ER

"Exodus"

Written by
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FOURTH DRAFT
January 15, 1998

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY
CAST

GREENE          BARBARA
ROSS            JACKIE
BENTON          MORRIS
CARTER          TAKATA
HATHAWAY        MARQUEZ
JEANIE          D' MAR
WEAVER          WOMAN
DEL AMICO       MAN
CORDAY          DIALYSIS TECH
ZADRO           DANNAKER
RICCI           JARVIK
DEWEY           BERTHA
LEO             SPOONER
PICKMAN         ROMANO
ARTEBURN        ERNIE
JERRY           INGA
IDA             KIT
BRACKUP         RANDI
OLBES
KRAKOWSKI
SPINETTI
LASZLO
DR. GEORGE
SOPHIE
DONNA
ER
"Exodus"

SETS

INTERIORS:

HOSPITAL
   Cafeteria
   Ambulance Entrance
   Eye Clinic
   Trauma Hallway
   Trauma Two
   Exam Four
   Main Hall
   Curtain Three
   Admit Desk
   Side Hall
   Nurses' Station
   Main ER
   Chairs
   Suture Room
   Elevator Lobby
   Elevator
   Stairwell
   Third Floor Elevator Lobby
   Tent
   Scrub Sinks
   Corridor Outside Cafeteria
   OR Hallway
   SICU
   SICU Hallway

CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE
   Collapsed Basement
   Office Rubble

EXTERIORS:

HOSPITAL
   Ambulance

HATHAWAY'S HOUSE
   (CHICAGO)

CHICAGO STREETS

CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE
   (CHICAGO)
   Courtyard
   Office Rubble
"Exodus"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. HATHAWAY'S HOUSE (CHICAGO) - DAY (7:00 AM)

Ross's car pulls up in front of Hathaway's house and stops.

2 ROSS'S CAR

ROSS sits for a beat looking toward the front porch. There's no movement, no sign of life. After a moment of consideration, he gets out and heads for the porch, scooping up the morning paper on his way.

At the front door, Ross knocks, but without his usual elan. No response. He waits, listens, then knocks again. No response. No sound from inside. He leans the newspaper against the base of the door and walks back toward his car.

TIME CUT TO:

3 &

4 OMMITTED

5 EXT. CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE (CHICAGO) - DAY

A heaving cloud of smoke belches from a warehouse fire. The AMBULANCE SCREECHES to a halt at the front entrance, joining a line-up of three other paramedic rigs.

CORDAY and the paramedics scramble out with their gear.

ZADRO

Sure picked the right day for your first ride along...

CORDAY

So, where do we begin?

RICCI, a fire captain, approaches from the entranceway, and waves them in.

RICCI

Come on, through here.

They follow into the --
INT./EXT. CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE ENTRANCEWAY (CHICAGO) - DAY

ZADRO
(on the run)
What do you got?

RICCI
Twenty to thirty victims, mostly minor -- lacerations, burns. One fatality.

Corday reacts as they clear the entranceway into the --

EXT. CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE - COURTYARD (CHICAGO) - DAY

Three engine companies battle the blaze. Ten paramedics work in a triage area, sorting out twenty wounded plant workers, distinct in orange coveralls.

Corday quickly surveys the scene -- the fire and the smoldering ruins, demolished by an explosion.

RICCI
(indicates)
We've set up triage out there.

DEWEY SAVELL, a young fireman covered with dust and dirt, approaches.

DEWEY
We're all shored up. I need to take a paramedic down.

RICCI
There's a guy trapped under the rubble.

CORDAY
I'll go. I'm a trauma surgeon, County General, Dr. Corday.

RICCI
You have any experience with confined space rescue?

CORDAY
No, but take me to him, I'll see what I can do.

Ricci looks at Dewey. Dewey nods.

RICCI
Okay, take her in.
COLLAPSED BASEMENT - DAY

Lit only by worklights, Dewey and Corday, now wearing hard hats and headlamps, work their way down past firemen who are shoring up the rubble. Dewey shines a light down into a jumble of concrete blocks and sections of fallen walls.

DEWEY
The first section is pretty vertical... maybe eight to ten feet. Better to go head first.

Corday looks down at the hole.

CORDAY
Head first...

DEWEY
Yeah, once you’re in there, there’s no room to turn around. The walls are very uneven so it’s easy to brace yourself with your hands. Ever do any rock climbing?

CORDAY
Afraid I haven’t. Will I actually fit in there?

DEWEY
Tight at first, but near the victim it opens up. You claustrophobic?

CORDAY
(yes)
Not really.

DEWEY
(nods)
Best if you go first. If something goes wrong I can drag you out.

Corday screws up her courage.

CORDAY
Yes, well, let’s get on with it.

She gets onto all fours and climbs head-first down into the hole.
A 45 DEGREE VERTICAL SHAFT - DAY

Corday struggles down head-first, Dewey is behind her. She braces against the broken brick and concrete debris that forms the walls.

DEWEY
That's right... you're doing fine.

Corday wiggles through a tight spot. There's a GRINDING sound as the heavy rock shifts around her. Her breath starts to come more quickly; she breaks a sweat.

Where the shaft bends she seems to be stuck.

CORDAY
I'm stuck.

DEWEY
It's just a bend, try it on your side.

Struggling with the confinement and fighting panic, Corday turns on her side and pulls herself along, clawing at the rocks. She makes it past the bend and the shaft becomes more level and wider. Four-by-four shoring posts can be seen, supporting the large slabs overhead.

CORDAY
(somewhat relieved)
It's a little more open here.

DEWEY
Yeah. Not far now. Be careful, don't bump against the four-by-fours. That's all that's holding this place up.

Shuffling on her stomach, knees, and elbows, the way ahead is lit by Corday's headlamp. Water runs down out of a broken pipe, spilling over her hard hat and soaking her clothes.

She pushes a piece of twisted re-bar so she can pass a tight spot. Stopping for a beat, Corday listens. Then, silencing her own breathing, she hears painful labored BREATHS ahead.

She moves on a few feet and --

CORDAY
I can see him.
(calling out)
We're on the way.

Ahead in her light --
The passageway slants down to an area that is slightly more open. A man's head and left shoulder can be seen, projecting at an angle from under a large section of wall, concrete dust completely covering his face. He appears dead.

She crawls to him. Dewey can approach alongside, but the area is very tight. Numerous jacks and shoring pieces surround the victim.

**DEWEY**

We jacked as far as we could. All this stuff is unstable.

The man, LEO LEIPZIGER, a nervous (and understandably terrified) accountant, opens his eyes.

**CORDAY**

Sir, are you awake?

Corday checks his neck pulse, pupils. He looks at Corday, his voice is little more than a whisper.

**LEO**

(weak, confused)

Get me out. It hurts...

**CORDAY**

Yes, I'll give you something for the pain. And we're going to get you out.

**LEO**

(weakly)

Don't leave me.

**CORDAY**

We won't. We won't leave you, I promise.

Corday turns and speaks to Dewey.

**CORDAY**

I need the drug bag. I'm going to start a line.

In her haste, she turns to Dewey, her elbow striking a shoring post, knocking it down. Bricks fall, one strikes Corday near the eye. Then a heavy trembling, accompanied by deep GRINDING sounds as the whole mass above them shifts and resettles. A powdery dust falls. She freezes.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

CORDAY

Oh, God...

OFF Corday.

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

OPENING TITLES.

FADE IN:

12 CAFETERIA - DAY (2:50 PM)

DEL AMICO fills two Styrofoam coffee cups as WEAVER pushes a forearm close under Del Amico’s nose. Del Amico sniffs.

DEL AMICO

Lilac?

WEAVER

It’s called 'Spring Rain.'

DEL AMICO

Hmmm. Nice.

WEAVER

You don’t think it’s too young for me?

DEL AMICO

No. My mom wears something just like that.

Not exactly what Weaver wanted to hear. She looks at her watch.

WEAVER

I don’t have time to sit down, I’m on three to eleven. How’s it been?

DEL AMICO

Got busy after lunch. Doyle’s still out with the flu. What’ve you heard from Mark?

WEAVER

He was going to try to get a flight back today or tomorrow.

They reach the cashier, Weaver ahead of Del Amico.

WEAVER

One coffee.

As they pay, CARTER appears.

DEL AMICO

Carter, how’s your ophtho rotation going?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CARTER
Only a week to go. A long week.

WEAVER
Maybe you can help me. I've been getting headaches from reviewing the hospital financial reports and I think I need new reading glasses. You can operate the phoropters, right?

CARTER
Sure, come on up, I'll check you out, give you a new prescription.

CUT TO:

AMBULANCE ENTRANCE – DAY

PICKMAN enters with JACK ARTEBURN, business suit. JEANIE meets them by the admit desk. JERRY's on the phone.

PICKMAN
Jack Arteburn, 52, fainted at a breakfast meeting at Stanton Savings and Loan. A and O on our arrival. Vitals normal. No ectopy on the scope. Started a line for kicks.

JEANIE
Mr. Arteburn, did you have any chest pain?

Jeanie listens to the lungs.

ARTEBURN
No. I was just a little dizzy. My secretary overreacted.
(to Jeanie)
Are you a doctor?

JEANIE
I'm a physician assistant.

Jeanie and Arteburn move off.

ARTEBURN
But I'll be seeing a real doctor...

Jerry hangs up the phone as Weaver appears.

(CONTINUED)
JERRY
Dr. Weaver, County Dispatch is calling. There's an explosion and fire at a chemical warehouse. They want to send us six minors -- burns, lacerations.

WEAVER
No problem.

CUT TO:

THE SHAFT UNDER THE RUBBLE - DAY

Dewey re-shores the support as Corday takes a large intravenous needle and prepares to insert it into Leo's neck.

CORDAY
Little bee sting, Leo...

She drives in the needle. He groans with pain.

LEO
Aghhh.

Corday gets a flash of blood and attaches the catheter to a bag of saline and talks.

CORDAY
Sorry, only place to put an I.V.

LEO
Get me out of here.

CORDAY
We're working on that. Now hang on a bit, I'll give you some morphine, make you feel much better.

She injects the morphine into the line, speaking to Dewey over her shoulder.

CORDAY
Dewey, can you raise up the saline?

Dewey takes the bag and hangs it just above their heads on a piece of projecting re-bar. Corday speaks with Dewey in whispers.

