lily's quickly nods...

INT. CLINIC - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Meena is still doing CPR on the Old Woman. A SMALL CROWD of PATIENTS and a few NURSES have gathered, watching her work.

MEENA
 C'mon, breathe...breathe...

The ND Staffer runs back with AN INJECTION, SPEAKING FAST IN SPANISH. Meena's panicking.

MEENA (CONT'D)
 I have no idea what you're saying,
 just give it to me!

And Meena YANKS UP THE OLD WOMAN'S DRESS AND PLUNGES THE NEEDLE INTO HER THIGH. And then waits.

MEENA (CONT'D)
 COME ON, LADY, BREATHE ALREADY!

Another tense beat and then suddenly...she does. And so does Meena. As a COUPLE STAFFERS help the woman to sit...

INT. CLINIC - SUPPLY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Meena slams the door behind her and slumps to the ground, shaking like a leaf. She almost killed someone again.

INT. SMALL VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

Manny tends to the KIDS, one of them barely conscious now, woozy and feverish. He's doing what he can medically for them, while he argues through Charlie with the Father.

MANNY

Tell him his daughter doesn't have much time - a couple days at most.

CHARLIE

(quietly)

He says no.

MANNY

And this kid, his son - tell him I can barely feel his pulse now -

CHARLIE

No.

MANNY

His blood pressure's dropping, he needs fluids, he can't take them by mouth anymore, he's barely conscious -

CHARLIE

No.

MANNY

GODAMMIT, STOP SAYING NO!

That was to the Father. Manny takes a beat, trying to get control of himself, sweaty and incredibly frustrated.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Look, I know what this is. I'm from Queens. And in Queens, a guy from Astoria can't just walk into another guy's shop in Flushing and start telling him all how to run things. I'm not from your neighborhood. I don't get to just come in here and tell you what to do, ask you to take drugs you have no good reason to believe in.

Manny glances up, the man's face is still unreadable, impassable. Charlie has stopped translating and is just listening - cause now it seems like Manny's just babbling.

MANNY (CONT'D)

My Dad died of mesothelioma - it's a nasty cancer, one of the worst. Kills you slowly and painfully, one organ at a time. They didn't have a clue how to treat it back then, we still don't.

(MORE)

MANNY (CONT'D)

Me, I'm a little smart-ass kid, and I tell myself these clowns are jerkoffs - when I'm a doctor someday, I'll know how to help people. I'll know how to fight.

Manny shakes his head.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Now I suck fat out of people's asses and put it in their boobs. I rearrange people's fat. So I'm here. In your neighborhood, to do... *something*. To do better.

(beat)

Also the New York medical board just pulled my license. "Ethical misconduct" - or so they claim.

(beat, then admits)

Okay, so I pushed a few unnecessary procedures here and there...slept with a few too many patients... maybe I'm a bad guy. But I'm not a bad doctor.

Manny crouches next to the Father, looks him in the eye.

MANNY (CONT'D)

And I don't want you to have to watch your family die. C'mon, man. Just let me help you.

A long pause. Charlie translates only this last part, quietly, emotionally. Then Manny gets up, feeling stupid ---

MANNY (CONT'D)

Now I'm the ass talking to myself.

-- When suddenly the Father holds out his hand to Manny. Manny looks to Charlie, confused. The Father says something in Spanish.

MANNY (CONT'D)

What is he doing?

CHARLIE

He's trying to shake your hand. He says okay.

As a stunned Manny shakes the Father's hand...

INT. CLINIC - O.R. - DAY

Lily and Ben burst in, carrying ARMFULS OF COCONUTS. We SEE the baby's in a MAKESHIFT INCUBATOR as Zee manually inflates her lungs. Otis is medicalling Annie, who's in bad shape.

OTIS

BP's in the gutter. There's nothing more to push -- she's bleeding out.

BEN

Get me an IV.

LILY

Do you want me to drain one into a -

Otis tosses Ben an IV, and Ben quickly JAMS it DIRECTLY INTO A COCONUT, "hangs" it and inserts the needle into Annie's vein. Lily's stunned.

LILY (CONT'D)

...Or that works.

