

July 27, 2018

BLACK

WOMAN'S VOICE

~~Do you live in Los Angeles?~~ *You didn't fill in your address.*

FADE INTO A CLOSE-UP OF AMY

Staring nervously at CAMERA. A face that's lived. PULLING BACK THROUGHOUT. Amy keeps glancing down...

AMY

No. Huh?

WOMAN'S VOICE

~~Where then--~~ *Your address--*

AMY

I'm between residences right now.

WOMAN'S VOICE

M-hm. I don't see you on the schedule.

AMY

Because it wasn't scheduled.

Reveal A SLEEPING BOY, 6, in Amy's lap. Behind her a riot of humanity. AKA an ER waiting room.

AMY (CONT'D)

It was a fucking emergency. *He keeps getting sick*
~~So I came here. To the Emergency Room?~~ *right?*
this is the

AND NOW REVERSE - AN ADMITTING NURSE

She stares at Amy a moment. Starts an admitting form...

NURSE

Any allergies to medication?

AMY

No.

NURSE

Latex?

AMY

No.

(then)

I don't think so.

NURSE

Food allergies?

Amy's PHONE RINGS. She looks at it. Looks up, sees the nurse waiting. Sends the call to VM.

AMY

No. Not that I know of. Or at least, not yet.

NURSE

Is...

(looks at the form)

...Lukas currently taking any medications?

AMY

No.

NURSE

~~Has he been given anesthesia before?~~ *you haven't given him medications of any kind?*

AMY (insulted)

No.

SOMEONE SCREAMS. A WOMAN in the waiting area seems to be in pain. The boy wakes up. The nurse doesn't react one way or the other. Just passes a form to The mother...

Are AMY (CONT'D)
~~will~~ they tie him down?

Nurse initial here + here

gonna
The nurse looks at her.

AMY (CONT'D)

In case he wakes up. You know, during the surgery?

NURSE

No... we don't usually *restrain* children during tonsillectomies.

AMY

Is there a chance, ~~though~~, he could wake up? *maybe?*

NURSE

He'll be fine.

AMY

So you're saying no chance, at all?

NURSE

I haven't seen it. And I've been an RN eleven years now.

AMY
Good for you. But it could happen,
yes?

NURSE
Anything ~~could happen~~. But it's not
very likely. And it's a very short
procedure. Maybe fifteen minutes.

The nurse looks at the others waiting. A hint the Amy ignores.

AMY
I just wouldn't want him to wake up
and be scared, you know?
(then)
It happened to me once.

This gets the Nurse looking at her.

AMY (CONT'D)
Yeah-- I woke up in the middle of
a... procedure. And I gotta say, it
freaked me the fuck out.

NURSE
This happened *here*? At County?

AMY
No.
(then)

At ~~Bridgewater~~. Chino

that

The Nurse registers that one. Amy doesn't like look.

AMY (CONT'D)
Yes, I was incarcerated. That what
you wanna ask?

The nurse ~~just looks at her~~, passes her a clipboard--

NURSE
~~I need you to fill these out.~~
Take these. Wait over there. You'll be called.
INT. PRE-OP AREA - LATER

Amy lies with Lukas on the gurney, face to face...

AMY
Hope you like jello, because that's
pretty much all you're gonna be
eating for a while. And, oh yeah--
(smiles)
And Ice cream. Hope ~~that's okay~~. Bummer, huh?
(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

(then)

Know what else happens, you get your tonsils out? You ~~start~~ stop snoring. (makes a snoring sound)

LUKAS

~~Like Grandma?~~ Grandma snores too.

AMY

~~Just like her.~~ Yep. She does.

LUKAS

Where is ~~Grandma and Grandpa?~~ ^{Where's} she. And Grandpa...

AMY

~~They're home.~~ We'll go see them when we're done with our ~~little~~ adventure.

LUKAS

When will that be?

HER PHONE RINGS. She sends it to VM.

AMY

Soon. Did you like Disneyland?

LUKAS

M-hm.

AMY

Good.

And now A TEXT. She reads it: WHERE THE FUCK IS THE VAN????????? WE'RE ALL AT DRAKES!!! R U HIGH???

She's staring at the phone when the curtain is pulled back to reveal two ATTENDANTS--

AMY (CONT'D)

Game time, ~~buddy~~.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - SAME

TIGHT ON LUKAS as he's wheeled into the theater. A few people moving around him, jostling or pressing against the gurney as they prep. A MAN IN A SURGICAL MASK LEANS DOWN...

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Are you Lukas?

He nods. A nurse leans in, also in a mask...

NURSE
Answer out loud, honey.

LUKAS
Yes.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST
Cool. You like to play spaceman,
Lukas?
(the kid nods)
Cool. Me, too.

WIDEN TO REVEAL AMY

Standing nearby in the room.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST
funny air Lukas, we're gonna give you some
~~medicine~~ to help you go to sleep.
Then I'm gonna need you to count
down for blast off. Can you do
that?

The kid nods.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (CONT'D)
~~Cool~~. But first I'm going to put
this ~~mask~~ over your face--
Space
And now a clear mask goes over his nose and mouth.

