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A Sheffield medical ward in the dead of night. Sister Cath Hardacre skillfully puts a cannula into a tiny vein in the back of an old woman's hand.

A tired-looking female junior DOCTOR - HATTIE (late 20s) - looks on. She's a quirky-looking doc with large bright PINK GLASSES, but tonight her normally bright face looks drained and grey.

HATTIE
Thanks, Cath.

She means it.

CATH
There's tea in the pot. Nurse's station.

But as she speaks, Hattie's bleep goes off and she's dragged away again. Cath watches her go.

CUT TO:

1

1

A TOP SHOT of a DEAD MAN'S FACE.

Heroin skinny, yellow gapped teeth, cadaverous skin stretched tight over his skull. Urgent VOICES all around, Bleeps from equipment, the whoosh as the Ambubag pushes air.

DR. ALLY SUTTON alongside, looking down on the laryngeal mask (breathing tube) sticking out of the side of his mouth, the other end attached to a balloon-like Ambubag that pushes air into his lungs.

Seen-it-all-before PARAMEDIC - GERRY (Irish, 40s) - ventilates whilst he gives the handover to Ally.

GERRY
Unknown male, IVDU with pin point pupils in respiratory arrest -

New girl PARAMEDIC - LYNN - (20s) performs the CPR, counting under her breath to herself just like she's been taught.

GERRY (CONT'D)
- scoop and run from Gould Street, early thirties -

ALLY
How long's he been down?

GERRY
Medically, maybe ten minutes.
Emotionally, I'd say twenty years
minimum.

CRASH through the doors into Resus -

CUT TO:

2

2

She grabs at the corpse's right hand. It's rough, dirty, nails bitten right down. Scars and blurred tattoos. She SLAPS hard to try and find a vein. Nothing.

She quickly turns it over and slaps again at the inside of his right wrist. Spots something.

ALLY

Blue please. And get some naloxone ready. IM and IV.

Ally wipes alcohol over a tiny vein. Karen unwraps the cannula.

Gerry peers in at what she's intending to try - to place a tiny cannula in an almost invisible vein - a cannula needed urgently so Ally can inject the antidote that will resurrect her patient.

It's a tough ask.

GERRY

I'll pay to see this.

Karen hands her a small blue cannula.

CUT TO:

3

3

4

4

- VERY CLOSE on the tiny vein - only a couple of millimetres across.

The needle - now looking *huge* on the screen - touches, tents, then enters what looks like rough, dirty elephant skin, trying to find the one remaining good vein in a wrecked body.

A rapid FLASH of red blood in the clear barrel of the cannula.

She's in.

A low whistle of appreciation from Gerry as Ally slides the plastic cannula home.

Ally tapes down the cannula to hold it.

ALLY

OK. Naloxone?

Karen hands Ally a syringe full of a clear drug - naloxone (an opiate antidote). She injects it into the cannula hub.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(to Karen)

In. And let's give him the IM
before he wakes up -

KAREN

Way ahead of you -

- And Karen jabs his arm with another needle and injects more naloxone.

A heartbeat or two and the corpse stays dead still, as if absolutely nothing has happened. But inside his veins, the antidote is pulsing ever closer to his brain.

5, 4, 3...

Ally turns back to Gerry, holding up the inside of her right WRIST to show him -

ALLY

Inside of the right wrist. One
place they never inject.

Suddenly the DEAD MAN coughs, utters a low moan. Karen's already on the move -

KAREN

Security!

But it's too late. The Dead Man sits bolt upright, reanimated like a zombie, pulling off ECG leads and stretching the ventilator tubing to breaking point.

He coughs, looks around, eyes wide, then stares straight at Ally, who's still holding the tiny syringe of naloxone that just killed his hard-won, near-fatal high.

DEAD MAN

Bi tch.

CUT TO:

CUT TO:

The Dead Man is escorted out by the two security guards.

Ally watches him go, grubby plastic bag full of drugs and meagre possessions in hand, still moaning at security and shrugging off their escorting hands.

From dead to ned in less than five minutes.

Ally's more used to this kind of thing by now. She just saved his life and now he's away to repeat the entire process.

She turns away and reaches into a pocket for her iPhone.

Ally hits the MISSED CALLS button and moves to a more private corner.

A MOBILE NUMBER

He jerks his head towards the offices and moves away, expecting her to follow. Ally's heart sinks like a stone. What has she done?

CUT TO:

6

6

Ally follows Andy into his office. Andy lets her pass, then closes the door behind her and pulls the blinds shut -

ALLY

So, what's the prob -

But she doesn't get any further as Andy gets close and kisses her.

Ally takes a second to register her surprise, then responds, before finally coming up for air.

Ally's still trying to be annoyed, thinking she had made a mistake. But she can't manage it in the face of Andy's charm.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(amused, flirty)

Bastard. Don't you ever do that to me again.

ANDY

Sorry.

ALLY

Thought I'd done something terrible.

ANDY

You're an excellent doctor. What could possibly go wrong?

Ally manages to smile as her adrenaline-driven sinus tachycardia gradually slows.

She glances back at the door.

ALLY

We can't do this here.

ANDY

Ashamed of me?

ALLY

It's unprofessional.

ANDY

I know. That's what makes it fun.

A knock at the door and it immediately opens. Karen walks straight in on them as they spring apart.

KAREN

Oh, sorry -

Ally concentrating hard on a PC at the nurses' station, typing in patient details from her last case.

Brigitte appears at her shoulder. She takes a sip from her labelled WATER BOTTLE and places it down on the desk.

BRIGITTE

What happened to that crash call?
The IVDU?

ALLY

Self-discharge. Against medical
advice.

BRIGITTE

Did he sign a form?

Ally hands her a standard 'Against medical advice' form with 'PISS OFF' scrawled on it in capitals.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

Lovely.

Ally reaches for the bottle to take a drink - but Brigitte stops her -

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

Not so fast. You don't know where
I've been.

ALEX

Brigitte?

They both turn to see ALEX CONSTANTINE. Ally realises

Still waiting for your passport I think? Sorry. You know what these HR people are like.

Alex looks at her - his gaze unnerving. Ally pushes the email from him down into her pocket.