COCONUT MILK begins flowing into Annie's body. Ben starts sewing the placenta. As Lily watches, awestruck...

MATCH FROM ANNIE'S IV TO --

INT. VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

THE CHILDREN'S IVS, as Manny hooks the kids up to makeshift IV poles, which are wooden stakes with clothespins holding the lines. Injecting life-saving meds into their veins.

In the B.G., Charlie watches, his expression unreadable. Charlie turns and SLIPS OUT the front door, unnoticed...

INT. CLINIC - O.R. - DAY

Ben works on Annie's bleeding, Otis does manual CPR.

OTIS

BP's touch and go. I've got some arrythmias.

Ben glances to Lily, standing at the sidelines.

BEN

I need another hand to hold the last bleeder while I tie it off.

LILY

Me? But I'm not a surgeon, you need a surgeon --

Ben turns to her, speaking calmly, but intensely.

BEN

Here, you are a surgeon. Here you're a surgeon, you're a social worker, you're a midwife - if I need you to run labs to the city, you're FedEx - you are anything I need you to be and what I need right now is for you to stop over-thinking it and give me your hand.

And he's so intense that Lily doesn't think - she pulls on GLOVES and literally gives Ben her hand. Ben places it in Annie's open abdomen, shows her what to do.

BEN (CONT'D)

Keep a steady squeeze - don't pinch off the vessel. Good.

Lily looks up at Ben, stunned and exhilarated - she's hasn't felt like this, felt like a doctor, for a long, long time. She's having a moment and Ben knows exactly what it is.

BEN (CONT'D)

You're doing fine, Dr. Brenner.

OTIS

BP's coming up.

Ben smiles. Lily smiles back. As the two lock eyes...

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

Charlie and Manny get back into the truck, on their way out. Manny's feeling great, proud of what he accomplished.

MANNY

I just saved the lives of an entire family. No, y'know what - make that a village, cause that crap's contagious, yo -

Manny holds his fist out for a dap, then SEES SOMETHING.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Hey - stop --

And we SEE what he sees - the shallow grave they put the body in yesterday is now nicely shoveled in. At the top there is a cross made out of wildflowers. Manny eyes Charlie.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Thought you were just a "translator".

Charlie doesn't answer. Doesn't want to discuss it. Manny knows not to tease him further. It sits there a beat, then --

MANNY (CONT'D)

Thanks. For everything. You're good. Maybe someday you'll translate for the WHO or the U.N...

CHARLIE

I don't think so.

MANNY

Why not, dream big. Your parents must be really proud of you.

CHARLIE

I left home when I was nine. And someday I'm not going to be a translator, I'm going to be a doctor.

That shuts Manny up. Charlie guns the engine.

INT. CLINIC - SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

Otis enters, pulling off his scrub mask, finds Meena there, still shaking, her face tear-stained. She quickly turns around when he enters, wipes a few remaining tears.

OTIS

You okay?

MEENA

If I could find a damn steroid around here...a woman almost died - from a stupid asthma attack - and there's nothing here to help her! This place, is...it's pointless.

Meena shoves past Otis out of the supply room. Off Otis, knowing there's more to it than that...

INT. CLINIC - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Meena enters, grabs her purse from a shelf, digs through it, until she pulls out --

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

HER OWN ASTHMA INHALER. Which she's now holding as she talks to the OLD WOMAN, who's resting, recovering. The ND Clinic Staffer, who helped her earlier, translates.

MEENA

You have untreated asthma, you had a severe attack. I didn't see it before because...well, I didn't see it.

Beat.

MEENA (CONT'D)

This is an inhaler - to help you breathe.

Meena places it in her mouth, gives her a PUMP. The WOMAN'S EYES GO WIDE. SHE STARES AT MEENA, SUDDENLY BREATHING EASY.

MEENA (CONT'D)

I wish I could give you more, but I only have a few, I brought them from home. I have asthma too.

The Old Woman grabs Meena's hands, so grateful.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Really, it's... no big deal.

Uncomfortable, Meena quickly leaves.

INT. CLINIC - RECOVERY ROOM - EVENING

Later. Annie's coming to, woozy. Lily helps Ben check Annie's incision and nearby, the BABY rests bedside in the little makeshift incubator, Zee attending to her.