AMY
That looks tight.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.)
Okay, Lukas, now I'm going to have
you take some deep breaths and
count ~~backwards from~~ ^{to} ten, just like
we're on a rocket ship...

AMY
Excuse me--

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.)
You'll be sound asleep before you
even get to five. Okay?

Amy's PHONE CHIMES. They all look at her.

AMY
The mask--

NURSE
It's fine.

Amy glances at her phone-- *I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. HE'S NOT YOUR FUCKING KID ANYMORE.* She looks up from the phone-- anguished, stares at the boy--

AMY

Look at it. It's too ~~fucking~~ tight.

And now HER PHONE RINGS.

NURSE

Mom, can you shut your phone off, please.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.)

Okay, Lukas, start counting...

AMY (*under her breath*)

I'm not your fucking mom--

~~1~~ ~~Ten...~~ ~~2~~ ~~nine...~~ ~~3~~ ~~eight...~~ BOY

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

That's it, Lukas...

~~4~~ ~~Seven...~~ BOY

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Almost ready for blast off!

AMY

Let me fix it--

She reaches in and now the Nurse physically blocks her, nods to an Attendant--

NURSE

I think it's best you leave. He'll be out in twenty minutes--

~~5~~ ~~Six...~~ BOY

AMY

No, Luke-- Wait! Wait!!

She stops, looks at her son who's eyes flutter and roll back...

AMY (CONT'D)

What's happening to him?!

NURSE

He's fine. Please, Ma'am--

And like that, he's out. She pulls away from the nurse and walks on her own to the door. Glances back to see--

--The Team. All business now. All the sweetness gone from the room as out comes a big fucking needle-- an IV bag...

QUICK CUT TO - AMY

Screaming as she's restrained on a gurney in an ER somewhere. She's covered with blood. Her own? Someone else's? It's hard to say... But now her shirt is lifted-- a KNIFE WOUND-- She SCREAMS LOUDER--

CUT TO A FISH TANK -- *Would they have this. A mobile? A fan?*

A few miserable looking fish. One floats upside down. Gone. RACK FOCUS to see Amy staring at it from the other side.

REVEAL THE RECOVERY ROOM

Quiet. Lukas is sound asleep. Amy sits in a chair watching him. A DOZEN OTHER KIDS lie on gurneys all around him. A NURSE enters with a TEDDY BEAR in a pair of scrubs--

NURSE

For when he wakes up.

AMY

Thank you.

She stares at the kid. Watches him breathe. He suddenly wakes up SCREAMING.

AMY (CONT'D)

Jesus--

NURSE

(holding him down)

He's okay-- it's just Emergence
Delerium--

AMY

What?

And now half the kids in the room are sitting up and screaming.

Move this earlier

NURSE

A terror reflex... they're not
fully conscious--

Like a night

*They're
has
perfectly normal*

Amy watches as another Nurse comes in with several hypodermic needle... as she injects Lukas--

AMY
What the fuck is that?

NURSE
Fentynal-- ~~better they wake up as soon as possible--~~
(lays him down)
See? He's fine. *He'll wake up soon.*

Amy sits there stunned as one by one the kids all lay back.

And now an OLDER WOMAN comes into the room, see her there, hesitate, share a glance, then come over,

OLDER WOMAN
We're here now. *you can go.*

AMY
I'm just waiting until he wakes--

OLDER WOMAN
You can't be here.

And now TWO SECURITY GUARDS enter the room.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
You know the deal, Amy.

AMY *he*
As soon as ~~Lukas~~ wakes up...

OLDER WOMAN
That's not his name.

AMY
It's the one ~~I~~ gave him.

*Nurse
only one adult in recovery
at a time.*

The two guards take her by the arms...

AMY (CONT'D)
He's not awake.

OLDER WOMAN
Please. Don't make this harder.
This wasn't the arrangement.

AMY
I'm his mother, *for fuck's sake.*

OLDER WOMAN
Since when? Tuesday?

AMY

You didn't even know he was sick *again*.

OLDER WOMAN

He wasn't when you took him.

She looks at her, lost.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

We're here now. And when he wakes up, it's us he should see.

AMY

~~He? Is Dad here?~~ *What? Dad's here too?*

OLDER WOMAN

Please, Amy. Just go. *All you do*
is make it worse -
things

It's hard for the older woman to keep it together. She looks away.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Please.

She kisses the boy on the top of the head and walks out.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

As she walks out of the room. Sees AN OLDER MAN walking this way with two cups of coffee in his hands.

AMY

Dad--

But the man keeps his eyes fixed straight ahead, walks right past her.

AMY (CONT'D)

Dad.

He gives her nothing. Amy takes a breath, turns and walks to the elevator. Hits the button. Waits. Realizes she's still holding the damn teddy bear. She looks back at the room, her parents in there with her son who's waking up.

Now HER PHONE RINGS. Amy stares at it. Looks at the teddy bear, looks at the room. THE PHONE RINGING UNDERNEATH IT ALL... A DING as... The elevator arrives. Answers as we--

CUT TO BLACK

AMY (V.O.)

I'm on my way.