

NURSE JACKIE

"Anita Vicodin"

Written by

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Registered WGAW

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AT THIS POINT IN "NURSE JACKIE"..  
(Middle of Season 4)

Having recently walked out of rehab before completing the program, Jackie Peyton (an experienced, no-nonsense, ER nurse at All Saints Hospital in Manhattan) is on the rocky path to a life without prescription drugs. She is edgy and anxious, but sober. Her husband Kevin has moved out and is suing her for custody of their two girls, Grace and Fiona. Zoey (a nerdy, devoted, young nurse, assigned to Jackie) has moved in with her to help with the bills. Jackie's best friend and confidante, the classy, British, Dr. O'Hara, is six months' pregnant and getting bigger by the day. Jackie's relationship with Eddie, the pharmacist with whom she had an affair for several years (and who supplied her with pills), is tenuous at best. Sullen, angry Mike Cruz has taken over as the hospital administrator, replacing Gloria Akalitus, who has gone back onto the nursing staff in order to keep her pension. Jackie was in rehab with Charlie, Cruz's son, who cannot seem to stay sober. Childlike Dr. Cooper (Coop) is upset because the two moms who raised him have recently told him they are getting a divorce. Orderlies Thor (an effeminate, gay man who is built like a football player) and Sam (a handsome, East Indian, recovering alcoholic) keep things running smoothly in the emergency room at All Saints.

FADE IN:

INT. JACKIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jackie is getting the girls ready for school. She picks up a Barbie doll wrapped in white fabric streaked with blood. It has a dozen toothpicks sticking out of it.

JACKIE

Gracie, the glue is dry on your martyred saint. And Fi, you left your uniform on the floor last night. I'm not ironing it again.

Grace and Fiona enter carrying books and Pop Tarts.

FIONA

Okay, Mom.

The doorbell rings. Jackie opens it and Kevin enters. Jackie is nervous to see him.

JACKIE

Hi. It still seems so weird to have you ring the bell.

Kevin is not having it.

KEVIN

Yeah?

Awkward silence.

JACKIE

Do you...um...think we could talk for a second?

KEVIN

Girls, wait in the car.

FIONA

Bye Mom.

JACKIE

Bye! Have a good time at Daddy's. I'll see you Sunday night.

Grace and Fiona exit. Kevin stares at Jackie, emotionless.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Kev, I just feel so bad about everything.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I mean, can't we just turn back the clock and pretend none of this ever happened?

Kevin smiles.

KEVIN

Is that really what you want?

JACKIE

Oh God, you have no idea. More than anything.

Jackie kisses Kevin tentatively. He responds. She kisses him more passionately. He breaks away and gives her a hard sucker punch in the stomach. As Jackie doubles over in pain, her mouth flies open and hundreds of OxyContin pills come pouring out of her mouth, like a Vegas slot machine. Kevin glares at Jackie in disgust, exits and slams the door as the pills continue to spew out. Jackie is horrified.

INT. JACKIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jackie sits up in bed with a start. She takes a deep breath and realizes she is drenched in sweat. Another nightmare.

JACKIE

Fuck.

EXT. ALL SAINTS HOSPITAL - DAY

As Jackie walks to work, Sam comes up behind her.

SAM

Looks like somebody had a rough night.

JACKIE

Blow me.

She walks faster.

SAM

Listen, I know you don't like to talk about this, especially with a co-worker...

JACKIE

And yet, you're still speaking.

Sam touches Jackie's shoulder. She stops.

SAM

Jackie, I've been there. The night sweats, the shakes, the 4 AM jonesin' for anything stronger than Robitussin. It sucks.

JACKIE

(giving in slightly)  
So...what do you do?

SAM

Exercise helps. My sponsor used to shoot hoops in his bedroom.

JACKIE

Like that's gonna happen. My girls are in the next room and Zoey's on the sofa. She wakes up if I crack my knuckles.

SAM

You could always work the steps. You know, take an inventory, make amends...?

JACKIE

I wrote all that shit in rehab.

SAM

But have you actually said it to anyone? Apologizing to people for stuff you did when you were fucked up and belligerent?

JACKIE

(hitting a nerve)  
Look Sam, I don't need to be fucked up to be belligerent!

SAM

Point taken.