ANNIE

What happened? Is the baby --

LILY

She's right here.

ZEE

Her breath sounds are getting stronger.

ANNIE

How's Ali? Is he here, is he okay?

BEN

Annie, listen to me. We don't have a NICU here, we don't have the equipment to keep your baby warm, to keep her heart rate up -

Annie notices Ben's evading the question.

ANNIE

Dr. Hanley, where's my husband?

BEN

The airlift should be here soon, but right now the best thing for your baby is to be with you, she needs to be held and fed --

ANNIE

Dr. Hanley, Where is my husband!?

Beat. Ben has no other choice but to tell her.

BEN

Annie, your husband didn't make it. When our team got to him, he was already gone. I'm so sorry.

Annie's stunned. So is Lily - this is news to her too.

LILY

But you said they radioed in...

Ben pauses, this isn't easy for him to say.

BEN

They did radio. And he did have a broken leg. He also had a hematoma. Bleeding in his brain. He must have hit his head during the accident.

Lily's staring at Ben, realizing he was lying in the O.R.

ANNIE

No, no - he was fine when I left, he didn't even say his head hurt...

BEN

It probably didn't. These type of injuries don't show symptoms at first.

ANNIE

But I left him there, I just left him sitting there. I could've been with him! *He was alone on the side of the road...why didn't I stay...*

BEN

Because you came here for your baby -

ANNIE

I can't do this...please no...

BEN

Annie --

ANNIE

GO AWAY!! GO AWAY! Oh god...he's
coming back...he's coming back....

Her grief is awful to watch. A shaken Lily slowly backs out of the room, having an intense reaction.

INT. CLINIC - INTAKE AREA - NIGHT

Meena and Manny are still taking intakes. They stare as Lily whirls on Ben, who has followed her out.

LILY

When did you find out?

BEN

Hours ago. He never had a chance.

LILY

She could've said goodbye...you didn't even give her the choice.

BEN

There was no choice. He was dead.
If she left, her baby'd be dead too.

LILY

You lied to her, said he was *fine* -

BEN

Because that's what she needed to hear! That was the only thing that was gonna get her through surgery. If you can't stomach that, if you wanna practice safe, predictable medicine, go home. I'm not here to protect you or save you.

Ben looks to Manny and Meena who have heard the whole thing.

BEN (CONT'D)

There's a helicopter leaving for San Helena tonight. If any of you can't handle this, I suggest you get on it.

Ben walks away. Off Lily, shattered, we...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. CLINIC - BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

Lily shoves her wet clothes from this morning into her duffel bag. Packing. Leaving. Done. Meena enters. Beat.

MEENA

That was quick. We haven't even been here forty-eight hours.

Silence. More packing.

MEENA (CONT'D)

He was right. What's your problem?

Lily stops packing, doesn't look at her. A long beat.

LILY

My husband, Danny...he was a cyclist. On Sunday mornings he would always ride while I made breakfast. One Sunday last year he was taking just forever...he went on long rides all the time. Said it cleared his head. So I showered, read the paper, did the crossword...half of it.

(beat, then)

A neighbor found him a block away on the asphalt. Some artery just went...poof. I heard the ambulance go by from the kitchen, didn't even occur to me...I was scrambling eggs like an idiot. He was a block away, dying on the street. And I was scrambling eggs. Some doctor, right?

And now Meena understands Lily's reaction to what Annie's been through, why medicine lost its meaning, why she left residency.

MEENA

So you're just gonna bail. Like you did on residency.

LILY

You heard what Hanley said - what it takes to be here... I'm not cut out for it. I'm not ready to...I'm not ready to feel like this.

MEENA

When are you ever gonna be?

Meena leaves. Off Lily, taking this in...

EXT. CLINIC - LAB - NIGHT

A makeshift lab where you spin blood with hand centrifuges. Manny approaches Zee, who's doing just that with some samples.

MANNY

Hey, I've got some labs for you.

ZEE

We don't "run labs", we spin the blood down with a hematocrit centrifuge, old school style. And by we, I mean you.

MANNY

Oh, okay, I didn't mean to -

ZEE

Assume because I'm "one of the natives" I'm at your beck and call?

