

Mom: Amy?
Boy: Lucas?

BLACK

NURSE (V.O.)
Any allergies to medication?

FADE INTO A CLOSE-UP OF THE MOTHER

Staring nervously at CAMERA.

No. MOM

Latex? NURSE

No. MOM
(then)
I don't think so.

NURSE
Food allergies?

I don't...
MOM
No. Not that I know of. Or at
least, not yet.

NURSE
Is he currently taking any
medications?

No. MOM

NURSE
Has he been given anesthesia
before?

No. MOM *(taken a back slightly)*
County Hospital *Familiar w/ kids*

SOMEONE SCREAMS and we WIDEN TO REVEAL we're at the admitting
desk for a busy ER. A ~~WOMAN~~ in the waiting area seems to be *making noise*
~~in pain~~. The nurse doesn't react one way or the other. Just
passes a form to The mother...

NURSE
I need you to sign here, here,
initial here, and sign here *for*....

Medicare
MOM
I mean in case he
~~Is there a chance he could wake up?~~
Are they going to tie him down?

*Phone ringing. She
doesn't get it. Nurse
waits but proceeds.*

NURSE
What was that?

MOM
(louder) ~~what happens if~~
~~Is there a chance he could wake up?~~ If he tries to move
You know, during the surgery?

NURSE
~~He'll be fine.~~ He won't.

MOM
So no chance, at all?

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

at
Admission?

MOM
But it could happen.

NURSE
Well, ~~anything could happen.~~ But not
likely during a tonsillectomy.

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

MOM
It happened to me once.

This gets the Nurse looking at her.

MOM (CONT'D)
I woke up in the middle of ad... ~~emergency appendectomy.~~ procedure
It was... ~~frightening to say the least.~~ weird, scary. I mean
I wouldn't want him to...

NURSE
~~Wait At this hospital?~~ Was it here? At ~~the~~ County?

MOM
No.

NURSE
Where?

MOM
(beat)
Bridgewater.

NURSE
The prison?

MOM
The hospital.
(before she can ask)
~~But yes, I was incarcerated. At the~~
~~time.~~

^{this}
The nurse takes her in. ~~wants to ask, but doesn't.~~ Smiles.

NURSE
Your son will be fine. ~~→ They'll call your name. Hang on to those~~
~~foams (Medicine) (Disinfect her)~~

MOM
Can I go in with him?

NURSE
During surgery?

MOM
Just to make sure he falls asleep.

NURSE
I'll check with the doctor.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - SAME

→ ~~Room 6~~

TIGHT ON THE SON, ~~10~~, as he's wheeled into the theater. We hear people moving around, jostling or pressing against the gurney as they prep. ~~A line goes into his arm...~~

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.)
This is so medicine can get into ~~Naime?~~
your body, help keep you asleep. ~~→ Do you like to play spaceman?~~

The boy nods. ~~Anesthesiologist~~ ~~boistles~~, barely looking at him or her.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm going to put this mask over
your face--

And now a clear mask goes over his nose and mouth.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.) (CONT'D)
~~How's that? Not too tight?~~ ~~That's pretty cool, huh. Captain?~~

The boy nods. ~~Smiles nervously.~~
→ ~~Here's the funny air.~~

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.) (CONT'D)
~~Good.~~ I'm going to have you take
deep breaths and count backwards
from ten. Can you do that?

The boy nods.

~~That might be too tight~~

INT. HALLWAY

Start off wheeling to
the room. Mom + Son
talk, show relationship,
into Nana, "you sure"
"like a
big fat clown-
chris-
son
"Uh uh."

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.) (CONT'D)

~~You'll be sound asleep before you~~
~~even get to five. Okay?~~

10-

Almost ready for check off.

Counting
down

The boy nods.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Okay, start counting...

Mom

Loosen it up.

(She moves to grab it
the nurse pushes her back)**WIDEN TO REVEAL**

The mother standing on the other side of the glass watching.
 The boy on the gurney reflected there.