(CONTINUED)
CORAY
(sotto)
He's got a good pulse, probably some broken ribs. And he can wiggle his toes. But I can't assess the right arm -- it's pinned at his shoulder. If we could raise the concrete just another inch or two...

DEWEY
Any movement could bring all this down.

CORAY
Just an inch... Then we might free it and I won't have to amputate.

LEO
No, please, don't cut off my arm.

CORAY
(to Leo)
We're trying to save it, Leo. Going to lift that slab.
(sotto, to Dewey)
What else can we do? We've got to get him out.

Dewey looks around.

DEWEY
Okay. I need more shoring down here before we try anything.

CORAY
I'll need a bone saw.

LEO
No, don't do it. Please.

CORAY
Only as a last resort, Leo.
(to Dewey)
What about something to reduce the friction?

DEWEY
Grease?

CORAY
Too thick. Something we can pour, like vegetable oil.
DEWEY
We got motor oil.

CORDAY
Yes, motor oil... lots of it.
(to Leo)
We'll get you slick as an eel and slide you out.

CUT TO:

EYE CLINIC - DAY

Carter gives an eyeglass prescription exam to IDA MELENGER, 75. Ida looks through the multi-lensed phoropter machine, reading a projected eye chart on the wall.

IDA
E... P... O... T...

Carter looks over a drawer full of a hundred lenses and pulls out two new ones.

CARTER
Very good, Mrs. Melenger. Now tell me which is clearer. Number one...
(switches lens)
Or number two...

IDA
Number two is very dark.

CARTER
Try again. Number one.
(switches again)
Or number two.

IDA
It's black. I can't see through this.

Carter pulls out lens "two," and holds it up to the light -- it's completely opaque.

CARTER
Yes, this is probably a little more tint than you need. Just give me a minute...

As Carter searches through the drawer of lenses, ophthalmology resident ALAN BRACKUP appears at the door.

(CONTINUED)
BRACKUP
Everything okay?

IDA
Not really. I think your student could use a little help.

Carter, with three lenses in each hand, looks at Brackup.

BRACKUP
Why don’t I finish up, Dr. Carter. There’s a glaucoma patient in the ER that needs a consult.

CARTER
Right.

Carter fumbles to put the lenses back in their proper place. Brackup steps forward and takes the lenses from Carter. OFF Carter, relieved.

CUT TO:

AMBULANCE ENTRANCE - DAY

OLBES comes through the doors with GLENN KRAKOWSKI, 30s, on a backboard and a gurney. Two "walking wounded" chemical plant workers in uniform follow. They are SPINETTI and LASZLO, with burns and lacerations on the arms. Del Amico is there to meet them as they move down the hall at a moderate pace.

OLBES
Glenn Krakowski, 32, working in the chemical warehouse. Obvious right tib-fib fracture, starting to complain of abdominal pain. BP 130 over 75, pulse 90. Two IVs in the field.

DEL AMICO
What about these guys?

OLBES
Minor burns and lacerations from glass.

BENTON joins them.

BENTON
Anything for me?

(CONTINUED)
DEL AMICO
Blunt trauma, abdominal pain.

BENTON
T-one open?

DEL AMICO
Yeah, get him started. I'll take the others.

BENTON
(to Krakowski)
Are you taking any medications?

KRAKOWSKI
No, nothing. I never get sick.

As Benton enters the --

TRAUMA HALLWAY - DAY

We see Weaver looking at an EKG. Jerry approaches with a chart and a phone message.

JERRY
Message from Dr. Anspaugh. He's giving a lecture in Virgin Gorda. How about that? Phone number at the hotel.

WEAVER
Is that Mr. Arteburn's chart?

JERRY
Yeah. And check this out...
(flips to a back page)
Blue Cross. Not the HMO, not the PPO. Traditional indemnity plan. Gold.

WEAVER
Jerry, we treat everyone the same.

JERRY
I'm just thinking about our budget deficit...

Weaver takes the chart and heads into --
Arteburn's hooked up to all the monitors.

WEAVER
Mr. Arteburn, I have some preliminary results I'd like to...

ARTEBURN
(cuts her off)
Look, if there's any cause for concern, I'd rather go see my own doctor.

WEAVER
You have some changes on your EKG that suggest you may have had a small heart attack. It's not safe for you to leave.

ARTEBURN
A heart attack?

WEAVER
We should check a blood test to be sure there was no heart muscle damage. That takes a couple of hours. If that's normal we can arrange for a treadmill heart scan.

ARTEBURN
Would you call my doctor? Greg Fonarow on Chestnut. I want his opinion on whatever you're doing.

WEAVER
I'll call him once we have the blood test results. Don't worry. I think you'll find that we give the highest standard of care.

CUT TO:

EXAM THREE

In a darkened room, rainbows dance around the walls, as DR. GEORGE BIKEL, 75, fiddles with the head lamp and a pocket prism. Carter stops at the doorway, speechless, as a rainbow crosses his face.

DR. GEORGE
You must be the eye specialist.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CARTER
Right... Dr. Carter.

Dr. George walks over and extends a hand.

DR. GEORGE
George Bikel. Call me Dr. George.
(flashing the prism)
Imagine the first guy that took a
boring beam of white light and
refracted it into all this beauty.
Glorious.

OFF Carter, not so sure about this guy.

CUT TO:

THE SHAFT UNDER THE RUBBLE - DAY

Dewey is squeezed next to Corday, carefully jacking and
shoring up the slab. Corday, her face now covered with
grime, opens a quart of oil. A harness is draped around
Leo...

CORDAY
Alright, ready for your last
quart...

As Corday pours --

Dewey faces back from the jacks.

DEWEY
(re: the jacks)
I raised it an inch. That's it.

Corday nods. Dewey joins her at the harness straps.

CORDAY
One, two, three...

They pull and strain, lifting Leo a little, about four
inches. Leo groans.

CORDAY
Let me check his arm.

Dewey keeps tension on the harness while Corday checks
the arm.

DEWEY
You got room?

(Continued)
LEO
No, you said you wouldn't amputate.

CORDAY
It's all right, Leo. It won't come to that. Another good tug and we can get you out whole.

She moves back to Dewey.

CORDAY
Ready... and pull.

They tug again but Leo won't budge.

DEWEY
We don't have the leverage to lift him out of here. We need a come-along.

CORDAY
A what?

DEWEY
It's a kind of winch that...

KABOOOM. His words are cut off by a distant heavy explosion. The area shakes. Small rocks and dirt rain down on them as they freeze in terrified silence, expecting to be buried alive.

When it is over Corday looks up.

CORDAY
What was that?

DEWEY
I don't know.

He slowly takes his walkie talkie as if the mere act of speaking into it might trigger a rock fall.

DEWEY
(softly into walkie)
Dewey here... what the hell is going on?

There's a beat of silence.

DEWEY
Dewey here, do you copy?

( CONTINUED )
VOICE (V.O.)
Copy. We’ve had an explosion in 
the chemical tank area. Abort 
your rescue and get out.

LEO
No, don’t leave me.

CORDAY
We can’t leave. He’s almost out.

RICCI (V.O.)
Dewey, this is Ricci. Abort now! 
We have a major toxic spill.

DEWEY
(into talkie)
Acknowledged...
(to Corday)
The captain says ‘out.’

CORDAY
No. Have them send that thing you 
need so we can pull him out.

DEWEY
Cap won’t let anyone come down 
here.

CORDAY
Then you go get it.

DEWEY
Leave you?

CORDAY
Yes. He’ll have to let you come 
back, if I’m down here.

Dewey looks at her. This lady’s got some kind of guts.

CORDAY
Go on... I’m not leaving him. 
(a beat)
But please, hurry.

DEWEY
Okay. I’ll be back.

Dewey begins crawling away swiftly. Within seconds his 
light and all sense of his presence is gone. There’s a 
low, distant RUMBLE and a trickle of dust falls.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
We're going to die down here.

CORDAY
It's okay, Leo. Just one more piece of equipment and we'll have you out.

Corday looks around, never having felt more alone.

CUT TO:

MAIN HALL - DAY

Ross finishes a chart at the admit desk. Hathaway approaches from the direction of Curtain Three.

HATHAWAY

They walk towards Curtain Three.

ROSS
I swung by your house this morning.

HATHAWAY
I had to come in early for a meeting.

ROSS
Before seven a.m.?

HATHAWAY
Are you monitoring me?

ROSS
(laughing it off)
I was offering you a ride.

They walk into --

CURTAIN THREE - DAY

Ross steps up to the bedside of SOPHIE TRAGER, age 8, sitting up, short of breath despite nasal oxygen. Nervous baby-sitter DONNA hovers.

HATHAWAY
Sophie, this is Dr. Ross.

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
Hi, Sophie.

SOPHIE
Hi.

Ross listens to her chest, as he talks with Donna.

ROSS
How long has she been sick?

DONNA
Her mom said she’s had diarrhea for a couple of days.

She pulls out a jar of bee pollen and a box of raspberry tea.

DONNA
She told me to give her raspberry tea and a spoonful of bee pollen every four hours.

ROSS
How are you doing, Sophie?

SOPHIE
(groggy)
I have to practice the piano.

HATHAWAY
(re: her altered state)
She’s altered. When did that start?

DONNA
I found her on the bathroom floor. She had a bowel movement. There was blood in it. I couldn’t wake her up.

ROSS
Carol, get an ABG, CBC, Chem 20, chest x-ray.

HATHAWAY
IV of saline?

ROSS
No. Just a hep lock.

DONNA
Is she all right?

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
Can you reach her parents?

DONNA
I tried beeping her mom.

HATHAWAY
Try again.

CUT TO:

EXAM THREE - DAY

Carter examines Dr. George with the slit lamp.

DR. GEORGE
... maybe if you had gone to public school you would have seen one of my science assembly programs. Started 'em right after the war.

CARTER
Try to keep your eye still. Look at my earlobe.

DR. GEORGE
I was on TV once in 1950. Thought I’d make a career of it, then that son-of-a-bitch Mr. Wizard came along in '51. I was dead in the water.

CARTER
Looks good.
(moving slit lamp away)
I need to check your eye pressures with the tonopen, Mr. Bikel.

Carter preps the tonopen.

DR. GEORGE
George. Dr. George.
(spies the tonopen)
Whoa, look at that beauty. Used to use the big machine with the air puff.