MANNY

Uh, no -

ZEE

Because I'm a woman then.

MANNY

No!

ZEE

You got a thing against nurses?

To Manny's extreme relief, Otis enters.

OTIS

You get blood samples?

MANNY

(quick look to Zee)

I was just about to spin them down now. All by myself. I was thinking I'd go back tomorrow, check their counts but they're all on antibiotics now, so...that's good.

Manny waits for some praise, but Otis just turns to leave.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Ass hat.

OTIS
 (stops, amused)
 What did you call me?

MANNY
 ASS HAT. I called you an ass hat.
 I've been busting my balls for two
 days, I walked miles in three hundred
 degree weather, got a sunburn, I
 trashed my boots, would it kill you
 to give me a little respect!?

OTIS
 I'll respect you when you do something
 deserving of respect. Today? You
 just did your job.

And Otis walks out, leaving Manny standing there. Beat.
 Then he looks down at the centrifuge, completely helpless.

MANNY
 This thing come with directions or...

Zee taps a PAPER WITH SPANISH WRITING on the wall.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 Those are in Spanish.
 (off her look, quickly)
 Y'know what, I'll figure it out.

INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Lily enters, picks up the PREEMIE BABY. Annie's staring off
 into space, emotionally spent. Lily sits by her bed. Beat.

LILY
 I know. You lost someone you loved.
 You lost the person you were gonna
 spend the rest of your life with.
 And when that happens, you just...end.
 You have no idea why you're on the
 planet anymore...you're just taking
 up space, you don't belong anywhere.

Lily's speaking emotionally, clearly from personal experience.
 Annie turns to face Lily, tears streaming down her face.

LILY (CONT'D)
 I know you're not ready to deal with
 this, but you're never gonna be.
 It's never gonna make sense...but
 what does...what makes perfect sense
 right now is your baby.
 (MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)

And I don't know about tomorrow, but maybe now...you're supposed to be here to take care of her. And maybe I'm supposed to be here to tell you that.

ANNIE

I'm alone. I'm twenty-five and...a widow...you have no idea...

LILY

Yeah. I do.

Annie looks at her, surprised, but Lily remains silent. A long beat. Then Lily slowly moves and places the preemie baby in Annie's arms. And Annie holds her daughter. Annie starts to breastfeed then looks up at Lily, terrified, lost --

ANNIE

I don't know how to do this.

LILY

I'll show you.

PULL BACK to REVEAL Ben standing in the doorway, watching, his face unreadable, as Lily helps Annie breastfeed her baby.

EXT. CLINIC - PATIO - NIGHT - LATER

Meena and Manny sit on an adorable little patio on the clinic's tropical lawn, drinking beers. Manny and Meena are watching as IN THE DISTANCE, Ben, Otis and MEDICS take Annie and her baby into the MEDIVAC HELICOPTER. Lily plops down.

LILY

There's no way I'm getting on that dinky little plane again.

Meena smiles, gets it. Nothing more has to be said, their friendship is established. Manny offers Lily a beer.

MANNY

I found beer in the lab. You gotta spin down your own blood, but you can drink beer while you do it.

LILY

It's warm.

MANNY

Everything's warm here. Except the showers. And that guy.

He nods to Otis, who's stepping back with Ben as THE HELICOPTER WHIRS TO LIFE.

LILY
I guess this is it.

MEENA
Last call for civilization.

MANNY
So much for that beach.

But nobody moves. They just watch the helicopter take off. Lily spots BEN walking off, away from the clinic, towards the trees. She makes a decision, stands up, follows him.

LILY
I'll be right back.

MANNY
Careful, it's a jungle out there.
(off Meena's eye roll)
Get used to it, I'm gonna use that one a lot.

Just then, the Old Woman and HER DAUGHTER approach. The Old Woman's clutching the inhaler, holding it like a precious gem. The Daughter holds a STRAW BAG, speaks accented English.

DAUGHTER
You're the one who treated my mother?

MEENA
I'm sorry. That she had to...almost die to get my attention.

DAUGHTER
My mother is 90 years old. And today she took her first breath. She said because of you she finally knows what it feels like to...breathe.