ALLY

Sorry. Been looking for it. Can't find it anywhere. Would a driving licence work?

ALEX

No can do. If you can't dig it out, you're going to need a new one. Otherwise they'll stop your wages. End of the week will be fine.

Brigitte finishes what she's been doing.

BRIGITTE

Right. If you've finished harassing my staff I'm all yours. Ally, go to lunch. That's an order.

Brigitte grabs her bottle and leads Alex away.

CUT TO:

8

8

Watery Scottish sunshine as Ally heads towards the small

Ally's world goes into meltdown.

She stops. Looks around anxiously. Knows she's only a few seconds from exposure.

She spots a group of ED NURSES she knows, chatting, searching for cigarette packets and lighters as they pass a few feet from her.

Ally turns her ID BADGE back in towards her chest just as Sam reaches her -

SAM (CONT'D)

You're a tough woman to find.

Ally starts to walk away -

ALLY

I don't want to talk to you.

SAM

Thing is, I've got a proposal. Bit of cash in it as well. Twisted the editor's arm. We want to widen it out. Healthcare in Sheffield - the big scandal.

Ally keeps walking, head down. But Sam keeps step -

ALLY

Sorry. No.

Ally turns and as soon as she does so, she YANKS the ID card from her neck, breaking the lanyard clasp, and shoves it into her scrubs pocket.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Sorry. No. I'm working.

Then Ally sees Andy approaching. Andy spots her talking to Sam, clearly curious and about to walk over... But then Andy is called back by a NURSE and he turns briefly.

SAM

Ten minutes of your time. That's all.

Sam looks over at the truck.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'll even buy you lunch?

CUT TO:

9

9

In the queue for the truck.

CASHIER
That's five seventy.

She reaches for her purse.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
That's with the staff discount.
I'll need to see your wee card.

ALLY
I'm staff.

CASHIER
Sorry. Rules is rules. Or that'd be
me for the high jump.

Sam is at her shoulder, suddenly aware of the emerging minor drama. Ally starts to get flustered.

ALLY
OK, then I'll pay full price. How
much?

CASHIER
Have you not got it?

SAM
Seriously, let me. Five seventy
right?

CASHIER
With the staff discount.

Ally realises she's just making it worse. Finally she reaches into her scrubs pocket and pulls out the ID card, holding it out in front so that Sam can't get a glimpse of it.

ALLY
There. OK?

CASHIER
See? Not so hard, eh?

Ally shoves the ID back into her pocket. The cashier takes the money and gives her the change.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
That's thirty pee.

Ally just grabs her coffee and walks away, eyes down.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
(making a point)
Thank you, doctor.

She's said it.

Ally glances at Sam, but he's clearly heard it too.

Ally panics. Breathing fast, she walks quickly towards the table, trying to stay calm. But Sam follows -

SAM
(light)
You been promoted?

Ally digs deep and finds another lie.

ALLY
It's the scrubs. Everyone in ED
wears them. I get it all the time.

Ally heads away from the truck, away from the other staff and patients towards a place where they can't be overheard.

ALLY (CONT'D)
How did you find me?

Sam hesitates.

SAM
Arthur. At the home? Told them I
was your long-lost cousin. They
gave me a number and address up
here. This was the nearest
hospital.

ALLY
You talked to my father?

SAM
Sorry. Out of order. But you can't
doubt my commitment.

But Ally is angry.

ALLY
That's none of your business.

SAM
Look, you came to me with this.
Your story. When Karl mentioned you
wanted to talk to someone, I was,
you know, whatever. Worth a look.
But it got to me. You got to me.
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

The Government keep on with all this 'Our NHS' bullshit, but you dig a bit and it's falling to pieces. Patients suffering, good people getting shafted. Exactly what you told me. I want people to know. And I thought you did too?

Ally takes a second or two.

ALLY

You still see him? Karl?

SAM

Now and again. Five-a-side. That's it.

Another beat from Ally.

ALLY

I wanted what was best for my daughter. The situation wasn't ideal.

SAM

OK...

ALLY

He would let her down. Not just once or twice. Time and time and time again. She'd wait, get excited, then he'd just not turn up or give some bullshit excuse. I thought a bit of distance was what we needed.

SAM

So how's that working?

ALLY

We go down there. It's easier. Then there's the money thing. I'm earning, he's not.

Sam takes this in.

SAM

I get it. Still don't see why that means you can't help me?

ALLY

I just don't want to get involved, that's all.

Ally stays silent. Sam senses she's not telling the whole truth.

SAM

It's funny. Without your Dad, I would never have found you. I checked all the usual places - there's nothing. Like you just vanished.

ALLY

I just wanted a clean break. For both of us.

Sam looks at her carefully. Senses her reticence to talk. Makes a small leap -

SAM

Karl has no idea where you are, does he?

Ally doesn't reply.

SAM (CONT'D)

Did he hit you? Or her?

Ally still says nothing.

SAM (CONT'D)

Bastard.

Ally hesitates for a beat.

ALLY

It got... physical... I need this whole thing to be a new start for me. I don't care about me. I care about my daughter.

Sam rocks back. He's now sure he's chased an abused partner across the country and feels like dirt -

SAM

Shit... Look, it's OK. It's fine. I get it. I'm sorry. I should never have come here.

Sam stands.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'll make it work without you.
Don't know how but I'll sort
something. You won't hear from me
again.

CUT TO:

10

10

11

11

Ally walks back in, almost crossing with Brigitte and Alex Constantine, walking through the department.

She subtly follows and listens to their conversation - not allowing them to realise she can hear them.

ALEX

Sorry to just land this on you. I
know you've got enough on your
plate here.

BRIGITTE

You're wrong. I trust my staff one
hundred percent. There's been a
mistake.

ALEX

I hope so.

He doesn't believe it. Brigitte watches him go and takes a swig from her water bottle.

FIND: Andy as he slides next to Ally, making her jump - her concentration so fixed on Alex and Brigitte.

ANDY

Everything OK?

ALLY

(recovering)

Sure.

ANDY

All looked a bit intense just then?
Outside. Wondered if I needed to
step in. Friend of yours?

Is Andy jealous? His tone is light but he needs an answer.

Ally turns to face him as Brigitte joins them.