JACKIE

Besides, I can't say that crap out loud. People know how I feel.

INT. NURSES STATION - DAY

Dr. Cooper is checking messages on his phone. Akalitus is sorting syringes.

COOP

So, where's Darth Doctor today?

AKALITUS

If you mean Dr. Cruz, he's at a board meeting until after lunch.

COOP

I never thought I'd say this, but I miss you being administrator.

AKALITUS

So do I.

His pager buzzes.

COOP

(whining)

I wish my moms would stop calling!  
I'm not ready to talk to them yet!

AKALITUS

Dr. Cooper, did it ever occur to you that you mothers' divorce has nothing whatsoever to do with you?

COOP

How can you say that? I've lost all the stability in my life.

AKALITUS

Get a dog.

COOP

A dog! I could never have one as a kid. One of my moms is allergic. What a cool idea!

AKALITUS

And while you're at it, you could stitch up the patient in Trauma 3 and take your whiny ass out of here.

INT. ALL SAINTS EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Lenny enters quickly wheeling a stretcher with other EMT workers as they take it into one of the trauma rooms. Lana, the patient's attractive roommate, enters behind.

LENNY

White male, 35, unresponsive. Name is Paul DiCarlo. Heart rate 45 to 50, respiration shallow at 8. Pulse-ox 90. BP 70 over 30. Found with empty bottles of benzos and booze.

Jackie and Zoey quickly enter.

ZOEY  
Do you want me to take this?

JACKIE  
Why?

ZOEY  
No reason. I just thought...

JACKIE  
Because it's an overdose? Thanks  
Zoey, but grow the fuck up.

Jackie turns to Lana.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Miss, can you tell us what  
happened?

LANA  
I'm Lana, his roommate. He's a  
dancer. Six Broadway shows. He's  
been out of work for a few months  
and really depressed. I thought he  
was just sleeping off a good one  
and then I realized he hadn't moved  
for 14 hours.

JACKIE  
Thank you. Can you wait out there,  
please. We'll let you know the  
minute we know anything. Thor!

Thor enters.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
On three. One, two, three.

They lift the body off the gurney and onto a bed.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Paul? Can you hear me? My name is  
Jackie. You're at All Saints.

No response.

ZOEY  
Geez, why would a handsome guy like  
that want to off himself?

JACKIE  
 You never know about anyone else's  
 demons.

Thor takes a good look at him as Dr. O'Hara enters.

THOR  
 Oh my God! It's Paul DiCarlo.

ZOEY  
 You know him?

THOR  
 I saw him four times in *Wicked*,  
 three in *Billy Elliott*.

ZOEY  
 (playfully)  
 Thor's in luuuuv!

THOR  
 (defensive)  
 There's nothing wrong with being a  
 groupie.

O'HARA  
 Right then, let's intubate and get  
 him stabilized. We'll breathe some  
 life back into Gorgeous George,  
 here.

She checks his pulse and touches his forehead gently.

O'HARA (CONT'D)  
 Sorry darling, it's not your time  
 yet.

LENNY  
 Dr. O'Hara, look at his left leg.  
 It was all crunched up under him  
 when we found him.

O'Hara examines the discolored leg.

O'HARA  
 Looks like Deep Vein Thrombosis.  
 Probably drop foot.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

Eddie is restocking shelves as Dr. Cooper follows him around  
 the room.



COOP

So, would you give him a dog name like Rufus or Butch or Shaggy McScruffybottom or would you give him a real name like Mike or Sebastian or...

EDDIE

You think Sebastian's a real name?

COOP

What do you think, Edmeister?

EDDIE

Cruz has been up my ass about inventory for weeks. I have to get this done. Now, do you need something?

COOP

Some Immodium and a couple of Fleet enemas.

EDDIE

(dry)

Is this for yourself or a patient who's full of shit?

Eddie hands the drugs to Coop and starts counting bottles.

COOP

Do you think I should get a big dog or a little dog?

EDDIE

Counting...

COOP

I always thought a Golden Retriever would be kinda stately...and they're one hell of a babe magnet. But a Chihuahua can be a tough little guy, you know?

EDDIE

Still counting.

Jackie enters.

JACKIE

Eddie, can I talk to you for a second?

Eddie stops counting.

EDDIE

Why not? I wasn't going to get any work done today, anyway.

