NIKOLA
“Baby Blues” By
Ed Scharlach

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers, in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

Name
Address
Phone
FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (TEASER)

NIKOLA AND KATHI ARE OOHING AND AWWING AS THEY PAGE THROUGH A PILE OF CATALOGUES FOR BABY WEAR, TOYS, AND OTHER INFANT PARAPHERNALIA.

KATHI
Look at this squeaky bear.

BOTH
Awww...

NIKOLA
And the Peter Rabbit bib.

BOTH
Awww...

KATHI
And these tiny little knit booties.

NIKOLA
There’s probably nothing in this catalogue that doesn’t make you say “awww”.

KATHI
I’m having so much fun with these - (SHUFFLING CATALOGUES) this one’s for toys, this one’s changing tables, this one’s stretchies and nappies. Everything for the baby.
NIKOLA
Now all you need is the baby.

KATHI
We’re trying... (PICKING UP MANUAL)
This booklet’s on ovulation cycles -
how to get my husband ready at the
same time my body is.

NIKOLA FLIPS THROUGH THE MANUAL AND
REACTS.

NIKOLA
(EYEBROWS RAISING) This might keep him
ready through several cycles.

KATHI
I know it’s silly to collect these
things when I’m not even pregnant.
But we really want a baby so much.

NIKOLA
It’ll happen, Kathi. Just keep
doing... (REFERRING TO MANUAL) page
48.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)
ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

INT. HOSPITAL – DAY

DR. SCHMIDT EMERGES FROM A PATIENT’S ROOM, DR. BORSTEL AND BRUMMEL TAGGING BEHIND.

SCHMIDT
He’s healing beautifully.

BRUMMEL
Yes, Herr Doctor. Sometimes I wonder why you don’t photo-exhibit your sutures.

SCHMIDT
Make a note. (AS THEY WALK) Borstel, have you relayed my orders to Nurse Nikola about working on the weekend?

BORSTEL
Yes, Herr Doctor. I told her.

SCHMIDT
And she said...?

BORSTEL
“I’ll be there”.

SCHMIDT
(DISAPPOINTED) No protest? No argument? No muttering my name in vain?

BORSTEL
Nothing.

(CONTINUED)
BRUMMEL
With all due respect, Doctor, since
Nurse Nikola didn’t get married, she’s
been different around you.

BORSTEL
Yes - civil, courteous, even-tempered.

SCHMIDT
Disgusting, isn’t it?

SCHMIDT APPROACHES NIKOLA, HIS MINIONS
A RAPT AUDIENCE.

SCHMIDT (cont’d)
Good morning, Nurse. Thank you for
giving up your time this weekend.

NIKOLA
I don’t mind.

SCHMIDT
(PROVOKING) All weekend. Forty-eight
hours.

NIKOLA
They usually are.

SCHMIDT
While the rest of us are relaxing,
playing, having a life.

NIKOLA
(UNFLAPPABLE) Doctor - I’m a
professional nurse. We work whenever
we’re called.

(Continued)
SCHMIDT SPOTS HER COFFEE CUP AND PICKS IT UP.

NIKOLA
That’s my coffee.

SCHMIDT
If you don’t mind... (HE TAKES A SIP).

NIKOLA
Not at all. It’s from yesterday – I had to clean out the mug anyway.

SCHMIDT REACTS, SPITTING OUT COFFEE. DR. PFUND ENTERS THE SCENE AND HURRIES TO SCHMIDT.

PFUND
Excuse me, Herr Doctor. You have a phone message... (HE LOOKS AT NIKOLA, THEN WHISPERS SOMETHING INTO SCHMIDT’S EAR).

SCHMIDT
That’s all right, Pfund. You can say it’s from (WITH EMPHASIS) Erik Berg – the man Nurse Nikola left at the altar. I’m sure she doesn’t mind knowing that Erik called me about our trip this weekend – fishing, camping, bragging about the women in our lives – while she’s busy being professional. It doesn’t bother you to hear about Erik, does it, Nurse?
NIKOLA
Not at all. But I appreciate your sensitivity.

SCHMIDT
(TESTING) Doesn’t stir pent-up feelings of any kind?

NIKOLA
Dr. Schmidt, I chose not to marry Erik. It was the right decision.

SCHMIDT
Is that why you’ve been acting abnormal?

NIKOLA
By “abnormal” you must mean “content, untroubled, and balanced”.

SCHMIDT
And actually pleasant. What happened to your tart tongue, your acerbic sarcasm, your...

NIKOLA
Bitchy insolence?

SCHMIDT
(SAVORING) Ah, bitchy insolence... whatever happened to that?

NIKOLA
After the events of my wedding...

(CONTINUED)
SCHMIDT
(CORRECTING) Non-wedding.

NIKOLA
I realize it’s best if our relationship remains non-personal and non-emotional. Two respectful colleagues who happen to work for the same organization. Good day, Dr. Schmidt.

SCHMIDT
Nurse Nikola, wait...

SCHMIDT POPS A BON-BON INTO HIS MOUTH, THEN STICKS THE WRAPPER INTO NIKOLA’S JACKET POCKET - A SURE-FIRE IRRITANT BEFORE.

NIKOLA
(UNFAZED) Will that be all, Dr. Schmidt?

SCHMIDT
Yes.

HE WALKS OFF.

SCHMIDT (cont’d)
She’s driving me crazy.