CARTER
I’ll put a numbing drop in your eye, and then we’ll measure the pressure.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DR. GEORGE
(re: the tonopen)
Solid state, microcircuitry, but all in all just a simple pressure transducer.

CARTER
You push the button and it works.

DR. GEORGE
Don't you want to know how? I could build you one out of an ink jar, a finger cot, and swizzle stick.

Carter taps the PEN to his eyeball. It BEEPS.

CARTER
Thirty-five. Pressure's up a bit.

Carter taps the other eye.

CARTER
(re: the tonopen)
Thirty-two.
(beat)
I'd like to discuss this with another ophthalmologist.
(exiting)
Be right back.

DR. GEORGE
(examining the slit lamp)
No hurry.

CUT TO:

THE SHAFT UNDER THE RUBBLE - DAY

Corday and Dewey, now with respirators, frantically crank the lever of a come-along winch, attached to Leo's harness. Leo's body inches out of the hole. Suddenly progress stops and Leo groans in pain.

LEO
No, my leg... I'm caught.

Corday crawls to him and looks under the slab with her headlamp.

POV - CORDAY
Leo's foot can be seen wedged between two rocks.
She turns back to Dewey, who keeps tension on the harness.

CORDAY
His foot's caught, I'm going to try and free it.

Corday sticks her head under the slab and reaches. Her fingers are just a tiny bit short of the foot.

LEO
Can you reach it? Can you get it loose?

She scrambles back and takes the handle of a jack.

DEWEY
What are you doing? Don't touch that.

CORDAY
... a tiny bit more.

Corday moves the handle up and down a few times and the rock moves slightly.

DEWEY
No. Get your hand off the jack.

Dewey watches her, frozen.

CORDAY
One more...

She pumps, and a shoring piece falls away. Ignoring it, she crawls in under the slab.

LEO
Oh my God.

DEWEY
The shoring's down. Get out of there.

Corday's hand finds Leo's foot and frees it from the rocks. She backs out.

CORDAY
He's free...

Dewey works the lever of the come-along. Corday puts her arms around Leo's shoulders. Together they pull him from the hole. As he is nearly clear, Leo's body knocks out another shoring piece. The SLAB GROANS.

(CONTINUED)
As his feet clear, the slab collapses. The area fills with dust, obliterating everyone from view.

Second pass, and only coughing betrays their survival. The dust clears. Corday and Dewey rub dirt from their eyes and pull Leo to a backboard. As Corday works frantically to strap him down, Dewey speaks into the walkie.

DEWEY
We're coming out!

CUT TO:

CURTAIN THREE - DAY

Ross holds Sophie's hand and listens to her lungs as Hathaway enters with lab results. Sophie's breathing is still very labored, she's on a high flow oxygen mask.

HATHAWAY
(sotto)
Doesn't look good. Creatinine 6.8, Potassium 7.3.

ROSS
She's in acute renal failure. Insulin, glucose, and kayexalate.

HATHAWAY
What's shutting down her kidneys?

ROSS
Bloody diarrhea could be E. Coli. (prepping the scope)
Push two of versed, 6.5 E.T. tube. She needs a central line for dialysis.
(to a nurse)
Call for a pediatric nephrology consult.

A nurse draws up the medication. Hathaway takes the mask off.

SOPHIE
When can I go home?

HATHAWAY
Not for a while, Sophie. Dr. Ross is giving you some medicine to make you sleepy.
(MORE)

(Continued)
HATHAWAY (CONT’D)
When you wake up you’ll have a
tube in your mouth to help you
breathe. You won’t be able to
speak, so we’re going to have to
talk with hand signals. You know
what this means?

She makes the "okay" sign. Sophie nods, the drugs are
making her sleepy.

SOPHIE
Okay.

HATHAWAY
Are you good at 'charades'??

Sophie nods "yes," falling asleep. Ross lowers the head
of the bed and starts to intubate.

ROSS
Give me some cricoid pressure.

Donna enters the room with BARBARA, Sophie’s mom.

BARBARA
Sophie! Are you okay, honey?
What’s going on?

ROSS
I’m in, bag her.
(to Barbara)
Are you her mother?
(to Hathaway)
Need an eleven french double lumen
catheter.

BARBARA
What are you doing?

Ross moves to the groin to insert a central line.

ROSS
I’m Dr. Ross. Her lungs were
filled with fluid, so we had to...

She pushes her way to Sophie’s bedside.

BARBARA
(interrupting)
Sophie! Sophie!... Why is she
unconscious?

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
(pulling her aside)
Mrs. Trager, listen to me. She wasn't getting enough oxygen. We sedated her to place a breathing tube down her throat.

BARBARA
She wasn't sick when I left. She had a little diarrhea.

ROSS
I think she has an E. coli bacterial infection that caused kidney failure.

BARBARA
E. Coli? That comes from meat. It's impossible. She doesn't eat meat.

HATHAWAY
You can get it from raw juices, sprouts...

ROSS
However she got it, she needs dialysis. With that, she has an excellent chance for recovery.

BARBARA
Oh, no. I want another opinion before anyone puts her on some machine.

ROSS
We don't have a lot of time.

BARBARA
This is my daughter. I think I have a right to decide how she's treated.

ROSS
She's my patient. Her potassium is high enough to cause a cardiac arrest. She needs dialysis as soon as possible.

Barbara stares, fuming.
A nurse hands Ross a clipboard.

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
Mrs. Trager, please, give your consent.

A beat, she takes the clipboard.

BARBARA
(as she signs)
I need to call her father.

Barbara exits. Ross gets to work on the dialysis catheter.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHEMICAL PLANT SITE - OFFICE RUBBLE (CHICAGO) - MAGIC

A pile of rubble with smoke in the b.g. F.g. activity of firemen and paramedics, fighting the blaze and tending to the injured.

Corday, Dewey and Ricci emerge from the rubble on the run, carrying Leo on a backboard with c-collar and arm sling.

RICCI
(with a full head of steam)
When we give an order, it's for a reason.

CORDAY
I'm sorry, we were just so close...

RICCI
You all could have been killed.
I'd have three deaths to explain.

Zadro and Ellerman meet them with a gurney. Ricci's on his walkie-talkie, as Leo is placed on the gurney --

ZADRO
Had us worried about you.

CORDAY
Leo Leipziger, crush injury to the right arm.

DEWEY
BP 90 palp, pulse 110.

(CONTINUED)
CORDAY
We had a prolonged extrication.

ZADRO
No kidding.

Behind them, boundary tapes go up and the HazMat decontamination tents are unfolded. Ricci re-directs the gurney.

RICCI
Stay to the right. We've got an unknown solvent pouring out from a holding tank. HazMat's setting up for decontamination.

As they move to the ambulance, the inflatable HazMat tents rise in the b.g.

Fire fighters cordon off the contaminated area with red and yellow "HazMat" tape.

ZADRO
Already sent sixteen patients to four hospitals. Soon as we drop him off we're back for more.

They continue towards the ambulance --

CUT TO:

ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

Weaver surveys the board as Jeanie signs out Laszlo, a burn patient.

WEAVER
How're you doing?

JEANIE
Last one.

(to patient)
We'll see you tomorrow for a wound check.

Laszlo exits to the ambulance bay.

WEAVER
Jeanie, since they're worker's comp cases, be sure to call the employee health coordinator at the chemical plant and fax them all of your records.

(CONTINUED)
Before Jeanie can respond, there's a shout from the employee entrance.

VOICE (O.S.)
I need some help here!

They turn to see three people stumbling through the door, dressed in chemical plant coveralls and down jackets. JACKIE TELLER, 30s, female plant foreman, supports MANNY LOPEZ, barely conscious, clothes dripping wet, followed by MORRIS CAMPBELL, short of breath from aspirating the fumes.

WEAVER
What happened?

JACKIE
We're from Prusack Chemco. We were behind Building Five when the tank blew. Manny went right into the stuff.

WEAVER
What kind of stuff?

JACKIE
Everyone got soaked. It was a mess. I threw these guys in the back of my pickup.

JERRY
(wrinkling his nose)
What is that smell?

Weaver, Jackie and nurses put Manny on a gurney and move towards Curtain Two. Jackie drops her down coat in the puddle by the admit desk.

JACKIE
Some solvent. A lot of people got sick.

WEAVER
Jeanie, take the other guy. Bag and seal all the clothes. Glove up everybody.

Jerry and other nurses hold gauze pads, scarves, etc. to their faces.

JACKIE
Check Manny first, he's the worst.

(CONTINUED)
JERRY
I'm gonna open some doors.

CUT TO:

EXAM THREE - NIGHT

Carter shows Dr. George his new eye drops and fills out aftercare papers.

CARTER
Use these twice a day.

Dr. George sniffs at the air.

DR. GEORGE
Benzene.

CARTER
What?

DR. GEORGE
The smell.

CARTER
They're probably stripping the floors.

DR. GEORGE
Not with benzene. Extremely toxic.

CARTER
(focusing on papers)
Uh huh.

DR. GEORGE
Amazing story. 1858. German scientist Kekule is asleep. He dreams of strings of atoms, twisting and turning like snakes.

As Carter moves him toward the door.

DR. GEORGE
Now one of the snakes bites its tail and whirls before his eyes. He awakes having discovered the molecular structure of benzene.

They reach the --
SIDE HALL - NIGHT

CARTER
(amused)
Wow.

DR. GEORGE
A vision that changed his life.
(as he leaves, casually)
I'd find out where that smell is coming from if I were you.

Carter moves to the --

NURSES' STATION/MAIN ER - NIGHT

Through the window, he sees the commotion at Curtain 2B. Weaver and TAKATA work on Manny, bagging the clothes and examining the patient. Jackie stands by Spinetti in Curtain 2A.

WEAVER
Get those clothes outside, Yosh.

He passes off a bag of wet clothes to a nurse. Jeanie helps Morris, seated by exam one, with an oxygen mask and hooks up a pulse oximeter.

JEANIE
Take some slow deep breaths.

CARTER
What's going on?

WEAVER
Chemical spill.

Carter goes to glove up.

JACKIE
(to Spinetti)
You want me to call your wife? You might be here awhile.

Del Amico enters with a suture kit.

DEL AMICO
(waving off the fumes)
We need some fans. I'll call maintenance.