COOP

Jackie, what do you think about dog names? Do you...

Jackie gives him a look that would freeze the nuts off a squirrel.

COOP (CONT'D)

Later, Eddie.

EDDIE

Coop. I like Shaggy McScruffybottom.

COOP

(smiles)

Ed-a-riffic!

Coop exits.

JACKIE

I'm sorry to bother you, but Sam said something on the way to work that really got under my skin.

EDDIE

Yeah?

JACKIE

He reminded me that one of the steps in the program was about making amends...out loud....to the people you've hurt.

Eddie looks at her squarely.

EDDIE

You mean like an apology?

JACKIE

I guess.

EDDIE

And you wanted to start with me?

JACKIE

No! I mean...I was just wondering what you thought of the idea. In general.

EDDIE  
 You want to know what I think about  
 apologizing to everyone whose life  
 you've fucked up? In general?

JACKIE  
 (defensive)  
 Jesus Eddie, when you put it that  
 way...

Jackie starts to exit.

EDDIE  
 I think it's a good idea.

Jackie stops, but doesn't look at him.

JACKIE  
 Yeah. Me too.

INT. TRAUMA ROOM #1 - DAY

Thor is checking the fluids on Paul DiCarlo as he wakes up.

PAUL  
 Where am I?

THOR  
 Hi Paul. My name's Thor. You're at  
 All Saints. Your roommate Lana  
 brought you in.

PAUL  
 Fuck.

THOR  
 I know, it's not exactly backstage  
 at The Shubert, but we call it  
 home.

PAUL  
 How did you...?

THOR  
 I got to watch you do the flying  
 monkey solo from the wings one  
 night. It was the thrill of my  
 life.

PAUL  
 How come I can't feel my leg?

Dr. O'Hara enters, reading Paul's chart.

O'HARA

Mr. DiCarlo? I'm Dr. O'Hara. You ingested a whole bottle of Phenobarbital and washed it down with a fifth of Tequila. Some party.

PAUL

(agitated)

What the hell is wrong with my foot?

O'HARA

When you went unconscious, your leg was twisted under you. The pressure of your body resting on it for that long caused a blood clot, which has caused damage to the peroneal nerve. Commonly known as drop foot.

PAUL

But it's temporary, right?

O'HARA

Afraid not. With rehabilitation, you could regain partial use, but...

PAUL

I'm a dancer! Without my foot, I'm nothing.

O'HARA

Give it time. For now, you're lucky to be alive.

PAUL

You think so?

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

Jackie stands in front of a basketball hoop in a rough, New York park. She tries to remain oblivious to the drug dealers and pimps nearby. After she dribbles and shoots, a couple of thugs approach her.

THUG #1

Hey, bitch! You shoot pretty good for a white girl.

JACKIE

Thanks.

He takes the basketball from Jackie and starts tossing it back and forth with the other guys.

THUG #2

I bet you'd shoot even better with some blow up your nose.

JACKIE

(keeping cool)

I'm sure. But not today, thanks.

THUG #2

First one's on the house. After that, I'll fix you up real good. Whenever, wherever.

JACKIE

Thanks, not interested. Listen, I gotta go. If I could just have my ball back...?

THUG #1

Aint nothin' like a brand, new Wilson, is there, Terrence?

There is no way Jackie is getting her ball back. A man's scream is heard. Jackie looks over and sees an old, black drag queen on the ground. His head is bleeding.

DRAG QUEEN

Hey, hey! That white guy just ran off with all o' my money!

Jackie crosses to him.

JACKIE

It's okay. I'm a nurse.

Jackie takes a wad of tissues out of her purse and places them firmly on his gaping wound.

DRAG QUEEN

Son of a bitch! He cut me too!

In the distance, Jackie sees the thugs go off with her basketball as she reaches for her phone.

JACKIE

Hold that tight to your forehead. I'll call for help. Just try to calm down, okay?

DRAG QUEEN

Calm down?! Do you know how many  
dicks I gotta suck to make forty  
dollars?!

INT. JACKIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zoey is sitting on the couch watching TV as Jackie enters.

ZOEY

I'm so glad you're home! I know you  
told me I'm not supposed to worry,  
but...I made pigs in blankets and  
baked beans. I'll heat some up for  
you.