BORSTEL
(RUNNING UP TO HIM) Dr. Schmidt, you can stick something in my pocket anytime you like.

(CONTINUED)
SCHMIDT
That wouldn't be any fun. You enjoy it.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)
ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

INT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

THE NURSES’ STATION IS VERY BUSY - PHONES BUZZING, I.V. DISPENSERS TO FILL, LOTS OF TRAFFIC - AND NIKOLA IS BY HERSELF TRYING TO HANDLE IT ALL. SHE IS HARRIED AND GETTING VEXED.

NIKOLA
(INTO PHONE) Nurses’ station, hold please... (ANOTHER LINE) One moment...
(TO AN ORDERLY) Where’s that gurney? They can’t drag the patient by his feet... (ANOTHER LINE) Yes Doctor, I have that number for you right here...

SHE HURRIEDLY SEARCHES FOR HER MESSAGE PAD, WHICH IS BURIED UNDER KATHI’S STACK OF BABY CATALOGUES.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
(TO SELF) It’s got to be somewhere between “Lactation Quarterly” and “Picking Potty Seats”...

NIKOLA TRIES TO EXTRICATE IT WHILE DEALING WITH THE PHONE AND A PEN, AND THE STACK COLLAPSES ONTO THE FLOOR.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
Damn! (THEN, AWARE OF PHONE) I mean “oops”. Doctor, may I call you back?
Thank you...

KATHI ENTERS FROM LUNCH WITH A SHOPPING BAG AND A VERY PREGNANT PAL.
KATHI
(GIDDY) Thanks for the lunch, Greta, and all the shopping advice
(INdicating Bag). If all goes well, your Thomas (Gesturing to Greta’s Belly) will have a playmate.

NIKOLA
(IMPATIENTLY) Kathi, I need you here.

KATHI
Sorry I’m late. (To her friend) ’Bye Greta. (Rubbing Greta’s Belly) For luck. See you both soon.

Greta Waves and Leaves.

NIKOLA
(Simmering) If you’re done chatting with fetuses, you have to relieve me.

KATHI
Of course, but first I have to relieve myself... (Pointing) Restroom...

SHE GRABS A BABY CATALOGUE AND HEADS FOR THE RESTROOM. NIKOLA STOPS KATHI IN MID-STRIKE AND HOLDS OUT HER HAND.

NIKOLA
Hand it over.

KATHI GIVES HER THE CATALOGUE.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
From now on, reading and ovulating are both on your own time. Hurry.

(Continued)
KATHI DISAPPEARS THROUGH THE LADIES’ ROOM DOOR. NIKOLA RESUMES DEALING WITH THE FRENZY – TRYING TO FILE SOMETHING, ANSWERING THE BUSY PHONE, ETC.

TIM, MUNCHING ON A BAG OF CHOCOLATES, SNEAKS UP ON HER.

TIM
(STICKING BAG IN HER FACE) Gooey caramel or crunchy nuts?

NIKOLA
(SNAPS) Do I look like I have time for gooey crunchy anything?

TIM
(REACTING) Ouch!

NIKOLA
Sorry – it’s just that I’m swamped here, Kathi got back late from lunch, and all she can think about are ways to make a baby.

TIM
There are more than one? (OFFERS CHOCOLATES) Here, these will soothe your spirits.

NIKOLA
Which are the good ones?

TIM
All of them.

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA MUNCHES IMPULSIVELY FROM THE BAG THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING. SHE OPENS KATHI’S SHOPPING BAG.

NIKOLA
Look at these things - thermometers, calendars, timers, ovulation sticks, pregnancy tests... (RE. KATHI’S MANUAL) A book on arousing your man while he’s doing the bills...

TIM
Any pictures?

NIKOLA
It’s getting to be too much!

TIM
My, we’re cranky, cranky today.

NIKOLA
(SNAPPING) I’m not cranky!

TIM
And look how you’re going after my chocolates! PMS maybe?

NIKOLA
I do not get PMS.

TIM
Take it from me, honey, you get PMS.

NIKOLA
Can’t I just be upset about something without a gynecological motive?

(CONTINUED)
TIM
(CONVINCED) PMS. I know your cycle as if it were my own. (FIGURING IN HIS HEAD) Let’s see, your last period started on the twentieth...

NIKOLA
Tim, sometimes people can know each other too well.

TIM
...That’s 25 days ago. Now we head into what I like to call the three day “Reign of Terror”...

NIKOLA
You’re wrong. It started on the fifteenth.

TIM
Well, if it’s not PMS, there is another possibility...

NIKOLA
That I have the right to be pissed off once in awhile?

TIM
No. That you’re pregnant.

NIKOLA
Pregnant? That’s impossible.
TIM
For me, not for you. Let’s figure this out... When was the last time you saw Erik?

NIKOLA
The day I called off the wedding.

TIM
Five weeks ago...

NIKOLA
Six.

TIM
And you probably made love – what? The night before? The day before? The morning of?

NIKOLA
Yes.

TIM
Which one?

NIKOLA
All of them.

TIM
And you let him go?

NIKOLA
Tim, I am not pregnant.

TIM OPENS KATHI’S SHOPPING BAG.
TIM
Here are two dozen pregnancy tests -
Kathi will never miss one. In sixty
seconds you’ll know for sure.

NIKOLA
That’s ridiculous. There is no way
I’m going to dignify your absurd
notion.