She moves to the Admit Desk.

(CONTINUED)
WEAVER
And get housekeeping to clean up the...

Weaver takes a shaky step back from the bed. She grabs at an IV pole to steady herself. The pole timbers with her as she faints, knocking over a Mayo stand filled with supplies.

Takata rushes to her side and drags her toward an empty bed in Curtain One. Del Amico runs over.

TAKATA
Gimme a hand.

RANDI and MARQUEZ approach.

RANDI
What's wrong?

MARQUEZ
Oh, my God. It's Dr. Weaver.

DEL AMICO
Don't touch her without gloves on. Her clothes are soaked with that stuff.

Jeanie comes over as they lift her to the gurney.

TAKATA
On my count. One, two, three.

They lift Weaver to the gurney and open her shirt to examine the lungs. Carter comes up to the bedside.

CARTER
Oxygen mask.

DEL AMICO
Get her on a pulse ox.

Carter hands the mask to Jeanie who places it over the unconscious Weaver's face. Weaver vomits into the mask.

JEANIE
Roll her on her side. Suction!

CARTER
Don't let her aspirate.

Del Amico hands the suction to Jeanie. As Jeanie starts to clear the airway, Weaver's body erupts into a grand mal seizure.

(CONTINUED)
DEL AMICO
Ativan, 2 milligrams IV, now!

JEANIE
She needs a line!

Randi and Marquez run to help. Carter stops them, stepping back.

CARTER
Stop. Don’t walk through the puddles. It might be benzene.

MARQUEZ
What is that?

CARTER
A solvent, it’s toxic. Don’t spread it around. We’ve got to keep this contained.

Carter looks at the floor and sees gurney tracks and footprints leading all over the ER.

DEL AMICO (O.S.)
I’m in. Let’s go with the Ativan.

JEANIE (O.S.)
Pulse ox is only eighty-five, turn up the oxygen.

TAKATA (O.S.)
Do we need to intubate?

JEANIE (O.S.)
C’mon, Kerry, c’mon.

CARTER
Oh, Christ, it’s everywhere...

OFF Carter, realizing that the benzene has spread throughout the ER.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

MAIN ER - NIGHT (5:30 PM)

Carter and Jarvik unfurl a large impermeable surgical drape to cover the contaminated floor. Marquez enters with a new drape. (NOTE: This all plays like gangbusters with overlapped dialogue).

CARTER
(re: the drapes)
It's gonna take at least four more to cover the floor by admit.

MARQUEZ
I'll call central.

Del Amico passes by.

CARTER
Anna, check Ellenhorn's Toxicology -- see what it says about benzene exposure!

Jeanie moves Weaver on a gurney, still unconscious, across the blue sheets toward the trauma room.

JEANIE
Where to?

CARTER
Trauma one -- get the sickest patients away from the stuff. Double bag all the contaminated clothes and put them outside.

BENTON emerges from Trauma One with Krakowski, a "clean" warehouse worker.

BENTON
Clean patients to the back hall -- I'll cover them. Randi, bring their charts.

KRAKOWSKI
You guys need to air the place out. Did you call HazMat?

Benton moves out.

DEL AMICO
They're on the way.

Carter moves to Manny. Jerry crosses, pulling a large fan.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JERRY
There's another one of these babies in the maintenance closet.

He moves to the --

ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

JERRY
I'll blow this stuff right out of here in no time.

He starts to unwind the power cord. Seeing him with the fan, Carter calls out:

CARTER
No! Don't turn it on. The spark could ignite the fumes.

Jerry drops the cord.

JERRY
Oh, right.

Hathaway has placed her clinic table in the main hall, behind the admit window, away from the fumes. Malik and Marquez talk on two phones already stretched to the table.

HATHAWAY
Gimme another phone.

Jerry stretches a third phone cord across to her.

MALIK
(on phone)
What's the E.T.A. on HazMat?

HATHAWAY
Jerry, we gotta find the Disaster Manual.

MARQUEZ
(on phone)
I need surgical drapes in the E.R. -- waterproof ones. Better send a dozen.

Hathaway dials the phone as Malik hangs up.

MALIK
They'll be here in less than five.

(CONTINUED)
MARQUEZ
(re: the drapes)
No, this is an emergency, get them up here now!

Malik and Marquez move to help transfer patients. In the b.g., a steady stream of patients move down the main hallway away from the admit desk. Hathaway dials the phone as Jerry tears through stacks and stacks of disorganized three-inch manuals under the desk.

JERRY
Policy and procedures... human resources... sexual harassment guidelines... It’s gotta be here somewhere...

Hathaway observes Jerry’s frustration.

HATHAWAY
Dispatch? This is County General E.R. -- we are closing due to internal disaster. No, I can’t...
wait...

(they put her on hold)
C’mon, dammit. Don’t put me on hold.

Jerry lunges his head out towards the ambulance entrance, gasping for fresh air.

JERRY
Maybe the manual’s in the lounge.

Jerry moves to the lounge.

HATHAWAY
(into phone)
Yes, we’re closing down to all paramedic traffic immediately...

BAM! Corday and Zadro burst in through the ambulance entrance with Leipzinger in a cervical collar, backboard, and arm splint. Corday is filthy, covered with oil, dirt, the beginnings of a black eye and scrapes from her ordeal. Carter runs towards the admit desk.

LEO
It hurts again. I need some more...

ZADRO
Hang in there, Leo.

(CONTINUED)
CORDAY
Carol, I’ve got a major trauma patient... What’s going on here?

Hathaway slams down the phone.

HATHAWAY
Chemical spill. What happened to you?

The gurney heads into the main ER. Carter stops them and redirects them down the main hall.

CARTER
No, Dr. Corday! Other way. We’re moving everybody.

Corday sniffs at the air.

HATHAWAY
Benzene fumes. Contaminated patients. It’s all over the floor.

CORDAY
This man needs pre-op labs, chest x-ray, peritoneal lavage, and immediate surgery to revascularize his arm.

CARTER
Take him to the back hall. I’ll send x-ray.

CORDAY
In the hall?

CARTER
Malik -- set him up for lavage and notify the O.R.

Del Amico crosses, moving Arteburn’s gurney to safety.

ARTEBURN
Where are you taking me? Should we even be in here?

DEL AMICO
Don’t worry, everything’s okay, Mr. Arteburn, we’re just taking normal precautions...

As they reach the doors to the back hall, Benton reappears, stopping their progress.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

BENTON
Get out of here, Anna! There’s fumes coming off the wheels of the gurneys. Connie passed out in the back hall.

Takata follows, pushing Randi in a wheelchair.

* ARTEBURN
Listen, I want to get out of here. Where are my clothes?

* JARVIK
What happened to Randi?

* TAKATA
I don’t know. She just fainted.

Carter runs up to Benton.

* CARTER
What about the lobby?

* BENTON
All right, let’s go. Clean patients only.

* MALIK
How do we know who’s clean?

* TAKATA
Is Randi contaminated?

* BENTON
If it’s on her clothes.

Benton moves alongside Corday and Leo, he sees her and reacts to her disheveled state.

* BENTON
Elizabeth, you okay?

* CORDAY
Fine. A bit mussed. But my patient’s critical. Where are we going?

* BENTON
I’m not exactly sure...

As Hathaway talks on the phone, she scrambles to pull her table out of the way so Benton and the others can pass.

(CONTINUED)
HATHAWAY
If the CEO’s in a meeting, get me her assistant. We’re in disaster mode, we need a hospital-wide response.

Carter moves to help, as DUMAR and three gurney patients break through the ambulance doors.

DUMAR
Three victims from the blast, all decontaminated at the scene. What the hell is this?

Now it’s gridlock. Carter is trapped by Benton’s ten patients and the three new arrivals. Everyone’s talking at once, shouting out conflicting orders. But no one can move.

HATHAWAY
(to Dumar)
Don’t come in here. The ER’s contaminated.

BENTON
Clear a path. We gotta get through.

DUMAR
What happened?

HATHAWAY
They just showed up, covered in benzene.

DUMAR
Don’t you screen people? You shouldn’t have let them in.

HATHAWAY
You guys didn’t control the scene. They came here in a pickup truck.

In the chaos, Carter is looking around, wondering what he can do.

CARTER
Okay, back up, get the table out of the way... let the paramedics... No... no...
(indicating Benton’s troops)
... these patients have to move through.

(continued)
Randi's awake. She stands up to help.

RANDI
I need my purse.

TAKATA
Sit down, Randi, you're sick.

MARQUEZ
Let us through. We're right next to the fumes.

RANDI
We're gonna get sick, here.

BENTON
Let's move them up the wards and the I.C.U.

CARTER
No, they're not staffed for this.

JARVIK
They should go to another hospital.

MARQUEZ
Yeah, send them to Mercy.

JERRY
I'll call County Dispatch, see if we can get transport.

DEL AMICO
No time.

HATHAWAY
We need to take care of them now.

Surveying the chaos, Carter pushes through to the desk.

CARTER
(loud)
Uh... I need everyone to quiet down.

(the HUBBUB CONTINUES; shouting, with authority)
Shut up, everybody. Shut up! We're going to evacuate the entire E.R.

People look around, is Carter the one to do this?

BENTON
Carter?

Carter keeps going.

(Continued)
CARTER
Move all contaminated patients and staff outside to the ambulance bay now.

MALIK
How do we know if they're contaminated?

CARTER
Anyone with a wet spot on their clothes, their gurney, their skin... outside now.

There's muttering and hesitation.

BENTON
Let's go.

Dumar and his patients clear the way as a few gurneys move outside. Jeanie comes through with Weaver, gowned and on oxygen.

JEANIE
Let me through.

CARTER
Dr. Weaver, how are you doing?

Weaver groans, unable to answer. Jeanie pushes her toward the bay.

JEANIE
Her seizing stopped, she's post-ictal.

Takata walks out with Randi.

RANDI
(protesting)
Where are you taking me?

TAKATA
You have to go outside. There's a spot on your elbow.

RANDI
So take my jacket. I'm not going out there and freeze my ass off.

(CONTINUED)
CARTER
(to nurse)
Take a bunch of blankets outside.
(to the crowd)
Any non-urgent complaints... send home now.

Del Amico moves to --

CHAIRS
She approaches ten waiting patients.

DEL AMICO
Everybody... stand up and line up... that's right, facing me.