ALLY

It's fine. Nothing. He's... An estate agent. Couldn't get hold of me. Wanted to talk about some place on the market.

Brigitte joins in.

BRIGITTE

About time you moved up in the world. Buying or renting?

ALLY

I'm not sure.

BRIGITTE

Love to see my valued colleagues putting down roots.

(glance to Andy)

And making friends. So where are you looking? Somewhere nice?

ANDY

(light)

Not on what we pay her.

BRIGITTE

Few night shifts, Edinburgh's your oyster.

Ally feels herself getting deeper into a lie. She reacts a little tetchily.

ALLY

I'm looking, that's all. See what's out there.

Karen at her shoulder -

KAREN

Trauma call in five. Cyclist versus white van man. Suspected head injury.

On the spot, Ally spots a welcome exit -

ALLY

I'll take it.

CUT TO:

12

12

13

13

Gerry and Lynn with Ally and Charlie.

LYNN

One, two three -

Hands move the CYCLIST (Ed, 30s) from the ambulance trolley to a resus bed.

He's dressed in outdoors-y cycling gear - fleece, mountain trainers, messenger bag. A hard cervical collar around his neck to protect the spine.

ALLY

So what happened?

LYNN

Blindsided at a junction.

CHARLIE

Blindsided at a junction, and he hit him on his head.

GERRY

In bits. Got him GCS 13 at the scene. Collared as a precaution. Oh, and his name's Ed -

Ally leans in to her patient - who's clawing at the uncomfortable collar around his neck.

ALLY

Hi. I'm Ally. I'm one of the doctors, do you know where you are?

ED

I'm going to be sick.

ALLY

OK. We can give you something for that...

But Ed isn't joking and starts to puke, still lying on his back, like a mini Vesuvius of vomit.

ALLY (CONT'D)

CHARLIE

Got to show commitment. Mere 'A' grades from Heriot's are not enough. Funny thing was, I quite liked it -

The lift doors open and they squeeze inside -

CUT TO:

17

17

- where there's barely enough room.

Charlie sniffs the enclosed air. Ed's drying vomit is the top note in this particular perfume.

CHARLIE

Can't handle vomit. Poo I'm fine with. Tramp sweat no problem. Vomit - uh oh. Any air freshener in that bag?

The lift doors close and it starts to rise.

ALLY

Sorry.

Suddenly Ed's back arches and he goes completely rigid. A tiny beat and then his muscles start to spasm and seize -

ALLY (CONT'D)

Fitting -

CHARLIE

Shit!

Ed is rigid, his arms and legs making small jerking movements. The PULSE OXIMETER alarm starts to sound as it is dislodged. Ally grabs at him to try and stop the movement.

ALLY

Diazepam -

Ed bucks and thrashes as the powerful spasms almost throw him off the trolley. Ally has to use nearly all her body weight to hold him.

At the same time Charlie rips open the emergency bag and scrabbles inside -

CHARLIE

Can't find it -

Ally struggles to hold down her patient in the confined space.

ALLY
There's got to be -

Finally, Charlie grabs it.

CHARLIE
Here!

He hands her a minijet of Diazepam.

ALLY
Hold his arm -

Charlie tries to grab at the twitching arm as Ally struggles to attach the syringe to the cannula hub.

Just as she gets it, Charlie loses his grip and the cannula and syringe pull out, leaving a wound that starts oozing blood out onto the bed and their hands.

ALLY (CONT'D)
For God's sake -

CHARLIE
Sorry -

ALLY
You need to hold him.

Charlie uses all his strength to hold down the flailing, bleeding arm while Ally attempts another cannula.

It's like hitting a moving target. Her attempt fails.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Shit.
(then)
We got sublingual midazolam?

CHARLIE
Nope.

ALLY
OK. I need another line - quick...

CHARLIE
Get his legs -
(off her confusion)
Just do it.

Charlie hauls down boxers against Ed's kicking legs and struggles to aim his syringe into the correct area.

The LIFT DOORS open to reveal a group of MANAGEMENT STAFF in suits. They are presented with the sight of Ally restraining Ed while Charlie injects the drug into Ed's his back passage -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
It's in. Hold him.

- they keep holding Ed down as the drug takes effect and the

19

19

Ally gets to the sanctuary of the grubby female changing room. LOCKERS on the walls. She's alone. Retrieving her rucksack, Ally walks through the changing room -

CUT TO:

20

20

- Into the toilets and locks the door.

She leans into the cracked sink, runs the tap, splashes her face and then looks into the dirty mirror at her reflection.

She stares into her own eyes. Tired, the face finally comes off.

She's upset, emotional. She fights back tears of tension and fear. That was too close.

Would she have coped on her own? Would Ed have died in there?

She pulls off her grim scrub top.

The POST-IT note flutters from the pocket. Evidence of her deception. Kissing Andy this morning feels like a hundred years ago.

Ally picks it up and tears it into pieces before throwing the pieces into the bowl and flushing them.

She watches them disappear.

CUT TO:

21

21

Ally walks in to the room. Mona's watching TV - some kind of talent show - her dinner on a tray in her lap, she doesn't look up.

MONA

Your dinner's in the oven.

CUT TO:

22

22

Ally sitting next to Mona, her TV dinner on the go, laughing along at her TV show.

MONA

You easily could leave the wee one with me? A couple of days is fine.

ALLY

Thanks. But it's been a while. I owe him that much.

MONA

Do you?

ALLY

Karl's her father.

MONA

Aye well, maybe he should have thought of that before he upped and left you with a bairn to raise.

(then)

The offer's there.

A beat or two. The TV burbles. Mona knows Ally is feeling it. But she assumes it's the stress of the job, a long hard day.

MONA (CONT'D)

You can talk to me. Whatever it is. Unshockable, that's me.

(MORE)

MONA (CONT'D)

You see what goes on in Take A
Break, then nothing would surprise
you. Kidnap, incest. Or both.

For a second, Ally thinks about it. Feels that urge to just
confess.

ALLY

I'm OK. Just tired.

MONA

Doesn't pay to bottle things up.
Not in your line of work. A problem
shared...

ALLY

Can you keep a secret? I mean
really?

Mona mimes 'zipping' up her lips.

ALLY (CONT'D)

I'm not a real doctor.