TIM
(SHRUGS) It’s your uterus.

HE GOES OFF, AND NIKOLA USES THE LULL
TO STRAIGHTEN UP THE STATION. PICKING
UP THE MAGAZINES AND CATALOGUES THAT
FELL TO THE FLOOR.

NIKOLA’S POV

THE COVER PHOTOS OF BIG-BELLIED MAMAS-
TO-BE.

BACK TO SCENE

NIKOLA CONSIDERS FOR A MOMENT, THEN
GETS THE SHOPPING BAG, RUMMAGING
THROUGH IT. NIKOLA HUNTS OUT A
PREGNANCY TAB. CONCEALING IT UNDER
HER JACKET, SHE HURRIES TO THE
RESTROOM DOOR.

NIKOLA
(KNOCKING) Kathi! What’s taking you
so long? We need coverage at the
desk.

KATHI (O.C.)
Coming, coming!

KATHI EMERGES FROM THE LADIES’ ROOM.
NIKOLA
Out of the way! I’ve got PMS!

KATHI
Thought so.

NIKOLA WHISKS INTO THE RESTROOM, BOLTING THE DOOR.

ANOTHER ANGLE
AS KATHI CROSSES TO THE NURSES’ STATION AND RUNS INTO SCHMIDT, WITH PFUND.

SCHMIDT
Where is Nurse Nikola?

KATHI POINTS TO THE RESTROOM DOOR.
SCHMIDT SMILES SLYLY.

SCHMIDT (cont’d)
(TO PFUND) At last I have her where she’s vulnerable.

HE CROSSES TO THE DOOR.

INT. RESTROOM (CONTINUOUS)
NIKOLA STANDS IN A STALL, HOLDING THE PREGNANCY TAB AND STARING ANXIOUSLY AT HER WATCH FOR THE SIXTY SECONDS TO PASS.

SCHMIDT (O.C.)
Nurse! I need you!

NIKOLA
(DISTRESSED) Now??

SCHMIDT (O.C.)
Now!

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA
Can’t you wait another (LOOKING AT WATCH)... 47 seconds?... 46 seconds?... 45 seconds?...

SCHMIDT
No! It’s urgent!

NIKOLA HIDES THE PREGNANCY TEST ON A HIGH SHELF AND EXITS THE RESTROOM.

INT. CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)
NIKOLA COMES THROUGH THE DOOR TO FACE A SMIRKING SCHMIDT.

NIKOLA
(TRYING TO KEEP CALM) Yes, Doctor, what’s so urgent?

SCHMIDT
I can’t find my thermometer.

A THERMOMETER CONSPICUOUSLY PROTRUDES FROM SCHMIDT’S TUNIC POCKET. NIKOLA’S EYES NARROW AS SHE REALIZES HE’S STILL PLAYING HIS LITTLE GAME.

SHE MERELY EXTRACTS THE THERMOMETER FROM SCHMIDT’S POCKET. SHE BRANDISHES IT FOR A MOMENT, KNOWING WHAT SHE’D REALLY LIKE TO DO WITH IT, THEN CATCHES HERSELF.

NIKOLA
(SWEETLY) Here, Dr. Schmidt.

NIKOLA WHEELS AROUND AND HEADS BACK INTO THE LADIES’ ROOM.

SCHMIDT
(TO PFUND) I thought I had her, but she got away.

(CONTINUED)
PFUND FOLLOWS AS SCHMIDT PASSES THE LADIES’ ROOM DOOR.

HOLD ON DOOR

A MOMENT LATER NIKOLA EMERGES HOLDING THE PREGNANCY STICK, A GLAZED LOOK ON HER FACE.

TIM HAPPENS BY, WHEELING A MEDICINE CART. HE SEES THE STICK.

TIM
So you took the test. (SCRUTINIZING STICK) What does “pink” mean?

NIKOLA
It means you were wrong.

TIM
About what?

NIKOLA
The PMS.

TIM’S PUZZLED EXPRESSION METAMORPHOSES INTO DELIGHT.

TIM
You’re pregnant? (REALIZING) We’re pregnant! I’m going to be an auntie!

HE DANCES A NUMB NIKOLA AROUND THE ROOM. ATTRACTED BY THE COMMOTION, SCHMIDT HEADS OVER TO THEM.

SCHMIDT
Pregnant? Who’s pregnant? (TO TIM)
It couldn’t be you, unless I slept through something big in medical school.

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA
(DAZED) Me... I'm pregnant.

SCHMIDT'S JAW DROPS, AS WE

FADE OUT.
ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. NIKOLA’S APARTMENT – THAT NIGHT

NIKOLA IS FACING THE REALITIES OF HER SITUATION, NOT MADE EASY BY STEPHANIE.

STEPHANIE
How could you get pregnant, mother?
You’re over thirty!

NIKOLA
It must have been that time I set down my walker.

STEPHANIE
(INCREDULOUS) My mother pregnant. That is such a repulsive thought. Weren’t you paying any attention to those little talks we had?

NIKOLA
I believe it was me who was doing the talking.

STEPHANIE
Well you obviously weren’t doing any listening. Don’t you know anything about birth control?

NIKOLA
If I did, would there have been a Peter?

(CONTINUED)
STEPHANIE
I’m serious, Mother! Have you given one thought to how this is going to affect me?

NIKOLA
Yes, you’ll be a middle child - another set of problems for me to deal with.