JACKIE

Zoey, you do know the girls are  
with Kevin tonight?

ZOEY

This is my favorite comfort food.  
You looked like you were having a  
pretty stressy day.

Zoey fixes a plate for Jackie.

JACKIE

Thanks Zoey. That's really sweet of  
you.

ZOEY

One little piggy with the works,  
comin' up. And this little piggy  
went wee wee...

Jackie shoots her a look. Zoey quickly changes the subject.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

I know it's none of my business,  
but where did you go after work?  
You don't have to tell me. Unless  
you want to.

JACKIE

I went to play some basketball. To  
relieve the stress.

ZOEY

I love me some Knicks action! That  
is so boss!

JACKIE

It was until the drug dealers stole my ball and I had to administer first aid to a crack whore drag queen.

ZOEY

You should've had me there to protect you.

Oh, please.

JACKIE

I'm sure you would have. Listen, Zoey...

ZOEY

(sensing doom)

If it's about the remote control, I can totally fix it...

JACKIE

No, it's not that. I wanted to say...I know I've done a lot of shitty things when I was using and if I ever caused you any pain...I'm sorry.

Zoey starts to cry.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You are not crying.

ZOEY

I'm sorry. But that's the most amazing thing anyone has ever said to me. Of course I forgive you!

Zoey puts her arms around Jackie, who barely tolerates it.

INT. UPSCALE CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Jackie and O'Hara sit in a booth. O'Hara is shoveling egg rolls into her mouth at lightening speed.

JACKIE

You might want to go a little easy on those. We've got a whole meal coming.

O'HARA

Lobster and cilantro spring rolls. The breakfast of champions.

JACKIE

So, have you thought of a name for the baby yet?

O'HARA

Really, Jacks, isn't that a rather *bourgeois* question? I'll know it when I see him.

O'Hara starts digging her purse.

JACKIE

What are you looking for?

O'HARA

I have got some of the most divine Beluga you have ever tasted.

JACKIE

I've never tasted Beluga. Isn't that outlawed? Endangered species or something?

O'HARA

I have a supplier. Five hundred dollars an ounce!

O'Hara fishes out a small jar.

JACKIE

That's more than my mortgage. Too bad I couldn't live in that little jar.

O'HARA

These bloody cravings are costing me a fortune.

O'Hara starts pouring the caviar all over her last egg roll.

JACKIE

So, I've been working on making amends. I started with Zoey last night.

O'HARA

Somebody has been going to her meetings! I hope she didn't cry.

JACKIE

Yup.



O'HARA  
Good God! You must have been  
mortified.

A waiter enters with a plate of food.

WAITER  
Szechuan dumplings?

O'Hara smothers the dumplings in caviar.

JACKIE  
So, you're next on the list and I  
just wanted to say...

O'HARA  
Jacks, please. My hormones are  
bubbling up like an oil spill on  
the Thames. If you make me weep  
into my dumplings, I shall never  
forgive you.

JACKIE  
Okay.

O'HARA  
We all have a past we're not proud  
of. I say, "Fuck the torpedoes and  
full speed ahead."

JACKIE  
Got it.

O'HARA  
If you want to apologize to  
someone, how about your family?

JACKIE  
Kevin won't even speak to me.

O'HARA  
Well, that's an easy out. And the  
girls?

JACKIE  
Couldn't I just walk on my tongue  
across a football field of broken  
glass instead?

O'HARA  
Here. Taste this.

She hands Jackie a forkful of dumplings and caviar. Jackie  
tastes it, grimaces and spits it into her napkin.

JACKIE  
Really? That's Beluga?

O'HARA  
You just saved yourself a fortune.

INT. NURSES STATION - DAY

Dr. Cruz is on the warpath. Akalitus, Zoey and Thor are picking up the pieces.

CRUZ  
It's time this place started running like a real hospital! Our budget forecast is in the toilet. As of now, overtime no longer exists.

Sam enters with a tray of meds.

AKALITUS  
So, who's going to take care of the patients, doctor?

CRUZ  
Mandatory shift hours will be increased for all nurses. If you take a sick day, you'd better be dead.

SAM  
(under his breath)  
Fucking great.

CRUZ  
(to Sam)  
If you don't like it, towel head, there's the door.