But of course Mona doesn't believe she's talking literally.
In fact it riles her -

MONA

What? Because you're a woman?
Because you've got a bairn and
responsibilities? You're as good as
any of them stuck-up bastards, mark
my words. Now I don't want to hear
another word of that crap. OK?

ALLY

(eventually)

OK.

MONA

Glad we've got that straight. Now I
thought you were going out with
that man of yours?

ALLY

Actually I was going to ring him.
Do it another night.

MONA

Get some slap on, put a smile on
your face and get out there. You
want him to hook up with some young
nurse while you're stuck here
gabbing to an old woman?

ALLY
(Laughing)

No.

MONA

Then get a wiggle on and get out of here.

CUT TO:

23

23

Ally dressed to go out. She looks great - a different woman. Her clothes and style have evolved since we first met her.

She checks in on Molly - asleep. Safe. Cared for. Secure.

It reminds Ally. This is the reason she's doing it.

CUT TO:

24

24

Ally makes her way along the bustle of the streets near the station - a fun, young area full of life.

Students and young couples laugh and joke as they pass. The lights are warm and yellow, the night young and full of promise.

Ally spots her destination - a cool looking bar/restaurant.

CUT TO:

25

25

Ally pushes inside. A cool crowd. There's a faint Tex Mex feel. A DJ prepares for his set. Young female students wait tables.

Andy at a corner table. Ally smiles when she sees him and walks over.

ANDY

Thought I was being stood up?

ALLY

Sorry. You know how it is.

ANDY

True. Sadly.

He leans in to kiss her hello. Ally doesn't back off exactly but almost instinctively checks around her.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Don't worry. We're in the clear.
Also no-one who works in the NHS
could possibly afford this. Eight
quid for a bloody artisan tequila?

ALLY

You chose it.

ANDY

Just trying to impress you.

ALLY

It's so not working.

She kisses him again, relaxing a little more now.

ANDY

So what kept you?

ALLY

That extra dural decided to puke
all over me. Then throw a grand mal
in the lift.

Andy sniffs -

ANDY

I am getting a tiny whiff of vomit.
Although the Chanel is doing its
best -

ALLY

(mortified)

I showered!

ANDY

Puke will always find a way. It's a
cross we all have to bear.

(then)

I'm guessing you need a drink?

Ally pretends to peruse the drinks board behind her.

ALLY

ANDY

I could always go with you?

ALLY

Above and beyond. But thanks. He's my father.

ANDY

Your Mum OK?

ALLY

She died. Long time ago now. Ever since then, it was just me and him.

ANDY

See, I didn't know that.

ALLY

Because I never told you.

ANDY

Exactly. One artisan tequila and most women will tell you their life story -

ALLY

(really?)

Most women?

Andy realises he's on shaky ground.

ANDY

What I mean is, you can talk to me. If you want to.

ALLY

Thanks. I'll let you know.

Ally looks away, doesn't meet his eyes. She feels uncomfortable, vulnerable. Knows she really can't talk to him.

ANDY

Ouch. Just trying to be the dutiful boyfriend here.

ALLY

Sorry, I thought we were just having sex.

She's joking, but Andy senses the 'boyfriend' word might have been a bridge too far.

ANDY

Shit. Too soon? So this is what? Friends with benefits?

ALLY

Not sure I'd count you as a *friend* as such.

ANDY

Fair enough. I mean I suppose I've never...

(air quotes)

officially asked you out.

Ally listens to her father's chest, placing her hands on his shoulders, intimate and distant at the same time.

ARTHUR

Are you the doctor?

Ally hesitates. Looks into his eyes, realises that her father has no idea who she is anymore. She might as well be a stranger.

In her father's eyes. Cath Hardcore has gone for good.

ALLY

That's right. I am. Take a deep breath.

This time, Arthur does as he's told. Ally then percusses his chest on the right - something only a doctor would do.

She listens with the stethoscope, concentrating on what she hears.

ARTHUR

(quiet)

Cathy.

Ally almost jumps in shock. Looks into his eyes. Somehow, she knows. He's back.

ALLY

(tender)

Hi.

ARTHUR

Always were a good girl. Have you come to take me home?

ALLY

You are home.

Arthur shakes his head, looks around, starts getting upset.

ARTHUR

Sorry about all this. Not fair.

ALLY

It's OK. Really.

ARTHUR

Where's Jessie?

ALLY

Mum died. Long time ago. Remember?

Arthur does remember. Sort of. Is that what pushes him back?

ARTHUR

You work so hard to care of us. I'm
so proud of you Cath.

But almost as quickly as he came back, Ally realises he's gone again, his eyes regaining their thousand yard stare.

Ally tries to compose herself. Then realises the GP is looking for his stethoscope.

He realises she has it, walks over - annoyed.

ALLY

Sorry. I worked in respiratory.
Asthma nurse. You pick things up.

DR. FERGUSON

We get a lot of internet experts
these days. Dr. Google is no
substitute for the real thing.

ALLY

Of course.

DR. FERGUSON

I think this is an infection. I'm
going to prescribe some
antibiotics. He should be better in
a day or two.

CUT TO:

32

32

Ally is about to drive away. Molly is still engrossed in her iPad. She looks back at the building. Her last connection to her old life. She looks in her rearview mirror at her reflection; new hair, new clothes, Cath Hardacre vanishing before her eyes.

After a beat, she turns the key and moves away.

CUT TO:

33

33

Ally on her new phone. She's looking up 'fake passport' information on her smart phone.

Karl enters. Molly sees him -

MOLLY

Daddy!

Ally quickly shuts down her phone browser as Karl approaches.

CUT TO:

34

34

Molly eating ice cream. Ally and Karl with coffees on the go.

KARL

So it's zero hours but there's opportunity, you know? Long as I can prove I'm reliable.

ALLY

Sure.

KARL

I know I've screwed up in the past. But it's different this time.

(beat)

I miss her. And you.

He looks at her hair.

KARL (CONT'D)

Looks good. Suits you.

ALLY

Thanks. Just fancied something different.

(breaking moment)

Molly dropped my phone in the loo. This is my new number -

She scribbles on a napkin and pushes it across.

KARL

Thanks

As he takes it, Karl reaches a hand over towards Ally - keeps contact just a bit too long. She pulls it away.