STEPHANIE
I have a life, too. I can’t spend my vital years baby-sitting and doing child-servitude. Not to mention the embarrassment of having a mother in maternity clothes!

NIKOLA
Stephanie, I don’t want to hear anymore. It was an accident.

STEPHANIE
No, it was a head-on collision.

TIM ENTERS THE APARTMENT.

STEPHANIE (cont’d)
(FRUSTRATED, TO TIM) She’s impossible!
I tried my best to get through to her. You talk to her.

SHE STOMPS OFF INTO HER ROOM.

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA
(TO TIM) I don’t need more advice.
The last thing you told me to do was
take a pregnancy test – and look where
it got me.

TIM
I bet you would have been pregnant
anyway. Have you called Erik? If you
hurry you can still fit into your
wedding dress.

NIKOLA
No, these are decisions I want to make
alone. It’s my body, my baby.

TIM
(TAKING HER HAND) Well whatever you
do, you know you have my support.

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR

NIKOLA
(SOFTLY) Thanks. I just need time to
think.

TIM GIVES HER A HUG, THEN OPENS THE
DOOR TO LEAVE, REVEALING SCHMIDT.

TIM
(TO SCHMIDT, RE. NIKOLA) This is what
happens when you fool around with
girls.

TIM EXITS. SCHMIDT STEPS INSIDE.

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA
(NOT IN THE MOOD) Yes, Doctor Schmidt?

SCHMIDT
Nurse Nikola, I’m here to let you know I’m not going to raise your rent - now that you’ll be needing it for a little one.

NIKOLA
Oh - were you going to raise my rent?

SCHMIDT
If it would have irritated you.

NIKOLA
A dog with a bone isn’t as persistent as you.

SCHMIDT
(PRYING) So I imagine the father will be providing for the child. Of course I’m assuming Erik knows about this.

NIKOLA
(INdicating Door) Dr. Schmidt, this is none of your business...

SCHMIDT
And of course he would be very concerned.

NIKOLA SWINGS THE DOOR BACK AND FORTH IN AN OBVIOUS GESTURE FOR HIM TO LEAVE.

(Continued)
NIKOLA
Perhaps you didn’t hear me...

SCHMIDT
So I guess he’ll be coming back into your life.

NIKOLA
(EXASPERATED) No he won’t.

SCHMIDT
He won’t?

NIKOLA
I don’t want Erik to know right now.

SCHMIDT
(RELIEVED) Yes! That is, yes you’re right, there’s no reason he should. It’s reassuring to see you’re doing so well — totally on your own. Without Erik. Female strength. You do not need him. (HIS CELL PHONE RINGS AND HE PLUCKS IT OUT OF A POCKET) Dr. Schmidt... Oh, hold on. (TO NIKOLA) Good night, Nurse.

LOAD-LIGHTENED, SCHMIDT EXITS.

INT. HALLWAY (CONTINUOUS)
AS NIKOLA SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

SCHMIDT
(INTO CELL-PHONE) Erik, thanks for returning my call.

(MORE)
SCHMIDT (cont’d)

I just wanted to see if you knew something, but I found out that you didn’t, so never mind... Look, could I call you back, I’m right outside Nikola’s door... Oh, she’s fine. Pregnancy is a natural condition...

(REALIZING TOO LATE) Shit...

SCHMIDT BANGS THE CELL-PHONE AGAINST HIS HEAD.

DISSOLVE TO:
ACT TWO

SCENE TWO

INT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

SCHMIDT APPROACHES NIKOLA AT HER STATION, SNIFFING AROUND FOR THE RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF HIS BLUNDER.

NIKOLA
(PLEASANTLY) Good morning, Doctor.
You’re too early for my coffee.

SCHMIDT
I can’t seem to reach Erik today to talk about - (GRASPING) our weekend plans. Have you heard from him by any chance for any reason?

NIKOLA
No.

SCHMIDT
Not even... lately?

NIKOLA
Especially not lately. I haven’t spoken to Erik in six weeks.

SCHMIDT
Well, what would you say if he called?
I mean, hypothetically.

NIKOLA
I’d say “Hello, how are you?”
Hypothetically.
SCHMIDT
That’s it?

NIKOLA
There’s not much more to say, is there?

SCHMIDT
(AGREEING WITH HER) No, nothing.
(FEELING SAFE NOW) A woman in your condition should not be under any stress from old relationships. Look how hard you’re working... Relax, stay off your feet, practice deep breathing... .

HE PLACES A PILLOW INDULGENTLY BEHIND HER BACK.

NIKOLA
(ReactING TO HIM) I think morning sickness just kicked in early.

NIKOLA REMOVES THE PILLOW AND RETURNS TO HER WORK. SCHMIDT GOES OFF, PASSING THE ELEVATOR DOOR.

A MOMENT LATER THE DOOR GLIDES OPEN - AND OUT WALKS ERIK! HE CROSSES TO THE NURSES’ STATION.

ERIK
(WARMLY) Hi...

NIKOLA IS STUNNED.

NIKOLA
Erik! What are you doing here?
ERIK
I heard you were pregnant.

NIKOLA
(SHOCKED) You know?! Who told you?

ANGLE ON SCHMIDT
COMING OUT OF PATIENT’S ROOM. HE GLANCES DOWN THE HALL.

SCHMIDT’S POV
ERIK AND NIKOLA TALKING.