BOY

Ten... nine... eight...

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

That's it...

Mom
I'm right here.

~~INSIDE THE VIEWING ROOM~~ Mom + Boy locked into each other's eyes.

~~She can't hear, but she can see him counting now...~~

BOY

Seven...

The boy sees her and looks at her as he continues...

BOY (CONT'D)

Six...

(LONG PAUSE, then)

Five...

(and then)

Four... three... two...

Mom

Wait. Wait.

The Mother can see that his eyes are getting wider, not closing. She sees him mouth-twitch, eyes roll back, as if he's confused, suddenly anxious.

BOY (CONT'D)

One.

Mom panicked. Looks around.

Big needle comes out. IV. Scary stuff.

And now the ANESTHESIOLOGIST is making an adjustment, one of the Nurses looks at the mother, says something under her mask and now the DOCTOR glances her way.

And now the boy is bucking on the table and the Nurses hold him down. His mouth is wide and he's screaming, but we can't hear.

Later
Scene

And now Mom is banging on the glass, the Doctor looks her way, barks something under his mask.

The boy is flipping out on the table. The Anesthesiologist is trying to inject him with something.

~~The Mother turns and throws open the door, but there's now a NURSE there, on the way in, blocking her way, trying to stop her--~~

~~She looks back at the commotion in the operating room and now she, too, is screaming for her son when ANOTHER NURSE rushes to her side and then we--~~

Later
Scene

CUT TO THE RECOVERY ROOM

Flashback?

not from above

Quiet. The Boy sound asleep. The Mother sitting in a chair watching him. A NURSE hands her a BALLOON...

Teddy Bear

NURSE

For when he wakes up. *Should be soon.*

MOM

Thank you.

She stares at the kid. Watches him breathe. And now an OLDER COUPLE come into the room, see her there, hesitate, share a glance, then come over.

I'm OLDER WOMAN
~~We're~~ here now. *You can go -*

MOM

I'm just waiting--

OLDER WOMAN

~~You can't be here.~~

MOM

He hasn't woken up yet.

OLDER MAN

Don't start.

~~Please. Don't make this harder, Any.~~
~~This wasn't the arrangement.~~
~~For the love of God, don't~~

MOM

~~You didn't even know he was sick.~~

OLDER MAN

~~He wasn't when you took him.~~

She looks at ~~them~~ *her* both, lost.

OLDER WOMAN

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

He's my kid. *For fuck's sake...*

Older mom

Well, that's news to us.

Pause

Older Mom

He'll be fine by the weekend. Your dad's going fishing *brunt.*

Then
hears one
kid scream,
then another,
She goes to
kiss his head
and he bolts
up screaming,
clawing. Noooo-

Nurses comes put
him down
explaining the dose.
Older woman arrives
at the end of it. Nurse
tells them only one
person allowed by the
bed.

She heads to the
bathroom. Sees dad. He
won't look at her. Phone
rings. Keeps ringing -

Returns to witness the
older woman, pops out, "back
hospital". Then dials the
phone. Says "I'm in". Breaks in *in half.*

MOM

You don't think he's safe with me.

OLDER MAN

We do. That's why we didn't call anyone to tell them you'd taken him. But we will if you don't leave.

It's hard for the older woman to keep it together. She looks away. The Older man takes out his cell phone.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)

I mean it.

She looks at the Older Woman, then stands.

MOM

It's okay, Dad, I'm going.

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

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Burner phone gets discarded.

As she walks to the elevator. Hits the button. Waits.

Realizes she's still holding the ~~damn balloon~~. *teddy bear.*

She walks back towards the room. Hears LAUGHTER inside, slows her approach and sees that the Boy is waking up. He's smiling at the older couple, sitting up now as A NURSE brings him ice cream...

The Mother watches another moment, then quickly turns and walks away, as in the room behind her...

BOY

This is the best hospital ever...

CUT TO BLACK