KARL (CONT'D)

Remember when we used to come here? She was in her push chair? Only way she'd sleep. Took it in turns to go round and round? Better than the gym.

ALLY

I'm glad you're doing better.
Really.

KARL

They've got a depot up there.
Edinburgh.

Panic overcomes Ally.

ALLY

One step at a time, eh? They need
to know you're reliable. You're
there a couple of months and then
go asking for a transfer?

KARL

Yeah, guess so.

ALLY

We're fine coming here. You know, I
need to see Dad anyway...

Karl reaches inside his bag.

KARL

I got this. Don't let her see. For
her birthday. It's still Paw
Patrol, right?

Karl pushes a plastic present over.

ALLY

Loves it. Thanks.

She hides the present under the table. Checks the time.

ALLY (CONT'D)

We need to get going.

KARL

Sure.

(to Molly)

Kiss for your Dad?

But instead Molly hugs him hard.

MOLLY

So when are you coming?

KARL

Soon. I hope. Soon. Be good, OK?

CUT TO:

35

35

Establishing shot of Edinburgh, Arthur's Seat in the background.

ALLY

CUT TO:

35A

35A

Ally applies some steri-strips to a wound on a patient's arm.

ALLY

So these falls -?

~~M~~ALLYONS

I don't need more help.

ALLY

I can talk to social services. Get them to send someone round. Maybe some help in the mornings -?

Ally puts the finishing touches to her neat job.

MR LYONS

Thanks.

A proper handshake and then he rolls away under his own steam.

CUT TO:

35B

35B

Charlie looks at Ally tidying up after herself in the cubicle.

CHARLIE

You know the nurses will do your dressings for you? If you ask nicely.

ALLY

I don't mind. Gives you time to talk to them.

CHARLIE

That is the weirdest thing any doctor has ever said to me.

ALLY

(light)

Don't you like them? Patients?

CHARLIE

They're fine. Couldn't eat a whole one.

ALLY

You should try it. They won't bite you. Well, obviously some of them do try and bite you -

CHARLIE

Can I ask you something?

ALLY

Sure.

CHARLIE

Do you think doctors and nurses should go out with each other? As a matter of principle.

ALLY

It has been known.

CHARLIE

But is it fundamentally wrong?
Against nature.

He's half joking. But sort of serious.

ALLY

You're asking me whether
intelligent, well rounded and
dedicated professionals should
lower themselves to dating doctors?

CHARLIE

Exactly.

Karen walks past and Charlie glances at her. Ally is onto it like a shot. Suddenly she misses the simplicity too.

ALLY

Just ask her.

CHARLIE

Is it that obvious?

ALLY

It is now. Ask her. No lines, no
jokes. Just be yourself and ask
her. Go!

Charlie almost gets up, then sits back down as he sees another two nurses join Karen and start talking.

CHARLIE

I'll think about it.

ALLY

Seriously. Why make it complicated?
It should be easy.

CHARLIE

Should be.

Another CARD gets placed in the 'waiting for doctor' box by the receptionist. Charlie grabs it gratefully and checks the problem.

His face falls.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, not swollen testicles again.
Why is it testicle day?

ALLY
(light)
At least they've got balls.

CHARLIE
Ouch.

And he moves off.

CUT TO:

36

36

Ally in a cubicle with a patient - a young WOMAN whose earring stud is stuck in her lobe.

Ally approaches with a syringe of local anaesthetic.

WOMAN
It's just the butterfly that's stuck. You're jabbing me with that?

ALLY
If you want me to get it out.

WOMAN
(go on then)
Jeez...

But Ally is disturbed by Brigitte -

BRIGITTE
Got a minute?

Ally looks past her to see Alex Constantine - the fraud guy from her induction session -

CUT TO:

37

37

Ally walks with Brigitte and Alex. Around them the ED is busy as ever.

ALLY
I'm sorry, I know I need it. I just keep forgetting. You know what it's like.

BRIGITTE
(annoyed)
And I told you this was all a waste of time.

Alex has to step around another wayward patient.

ALEX

We all know how hard you guys are working. But if you get it to me, then I can get off your back.

BRIGITTE

OK. Message delivered. I'm sure we all have better things to do?

ALEX

Sure.

ALLY
Just a patient.

A RAPID FLASHBACK of her previous panic as Ed fits in the lift -

ALLY (CONT'D)
(shaking it off)
Shouldn't we be sharing these with everyone?

BRIGITTE
Are you insane? May as well throw them to the gannets. No. Our only option is to eat them all, right here. Baggsy orange cream.

And without further argument, Brigitte digs into the top layer with gusto.

ALLY

BRIGITTE

No matter how little I know about bloody medicine, I can still spot the signs of workplace shagging at fifty paces. So, is this serious?

Ally doesn't reply. But her poker face lets her down.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

I will put that down as a yes. Don't worry, I approve. He's one of the good ones. And he deserves better than that stuck-up cow Sarah.

ALLY

Just don't tell anyone? Not yet at least.

Brigitte smiles.

BRIGITTE

I knew it.

ALLY

It's early days, but...

BRIGITTE

Say no more, your secret, unlike your chocolates, is safe. Seriously, I think it's great. Really.

Brigitte lifts the layer partition and eats some more chocolates.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

OK, I have extracted the chosen

BRIGITTE

Not any more. I decided your continuing professional development took priority. Mohammed's on the rota instead.

ALLY

He doesn't mind?

BRIGITTE

When it's this or your old job in Syria, you tend to be flexible.

ALLY

Still, I'm not sure if I can -

BRIGITTE

When's your next appraisal due?

ALLY

Not sure, but -

BRIGITTE

You know what they're like. Evidence of continuing professional development. I can't sign you off unless you attend.

ALLY

Sorry. It's just with childcare and everything -

BRIGITTE

BRIGITTE

Good! Then it's settled. Plus, I refuse to spend a dull night alone in Glasgow being lectured about exit block. Which means you are now my official wing woman.

CUT TO:

40

40

A rare sunny day in winter. Andy and Ally walk along Portobello beach road.

Molly plays a few yards away, pushing a child's buggy with a doll in it.

ANDY

Seriously, be careful.