The Daughter reaches into the bag and pulling out a LARGE CHICKEN. A LIVE ONE. WRIGGLING AND CLUCKING.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)
Thank you for saving her life.

MEENA
Ohhhhh no - no, no, no, please -- that's so kind, but very unnecessary --

But the Daughter's pressing the chicken firmly into Meena's arms. The Old Woman smiles at Meena, tears in her eyes.

OLD WOMAN
Gracias, doctora.

And she's so clearly moved and grateful that Meena can't possibly say no. So she pastes a smile on her face.

MANNY
(as the chicken)
Meena, will you be my Mommy?

As Meena glares at a laughing Manny -

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

It's mysterious at night, full of strange, exotic sounds. Lily finds Ben sitting against a tree, looking at the sky.

LILY
She fed her baby. Before she left.
Just...thought you should know.

Ben doesn't say anything. So Lily turns to leave, then -

BEN
You ever seen the Southern Cross?

Ben points up to the night sky. Clear and vibrant, full of bright stars, the way we never get to see it in Los Angeles.

BEN (CONT'D)
Right there, those five stars...they say Magellan used it to find true south when he got lost. And it gave him the strength to keep going.

LILY
I didn't get on the helicopter.

BEN
I see that.

LILY
I was going to. Because everything you said you don't want, that's me. You need doctors who are heroes, like you -

BEN
(sharply)
Heroes take risks because they have nothing else to live for.

Lily takes that in, knowing he's talking about himself, wondering what the hell happened to this guy.

BEN (CONT'D)

You don't have to be a hero. Just be a doctor who gives a crap.

LILY

Okay.

Lily notices Ben is suddenly moving towards her slowly, calmly, almost...seductively.

BEN

Don't... move.

LILY

Oh. Look, I'm in a strange environment...not to mention I'm not exactly ready for...it's not that I don't find you attractive...you've got that whole Indiana Jones jungle vibe going on which is... I don't think...you should kiss me.

Ben's now almost lip to lip with Lily, looking into her eyes.

BEN

No?

Just as Lily closes her eyes in anticipation, Ben SUDDENLY REACHES BEHIND HER HEAD AND WITH ONE DEFT JERK PULLS OUT A LONG SNAKE, its tail thrashing about wildly. Ben THROWS IT INTO THE TREES. Color drains from Lily's face.

LILY

You said HAIR DOWN! YOU SAID HAIR DOWN, NO NESTING!!

BEN

That's insects. Snakes like long hair.

(turns to go, then)

And if I was gonna kiss you? Believe me, you'd know it.

And Ben walks off. Off Lily, not sure what to be afraid of - the snake or her attraction to her new boss...

INT. CLINIC - WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Otis is closing up shop. Meena walks by him, holding her chicken at arms length. Without looking at her, Otis calls.

OTIS

It was saline, by the way.

MEENA

What?

OTIS

What you saw yesterday. Recovering addicts crave the needle even if there's nothing in it.

Meena shrugs, playing nonchalant, but she's curious cause he's clearly speaking from experience. Before she can ask -

OTIS (CONT'D)

What'd you do for the bird?

MEENA

Nothing. Gave that woman an inhaler. From my purse.

OTIS

Wasn't nothing to her.

MEENA

What's she gonna do when it's out? I can't go back to the States and get her a prescription. She'll be okay for a month and then...it's a band-aid, it's not a solution.

OTIS

Well. It was today.

Meena considers this for a moment, wanting to let herself have the victory, but she just...can't. She turns to leave...

MEENA

I came here to do big things, okay? Things that save thousands of lives, not just one or two...so.

OTIS

Man, you must've done something bad.

MEENA

(freezes)

What?

OTIS

Why else would you be so guilty?

Beat. Meena keeps walking, holds up her chicken.

MEENA

My chicken's giving you the finger.

Otis smiles, intrigued despite himself. Then quickly wipes the smile from his face before anyone sees.

INT. CLINIC APARTMENTS - NIGHT

The living arrangements -- a no frills, basic, dorm-like, three bedroom apartment above the clinic. Meena is sitting on the floor, holding a large BUTCHER KNIFE, watching her CHICKEN cluck around in circles in the makeshift pen they built out of boxes. Manny shuffles out in his pajamas.