CARTER (O.S.)
Clean patients needing sutures or x-rays to the lobby. Check all the rooms.

Del Amico works her way down the line-up of patients.

DEL AMICO
(to first patient)
What are you here for?

ANOTHER ANGLE - CARTER
Carter continues.

CARTER
How many critical patients do we have?

Hands go up.

MARQUEZ
Here.

JARVIK
One in the suture room.

MALIK
Three more in the ambulance bay.

CARTER
All right... seven, eight. Three outside, that's eleven. Okay, critical patients, move to the... ahhh...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CARTER (CONT'D)
(uncertain, fishing)
... to the... to the cafeteria.
Yes, the cafeteria's big enough.
Bring all the portable monitors
and oxygen cylinders. We'll set
up there.

There's a beat of hesitation from the crowd.

CARTER
(now determined)
C'mon. Let's move.

The caravan starts out for the cafeteria.

ANOTHER ANGLE - CHAIRS

Del Amico has thrown out half of the patients. As Carter
directs traffic in the b.g., she moves to a middle-aged
WOMAN in a full cervical halo.

DEL AMICO
What about you?

WOMAN
I need a refill for Flexeril, I'm
down to my last pill.

Del Amico scribbles on her prescription pad.

DEL AMICO
Who's your doctor?

WOMAN
I go to the neurosurgery clinic.

Del Amico tears off the prescription.

DEL AMICO
Make an appointment.

The Woman exits. Del Amico moves down the line to a
smallish MAN, holding his hat in his hand.

DEL AMICO
And you?

MAN
I was in a car accident last week
and my lawyer told me to come here
for x-rays.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DEL AMICO
Get outta here.

CUT TO:

CURTAIN THREE - NIGHT

Ross and DIALYSIS TECH prepare Sophie for transfer. Ross unhooks the ventilator and squeezes the ambu bag.

DIALYSIS TECH
It's not advisable to move the machine during dialysis.

ROSS
We have to evacuate. What do you do in a power failure? Doesn't it run off a battery?

DIALYSIS TECH
No battery. There's a hand crank.

ROSS
Start cranking.

Ross reaches to pull the dialysis machine plug. Hathaway enters.

HATHAWAY
Doug, Pedes unit has a bed.

ROSS
Good. Let's get her ready.

CUT TO:

AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

Jeanie and nurses huddle near the doorway draping blankets over Weaver, and other contaminated patients. A fire truck, lights swirling, sits in the archway.

RANDI
We better get some heat out here. We're gonna freeze.

Captain DANNAKER and another fireman appear from behind the truck, wearing breathing apparatus.

DANNAKER
HazMat. What's up?
CONTINUED:

JEANIE
There's a benzene spill inside. These are the contaminated patients. We need some kind of shelter.

DANNAKER
We'll set up out here. Keep them covered.

CUT TO:

ADMIT DESK - NIGHT
Carter's overseeing activity at the desk as a nurse passes with a palette of oxygen cylinders.

CARTER
(re: cylinders)
Take all those to the cafeteria. And set up portable suction.

Dannaker and colleague enter the ER, wearing their respirators.

DANNAKER
Where's the spill?

CARTER
Other side of the desk. We're evacuating.

DANNAKER
Right. That means everyone, you too, doctor...?

CARTER
Carter.

DANNAKER
Captain Dannaker. We're setting up DeConn in the ambulance bay.

CARTER
We haven't finished stocking the cafeteria and ambulance bay with medical supplies.

DANNAKER
Our people will get you what you need. Get everyone out now.

(CONTINUED)
CARTER
You won't know what to look for or where to find it. Give me five minutes to clear the place.

DANNAKER
You've got two.

Dannaker heads out to the bay. Carter runs down the hall with Marquez.

CARTER
Chuny, grab a crash cart and a defibrillator. Couple of Mayo stands.

MARQUEZ
Right.

Carter passes by the door to Curtain Three and sees Ross and Hathaway moving out.

CARTER
You guys okay?

HATHAWAY
On our way.

Carter continues down the hall.

CARTER
Anyone in Exam Four?

No answer. He turns to the trauma hall and sees Marquez moving a crash cart.

CARTER
And saline, Chuny. Lots of saline.

JARVIK sticks her head out from the suture room.

JARVIK
Carter! I need you down here.

Carter moves into the --

SUTURE ROOM - NIGHT

Jarvik mobilizes Inga Paulson, 70, wide-eyed, intubated on multiple drips.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JARVIK
Inga Paulson, coronary artery
disease, congestive heart failure,
on dopamine and heparin drips.
Help me move her out.

CARTER
I'll do it. I need you to take
ACLS drugs to the cafeteria. All
you can load on the biggest cart
you can find.

Jarvik hesitates.

JARVIK
You're going to move her and bag
her?

CARTER
Go. Just go.

CUT TO:

CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Benton gives orders to two cafeteria busboys. In the
b.g., by the cafeteria entrance, the medical staff tends
to multiple patients, awaiting their assigned places.

BENTON
Move all the tables against the
wall, we need more room.

He pushes two tables in tandem, toward the wall. Hefty
cafeteria manager, BERTHA, former army mess sergeant,
storms over.

BERTHA
Lift that, doctor... don't push
it. You're scratching my floor.

BENTON
(motions to
busboy)
Get on the other end of this,
gimme a hand.

BERTHA
You do not order my people around.
You tell me what you need, I will
have it done for you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
BERTHA (CONT'D)
(to busboys)
Lucho, Brian, stack the tables,
two high against the wall.

BENTON
We need electrical outlets.

BERTHA
All along that wall, behind the
steam tables.

Benton moves over to the waiting patients. Jerry carries
a stack of twenty chairs.

BENTON
When I call your patient's name,
tell me the diagnosis.
(looks at chart)
Arteburn...

DEL AMICO
Rule out M.I.

BENTON
Center aisle by the salad bar.

Del Amico moves off.

BENTON
Nguyen.

MALIK
Septic shock, respiratory failure.

BENTON
Over by the wall, he'll need a
vent...

Corday plows through with Leo, heading for a spot by the
wall.

BENTON
Whoa, whoa... where are you taking
him?

CORDAY
I can't wait, Peter. I need
x-ray, I need pre-op labs, and I
need to get him cleaned and up to
the O.R.

OFF Benton.

CUT TO:
ELEVATOR LOBBY - NIGHT

The elevator's emergency stop ALARM BLARES, as Ross pushes Sophie to the back of the elevator. The Dialysis Tech tries to enter with the machine while Hathaway turns the crank.

DIALYSIS TECH
This is ridiculous.

Hathaway tries to reposition the bulky machine.

DIALYSIS TECH
It's not going to work. There's not enough room.

HATHAWAY
Maybe we're better off in the cafeteria.

ROSS
No. I want her in the I.C.U. Let's pull the lines and close the circuit. Hold the cranking so I can disconnect.

He starts to disconnect the lines.

HATHAWAY
(concerned)
There's a liter of her blood in that machine, Doug.

ROSS
I'm aware of that.

HATHAWAY
We should go to the cafeteria.

Ross ignores her, hooking up the two lines.

ROSS
Okay, you've got a loop. Crank again. Carol, come with me.

The Tech takes over the cranking and pulls the machine away.

ROSS
(to Tech)
Take the other elevator, we'll meet in the PICU to hook her back up. Keep cranking, don't let her blood clot off.

CUT TO:
MAIN HALL/ADMIT DESK - NIGHT

Carter pushes Inga down the hall with Inga squeezing her own ambu bag.

CARTER
Good, Inga, big squeeze every three seconds. You're doing fine.

Inga nods, acknowledging his compliment. Dannaker enters through the ambulance bay.

CARTER
(anticipating)
This is the last one. It's all yours.

DANNAKER
Get going.

Suddenly, the deafening hospital FIRE ALARM BLARES.

CARTER
What the hell?

DANNAKER
Fire alarm. I'll deal with it.
(into walkie-talkie)
Dannaker, here, give me the fire control room.

Carter wheels off with Inga.

CUT TO:

ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The MUTED FIRE ALARM BLARES. Ross, Hathaway and Sophie rise towards the third floor.

HATHAWAY
What's that?

Out of annoyance, Ross taps on the third floor button.

ROSS
Sounds like a fire alarm.
(sotto)
C'mon... c'mon.

Suddenly, a LOUD, HEAVY SOUND -- K'THUNG -- and the elevator lurches to a stop. The lights blink. The jolt causes Hathaway to disconnect the ambu bag from Sophie's breathing tube.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HATHAWAY
I lost the bag, stabilize the tube.

ROSS
Got it.

Ross helps Hathaway reconnect.

HATHAWAY
What did you do? What did you push?

ROSS
Nothing.

Another lurch and the elevator starts to descend.

HATHAWAY
(alarmed)
What the hell is going on?

ROSS
Elevator recall. Happens in emergencies. We’re going down to the lobby.

HATHAWAY
Are you okay, Sophie?

Sophie makes the "okay" sign weakly. GEGLANK! The ELEVATOR GRINDS to a halt with a terrible METALLIC SOUND.

HATHAWAY
Why’d it stop?

ROSS
I don’t know.
(calmer)
How’s her oxygen supply?

Hathaway squints to see under the gurney.

HATHAWAY
Less than half a tank. We got twenty minutes.

Ross opens the emergency phone box and pulls out the handset. A frayed cord hangs from the set, vandalized. He slams down the phone.

ROSS
Dammit.

(CONTINUED)
Ross pushes the emergency elevator alarm. A BELL RINGS, barely audible under the continuing din of the FIRE ALARM.

HATHAWAY
Can they hear that?

ROSS
(nodding)
We'll be okay.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT (6:00 PM)

The external FIRE ALARM BELL RINGS ON, as the space-suited HazMat team works in the ambulance bay. Ten scrubbers and rinsers hover over figures on gurneys in decontamination pools, while ambulatory patients (including Randi) scrub themselves in portable showers. Behind a yellow tape, Carter approaches Dannaker who's talking on the walkie-talkie. He's grabbed by Barbara Trager, who's jumped an outside barrier.

BARBARA
Excuse me, you're a doctor.

CARTER
Yes, I'm...

BARBARA
I have to find my daughter. She's a patient in the ER. They won't let me in.

Before Carter can respond, fireman ERNIE ushers Barbara back.

ERNIE
Ma'am, you can't be here. Come with me.