Cruz storms out. Everyone is appalled. Sam is seething.

ZOEY  
He did not just call you towel head.

AKALITUS  
If you want to file a formal complaint, you've got us all as witnesses.

ZOEY  
Absolutely.

SAM  
I wouldn't give him the  
satisfaction. Asshole.

Thor reaches for Sam's meds.

THOR  
Sam, why don't you take a walk  
around the block? I'll take those.

SAM  
Thanks. Trauma 1.

INT. TRAUMA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Thor takes the meds into Paul. Lana is there with him.

LANA  
There's lots of holistic therapies  
we can try.

PAUL  
That stuff is bullshit.

THOR  
Here, maybe Anita can help.

PAUL  
Anita?

THOR  
My favorite drag queen name. Anita  
Vicodin. She'll take the edge off.

Paul swallows the meds.

LANA  
You could always choreograph.

PAUL  
From a wheelchair?

LANA  
Agnes DeMille did it.

PAUL  
Yeah, when she was like a hundred  
and four. Besides, she was famous.

LANA  
So are you. You have a following.

PAUL  
 (bitterly)  
 Yeah, right. A handful of aging  
 queens who all want to diddle me.

Thor looks wounded.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
 Sorry, man.

THOR  
 It's okay. You're probably right.

PAUL  
 All I ever wanted was to be a  
 dancer on Broadway. Now that the  
 dream is dead, I want to follow it  
 right into the grave.

THOR  
 Do you have any idea how many  
 people want to be you? My God,  
 you're handsome, you're talented,  
 you've got everything going for  
 you.

PAUL  
 Except the one thing that matters.

Paul looks down at his drop foot.

THOR  
 I'll get your lunch tray.

INT. NURSES STATION - CONTINUOUS

Coop enters with an adorable Golden Retriever puppy on a  
 leash.

ZOEY  
 Oh my God! That is the cutest thing  
 ever!

Coop is the proud papa.

COOP  
 Everybody, this is Thomas.

Jackie enters.

SAM  
 Why Thomas?

COOP

That was the name of my moms' sperm donor. So, it's kinda like I'm naming him after my dad.

AKALITUS

You'd better get Thomas out of here before Dr. Cruz sees him.

COOP

Oooh. Cruz-ella DeVille. He'd probably want to skin him for a coat.

AKALITUS

Dr. Cooper, you know dogs don't belong in the ER.

COOP

I'll go see if I can park him with Eddie. Hey Jackie, I hear you're making amends. I'm available when you're ready.

Jackie stifles a laugh.

JACKIE

Thanks, Coop. I'll keep that in mind. By the way, I think Thomas just pissed on your Manolo Blahniks.

Coop looks down at his feet.

COOP

Oh, man! These are 600 dollar shoes! It's cool. That's a bonding thing with male dogs. He's marking his territory.

Coop starts to exit.

JACKIE

Hey! We're not cleaning that up!

THOR

Incoming! All hands on deck. Pun intended.

ZOEY

Huh?

THOR

You'll see.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The emergency room doors burst open. Lenny and the other EMTs bring in two men on stretchers, one bleeding heavily.

LENNY

Two white males, approximately 45 years old. Number one with a board nailed to his hand, conscious, BP stable. Number two, nail in right temple, pulse thready, BP barely palpable.

Jackie rushes over to them. They are twins. The conscious one is screaming. Cruz runs to them, as does Sam.

JACKIE

Jesus Lenny, what happened?

LENNY

Construction workers. Twin brothers. Nail guns gone wild.

CRUZ

Call the OR. Order up a CT scan and an EEG. Hang an IV of Lactated Ringer's.

Jackie turns to the conscious one, who has a board nailed right through the middle of his hand, almost like a stigmata.

JACKIE

My name is Jackie. You're at All Saints. What's your name?

RALPH

Ralph Voss. How's Ritchie?

JACKIE

Is Ritchie your brother?

He nods his head. Jackie looks over at Ritchie, who is hardly breathing.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You're gonna be okay, Ralph. We'll take good care of you and Ritchie.

RALPH

I had the nail gun...I wasn't watching. So stupid....I nailed my fuckin' hand to the wall...Ritchie ran over to help me and I pushed the trigger by mistake...

JACKIE

Just try to relax, okay? Deep breaths for the pain.