ALLY

It's an educational conference, not Magaluf. I don't even want to go.

ANDY

Don't blame you. I've heard a lot of hair gets let down.

ALLY

So come with me? Or better still, go with Bridge and get me out of it?

ANDY

Can't. Got a mate coming up from Leeds. Mike Watkins?

ALLY

Don't think I know him.

ANDY

I went to school with him but he trained in Leeds? Must have been in your day?

ALLY

Maybe. Doesn't ring a bell though.

ANDY

Knowing Mike I would have expected him to have hit on you at least once.

ALLY
(joking)
What can I say? So many men -

ANDY
So little time. Anyway I know
better than to crash a girls' night
out.

ALLY
Brigitte said you'd be jealous.

ANDY

ANDY
(friendly)
Piss off.
(then)
This is my home. Look around you.
Why would I give this up?

ALLY
Simple.

ANDY
I think so.
(then)
Sarah talked about moving. Never
saw the point.

ALLY
Did you talk to your solicitor
again?

ANDY
For all the good it did. Honestly?
It's the worst thing that's ever
happened to me. Like we're both
paying lawyers to make us
miserable.
(then)
She's fighting over access. At
weekends. I need to be flexible
because of work. Now she's using it
against me. Basically shot from
both sides.

Molly's buggy hits a stone and her doll catapults out onto the path. She stops, on the verge of tears.

Andy spots this and glad to change the subject, he runs forward and leans over the doll.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Quick. Trauma call. I need some
help here!

Molly laughs at him - fooling and smiling with her.

ANDY (CONT'D)
(to Molly)
Call Doctor Mum for me. Quick!

Molly turns to Ally -

MOLLY
Mummy!

Ally can't help laughing as she joins in the game.

ANDY

Significant head injury.
Unresponsive. Pupils fixed and
dilated. Doll's eye movements only -

ALLY

Sounds like she needs a cuddle.

ANDY

Roger that! Call the cuddle team!
Stat!

He gives the doll back to Molly who's loving the grown-up silliness. She takes the doll and puts it back in the buggy.

Andy watches her push it away, still on his knees next to Ally. She's about to get up and he stops her.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(cautious)

You know, you don't actually need
to buy somewhere. I've got a flat.
Practically empty.

Ally stops. He's clearly serious.

ALLY

You don't know me.

ANDY

Maybe that's why it works.

Ally stays silent. Andy senses he's pushed too far.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Look I'm not asking for your hand
in marriage. We could just... see
how it goes?

ALLY

What, so it'd be convenient? Sex on
tap? Cut down your travel time?

ANDY

OK, now I'm just confused. It was a
serious offer. If you don't want to-

ALLY

I just think it's too soon.

Andy tries to keep it light.

ANDY

Anecdotal. Conventional wisdom that's never been tested. There is no optimal relationship time before commencing co-habitation.

ALLY

Don't do this.

ANDY

What?

ALLY

Push me into a corner. It's not fair.

Ally stays silent. Can she do this? But Andy suspects he's frightened her.

ANDY

OK. Fine. Too soon. I retract the offer. As we were. OK?

ALLY

OK.

MOLLY

Mummy!

Molly has chucked the doll on the floor again, expecting another trauma call.

ALLY

Coming.

PRE LAP - A CAR HORN BEEPS URGENTLY

CUT TO:

41

41

Mona with Molly, Ally grabs her WEEKEND BAG.

She looks over at Mona with Molly. About to open her mouth.

MONA

Don't say it. We'll be fine. You deserve it.

Another BEEP.

ALLY

Thank you. I mean it's mostly lectures.

MONA

Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

CUT TO:

42

42

Ally walks out of the door, to where Brigitte waits in her smart Audi.

Her remote boot opens as if by magic, Ally puts her bag in -

- Before pulling open the door and grabbing the front seat.

Her phone RINGS - a mobile number without caller ID.

ALLY

Hi?

The caller speaks softly. Ally's face flashes with worry that Brigitte spots.

ALLY (CONT'D)

OK... Thanks. I'll meet you there.

BRIGITTE

Everything OK?

ALLY

(Lying)

Fine. My ex. We've got some things to sort out.

Brigitte senses the lie, but doesn't pursue it. Ally tries to break the moment.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(upbeat)

Ready?

Brigitte puts an up-tempo CD into the player and turns to her.

BRIGITTE

Let the education commence.

She hits the gas as the music starts.

CUT TO:

AF LECTURER (CONT'D)

Today I'd like to outline those strategies and bury the myth of a 'one size fits all' approach to this complex condition...

Ally has made sure she's behind Hattie. She keeps her head down as Brigitte checks Facebook on her phone.

She looks over and sees Ally concentrating hard and taking rapid notes - however in reality she's doing everything she can to avoid being seen.

BRIGITTE

Girly swot.

ALLY

It's interesting.

BRIGITTE

It's AF. No-one finds AF interesting. Even the people who have it are bored.

Another DOCTOR in front of her turns and gives her a stern look.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

Don't worry. Doctor Perfect would be proud of you.

Ally sees Hattie looking in her direction. A tiny beat of recognition? She quickly turns towards Brigitte, hiding her face.

ALLY

Let's get out of here. This place is full of doctors. Drink?

BRIGITTE

Right behind you.

CUT TO:

47

47

47A

47A

Andy and his friend MICHAEL WATKINS hit the Grassmarket - welcoming lights everywhere you look. Spoilt for choice.

ANDY

Pub? Or coffee?

MI CHAEL

You're seriously asking me?

They head into a proper pub.

CUT TO:

47B

47B

Two PINTS pushed across. Chatter and life all around.

ANDY

So there's Cliff on long-term sick leave -

MI CHAEL

Sorry -

ANDY

(don't be sorry)

Anxiety depression. Just signed off for another six months.

Michael pulls a face at this news.

MI CHAEL

Advertise it. Backs and brains never return.

ANDY

Got a couple of good ones. You know Alison Sutton?

MI CHAEL

(noddin g)

Staff grade. Sheffield way? Went to university with her.

ANDY

She's moved up. Needed a change of scene.

MI CHAEL

Really? I heard she went to New Zealand. Married some farmer type.

ANDY

If she did, she's kept it quiet. She's smart. Works hard.