BARBARA
No. Someone help me.

CARTER
She's probably in the cafeteria. You should check in there.

Carter moves on to Dannaker.

CARTER
Captain Dannaker.

DANNAKER
(into walkie)
Copy. No fire verified on floor two. Fire control... do a reset.
(to Carter)
False alarm. Somebody smelled fumes and panicked.

The HazMat team carries a patient on a backboard to a gurney at the access control point.

(CONTINUED)
Jeanie steps forward to take the patient (now revealed as Weaver), out of the decontamination zone. Weaver's coming around, but still altered from the seizure. Jeanie takes a quick listen to her lungs. The FIRE ALARM BELL SILENCES.

WEAVER  
(confused)  
Jeanie, why are we out here?

JEANIE  
It's okay, Kerry. We're going into the cafeteria.

WEAVER  
Good. I'm hungry.

CARTER  
How's she doing?

JEANIE  
A few wheezes.  
(with concern)  
She's still altered.

CARTER  
It's not from the benzene, it's just from the seizure. She'll be fine.

Jeanie nods, and moves Weaver off toward the revolving door hospital entrance. Carter moves on to Dannaker.

CARTER  
Some patients may need medical attention before we take them inside.

DANNAKER  
(pointing)  
That's your tent in the cold zone.

CARTER  
Cold zone?

DANNAKER  
(pointing)  
Out here.  
In there... the warm zone -- where we clean them. Nobody goes in without a suit. Same goes for the ER, that's a hot zone.

(continued)
HARRIET SPOONER, hospital administrator, dressed in a business suit and an orange "Incident Commander" vest, approaches. Dannaker goes back to his walkie-talkie.

SPOONER
Are you Carter?

CARTER
Yes.

SPOONER
Harriet Spooner, normally VP of Operations. Today I'm the incident commander. You evacuated the ER to the cafeteria?

CARTER
Yeah.

SPOONER
The disaster plan calls for evacuation to the physical therapy ward.

CARTER
It was pretty chaotic. We had to...

DANNAKER
(interrupting)
Spooner, we've got an elevator stuck between floors.

CARTER
Anyone on it?

DANNAKER
Yeah. Phone's dead but the alarm's going.

CUT TO:

ELEVATOR - NIGHT

As the elevator ALARM continues, Ross bags Sophie with one hand. Sophie looks at Ross, afraid.

ROSS
It's okay, Sophie. We're just having a little adventure. You're going to have some really cool stories to tell your friends.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Hathaway checks the portable monitor.

HATHAWAY
Multifocal PVCs.

ROSS
Potassium's too high. Push an amp of bicarb, that'll buy us a little time.

Hathaway rummages through the drug box.
Another ALARM. Ross looks at the monitor.

ROSS
Run of seven. Where's the bicarb? She's about to go into V'tach.

Hathaway continues to tear through the box.

HATHAWAY
There isn't any.

ROSS
Didn't you check the box? You can't treat hyperkalemia without bicarb.

HATHAWAY
It wasn't my idea to move her like this.

With fear in her eyes, Sophie grabs Hathaway by the sleeve and pulls her close.

HATHAWAY
Okay, it's okay.

ROSS
(re: drug box)
So what do you have in there?

HATHAWAY
 RETURNS TO BOX
I got epi, I got atropine... how about lidocaine?

ROSS
Okay, lidocaine. Fifty milligram bolus, then five milligrams every five minutes.

(THEN)
How's the oxygen?

(CONTINUED)
HATHAWAY
(sotto)
Ten minutes.

OFF Ross, trying to figure out what to do.

CUT TO:

CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Corday finishes the peritoneal lavage on Leo, pulling the catheter out of his belly. Malik assists.

CORDAY
Lavage is negative. Let's get him up to the OR.

Malik calls to an orderly.

MALIK
Hey, transport, give us a hand.

Leo moves out, crossing with Jeanie and Weaver who settle in next to Arteburn. Arteburn looks over curiously, recognizing Weaver as his doctor.

ARTEBURN
Dr. Weaver?

WEAVER
I'm sorry, have we met before?

ARTEBURN
You're my doctor.

JEANIE
Why don't we just let her rest.

Marquez wheels by with a ventilator with Carter following to the "ICU" area.

MARQUEZ
Got two more vents coming down. Who gets the first one?

They arrive between Inga, still bagging herself, and patient Nguyen, bagged by Jarvik.

JARVIK
Let's start with Inga.

Inga shakes her head "no," continues to bag, and points to the other patient.
CARTER
You sure, Inga? It could be awhile.

Inga flexes her arm, demonstrating a strong bicep, and nods. Carter smiles, then sees Harriet Spooner approaching.

SPOONER
Carter, where's your attending?

CARTER
Dr. Weaver's over here.

They walk to Weaver's bedside.

SPOONER
Kerry?

Weaver looks at her confused.

WEAVER
Harriet? What is going on?

SPOONER
I'm sorry. I had no idea you were debilitated by the incident.

WEAVER
Incident?

Carter pulls Spooner aside.

SPOONER
Is she going to be all right?

CARTER
Lack of oxygen caused a seizure, we don't expect any long-term effects.

They walk and talk.

Spooner hands him a nine-by-twelve inch envelope and a walkie-talkie.

SPOONER
Here's the job action packet for the chief medical officer -- I guess, for the moment, that's you. And a walkie. I'm on channel 4. I'll check in with you in a half hour. I gotta get back to dealing with the elevator.

(Continued)
CARTER
You get the people out?

SPOONER
Building engineer has the elevator repairman on the way. Shouldn't be more than an hour.

CUT TO:

ELEVATOR - NIGHT
Ross shoves an IV pole in the jam of the inner elevator doors and attempts to pry it open. Hathaway’s bagging Sophie.

HATHAWAY
Aren’t there two sets of doors?

When the doors are a few inches apart, the pole slips, the doors slam shut and Ross barks his knuckles.

ROSS
Dammit.
(he immediately tries again)
This time when it opens, get your body in there.

HATHAWAY
I can’t, I gotta bag her.

Ross has the door open about twelve inches.

ROSS
(straining)
You can reach. C'mon, get in here.

Hathaway slides in between the open door, sideways, bracing the door apart with her back and the sole of one foot.

HATHAWAY
Got it.

Ross inspects the outer door.

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
We’re about two feet short of the next floor.

He tries to pry the outer door with the IV pole. It won’t budge.

ROSS
C’mon... c’mon.

Ross gets up on the bed, feet straddling Sophie’s head.

HATHAWAY
Doug?

Ross buries his face and both arms up into the space between the inner and outer doors, feeling around the top of the outer doors.

ROSS
There’s got to be a latch or something.

HATHAWAY
Doug, get down. What if it starts moving?

ROSS
Then you won’t have to worry about commitment.

HATHAWAY
Doug, I’m not kidding.

He feels something.

ROSS
Got it. This might do it.

Using his right hand, he strains to release the latch.

ROSS
It’s gonna work. Gimme the pole.

Hathaway hands him the IV pole. Ross shifts his position for leverage, almost stomping on Sophie’s head.

HATHAWAY
Watch your step.

An ALARM.

ROSS
What?

(CONTINUED)
HATHAWAY
It's not the EKG, it's the pulse ox. Her oh two sat's down to 89.

ROSS
How's the oxygen?

Hathaway looks at the empty gauge on the tank.

HATHAWAY
Oh, God...
(checks on Sophie)
Sophie, how're you doing?

Sophie doesn't respond. Hathaway shakes her. Ross struggles to jimmy the pole into the jam. There's a BANGING from the outside of the elevator doors.

ROSS
Yeah. We're stuck in here. Open the doors.

MUFFLED VOICE (O.S.)
Elevator repairman's on the way.
Be here in forty-five minutes.

ROSS
We can't wait. We got a sick kid.
We need oxygen.

HATHAWAY
Sophie... Sophie.
(to Ross)
She's unresponsive.

ROSS
Let's go, Carol. Push.

Ross gets a better grip on his IV pole. Hathaway braces herself...

ROSS
Ready? One, two, three...

Ross pulls on the pole. Hathaway pushes with her foot. They're both drenched with sweat. The outer doors open a crack, no more. Without warning, Hathaway's foot slips and the inner doors close on her.

HATHAWAY
Owww.

Ross lets go of the latch and uses both hands on the inner doors to prevent her from being crushed.

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
You okay?

HATHAWAY
Yeah.

ROSS
C’mon, get your foot up. We’re going again.

Hathaway bangs on the outer door and shouts:

HATHAWAY
Get us out of here!

Hathaway gets her foot into position against the door. Ross reaches for the latch and puts the pole into place.

ROSS
Ready... and go.

Hathaway pushes. Ross pries.

HATHAWAY
(straining)
That’s as far as it’ll go.

ROSS
(exhausted)
Keep going, Carol. We can do this. Keep it up.

The outer door is open six inches. Three sets of hands grab it from the outside and pull. Suddenly both doors fly open. Hathaway falls to her butt and Ross tumbles out into the --

ANOTHER FLOOR ELEVATOR LOBBY - NIGHT

Hathaway rushes back to bag Sophie. Outside the elevator, a fireman, a building engineer, pedes nurse KIT and a crowd of nurses and orderlies help Ross up and jump in the elevator to transfer Sophie.

HATHAWAY
She needs oxygen right away.

KIT
Got it.

Ross jumps back into the elevator, getting ready to lift the gurney with the team.

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
Here we go, one, two, three.
The gurney's out. The team races down the hall.

CUT TO:

SCRUB SINKS - NIGHT

ROMANO scrubs as Corday enters, hair wet, freshly cleaned from the dirt of the rubble. Inside the OR, Leo is prepped for surgery.

ROMANO
Ahh, here's our little action hero.

CORDAY
How does it look?

ROMANO'
Like ground beef. No, more like chopped liver.

CORDAY
Do you think we have a chance for limb salvage?

ROMANO
(beat)
You want my honest opinion?...
(off her look)
No, I guess you don't.

CORDAY
I'd like to give it our best shot.

ROMANO
You got it, Lizzie. No holds barred. One hundred and ten percent.

CUT TO:
Benton tests sensation in Krakowski's leg, concerned. Marquez is there.

BENTON
Can you feel this?

KRADOWSKI
It's kind of numb. Is that bad?