CRUZ

The other one's nearly gone. I don't know if we can even get him stabilized.

As they wheel them into the trauma room next to Paul, he is struggling to take a few steps on a walker. Paul takes in the scene. Cruz notices the nail gun on the gurney.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

Je-sus, he's still holding the nail gun!

Jackie catches Paul's eye then quickly pulls the curtain between the two rooms.

RALPH

I didn't know if you might need it for evidence or something.

JACKIE

It's okay, Ralph. This is a hospital, not a courtroom.

CRUZ

Tell security to get that thing out of here. Take him straight to the OR. Leave the other one here til he's stable.

As Ralph is wheeled off to surgery, Ritchie flatlines.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

Shit.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - AFTERNOON

Jackie and Zoey approach the basketball court on their afternoon break.

JACKIE

I said you didn't have to come with me.

ZOXY

And I said I want to protect my "sistah". No wonder you got rolled. This is one scary 'hood, even in daylight.

JACKIE  
I didn't get rolled, Zoey. They  
took my ball. That's all.

ZOEY  
That won't happen with me around.

Zoey removes her coat. She is wearing a full New York Knicks uniform, very pleased with herself. Jackie is not.

JACKIE  
Oh God, no!

ZOEY  
I told you I was a "playah".

Jackie is embarrassed enough for both of them.

JACKIE  
Let's start with some volleys.

She throws the ball to Zoey who completely misses it. The thugs pick it up and start playing on the other side of the court.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Last time I kept the ball for  
thirty minutes. This is a new  
record.

Zoey gives Jackie a knowing smile as Thug #1 brings the ball back over to her.

THUG #1  
Sorry, ladies. Enjoy your game.

Jackie stares at her. What the...? Zoey hands the ball to Jackie. Written on the ball, it says, "PROPERTY OF NYPD. 14th PRECINCT."

JACKIE  
Zoey, I gotta hand it to you.

ZOEY  
Yesss! Score one for the Zo-enator.

INT. TRAUMA ROOM #1 - DAY

O'Hara enters and speaks to Paul, who is sitting up in bed with a food tray on his lap.



O'HARA

Alright, Mr. DiCarlo. We're sending you upstairs for a few days of psychiatric observation.

PAUL

What for?

O'HARA

Standard practice with an attempted suicide.

PAUL

(deadpan)

Whoopee.

O'HARA

Here is the address for the rehab center when you're released. You should be out of the wheelchair and onto a cane in no time.

PAUL

How long till a double pirouette, doc? Or a time step? Or even some good ol' Fosse isolations?

O'HARA

Look, I know this is difficult...

PAUL

Difficult is dancing eight shows a week with three broken toes. Difficult is working steadily for fifteen years then losing three featured spots to twenty-year-olds. Difficult is convincing your Charismatic Christian parents that you're still single because you haven't met the right girl yet. This is a roll in the hay.

O'Hara doesn't know how to handle him.

O'HARA

I'm going increase the dose on those antidepressants. And if you need a referral for a therapist...

PAUL

(sarcastically)

Thanks, doc. I'm just peachy.

O'HARA

As soon as your tox-screen comes  
back, you'll be on your way  
upstairs.

As O'Hara quickly exits, Paul reaches under the breakfast  
tray and pulls out the nail gun.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

Coop is on the floor in the backroom playing with Thomas,  
holding a squeaky toy. Eddie is at the end of his rope.  
Jackie enters.

JACKIE

Coop, didn't you hear your pager?  
Half the ER is looking for you and  
you're back here playing Timmy and  
Lassie.

COOP

My moms read me all the Lassie  
books when I was a kid.

JACKIE

Eddie, have you got a sec?

EDDIE

Coop, go. And take that shitting  
machine with you.

Coop picks up the dog and puts it under his lab coat and  
exits.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Coop is the best excuse I know for  
not having kids. He acts like a  
fucking five year old.

JACKIE

My kids never acted like that.

EDDIE

Maybe it's a boy thing.

JACKIE

Listen, Eddie, about our  
conversation the other day...

EDDIE

You mean about making amends?

JACKIE  
 (squirming)  
 Yeah. This is so fucking hard.

Jackie takes a deep breath and goes for it.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
 Eddie, you're a great guy. I never should have lied to you. I should've told you I had a husband and kids and a life that you just couldn't be a part of.