BACK TO SCHMIDT
HE QUICKLY ROUNDS THE CORNER TO GET AWAY. JUST WHEN HE THINKS HE’S SAFE, NIKOLA ROUNDS THE OTHER CORNER AND COLLARS HIM.

NIKOLA (CONT’D)
Freeze!

ERIK APPROACHES.

ERIK
Hello, Robert.

SCHMIDT
(FEIGNING SURPRISE) Erik! What are you doing here?

ERIK
I had to come after you told me Nikola was pregnant.

SCHMIDT
Pregnant? Oh, right, almost forgot.
NIKOLA
(TO SCHMIDT) Don’t give up medicine
for acting.

ERIK
Nikola, I know this is hard for you.
Whenever you’re ready, we need to
talk.

NIKOLA
Thank you, Erik. That’s very
sensitive of you.

HE SQUEEZES HER HAND AND WALKS OFF.

SCHMIDT
Sensitive?! Just because of a little
compassion and understanding?

NIKOLA
Yes.

SHE WALKS OFF.

SCHMIDT
(TO SELF) Women are so odd.

DISSOLVE TO:
ACT TWO

SCENE THREE

INT. SCHMIDT’S APARTMENT – LATE THAT NIGHT

SCHMIDT AND ERIK MULL ERIK’S CIRCUMSTANCES OVER MIDNIGHT COGNACS.

ERIK
Thanks for letting me stay here,
Robert.

SCHMIDT
The least I could do. Stay as long as you wish. (THEN, QUICKLY) How long do you think that will be?

ERIK
That’s up to Nikola.

SCHMIDT
Well, she probably needs lots and lots of time for herself.

ERIK
As my friend, tell me if you think I should just step back and give her room.

SCHMIDT
Lots and lots of room.

ERIK
We’re going to meet tomorrow... I don’t even know what to say.

SCHMIDT
Less is more.

(CONTINUED)
ERIK
Life is strange. I just got used to the idea that Nikola called off our wedding, and now she’s carrying our child. Where does that leave me?

SCHMIDT
Nowhere. It’s the male irony. In situations like this, we’re outcasts. A mere seed that got loose and pollinated.

ERIK
I’m more than that to Nikola.

SCHMIDT
Don’t be so sure. What does a woman really need from a man? Shelter... security... a little jewelry once in a while. And... (GESTURING) the one biological feature they’ve always envied.

ERIK
I’ve got to put aside my feelings and do what’s right.

SCHMIDT
I agree. Be a man and rise above your pride.

ERIK
Do you really think so?

(CONTINUED)
SCHMIDT
Yes, yes I do.

ERIK
Then it’s decided. It’s the only appropriate thing to do. Nikola and I must be married.

SCHMIDT DROPS HIS GLASS OF COGNAC.

SCHMIDT
Married? I was only talking about sending the kid a check once a month!

CUT TO:
ACT TWO

SCENE FOUR

INT. NIKOLA’S APARTMENT (CONTINUOUS)

NIKOLA AND TIM, IN THEIR NIGHTIES, ARE SHARING A BIG BOWL OF ICE-CREAM.

TIM
(PUSHING BOWL TO HER) Have my share.

You anticipating mommies need your calcium.

NIKOLA
(PUSHING IT BACK) But we don’t need to anticipate an elephant butt.
(SIGHING) I wish I could figure out what to do next.

TIM
I’m sure you’ll make the right choices.

NIKOLA
There are just so many things to think about – my kids, my career, my stage of life. Bringing a child into a difficult world. Raising one as a single parent.

TIM
I believe that a two parent home is the secret of being well-adjusted.

NIKOLA
You came from a two parent home.

(CONTINUED)
TIM
I guess they didn’t let me in on the secret. (THEN) So, what are you going to do about Erik?

NIKOLA
I don’t know. I’m seeing everything differently now that there’s a baby involved. Before yesterday, I had no regrets about calling off the wedding. But now, I ask myself why I didn’t marry him.

TIM
You and me both, sister.

NIKOLA
He’s a man of good character, he’s reliable, he’s generous... he loved me. Isn’t that enough?

TIM
If he were gay, I’d take him.

NIKOLA
Am I too demanding? Do I want perfection? Or am I just too scared to make a commitment?

TIM
Yes, yes, and yes!

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA
Or is there something else standing in the way?

TIM
Enough with the soul-searching!
Sweetie, you’re single, you’re with child, you’ve got a great guy waiting in the wings – it’s not that complicated.

NIKOLA
You think Erik and I should be together.

TIM
(TAKES HER HAND) Maybe this pregnancy is a sign. Maybe it is destiny.

NIKOLA
(CONSIDERING) Maybe it is.

DISSOLVE TO:
ACT TWO

SCENE FIVE

INT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

ERIK HURRIES OVER TO NIKOLA, AT HER DESK.

ERIK
I need to talk to you.

NIKOLA
I need to talk to you, too...

SCHMIDT SEEMS TO COME FROM OUT OF NOWHERE AS HE BOUNDS TOWARD THEM.

SCHMIDT
Excuse me Nurse Nikola, there’s something you have to do...

NIKOLA
I’m talking to Erik right now.

SCHMIDT
He’ll wait.

NIKOLA
(ANNOYED) What’s so important?

SCHMIDT
(THINKING) Could you... roll that EKG unit to the elevator.

NIKOLA
What happened to a “woman in my condition”?