BENTON
The leg's getting tense. I need to measure the internal pressure.

MARQUEZ
Transducer's up in the ER. HazMat'll never find it.

BENTON
Okay, then I need a 20 gauge needle, IV tubing, and a BP cuff manometer.

MARQUEZ
You got it.

Marquez leaves to gather supplies passing Weaver, who's getting a nebulized breathing treatment and conversing with Arteburn, one bed over.

ARTEBURN
(deliberately spoken)
And then I watched them put you on a gurney and give you oxygen.

WEAVER
Then what happened?

ARTEBURN
They moved me from a yellow room to a green room.

WEAVER
That would be Trauma Two.
(insistent)
But where was I at that time?

ARTEBURN
Then they brought you into the yellow room. And that's where they removed all of your clothes and put them into a plastic bag.

OFF Weaver.
AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

Jackie, in bra and underwear, lathers up under the portable shower. Carter arrives, seeing Morris entering the scrubbing area on a gurney. Dannaker is there.

DANNAKER
Got two more to go.

CARTER
How about the ER?

DANNAKER
Gonna be a while.

Morris struggles on the decontamination table.

MORRIS
Is there a doctor around?

CARTER
Yeah, right here.

MORRIS
Kinda hard to breathe.

CARTER
I’ll be right with you.

DANNAKER
You can’t go in there. Suits only.

CARTER
So suit me up. He’s in trouble.

DANNAKER
Even if you were certified, it’d take fifteen minutes to suit you up. He’ll be out before that.

MORRIS
(starting to panic)
Please, I can’t breathe.

JACKIE
Doc, do something.

CARTER
That guy could die. You’re not letting me in there?

DANNAKER
(to HazMat)
Mike, put him on oxygen.

The HazMat guys bring over a tank. Carter’s frustrated.

(CONTINUED)
DANNAKER
(to Carter)
First rule of HazMat --
don’t create more victims
at the scene.

CARTER
(to HazMat team)
Is he breathing?

Carter turns to a paramedic in the "cold" zone.

CARTER
Airway kit, now!

DANNAKER
Give them a minute. You can tube
him soon as he comes out.

Carter grabs the airway kit and heads through the access
control point into the warm zone. A burly fireman moves
to stop him, and drags him back into the cold zone.

DANNAKER
That was pretty stupid.

Carter seems to nod in agreement. The fireman keeps a
grip on Carter’s overcoat. Suddenly Carter makes a move.
He wiggles out of his coat and ducks under the control
tape. He dodges a security man, rushes to Morris, pushes
the HazMat scrubbers away and starts to intubate Morris.

DANNAKER
He’s dirty now. Let him do it.

JACKIE
Help him!

Carter leans his forearms on the gurney, contaminating himself.

CARTER
Any of you guys an EMT?

A hand raises.

CARTER
Get ready to bag him.
(beat)
I’m in.

The HazMat EMT bags Morris.

DANNAKER
(to HazMat workers)
Scrub him.

(CONTINUED)
Three HazMat workers, including Ernie, step up to Carter and peel off his clothes, lab coat first.

ERNIE
Nice going, Doc.

As they pull the lab coat off, the walkie-talkie squawks from the coat pocket. It’s the voice of Harriet Spooner, incident commander.

SPOONER (V.O.)
(on walkie-talkie)
Dr. Carter. Come in, Dr. Carter.
Please update me on your progress.

A HazMat worker tosses the contaminated walkie-talkie into a trash bag.

CARTER
Wait... I need to talk to her.

Dannaker holds up his walkie-talkie.

DANNAKER
Got you covered, Doc.

HazMat workers pull off Carter’s shirt and pants. Jackie calls from the shower:

JACKIE
Thanks, Doc.

CARTER
(re: Morris)
How’s he doing?

As Carter, in his underwear, is escorted into a yellow wading pool, Ernie responds:

ERNIE
(re: the patient)
He’s pinking up. Looking good.

WHOOSH! Two HOSES open up, SPRAYING Carter from head to toe. Shivering, Carter still manages a smile.

CARTER
Great.

OFF Carter.

FADE OUT.
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

CAFETERIA - NIGHT (9:30 PM)

CLOSE ON a Rube Goldberg contraption of syringes, tubes, manometer and a needle stuck into Krakowski’s leg. Benton pushes on the syringe and Del Amico calls out the pressures off the gauge.

DEL AMICO
Sixty... seventy...

KRAKOWSKI
What does it mean?

BENTON
The pressure’s too high from the bleeding inside your leg. We need to operate to relieve it.

An ALARM from across the cafeteria. Commotion around Inga’s bedside. A nurse does CPR. Marquez grabs the paddles.

MARQUEZ
Dr. Benton, Dr. Del Amico. Need you over here.

BENTON
(to Jerry, on the move)
Book a room.

Benton and Del Amico run over to Inga’s bedside.

MARQUEZ
Charging to 200. Clear!

ZAP. Everyone looks at the monitor.

DEL AMICO
Still in fib.

BENTON
Charge to 300.

MARQUEZ
Clear.

Marquez zaps her again. OFF Inga’s face.

CUT TO:
INT. TENT - NIGHT

Carter's in the tent with Takata, who bags Morris. He's changed to scrubs, towels his hair, and stands barefoot.

TAKATA
Can we move him inside?

CARTER
In a minute.
(to fireman outside)
Hey... what about my shoes?

Dannaker hears him.

DANNAKER
Ernie, take care of Dr. Carter.

TAKATA
Sat's are up to 95. He's waking up.

Carter moves to listen to the lungs.

CARTER
Sounds good. You're doing okay, Morris.

Ernie, out of his HazMat suit, enters with a pair of bright yellow firefighting boots.

ERNIE
Dr. Carter?

Carter look up and sees the boots.

CARTER
No... real shoes.

Malik enters.

TAKATA
Malik, help us move this guy.

MALIK
We should wait a little bit, they're coding some old lady in the cafeteria.

OFF Carter, as he grabs the yellow boots and pulls them on.

CUT TO:
ALARMS. Del Amico does CPR on Inga. Benton holds the paddles.

BENTON
Chuny... I said 360, let's go.

MARQUEZ
Wait a second... it takes time, the battery's low.

ZAP. They look at the monitor.

DEL AMICO
Asystole. How long we've been at this?

MARQUEZ
Eighteen minutes.

BENTON
Never had a pulse, never had a rhythm -- that's it.

DEL AMICO
Time of death... 22:09.

As they turn off the monitor, unhook the ambu bag, Jarvik wheels by with Krakowski.

JARVIK
Dr. Benton, O.R.'s ready for Krakowski.

BENTON
(to Del Amico)
I've got a fasciotomy.  
(re: Inga)
See if you can find the family.

Benton moves off to catch up with Jarvik.

ANOTHER ANGLE - ARTEBURN

Arteburn's been watching the whole resuscitation. He's a little agitated and turns to Weaver.

ARTEBURN
Did that woman just die? Is she dead?

Weaver nods regretfully as she breathes from the steaming nebulizer.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

ARTEBURN
Are they just going to leave her there?

Weaver nods again. Benton and Jarvik pass with Krakowski.

BENTON
Pre-op labs back?

JARVIK
Right there.

Benton reviews the lab results as they move to the --

CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CAFETERIA - NIGHT

KRAKOWSKI
How long will I be in a cast?

BENTON
Four to six weeks.

Carter flies by, running to the cafeteria.

CARTER
Anna’s got the code?

BENTON
Yeah, but it’s...

Before he can finish, Carter’s dashed into the cafeteria as Jerry exits and calls after Benton.

JERRY
Dr. Benton, an I.C.U. bed opened up. Which patient do you want to go up first?

BENTON
Ask Carter, he’s in charge.

CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Carter runs up to the bedside of Inga. Her body is lifeless, bare endotracheal tube coming out of her mouth. Marquez cuts the IV’s.

(CONTINUED)
As Carter stares, Del Amico writes in the chart.

DEL AMICO

CARTER
(shaking his head)
I should have had her up in the ICU.

DEL AMICO
Wouldn't have made a difference.

CARTER
Might have.

DEL AMICO
No, you turned this place into an ICU.

CARTER
This isn't an ICU. It's just something we threw together.

DEL AMICO
John. You thought on your feet when no one else could.

CARTER
She was strong. This shouldn't have happened.

DEL AMICO
(looking through chart)
Look at her chart. Inoperable triple vessel disease. It was only a matter of time.

Carter and Del Amico share a look. Suddenly, from across the aisle, Arteburn's MONITOR ALARMS. Carter and Del Amico run over.

DEL AMICO
Mr. Arteburn, are you okay?

He's about to pass out.

ARTEBURN
Dizzy. Very dizzy.

Carter checks the monitor. Marquez joins them.

(CONTINUED)
CARTER
Supraventricular tachycardia.
Adenosine, six milligrams IV.

MARQUEZ
We don’t have any.

CARTER
Run to the pharmacy, Jerry. We
need it now!

Jerry takes off.

Weaver, still on the nebulizer, fumbles with her side
rail, trying to get out of bed.

WEAVER
(wheezing)
Carter, you need any help?

Before Carter can respond, Weaver erupts into a coughing
spell, unable to stop, unable to catch her breath.

DEL AMICO
Pulse is weak and thready. Mr.
Arteburn, any chest pain?

He weakly shakes his head, no.

CARTER
Can’t wait for the adenosine.
Gotta cardiovert. Lily, crash
cart. And somebody help Dr.
Weaver.

Jarvik drags the crash cart over from Inga to Arteburn.

Jeanie, returning from a distant patient, runs over to
Weaver.

DEL AMICO
Get him into Trendelenberg. I’ll
try carotid sinus massage.

JEANIE
Sit back, Kerry. Nice and easy.

They lower the head of Arteburn’s bed. Takata joins
them.
CARTER
Yosh, try to get a BP. Lily, charge to 100.

One bed over, Jeanie tries to settle Weaver.

WEAVER
But they need an attending.

Jarvik fiddles with the defibrillator. Del Amico gives a sternal rub.

DEL AMICO
Mr. Arteburn... Mr. Arteburn. He's unresponsive.

CARTER
Let's go, Lily. Paddles, now.

JARVIK
I can't... battery's dead.

MARQUEZ
I'll find an extension cord.

JARVIK
No, move him over to the wall, there's an outlet.