EDDIE  
 Jackie...

JACKIE  
 Don't interrupt, please? I may never get this out again. I got really good at compartmentalizing my life. But I didn't have sex with you just for the pills. You have to know that. I really did care for you in my own fucked up way. So, for all the horrible shit I did, I am so sorry. I hope you can forgive me. Someday.

A lone tear trickles down her cheek. Eddie gently takes her in his arms.

INT. NURSES STATION - DAY

Akalitus enters holding a schedule.

AKALITUS  
 Have you seen next week's schedule?  
 Cruz has us all working doubles  
 without overtime.

THOR  
 There go my tickets to the Met.

SAM  
 How will I get to my AA meetings?

Cruz enters, followed by Jackie.

AKALITUS  
 Dr. Cruz, we need to have a conversation about this new schedule.

CRUZ

This is a temporary measure until we can free up some funds to hire more nurses. I know you'll all handle it like professionals.

THOR

Dr. Cruz, I put in for Thursday night six weeks ago.

CRUZ

You want to walk, there's the door. Otherwise, get over it, pansy.

Jackie becomes unhinged.

JACKIE

What gives you the right to talk to us like that?

CRUZ

My position as administrator gives me the right to...

JACKIE

(getting in his face)

Your position does not give you the right to treat us like the dogshit under your feet! We are the people who make your fucking hospital run.

CRUZ

Wait a minute...

JACKIE

No, you wait a minute! If you use one more term like "pansy" or "towel head", we will take you up on charges until your head is so far up your ass, you'll give a new definition to the term "brown nose."

Cruz looks at the floor.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

So, let's start with an apology and a new schedule and see if you can avoid a walkout from every last one of us!

They all stare at Cruz expectantly. Long pause. Finally, he pulls Jackie aside and speaks very quietly.

CRUZ

My son cut his wrists on Sunday.

Jackie touches his shoulder. He addresses the group.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

My behavior was out of line. I apologize. I'll check the contingency fund and see if we can get some more temps in next week.

Cruz starts to exit. Jackie stops him.

JACKIE

(quietly)

I hope Charlie is okay.

As Cruz starts to exit, a loud thud is heard from the Trauma Room, followed by a crash. They all rush in.

INT. TRAUMA ROOM #1 - CONTINUOUS

Paul is lying on the floor, having punctured his temple with the nail gun. He is dead.

O'HARA

Oh my God!

Thor rushes to him and cradles his body on the floor.

CRUZ

Ladies and gentlemen, this patient died of complications related to his drug use.

ZOEY

But, doctor..

CRUZ

Listen to me! If anyone finds out a patient committed suicide in the ER, we'll be eating a shit sandwich for weeks. Someone get that nail out of his skull.

THOR

(quietly)

I'll take care of it.

CRUZ

And we will list the cause of death as a pulmonary embolism caused by his recent overdose. Are we clear?

JACKIE  
We're clear.

As everyone disperses, Thor sits there holding Paul's lifeless body.

INT. NURSES STATION - DAY

Coop walks past the nurses station holding Thomas. Sam is preparing a catheter.

COOP  
Damn dog chewed up my stethoscope!  
My moms gave me that when I  
graduated. He's going back!

Sam shakes his head and laughs quietly.

INT. ALL SAINTS CHAPEL - DAY

Jackie sits in the back of the chapel. Thor kneels up front, holding a rosary. O'Hara enters and sits next to Jackie, her hands on her pregnant belly.

JACKIE  
How are you feeling?

O'HARA  
Like a float in the Macy's  
Thanksgiving Parade. How's Thor?

JACKIE  
Looking like he just lost his best  
friend.

O'HARA  
Shall we take him out to dinner?

JACKIE  
I don't think he's the Beluga type.

Jackie walks forward and touches Thor gently on top of his head.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
There's someone out there for you,  
Thor. You'll see.

THOR  
Do you really think so?

JACKIE

I do.

Her cell phone buzzes.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Sorry, I have to get this.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

Jackie is on the phone.

JACKIE

Gracie? How would you and your  
sister like to go out for pizza  
tonight? Yeah, girls night out.  
I was hoping we could have a talk.  
Just the three of us.

END OF SHOW.