SCHMIDT
Exercise benefits delivery.

(CONTINUED)
ERIK
I’ll help you.

ERIK AND NIKOLA GO TO THE EKG UNIT AND WHEEL IT TOGETHER AS THEY RESUME THEIR DISCUSSION.

ERIK (cont’d)
I’ve been thinking about our situation all night.

NIKOLA
Yes, I have also...

SCHMIDT, A NERVOUS WRECK, CAN’T LET THEM HAVE A MOMENT ALONE.

SCHMIDT (INTERRUPTING) Erik – I may not be home tonight, I’ll give you the keys.

SCHMIDT FEELS AROUND IN HIS POCKETS.

SCHMIDT (cont’d)
They must be in my office. (TO NIKOLA) He’ll be right back. After lunch.

NIKOLA
Doctor, Erik and I have to talk right now.

ERIK
If you don’t mind, Robert, I’ll come in a few minutes.

SCHMIDT
I’ll wait.

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA
Doctor, don’t you have somewhere more important to be?

SCHMIDT
Just surgery.

NIKOLA
This way, Erik.

NIKOLA TAKES ERIK’S ARM AND ESCORTS HIM INTO THE SUPPLY CLOSET.

SCHMIDT PACES OUTSIDE, STRAINING AT THE DOOR TO HEAR THE MUMBLED CONVERSATION INSIDE.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET (CONTINUOUS)

ERIK
Robert seems so concerned about your welfare.

NIKOLA
Some might call it “snooping”. (THEN SINCERELY) Erik, I appreciate your wanting to come here...

ERIK
It wasn’t a matter of choice.

NIKOLA
After how things ended between us... I know it took a lot for you to swallow your pride.

(CONTINUED)
ERIK
It’s my child, too.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)

SCHMIDT’S EAR IS PRACTICALLY PRESSED TO THE DOOR. HE’S STARTLED BY TIM’S VOICE.

TIM
Doctor...

SCHMIDT
(JUMPING) Yes!?

TIM
Have you seen the EKG unit? Maintenance is coming to fix it.

SCHMIDT STRAIGHTENS UP, TRYING TO ACT CASUAL, AND POINTS TO THE EKG BY THE ELEVATOR. HE CONTINUES TO TRY TO EAVESDROP INTO THE CLOSET.

TIM (cont’d)
How did it get down there?

SCHMIDT
Shhhhh...

TIM SIZES UP THE SITUATION.

TIM
Excuse me, Doctor, but are you eavesdropping?

SCHMIDT
Of course not. I happen to be working out the details of an intricate operation.

(CONTINUED)
Of course. May I listen in on the procedure?

TIM CURIOUSLY PUTS HIS EAR TO THE CLOSET DOOR. SCHMIDT SHOOTS HIM A LOOK, AND HE JUMPS AWAY.

TIM (cont’d)
I’ll catch the post-op.

ANGLE ON ELEVATOR

THE ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS AND KATHI COMES OFF, LOOKING REFRESHED. SHE APPROACHES TIM.

TIM
Hi, Kathi, how was your day off?

KATHI
Wonderful. We baby-made our brains out.

THEY CHAT AS TIM PUSHES THE EKG UNIT BACK TOWARDS WHERE SCHMIDT IS STANDING.

TIM
Well, there’s been some news around here! You won’t believe it – Nikola is pregnant!

KATHI (AMAZED) No!

TIM (ELATED) Yes!

SCHMIDT (PEEVED) Quiet!

(CONTINUED)
HE PRESSES AGAINST THE CLOSET DOOR.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET (CONTINUOUS)

ERIK AND NIKOLA ARE IN MID-CONVERSATION.

ERIK
... I’ve been up all night thinking...

NIKOLA
Me, too. You should have come downstairs for ice-cream.

ERIK
You could have come upstairs for cognac.

NIKOLA
Or poured the cognac over the ice-cream. That way baby and mother would have been happy.

THEY LAUGH.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
I thought leaving you was the hardest decision I’ve ever made. But this one is harder.

ERIK
It doesn’t have to be. I know what we should do.

NIKOLA
So do I.
INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)

SCHMIDT STRUGGLES TO LISTEN AT THE DOOR, AS KATHI TALKS TO TIM.

KATHI
This is so exciting! When did she find out?

TIM
Tuesday morning.

SCHMIDT
Will you please keep it down?!

TIM
(LOWERING HIS VOICE) She borrowed one of your pregnancy tests.

KATHI
(THINKING) That is a coincidence. I took a test on Tuesday morning, too. Mine was negative.

SCHMIDT SHOOTS HER A LOOK.

KATHI (cont’d)
(PRACTICALLY WHISPERING) I was taking the test in that restroom and Nikola hustled me out, so I left it on a shelf and came back later for the results.

SCHMIDT
Shut up, dammit!

(CONTINUED)
TIM
(WHISPERING) Another coincidence -
Nikola said she put her test on a
shelf because Mr. Snoop-Ears over
there ordered her to stop.

SUDDENLY SCHMIDT HAS BECOME INTERESTED
IN THIS STORY.

SCHMIDT
What did you say?! Speak up!

TIM
(QUAKING) I didn’t mean you!

SCHMIDT
(TO KATHI) No, you! What about that
coincidence?

KATHI
Just that Nikola and I took our
pregnancy tests in the same restroom
about the same time...

SCHMIDT
(INTERRUPTING) Yes, yes... Could they
have been crossed?