Jarvik drags the crash cart back to the wall, near another two gurneys.

DEL AMICO
Move that gurney out of the way.

TAKATA
BP's 60 palp.

DEL AMICO
Not moving much air. We gotta tube him.

Another ALARM. Carter, panicked, looks around the room, then runs off to the soft drink dispenser. Jeanie has Weaver back on her breathing treatment, and returns to help.

DEL AMICO
Carter?

But he's gone. Del Amico squeezes a bag-mask over Arteburn's face.
JEANIE
Pulse is weaker. Still in SVT.

DEL AMICO
Jeanie, get ready to start CPR.
(yelling) I need an intubation tray! Lily, as soon as you have power, we’ll move him to the wall. Carter, get over here.

Carter has filled a busboy tray with ice cubes and water. He runs back to Arteburn’s bedside. Jarvik plugs in the crash cart and pushes some gurneys out of the way, making room by the wall.

JARVIK
Almost ready.

Del Amico prepares to intubate.

DEL AMICO
John, need you to bag him.

Carter pushes Del Amico out of the way. In a flash, he raises the head of the bed, grabs Arteburn by the hair, and dunks Arteburn’s whole head under the ice water, face first. Everyone at the bedside is wide-eyed.

MARQUEZ
Carter?

Carter holds his head underwater with the determination of an assassin.

Arteburn comes up sputtering, gasping for air, with a bloodcurdling scream. The ALARMS SILENCE. Carter smiles broadly.

CARTER
(re: monitor)
Normal sinus rhythm.

ARTEBURN
What are you people doing to me? Give me a towel.

CARTER
You passed out from an abnormal heart rhythm. We had to treat it right away.

ARTEBURN
By drowning me?

(CONTINUED)
DEL AMICO
(impressed)
The diving reflex...

CARTER
Slows down the heart, breaks the
tachycardia.

Arteburn looks around the room. Sees Carter’s yellow
boots, then Weaver puffing on her nebulizer. He loses
it.

ARTEBURN
You call this the highest standard
of care? Get my doctor on the
phone, now.

Arteburn starts to rip off his EKG leads.

CUT TO:

OR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Corday and the surgical team wheel Leipziger out of the
OR.

CORDAY
(to the anesthesiologist)
I’ll meet you in Recovery in a few
minutes. I want to be there when
he awakens.

She crosses to the desk to finish some notes. Benton
speaks as he approaches with Krakowski.

BENTON
(slightly formal)
Elizabeth.

CORDAY
(exhausted)
Hello, Peter.

Benton lets the team pass into the OR.

BENTON
I’ll be right there.

He approaches Corday, moving to examine her black eye.

BENTON
Your eye looks worse.
CONTINUED:

CORDAY
(pushing him away)
It's nothing. I'm sure it looks nastier than it is.

BENTON
(persisting)
You could have a hyphema. Let me check it out.

Benton takes out his penlight.

BENTON
I heard about the rescue. You were under a collapsed building?

Corday nods.

CORDAY
Went all out to avoid an amputation, but we had to take the arm anyway.

He finishes the exam.

BENTON
Are you okay?

CORDAY
I have to tell Leo about his arm when he wakes up.
(beat)
What about you? On call tonight?

BENTON
I've got this fasciotomy, but after that... I'm available.

CORDAY
I could do with a bit of debriefing.

Benton nods. OFF Corday watching him move off.

CUT TO:

PEDES ICU - NIGHT

Ross and Hathaway extubate Sophie, who's back on Dialysis. Sophie coughs a bit, Hathaway holds an oxygen mask by her face.

(continued)
HATHAWAY
Take some slow breathes, Sophie.
Slow, deep breaths.

ROSS
(to a nurse)
Get a blood gas in twenty minutes.

SOPHIE
(hoarse)
Throat's sore.

ROSS
You want a sip of water?

Sophie nods. Hathaway holds a plastic cup and straw, Sophie takes a sip and looks at Hathaway.

SOPHIE
That was pretty scary, wasn't it?

HATHAWAY
No. We do stuff like that every day.

SOPHIE
No, you were scared. Tell the truth.

Hathaway looks at Ross.

HATHAWAY
Yeah, Sophie. I was pretty scared.

Ross smiles.

ROSS
I was really scared.

Sophie smiles, reacting to her mother, Barbara, running toward the bedside.

BARBARA
Honey, I've been looking all over for you.
(to Ross)
Is she okay?

ROSS
She's doing fine.

(CONTINUED)
BARBARA
I heard about the fumes. Was she exposed?

ROSS
No, she was on a ventilator. The fumes couldn’t reach her lungs.

BARBARA
So she was never in any danger?

Ross and Hathaway exchange a look.

SOPHIE
No, Mom, they took really good care of me.

Barbara looks at Ross and Hathaway.

BARBARA
(after a beat) *
This morning, I said some things I probably shouldn’t have.

ROSS
You were under a lot of stress.

Hathaway’s BEEPER goes off.

HATHAWAY
The ER.

Hathaway moves off. Another doctor steps to the bedside.

ROSS
She’s in good hands.
(to Barbara)
I’ll check on her a little later.

He grabs the ER drug box and walks out to the --

PEDES HALLWAY - NIGHT *

Ross catches up with Hathaway.

ROSS
Hey, Carol. We should have Pharmacy restock the drug box.

Hathaway glances at him, then --

Sure.  

HATHAWAY

(CONTINUED)
ROSS
You still mad about this morning?

HATHAWAY
I was mad?

ROSS
I believe you accused me of spying on you.

HATHAWAY
That is not what I said.

ROSS
But it was what you meant.

HATHAWAY
I was annoyed. You don’t need to check up on me.

They arrive at the elevators and push the button, waiting. An elevator repairman works on the broken elevator car.

ROSS
I wasn’t. I just wanted to see you. I was lonely last night.

HATHAWAY
(a beat)
Me, too.

He looks at her, without touching her, he makes her feel him.

ROSS
We don’t want that to happen too often, do we?

Hathaway takes a moment.

HATHAWAY
No. I don’t want it to happen at all.

DING. The ELEVATOR DOORS open. It’s a matching elevator to the one they were stuck on. They share a look of trepidation. As they step in --

ROSS
Here goes nothing.

He pushes the elevator panel button and the doors close.

CUT TO:
MAIN ER - NIGHT

A ghost town. The CAMERA MOVES BY the desolate admit desk, THROUGH the empty curtain areas, THROUGH deserted trauma rooms TO the main hallway, clean and restored.

Suddenly the doors open at the far end of the hall and Carter, yellow boots, his hand guiding an IV pole like the staff of Moses, leads a parade of patients and medical staff back to the ER. On the move, he makes bed assignments.

CARTER
Mr. Arteburn -- Exam One.

Arteburn peels off with Wright...

CARTER
Lily, take Manny to Exam Two...
Chuny, Morris, Curtain Two.

The patients move off. Weaver approaches from the elevator lobby. She's up and about, now with nasal oxygen in place. Takata follows closely, wheeling her oxygen tank on a tether.

WEAVER
Carter, I can take it from here.
Anna, put the sickest patients in the trauma rooms and Curtain Three.

DEL AMICO
Got it.

WEAVER
Jeannie, update the board with Jerry. And get the phones back where they belong. Yosh, let's move.

JEANIE
Are you okay, Kerry?

WEAVER
I'm fine. Carter, I spoke with Harriet Spooner, the incident commander. Thanks for helping out. The administration would like you to speak to the press. We'll meet them together in the first floor conference room at 11:15.

(CONTINUED)
As Weaver drones on, Carter looks through the window of the nurses' station to Curtain Two. Jackie is at Morris' bedside -- she smiles and waves to Carter. Morris, on a ventilator, gives big thumbs-up.

WEAVER
In terms of dealing with these people, I've had a little more experience. It's important that the emphasis be placed on the institutional response to the crisis, rather than any individual act which they would tend to sensationalize.

Jeanie and Del Amico pass by, overhearing, and both giving Carter a smile and a knowing look. Carter smiles, taking private satisfaction that the ER appears normal again.

WEAVER
It's best to say, simply, that we followed a well-rehearsed disaster plan and worked in concert with the HazMat team to ensure the health and safety of our patients and medical staff.

Jerry interrupts.

JERRY
Carter, the fire captain wants to speak with you outside.

CARTER
Right.
(to Weaver, moving off)
Eleven-fifteen. I'll be there.

JERRY
Dr. Weaver, I've looked into some of the causative factors and I can now identify those at blame.

WEAVER
What are you talking about?

JERRY
As you know, I was on nights, and during that time the day unit service coordinators let the central work area deteriorate.

(CONTINUED)
WEAVER
Jerry, this was a toxic spill...

JERRY
And our efforts were impaired because we were unable to locate this important manual.

He holds up the disaster manual.

JERRY
I'm just saying that now that I'm back on days, you can count on a higher level of efficiency at the central work area. If you ever faint again, I'll have things under control.

OFF Weaver.

CUT TO:

AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

The ambulance bay is nearly cleared out, except for a fire department utility vehicle. Dannaker throws a duffle bag in the back as Carter approaches.

DANNAKER
Dr. Carter.

Carter points to the yellow boots.

CARTER
You want these back?

DANNAKER
No. Souvenir.
   (beat)
So, how do you think your people handled things?

CARTER
Pretty good.

DANNAKER
No.
   (a beat)
It was a total disaster. You guys were caught with your pants down.
   But you -- you personally did okay, under the circumstances.
   (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
(beat)
I think you're the guy we should work with to plan and implement a schedule of disaster drills.

CARTER
I don't have that authority. I'm just an intern.

DANNAKER
Huh... had me fooled.

Dannaker gets into the vehicle.

CARTER
You should talk with the Chief of Staff.

He nods and shakes hands with Carter.

DANNAKER
Good working with you.

Dannaker slams the door and pulls away. As the vehicle clears the entrance, GREENE appears, entering the bay with a piece of luggage over his shoulder.

GREENE
Hey, Carter.

CARTER
When'd you get back?

GREENE
Came straight from the airport.
   (looks at watch)
On duty in five minutes.

CARTER
Good to see you. How's your mom?

They turn and walk to the entrance. Greene sees Carter's yellow footwear.

GREENE
Doing better.
   (a beat)
What's with the boots?

CARTER
It's kind of a long story.

They enter the ER.

FADE OUT.

THE END