Mike eyes him up.

MICHAEL

Teacher's pet? Careful. Work and play never ends well.

ANDY

It's fine.

MICHAEL

Always is. Until the shit hits the fan. Your funeral. My round I think.

Mike heads for the bar, leaving Andy to ponder what he just said. Strange.

CUT TO:

48

48

A noisy, fun Italian restaurant in the heart of the city. All the tables around them are full with people enjoying their weekend.

Empty plates in front of the two women. Brigitte pours out two slugs of decent red wine.

BRIGITTE

OK. Most embarrassing man you've ever had. I'll start.

She takes a drink, easily necking more than her companion.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

He was sixty four -

ALLY

Sixty...!

BRIGITTE

Cardiologist from the Brompton.
Dead ringer for Robert Redford.
Anyway I was hoping for the whole
'Indecent Proposal' vibe -

ALLY

He was rich?

BRIGITTE

Big private practice. Huge.

Ally laughs at the double entendre -

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

You can think it, I never said it. OK, so anyway we did the deed, it was fine. I mean, a little bit Viagra-assisted but basically fine. Then we were lying there, and he said it.

ALLY

Oh God. Did he tell you he loved you?

BRIGITTE

Worse. Said I reminded him of his daughter -

ALLY

(ad lib)

No way -

BRIGITTE

(to Ally)

Your turn.

ALLY

Sorry. I can't beat that. Not even close. His *daughter*.

BRIGITTE

OK. Let's think positive. Best man ever. As in, the full package?

ALLY

I don't know. Honestly.

BRIGITTE

Think back. I can wait. What time does this place close?

And Ally realises that she hasn't really got a past. Not as Ally.

ALLY

His name was Grant. He was a farmer. From New Zealand. Friend of a friend. I don't know what else to say. Just a really lovely guy.

BRIGITTE

So what happened?

ALLY

He went home.

BRIGITTE

You didn't go with him?

ALLY

No. And here I am.

Brigitte doesn't say anything.

BRIGITTE

You know what I think? I think that's a load of bollocks.

Brigitte takes a drink, looks hurt.

ALLY

Bridge - C'mon.

BRIGITTE

I don't mind if you don't want to tell me. Just don't lie.

ALLY

Why would I make it up?

BRIGITTE

I don't know. Maybe you think you can't trust me? I mean I had to get the Andy thing out of you with thumbscrews.

ALLY

It's not like that. I just didn't want to jinx it, that's all.

But Brigitte is drunk and her mood seems to turn.

BRIGITTE

It's fine. I understand some things are personal.

Ally realises she needs to give Brigitte something.

ALLY

Actually, I needed some advice. I was going to ask you. Andy asked me to move in with him.

BRIGITTE

Shit. And what did you say?

ALLY

I said I'd think about it.

BRIGITTE

And?

ALLY

Then he told me I reminded him of
his daughter -

Brigitte laughs, refills her wine glass, the atmosphere
mended, for now.

BRIGITTE

For that, drink -

And deaf to Ally's protests, she fills up Ally's wine glass
again.

CUT TO:

49

49

A noisy game of five-a-side football under floodlights.
Middle-aged blokes in luminous tabards. Lots of shouting, not
a lot of skill.

CUT TO:

50

50

A pint of LAGER placed on the bar next to where Sam PLACES AN
ICE PACK ON his busted knee.

KARL

On me. Sorry about that. Even if it
was ball first.

SAM

Was it bollocks.

The pub buzzes with blokes watching the Premier League on the
big screen. Karl takes a sip of a green fizzy pint of lime
and soda.

SAM (CONT'D)

(r.e: green pint)

Thought the only point of footie
was the rehydration? Unless that's
all Creme de Menthe?

KARL

Lime and soda. On the wagon. Six
months. Never felt better. Fitness
is off the scale. Even doing
Giggsy's yoga tape.

Someone on-screen misses a sitter to general disbelief.

KARL (CONT'D)

You should try it. Seriously. Whole new start. Wish I'd done it years ago.

SAM

Good for you.

Sam wants to get away but Karl wants to talk.

KARL

I really screwed things up. I get that now. Never know what you've got until it's gone, right? You got kids?

SAM

Not that I know about.

KARL

Changes everything.

SAM

Right. Sorry. Somewhere I need to be.

Sam gets up. Karl sounds reasonable, but Sam's confused about what he knows from talking to Ally.

KARL

We got a problem? I know I went in a bit hard, but -

SAM

So I hear. Don't worry. I'm a big man. I can take it. It's the others you want to apologise to.

Sam gets up and walks away, Karl's bought pint untouched.

CUT TO:

51

51

52

52

53

53

54

54

The smoking area. A few others brave the cold, their breath fogging the air. Brigitte lights up her cigarette and takes a drag.

BRIGITTE
(off her look)
Once a year. Shoot me.

Brigitte offers her one. Ally shakes her head.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)
You know, I've never asked you how many.

ALLY
I don't really want to talk about men -

BRIGITTE
Oh Christ, not that. I mean the big question. How many have you killed? And don't you dare say no-one.

Ally hesitates.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)
OK. Here's my list. Last five years, edited highlights. One aortic dissection. Fifty-two. Told him it was indigestion. Bled out on the way home. Two ischaemic bowels, one was just about to celebrate her golden wedding anniversary. Didn't learn that lesson. Then there was that wee girl...

Brigitte hesitates.

ALLY
You don't have to tell me.

BRIGITTE
Yes I do. Because I can't tell anyone else. And neither can you.

She takes a drag of her cigarette.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)
She was four. It was late. I was tired, if that's an excuse. Been on nine hours. The stupid thing was, I knew she was sick.
(MORE)

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

Just had that feeling you get. But then I heard myself telling the parents the same old lines, give it a day or two. Regular paracetamol. Because I wanted to get home. Didn't want all the bother of referring her, taking blood. That's all.

ALLY

What happened?

BRIGITTE

She came back that night. Meningococcal sepsis. They took both her arms to try and stop it but she died in the end. Good thing really. Poor little soul.

ALLY

So what happened?

BRIGITTE

Nothing. That's the thing. Nothing happened. Parents never even made a complaint. God knows why. In a way, it made it worse. I got away with it. Scot free.