KATHI
Crossed?

TIM
Crossed?

SCHMIDT
Crossed!!!

(CONTINUED)
HE FLINGS OPEN THE SUPPLY CLOSET DOOR, EXPOSING NIKOLA AND ERIK IN WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A POIGNANT MOMENT.

SCHMIDT (cont’d)
Nurse Nikola, I need you to pee!

NIKOLA
Doctor, you are going a little far with your demands.

SCHMIDT
(INdicating KATHI) This nurse took a pregnancy test the same time you did. There might have been a mix-up.

NIKOLA
(Putting two-and-two together) Kathi, you took a pregnancy test on Tuesday?

KATHI
Yes, after my lunch with Greta. But then when you came and...

SCHMIDT
(INterrupting) Just pee!

NIKOLA DOESN’T WASTE A SECOND, RUSHING WITH KATHI TO THE NURSES’ STATION, FOLLOWED ANXIOUSLY BY SCHMIDT, ERIK, AND TIM. NIKOLA IS SURPRISED TO FIND HER DESK NEAT AND CLEAN – NO CATALOGUES, NO BAG OF PREGNANCY DEVICES.

NIKOLA
Where are they? You had two dozen pregnancy tests!

(CONTINUED)
KATHI
I left them in a shopping bag.

NIKOLA
I’ve been tripping over this stuff for a week, and now it’s gone!

KATHI
You were complaining, so I told an orderly to straighten up.

SCHMIDT
(JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS) He threw them out?! What a time for an employee to be competent!

HE STARTS DIGGING THROUGH THE TRASH PAILS.

ERIK
This is a hospital. There have to be pregnancy tests somewhere.

NIKOLA URGENTLY LOOKS THROUGH DRAWERS, ERIK AND TIM RACE AROUND THE AREA HUNTING THROUGH CLOSETS, ETC., KATHI GRABS THE PHONE, AND SCHMIDT IS FLINGING THINGS OUT OF THE PAILS.

KATHI
(INTO PHONE) Obstetrics? This is Orthopedics. We need...

TIM
(FINDING KATHI’S BAG) Here it is!

(CONTINUED)
KATHI
(INTO PHONE) Never mind! (SLAMS IT DOWN)

TIM
Stored neatly in a cabi... oof!

HE’S PRACTICALLY MOWED DOWN AS NIKOLA AND KATHI DASH OVER TO THE CABINET AND GRAB TWO TESTS FROM THE BAG.

SCHMIDT
Go! Go!

THEY SPRINT TO THE LADIES’ ROOM, SCHMIDT, ERIK, AND TIM SPRINTING BEHIND THEM.

THE TWO NURSES LOCK THEMSELVES INSIDE, AS SCHMIDT AND ERIK PACE BACK AND FORTH OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

SCHMIDT (cont’d)
(CALLING INSIDE) Hurry up! Hurry up!

NIKOLA (O.C.)
Quiet! You’re constricting our bladders!

SCHMIDT
How long does that test take?

TIM
Sixty seconds.

HE EXTENDS HIS ARM TO CHECK HIS WATCH. TIM AND ERIK CRANE OVER TO LOOK AT IT, TOO.

TIM (cont’d)
Which one’s the second-hand?

(CONTINUED)
SCHMIDT
Next to the depth-gauge. (EYEING WATCH) 37... 36... 35...

ALL THREE MEN ARE NOW PACING.

ERIK
It’s still possible she’s pregnant.

SCHMIDT
Or not. 23... 22...

TIM
The suspense is giving me hives!

THEY CHECK THE TIME AND FINISH THE COUNTDOWN ALOUD...

ALL THREE
...Nine... eight... seven... six...
      five... four... three... two... one!

THEY LOOK EXPECTANTLY AT THE RESTROOM DOOR. WHICH REMAINS SHUT.

TIM
(CALLING THROUGH DOOR) Well...?

ERIK
(CALLING THROUGH DOOR) What’s the result?

SCHMIDT
(CALLING THROUGH DOOR) Get out here!

FINALLY THE BATHROOM DOOR SWINGS OPEN. NIKOLA AND KATHI MARCH OUT, BRANDISHING THEIR COLORED STICKS.

KATHI
Pink!

(CONTINUED)
NIKOLA

Blue!

SCHMIDT

Translation!

KATHI

(THRILLED) Positive!

NIKOLA

(JUBILANT) Negative!

JOY AND RELIEF FOR EVERYONE! THEY DANCE AROUND, SCHMIDT EVEN HUGS KATHI. THEN REALIZING, HE PULLS BACK.

TIM

(NEAR TEARS) I’m so happy for you both.

KATHI

(TO TIM) I promise you can still be an auntie.

NIKOLA DRAWS ERIK AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

NIKOLA

Erik...

ERIK

Are you disappointed?

NIKOLA

A small part of me is. The rest is incredibly relieved.
ERIK
Me, too. I’m glad we weren’t forced into a decision. (THEN) Nikola, what would yours have been?

NIKOLA
(WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY) The same whether I was or wasn’t pregnant.

ERIK UNDERSTANDS.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
I just had to find the strength to admit it.

ERIK
You’re a stronger person than I am.

NIKOLA
But you’re an honorable person to have come back. Many men would have offered to send a check once a month.

ERIK
(SMILING) I can vouch for one.