MANNY

Here's a tip - you gotta put water
in the toilet *before* you flush.
Learned that one the hard way.

MEENA

Having to live with you is cruel and
unusual punishment.

MANNY

You'll change your mind when you
taste my roast chicken. You gonna
kill that thing or what?

MEENA

She's not a "thing" - she has a name.
Her name is..."Dinner."
(beat)
Dinner dies tomorrow.

Lily shuffles out in her pajamas.

LILY

Anyone have scissors?

INT. CLINIC APARTMENTS - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lily looks at herself in the mirror for a long beat, scissors in hand. Then she takes it to her hair and starts cutting.

INT. CLINIC APARTMENTS - MOMENTS LATER

Lily emerges from the bathroom, HER HAIR CHOPPED OFF.

MEENA

Holy haircut.

LILY

Let's go find what we were promised.

EXT. CLINIC - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Ben comes outside to find Otis sitting there, smoking. Ben pours both of them whiskeys, sets one down in front of Otis.

BEN
(re: smoking)
You gotta cut that crap out. You're a doctor, for godsakes.

OTIS
This is so good for me it might as well be a carrot stick.

BEN
How's that?

OTIS
It keeps me from jamming a needle full of something worse in my arm. Which I haven't in a long time.

Ben looks at Otis for a beat. Makes the decision to trust him. No more questions. He raises his whiskey glass.

BEN
To clean living.

It's an apology and Otis accepts, toasts Ben's glass with his cigarette.

OTIS
To those we've lost.

BEN
To those we've...

But Ben can't finish the sentence. His face is pained, haunted. Otis sees it, immediately regrets his words.

OTIS
Sorry.

But Ben just tosses his whiskey back and immediately pours another. Doesn't want to talk about it. A long beat. And then Zee steps out onto the porch, beer in hand, points to OUR THREE DOCTORS WALKING ACROSS THE LAWN IN THE DISTANCE, HOLDING FLASHLIGHTS, HEADING TOWARDS THE JUNGLE.

ZEE
What the hell are those zonzos doing?

OTIS

Getting themselves killed. Hundred pesos says the bitchy one's anaconda lunch.

Zee follows Otis' gaze to see he's watching Meena. Maybe a little too intently. Zee's a little hurt, looks away.

BEN

Now that bet I might take.

As the three laugh...

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Meena, Manny and Lily tromp through jungle brush.

MANNY

There are animals out here. Big ones with teeth. Don't say they're more scared of us then we are of them - I guarantee I'm a bigger pansy than the two hundred pound Puma.

LILY

Shhh -- do you hear that?

Lily suddenly takes off running through the darkness, the other two following, confused, until suddenly --

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

They come upon a beautiful, untouched beach. Waves breaking against rock, water glinting in the moonlight...

MANNY

Jesus, it's a postcard.

MEENA

It's better.

LILY

It's ours.

They stare, in awe of the natural beauty. Long beat. Manny sees Meena staring at him, with a hint of a smile. He grins.

MANNY

Told you. A little time in the jungle, I start to look pretty good --

MEENA

Doctor Double-D. The ads. On the subway, the bus stops...

LILY

What?

MEENA

He's "Dr. Double D" - biggest sleazeball in New York. I stared at his face every day from 14th to 59th.

MANNY

You think if you travel 5000 miles... whatever. There's no clean slate.

He sounds less ashamed than just tired. Lily suddenly speaks up firmly, confidently, echoing Annie's words from earlier.

LILY

Yeah, there is. Look at this place. If there was ever a place to start over...this is it.

They all stare out at the untouched beauty of the ocean, where the possibilities do seem endless. Long beat.

MEENA

I do wish I'd taken Spanish though.

MANNY

French impresses the ladies.

MEENA

Trust me, it does not.

LILY

Quelle dommage.

As they wander towards the ocean, continuing to laugh and chat, we WATCH the ocean tide wipe the sand clean... then TILT UP to find the Southern Cross sparkling bright in the sky. Guiding the lost and fortifying the weary. And we --

FADE OUT:

END OF PILOT EPISODE