(then)

So? What about you? How many?

ALLY

None. I mean none I can think of. I mean maybe I didn't even know...

BRIGITTE

Give it time.

Brigitte stubs out her cigarette and walks back inside.

BRIGITTE (CONT'D)

I need another drink.

She walks, stumbles and Ally has to catch her.

CUT TO:

55

55

The boot of the Audi opens automatically. Brigitte slings her bag in. She looks very worse for wear.

CUT TO:

Brigitte slinks into the front seat.

Ally reaches to load the CD player -

BRIGITTE

ANDY

Good. Apart from the job,
obviously.

ALLY

Obviously.

ANDY

Doesn't remember you.

ALLY

Then there's no way I slept with
him.

A NURSE leans in to Ally -

JENNY

Ally? That x-ray's back?

ALLY

Coming.

And she leaves. Andy watches her go. Does he suspect?

CUT TO:

58A

58A

A down at heel pub in Leith. Mostly men.

Ally walks in through the door. She keeps her head down. A
couple of people look at her.

Ally walks to a table in the corner and joins a MAN in his
late twenties.

ALLY

Hi .

The MAN doesn't reply but pushes over a small brown envelope.
Ally quickly checks it. It's a fake PASSPORT.

Ally pushes over another envelope. The MAN just takes it.

A noise as another LOCAL emerges from the gents. Ally looks
up and recognises DEAD GUY - the HEROIN ADDICT she treated,
the one who walked out.

He doesn't see her, more interested in talking to his mates,
but Ally realises that danger like this is everywhere.

Ally pockets her passport and hurries out of the pub before she's recognised.

CUT TO:

58B

58B

Ally hands the PASSPORT over to Alex.

He opens it and looks at the picture. Ally holds her breath.

ALEX

How come you look OK in that? I
look like a serial killer in mine.

(then)

Thanks. I'll copy it and give it
back. OK?

ALLY

No problem.

Ally walks away, thinking she's in the clear. But Alex keeps looking at her as she takes a patient card from nurse JENNY.

Ally turns and sees Alex still looking at her. At the eye contact he turns away. Ally's heart hits her mouth again. Does he still suspect?

CUT TO:

58C

58C

Charlie entering data into one of the PCs at the nurses station. Karen walks past.

CHARLIE

You seen Ally? Thought she was here
until 7?

KAREN

Staff room. She's on her break.

- her phone rings - the ringtone is Tubular Bells - AKA The Exorcist.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hi. Sure. I'll call you later.

She kills the call.

CHARLIE

The Exorcist.

KAREN

Right.

Charlie pulls out his phone and presses a button. His ring tone is the music from Halloween.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Halloween.

CHARLIE

I'm impressed. So you're a horror fan?

KAREN

The bloodier the better. Ever wondered why I work here?

(then)

OK - scariest baddie ever. On three. One, two -

KAREN (CONT'D)

Freddie Kreuger

CHARLIE

Freddie Kreuger

They both laugh. Karen offers Charlie a semi-ironic high five.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I was ten. Brother had the DVD. I shat my pants. Didn't sleep for a week afterwards.

KAREN

But not anymore, right?

CHARLIE

I sleep fine. Still shit my pants though.

Karen laughs. Charlie decides to chance his arm.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

There's actually a screening? Tomorrow night. Near the Grassmarket. One of those dress up things? If you fancy it?

KAREN

I think I'm working that night...

She checks her phone diary. Charlie senses an excuse.

CHARLIE

It's fine. Don't worry about it -

KAREN

No. I'm on days. Cool. Let's do it.

CHARLIE

OK. Great. Great.

Karen gives him a smile and heads off. Out on Charlie, more pleased than he thought he'd be. A date!

CUT TO:

Ally is glad of the distraction.

ALLY (CONT'D)
So? Did you ask her?

ANDY
What's this?

ALLY
Charlie and Karen.

ANDY
(amused, teasing)
Really?

CHARLIE
We're going to see Nightmare on Elm
Street. They're screening it. It's
not a date -

ALLY
Sounds like a date.

ANDY
Definitely sounds like a date. A
shit date -

ALLY
(don't be mean)
Hey!

ANDY
There's a kind of logic I suppose.
Compared to Freddie Krueger every
man looks good. It's clever
actually. I may not be God's gift
but at least I won't rip your liver
out.

ALLY
Ignore him.

CHARLIE
Don't worry. I've had loads of
practice.

Charlie grabs his tea and makes a quick exit.

CUT TO:

Ally lies awake, Andy sound asleep.

Molly starts to cry. Ally hears it, gets up and walks out.

Andy half-stirs.

Suddenly a RING TONE.

Sleepy, Andy looks first at his phone, then Ally's on the opposite side of the bed.

Andy picks it up and presses 'accept'.

ANDY

Hi - ?

SHARON

(o/s)

SHARON (CONT' D)

This is Sharon? From the nursing home?

ANDY

Sorry - ?

Ally enters the room and takes Andy by surprise.

ALLY

(o/s)

I'll take it.

Still confused, Andy hands her the phone and Ally walks out of the room as she takes the call -

ALLY (CONT' D)

Yes?

CUT TO:

60

60

Andy picks up the still-crying Molly and comforts her.

CUT TO:

61

61

Andy walks downstairs, Molly in his arms, to see Ally talking to someone on the phone. She sees him -

ALLY

- I'll come immediately. OK.

- And hangs up.

Molly kicks and runs to her.

ANDY

Everything OK?

ALLY

My Dad's ill. In hospital. The ambulance just left. I need to go.

ANDY

Sounded like a wrong number -

ALLY

She's new. Got the name mixed up, I don't know.

ANDY

I'll come with you.

ALLY

No, it's fine. Really. Just let
work know? I might be a day or two.

ANDY

Sure.

CUT TO:

62

62

Andy watches Ally drives off into the night. He turns back
into the house -

CUT TO:

63

63

Andy with his laptop open. He starts to Google Dr. Alison
Sutton.

He sees various faces, but after clicking past a couple of
pages, he finds an old photo from a medical 'Oscars' night
from the Sheffield Express.

The picture shows the real Dr. Ally Sutton -

- Next to Cath Hardacre - dressed in a nurses uniform...