NIKOLA
I’m sorry, Erik. It wasn’t meant to be.

ERIK
I know that now.

HE KISSES HER ON THE CHEEK.

ERIK (cont’d)
But we had a hell of a year.
NIKOLA
(THINKING BACK) We did.

NIKOLA WATCHES AS ERIK WALKS AWAY.

HER REVERIE IS BROKEN BY THE INTRUSION
OF SCHMIDT’S VOICE.

SCHMIDT
What’s going on? Is he out of your
life?

NIKOLA TURNS, FUMING - THE DAM FINALLY
BREAKS.

NIKOLA
Yes he’s out of my life! Now if you
value your nose, keep it out of my
business!

SCHMIDT
(STERN) Nurse Nikola, do I discern an
insolent tone in your voice?

NIKOLA
Bitchy insolence.

SCHMIDT
That’s what I thought.

HE MOVES ON, BARELY HIDING HIS SMILE -
ALL’S RIGHT AGAIN WITH THE WORLD.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)
ACT TWO

SCENE SIX

INT. NIKOLA’S APARTMENT – EVENING (TAG)

NIKOLA ENTERS WITH A PREPARED DINNER SHE’S PICKED UP. SHE SETS IT DOWN ON A TABLE AND REMOVES HER COAT.

NIKOLA
(CALLING) Stephanie! I’ve got Chinese for dinner!

STEPHANIE ENTERS WEARING A BIKINI TOP, AND A FLIMSY MINI-SLIP.

STEPHANIE
Sorry, Mom. There’s a new club opening. I’m meeting Jessica downstairs in a few minutes.

NIKOLA
(DISAPPOINTED) Well, more lo mein for me. (THEN) You better hurry and get dressed.

STEPHANIE
I am dressed.

NIKOLA
(REACTING TO HER OUTFIT) In your underwear?

STEPHANIE
No, Mom – my underwear’s under this underwear.
NIKOLA
Go in your room and change into something legal.

STEPHANIE HURRIES BACK TO HER ROOM. SUDDENLY LOUD ROCK MUSIC BOOM-BOOMS FROM THE FLOOR ABOVE. NIKOLA GRABS A BROOM AND BANGS THE CEILING WITH THE HANDLE.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
(SHOUTING) Peter! Turn down that stereo!!

THE MUSIC SUBSIDES. NIKOLA LOOKS AT THE FOOD, THEN GOES TO THE PHONE AND PUNCHES IN A NUMBER.

NIKOLA (cont’d)
(INTO PHONE) Peter - how would you like to share some Chinese food tonight?... You’ve got Karla over for a mellow dinner. I should have known from the mellow music.

AS SHE HANGS UP, TIM ENTERS WEARING A HALTER-TOP WITH CALF-LENGTH PANTS AND PLATFORM SHOES.

TIM
Hi. (SPOTTING FOOD) Eggrolls!

NIKOLA
Want to stay for dinner?

TIM
Love to, but I have a date. I just came over to borrow earrings.

HE TAKES THEM OFF NIKOLA.

(CONTINUED)
TIM (cont’d)
These are perfect. Thanks, ’bye!

AS HE HEADS FOR THE DOOR HE MEETS
STEPHANIE EMERGING FROM HER ROOM IN A
HALTER-TOP, CALF-LENGTH PANTS,
PLATFORM SHOES – ALMOST THE SAME
OUTFIT AS TIM’S. THEY STOP AND STARE
AT EACH OTHER.

TIM
For some reason it looks better on
you. I’m going to change my shoes.

THEY BOTH EXIT. NIKOLA IS ALONE WITH
THE DOG IN THE NOW QUIET APARTMENT.
SHE PUTS ON SOME CLASSICAL MUSIC,
LIGHTS A CANDLE, SETS OUT THE CHINESE
FOOD AND POURS HERSELF A GLASS OF
WINE.

NIKOLA
(TOASTING) To dining alone.
Different... but peaceful and nice...

A MOMENT LATER TIM ENTERS HOLDING UP
TWO OUTRAGEOUS PAIRS OF SHOES.

TIM
Tell me the truth, which one says
“me”?

BEFORE NIKOLA CAN ANSWER, THE DOOR
OPENS AGAIN AND STEPHANIE COMES
CHARGING BACK IN.

STEPHANIE
(FURIOUS) Jessica and I had a fight.
I’m not going.

SHE PLOPS DOWN AND DIGS INTO THE LO
MEIN, CONTINUING TO RANT AS TIM WAVES
THE SHOES IN NIKOLA’S FACE, MUNCHING
ON EGGROLLS.

(CONTINUED)
STEVENIE (cont’d)
She told Michael to meet us at the
club, and she knows I like Michael and
if anybody should tell him to meet us
it should be me. I’ll never trust
Jessica again. Just because I flirted
with William - I only did it after she
was through liking him...

TIM
(SIMULTANEOUSLY) Heels or pumps - it’s
the eternal question. These go with
the outfit, but these go with my eyes.
Or I could wear one of these and one
of these...

AS THEY GO ON, THE LOUD MUSIC FROM
UPSTAIRS RESUMES, DROWNING OUT THE
CLASSICAL. THE PHONE STARTS RINGING,
AND OSKAR BARKS AT THE CHAOS. NIKOLA
SMILES, HAPPY WITH THE TUMULT SHE’S
USED TO.

NIKOLA
(TOASTING) Who needs peace and quiet?

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO