

22UD9122/ PES07020026/AAA TX: RADIO 4 28/07/23 at 14:15

SCENE 1 **EXT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

ATMOS: BIRDS, TRAFFIC, PEOPLE

MARY: How long’s Jackie been in this mental asylum?

ARLO CARL: The correct term is ‘psychiatric hospital’.

MARY: How long, ARLO?

ARLO CARL: Jackie has been admitting herself regularly
over the past ten years.

MARY: Ever since Carl...

ARLO CARL: Ever since Carl died in the car accident.

MARY: (PANICKING) He’s really dead?! I was trying to
save him and now he’s dead and Jackie’s *here*
and it’s all my fault!

ARLO CARL: Calming breaths Mary.

MARY: (BREATHES DEEPLY) Right. Find Jackie. Go
back in time again. Save Carl.

SFX: MUSIC BEAT KICKS IN

ACTOR 1: BITTER PILL by Michael Patrick & Oisín
Kearney. EPISODE 4: TRUST ISSUES.

SFX: MUSIC

SCENE 2

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - COMMON
ROOM**

**ATMOS: WHEELCHAIR PUSHED,
DOCTORS, PATIENTS
COUGHING/TALKING. TV SOUNDS**

MARY: Jackie? Jackie it's me. It's Mary..

JACKIE: ...Mary? I told them I didn't want any guests.

MARY: I know but - I need you to help me.

JACKIE: Help you what?

MARY: Take RESET.

JACKIE: What's that?

MARY: What's...? It's the drug. The drug you made at
ABACUS.

JACKIE: I haven't worked there in ten years.

MARY: What? What about RESET?

FX: DOOR OPENS

RECEPTIONIST: Jackie, do you know this woman?

JACKIE: ... No.

RECEPTIONIST: Alright, time to leave. On you go.

MARY: We can save Carl!

JACKIE: Carl's dead Mary. Leave me alone. I'm going
back to my room.

FX: FOOTSTEPS

MARY: Your mum called you 'a cancer'!

FX: FOOTSTEPS STOP

JACKIE: How... how do you know that?

MARY: You told me. Please Jackie, listen to me.

RECEPTIONIST: That's enough miss!

JACKIE: It's alright Lauren.... Mary, let's go for a walk.

SCENE 4 **EXT. HOSPITAL GARDEN**

ATMOS: PLEASANT NATURE SOUNDS,
DUCKS QUACK.

MARY: This is lovely - a nice pond in the hospital grounds.

JACKIE: They say feeding the ducks is good for the head.

MARY: Is it?

JACKIE: I dunno... That brown one's always watching me. (BEAT) How did you know that my mum called me 'a cancer'? I never told anyone. Not the doctors. Not even Carl.

MARY: The other 'you' said...

JACKIE: The other me?

MARY: Alright... I'm just gonna lay it all out.

JACKIE: That would help.

MARY: Ten years ago, the car accident. Originally... Carl didn't die. He went into a coma. You developed a drug called RESET - it was supposed to cure PTSD, but it was... time travel. I went back to the moment of the accident and I managed to save Carl! But I've messed up. And now he's..... dead.

JACKIE: That’s a lot...

MARY: But it’s true. You invented time travel.

JACKIE: Time tr- ?... I haven’t seen you since his funeral. And now you come here with all of this?

MARY: I’m sorry.

JACKIE: I’ve been in and out of here for years - and now you show up trying to mess with my head!

MARY: I’m not messing with your head...

FX: DUCK QUACKS

MARY: You know, in the time I’ve just come from... we were friends.

JACKIE: (SCOFFS/SARCASTIC) Were we?!

MARY: You called us “Besties”.

JACKIE: I would never use that word.

MARY: Well, the other ‘you’ used it all the time. She trusted me.

JACKIE: But *time travel*?

MARY: It’s real. Because of you.

JACKIE: I’ve never done anything right.

MARY: You did. And now... now we can change things. We can *prevent* Carl’s death.

JACKIE: Carl is dead.

MARY: We can save him.

JACKIE: Are you hearing yourself? You’ve had a breakdown from delayed grief or something...

MARY: Jackie... you once trusted me to save your brother. Please. Trust me to save him again.

JACKIE: How?

MARY: Carl’s dead because of me. Give me a chance to fix my mistake. Get me some RESET.

JACKIE: But this... drug... it doesn’t even exist! I... never went back to ABACUS.

MARY: Before you left, were you working on anything... anything to do with trauma?

JACKIE: ... Yes, but it was very early stages.

MARY: That must be it! Would the research still be in ABACUS?

JACKIE: Maybe in the notes...

MARY: Right. We'll get you in and you can make it again! ARLO?

ARLO CARL: Yes Mary?

MARY: Is there any way we can get into ABACUS?

ARLO CARL: Searching... Possibility found. A clinical trial begins on Monday - treatment for addiction.

MARY: Sign us both up!

ARLO CARL: Signing up.

JACKIE: Both?! No no...

MARY: Use fake names.

ARLO CARL: Generating fake names...

JACKIE: I don't know if I believe you...

MARY: The other you told me about your mum. How else would I know that?

JACKIE: I don't know.

MARY: Help me. You're in here because Carl died, right? We can stop that ever happening. If we save him, we save you.

JACKIE: (BEAT) I'm sick of feeding these bloody ducks anyway.

**FX: SPLASH OF STONE IN POND. DUCK
QUACKS AND FLIES OFF.**

SCENE 5 **INT. ABACUS HOLDING ROOM**

**ATMOS: LARGE ECHOEY ROOM, LOTS OF
PEOPLE QUIETLY TALKING.**

ABIGAIL AI: Welcome to our trial to combat addiction. Dr
 Kinney will be with you shortly.

MARY: (WHISPERED) What’s the plan?

JACKIE: (WHISPERED) The research should be in the
 secure storage area. We’ll need a key card to
 get in.

FX: FAST FOOTSTEPS

EOIN: (RUSHING) Sorry I’m late! Up to my eyes. I
 want to thank you all for coming to the first day
 of our new addiction medication drug trial. Fill
 out the questionnaire and I’ll bring you one by
 one into the treatment room.

FX: EOIN CLOSSES OFFICE DOOR.

JACKIE: Key card. It’s clipped to his belt.

MARY: Follow me.

SCENE 6 **INT. EOIN’S OFFICE**

ATMOS: A DESK FAN

FX: EOIN FRANTICALLY TYPES

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

EOIN: Sorry, sorry I’m not ready for you just yet.

MARY: We just had a question.

FX: TYPING STOPS

JACKIE: Hello there Eoin.

EOIN: Jackie? How are you? I haven’t seen you
since...

JACKIE: Getting better. Slowly.

EOIN: You’re not on this trial.

FX: EOIN LOOKS THROUGH HIS PAPERS

JACKIE: Yeah, but ‘Jill Mallard’ is.

EOIN: Jackie... we can’t have people we know on the
trial, never mind former employees!

MARY: We had to get in somehow.

EOIN: And I’m guessing you’re not...

FX: EOIN LOOKS THROUGH HIS PAPERS

EOIN: ... Josephine Quack?!

MARY: Sorry.

EOIN: Warren's breathing down my neck and now this. Why are you even here?

JACKIE: I want to access my old research notes.

EOIN: That's company property.

JACKIE: I know but, maybe if I could just have a quick look?

EOIN: Jackie? When did they let you out of the hospital?

MARY: (IN A LOW VOICE TO EOIN) Sometimes, I find it's better to play along with my patients' delusions...

EOIN: Your patient? Oh, I see.
(IN MUCH SLOWER VOICE)
It's good to see you Jackie.

JACKIE: What?

EOIN: I don't know where your research is...

JACKIE: Why are you - ?

EOIN: ...but if you leave, I can have someone deliver it to you.

MARY: (TO JACKIE) Play along...

JACKIE: Em... Yes. That would be acceptable Eoin. You're a... brilliant guy.

EOIN: Well that's... I'm glad you have fond memories of me.

JACKIE: (FAKE EMOTIONAL) I just... I just miss the lab... I miss you... you know?

MARY: (WHISPERED) I think Jackie would like it if you'd give her a hug.

EOIN: A hug?

MARY: Yeah, you know. It helps with the... psychological issues.

EOIN: Oh, I see...

FX: HUG. CLIP BEING UNDONE

MARY: Say goodbye to Eoin, Jackie.

JACKIE: Goodbye. You've been very... professional.

EOIN: Any time!

FX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

JACKIE: I cannot believe you!

MARY: It worked, didn't it? Please tell me you got the keycard?

JACKIE: (JOKING) Keycard?

MARY: Aw Jackie...

JACKIE: Got it here! You're easier to fool than Eoin.

SCENE 7 **INT. ABACUS DRUG STORAGE AREA**

FX: BEEP AS KEY CARD IS USED.

FX: DOOR OPENS

FX: LOTS OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

GLITCH ON - A BIG ROOM

JACKIE: My research should be in here... somewhere.

ARLO CARL: Approximately nine... thousand boxes.

MARY: This is gonna take...

ARLO CARL: One full week. Assuming no sleep or toilet breaks.

MARY: We may get looking.

FX: MARY STARTS RUMMAGING IN BOXES.

JACKIE: Mary?

MARY: Yeh?

JACKIE: What was my life like?

MARY: What?

JACKIE: In these 'other times'? Did I have many friends? A family?

MARY: No.

JACKIE: The same as here then.

MARY: Well I think the day of Carl's accident had a big impact on you.

JACKIE: Yeah.

MARY: But, when I did save him in that timeline... you were rich. You ran this place.

JACKIE: Really?

MARY: Yea! And that Jackie was the one that said we were 'Besties'.

JACKIE: Sounds like I was happy.

MARY: Yea, maybe. You seemed quite stressed tho. Things were very different then...

JACKIE: Different how?

MARY: Well... we had a child. Me and Carl. We had a wee girl. Kate. I was so scared of her at first. Didn't really know how to deal with her. But well... Now, she's gone too.

JACKIE: What made you change things?

MARY: I had to. It wasn't right.

JACKIE: Why not?

MARY: Carl was threatening to put me in a psychiatric hospital!

JACKIE: I can't imagine what that would be like.

MARY: I just... Kate wouldn't have a mum. I didn't ever think I'd want children, but when I met her... I need to get back and make things right.

FX: JACKIE STOPS SEARCHING.

JACKIE: Here! I found them!

FX: DOOR BANGS

JACKIE: Who's that?

EOIN: (THROUGH DOOR) Let me in! I have security with me.

MARY: It's Eoin!

EOIN: Break down the door.

FX: LOUD BASHING AT THE DOOR

JACKIE: We shouldn't have done this!

FX: DOOR BURSTS OPENS

EOIN: Come with me.

FX: BOX FALLS TO FLOOR

SCENE 9 **INT. HOLDING CELL**

ATMOS: ROOM TONE - SMALL PADDED ROOM
FX: LOCKED DOOR HANDLE PULLED

MARY: Let us out!

FX: DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS.

JACKIE: Warren?

WARREN: Doctor Jackie Hill. It's been a long time. And
this is?

MARY: Mary. You're the CEO?

WARREN: Yes I am. Jackie, I'm sorry I never came to visit
you in the hospital...

JACKIE: I got the company Christmas hampers.

WARREN: Good! That's good. They're nice hampers.
Cheeses and umm... paté... We were all very
upset when... We hoped you would get the help
you needed.

JACKIE: I'm getting there.

WARREN: But what's this about?

MARY: She had an idea about her old research.

WARREN: Really?

JACKIE: It's silly.

MARY: It's not silly. Jackie has an idea that could make a lot of money.

JACKIE: Mary shut up! I don't - I'm sorry Warren. Please just let us leave.

WARREN: Tell me about this idea. Humour me.

JACKIE: Before I left, I was working on a trauma medication. I barely scratched the surface... But I've been thinking. Maybe this drug could really help. Help the people who I saw in the hospital. It's taken me ten years to really deal with losing my brother, you know? A medication, the right medication, could speed things up.

WARREN: So you break into my lab?

JACKIE: I didn't mean to...

WARREN: Is a drug like this even possible?

JACKIE: Yes it is.

WARREN: Then I'll help you.

JACKIE: What?

WARREN: I’m going to level with you. ABACUS is in trouble. If you’re so convinced by this drug that you’re willing to break into my lab... Well, there must be something there. Make it for me.

JACKIE: Really?

WARREN: I’ll fund the research. You’ll work on it here.

JACKIE: You.. I don’t know what to say -

MARY: Say yes.

JACKIE: You seriously want me to make RESET?

WARREN: “RESET”? Very marketable.

JACKIE: No, wait, I don’t know if I can -

MARY: She accepts.

WARREN: Wonderful! I’ll have Eoin report to you.

FX: DOOR OPENS

JACKIE: Okay. But I need Mary. She’s helping me. I can’t do it without her.

WARREN: Anything you need.

FX: DOOR CLOSES

MARY: We did it!

JACKIE: Yeah. Now I just have to invent time travel.

FX: MUSIC

SCENE 10 **EXT. ABACUS COURTYARD**

ATMOS: BIRDS

FX: JACKIE PACES AND READS HER NOTES.
FX: DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS

MARY: Jackie! There you are!

JACKIE: I don't know what I'm doing, Mary. I can't make sense of these notes... they're the scribbles of a mad woman!

FX: JACKIE HITS HER PAPER NOTES

JACKIE: What does it mean?!

MARY: It'll come to you. You did it before.

JACKIE: It takes years to develop a drug, Mary. Years!

MARY: It's somewhere in your head.

JACKIE: Why are you trusting me like this?! I'm... I'm not the person you seem to think I am.

MARY: Yes you are. You're Jackie Hill. You're smart, and you never give up.

JACKIE: I'm useless! I'm a 'waste of space'.

MARY: Where's all this coming from?

JACKIE: (SIGHS) It's what my mum used to say.

MARY: Sounds like she really did a number on you.

JACKIE: She was 'emotionally abusive'.

MARY: Sounds like it.

JACKIE: She would... get inside my head. The night Carl died. She'd called round for dinner, and I was so flustered, I let the potatoes boil dry. She was so horrible - I almost... well that night was the worst night of my life.

MARY: I'm so sorry.

JACKIE: Carl always tried to protect me. But then when he died... Mum took whatever pain she was feeling and she inflicted it on me. Whatever was wrong... it was my fault. She died about a year after Carl anyway.

MARY: Carl never spoke about her. He wouldn't even let me meet her.

JACKIE: She was a difficult woman. But... she was like that because of the way her mother treated her. Maybe it's in the blood.

MARY: You're not like that.

JACKIE: Am I not?

MARY: No. It's not in your blood.

JACKIE: Wait... That's it.

MARY: What is?

JACKIE: The answer. It's not in my blood. It's in yours.

FX: MUSIC.

SCENE 11 **INT. ABACUS LAB**

FX: HEART BEAT MONITOR + HEART BEAT.

JACKIE: Relax your arm.

FX: BLOODS BEING TAKEN.

MARY: I’m trying! I’m afraid of needles.

JACKIE: Okay. So if what you’re saying is true, it’s
“mental time travel”, which means your physical
body doesn’t travel in time - just your
consciousness. So your body here is the same
as it always was, but your mind is different. It’s
from another time.

MARY: Okay...

JACKIE: But consciousness is an emergent property of
your physical brain, so your consciousness
can’t change without your brain physically
changing too.

MARY: The one thing that never changes about you
Jackie... you love a lecture.

JACKIE: Which means, the secret to RESET’s in your
head. Taking the drug will have changed your
brain chemistry and we can find the key by
looking inside. Ever had an MRI scan?

SCENE 12 **INT. MRI SCANNER TECHNICIAN ROOM**

ATMOS: COMPUTER BEEPS/CLICKS

FX: MRI SCANNER NOISE

MARY: (INTERCOM) It's quite loud Jackie! I'm claustrophobic!

JACKIE: Stay still Mary!

FX: DOOR OPENS.

EWIN: What are you doing?

JACKIE: Scanning Mary's brain.

EWIN: Jackie, are you okay?

JACKIE: Yeah. Why?

EWIN: I'm concerned.

JACKIE: Why?

EWIN: You're vulnerable. I hope Warren's not taking advantage of you.

JACKIE: (SNAPPING) I'm fine Eoin! Just leave me be!

FX: MRI SCANNER NOISE STOPS.

SCENE 14 **INT. JACKIE'S LAB**

FX: CLINKING OF TEST TUBES

FX: DOOR OPENS

MARY: Jackie? You're still up?

JACKIE: Mary! Yes!

MARY: It's 11 o'clock at night.

ARLO CARL: Twenty three hours and three minutes.

MARY: Shut it ARLO. Are you alright? You seem a
bit... rattled.

JACKIE: I'm on the energy drinks! But... I did it.

MARY: You did it?

JACKIE: I looked at your MRI scans and blood samples.
I was right. Your brain is still carrying
compounds left over from RESET. I combined
them with the precursor chemicals I was
working with before and I... I think I have
something!

MARY: You're amazing Jackie. Amazing! I knew you
could do it.

JACKIE: Thanks Mary.

MARY: Thank *you*! You're starting to look familiar...
'bestie'.

JACKIE: I'm still not going to use that word... but I echo
the sentiment. Here it is.

FX: PICKS UP TEST-TUBE WITH LIQUID

MARY: It's not a pill.

JACKIE: No, it's a liquid, but it's the same thing. We
need to be 100% before I can let you -

FX: MARY SNATCHES TEST-TUBE.

MARY: I can't wait any longer.

FX: MARY SWALLOWS THE LIQUID.

JACKIE: Why'd you do that?!

MARY: You said you did it. I trust you.

JACKIE: I said I wasn't 100%! I don't know what this is
going to do to you.

MARY: How long until it kicks in?

JACKIE: I don't know. We just have to...wait..

**FX: DRAMATIC SLOWDOWN OF SOUND AS
DRUGS KICK IN QUICKLY. JACKIE'S
WORDS BECOME LOW AND SLOW.**

FX: MUSIC LOW PITCHBEND TO HIGH

FX: TEST-TUBE SMASHES

FX: WHOOSH.

SCENE 15 **INT. CAR - EVENING (FLASHBACK)**

**FX: RAIN, THUNDER, WIPERS, SONG ON
RADIO (BACKWARDS)**

**FX: SOME SOUNDS ARE BACKWARDS,
OTHERS SPED UP OR REPEATED. IT'S
LIKE A DAVID LYNCH FEVER DREAM. (THE
DRUG IS NOT READY)**

CARL: (BACKWARDS) Ah, I love this one, turn it up.

MARY: (TO HERSELF) What? Something's not right.

CARL: (BACKWARDS) You alright love?

FX: THUNDER CLAP.

CARL: It's really coming down.
 (SPED UP)
 I hope Jackie's okay. I hope Jackie's okay. I
 Jackie's okay. Jackie's okay. Okay okay o-kay
 kay kay kay...

MARY: Carl, what are you saying?

CARL: (BACKWARDS)
 What are you saying?!

FX: THUNDER CLAP (BACKWARDS)

MARY: Oh I don't like this. It's really making me sick.

FX: A TRAIN APPROACHING
(BACKWARDS)

MARY: What was that? The train?

CARL: Love this one.

MARY: I don't feel good.

FX: WHOOSH!

SCENE 16 **INT. ABACUS LAB**

ATMOS: SPA SOUNDS

FX: VOMITS.

MARY: Urgh. What was that?!

JACKIE: What happened, did you go back?

MARY: Yeah, but... it was messed up!

JACKIE: How?

MARY: It was *backwards*!

JACKIE: Okay... it's unstable... but it worked?

MARY: Just about.

JACKIE: Oh my God! I've invented time travel. This is unbelievable!

MARY: Well, technically it was the other Jackie...

JACKIE: It works! Let's celebrate with a drink!

MARY: What drink?

JACKIE: I've got some energy drinks left. Here!

FX: CANS OPENING.

FX: A DROP INTO CAN. FIZZING SOUND.

MARY: To... Time Travel?

JACKIE: To proving Einstein didn't know what he was on about!

FX: CANS CLINK.

FX: THEY DRINK.

MARY: That's... not bad.

JACKIE: A few tweaks and it'll be ready. What are you going to do, when you go back?

MARY: I'll get Carl to pull over, safely. And I'll wake up. He'll be alive and Kate will be safe.

JACKIE: And what about me?

MARY: Well, you were an ABACUS executive before!

JACKIE: No. What about *me*? This Jackie.

MARY: I don't know. Before, you said your consciousness might be folded into a new timeline... or...

JACKIE: Or what?

(BEAT)

JACKIE: Or what?

MARY: Or maybe... you might... well this version of you might cease to exist.

FX: SIP OF DRINK

JACKIE: And you didn't think of telling me?

MARY: I'm sorry. I wasn't sure how... but it'll be worth it right? To save Carl and to save you from a life of... I really didn't mean to hide it from you.

JACKIE: It's late.

MARY: Yeah.

JACKIE: We should get some sleep.

FX: CAN CRUNCHED. THROWN INTO BIN.

FX: MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE 17 **EXT. FANCY CAFE - UPSTAIRS BALCONY**

ATMOS: WARREN EATING BREAKFAST.
COFFEE SLURPS, TOAST CRUNCH
CITY SOUNDS FROM BELOW
FX: DOOR SLIDES OPENS

WARREN: Jackie! Joining me for breakfast?

JACKIE: Warren, sorry, I couldn't wait until the office.

WARREN: Must have been important. Take a seat. Would
you like to order anything?

FX: JACKIE SITS

JACKIE: I'm fine. We've made a breakthrough.

WARREN: You did? Congratulations Jackie!

JACKIE: Thank you. It's slightly unstable...

WARREN: We'll need to get you on a full-time contract.

JACKIE: What?

WARREN: I've lost you once Jackie. I won't do it again.
We'll get you a nice apartment near the lab,
any support you need. You'll be my top
scientist working on this. We'll get trials up and
running.

JACKIE: Yes, it's just at the moment, it's only possible
with fresh blood samples.

WARREN: Blood samples?

JACKIE: Mary’s blood generates a unique chemical. I’ve never seen it anywhere before.

WARREN: A miracle.

JACKIE: With enough time I can replicate it, but it could take... maybe a year? Longer?

WARREN: I don’t have a year. Can we begin trials using her blood samples?

JACKIE: I suppose... but even making a few doses... that’s going to need *a lot* of blood.

WARREN: Well... I’m sure she’ll agree to help advance science. And to help you.

JACKIE: I’m not so sure.

WARREN: You’ll have to convince her.

JACKIE: She’d have to be giving samples every day, for weeks?

WARREN: You know when I was in Afghanistan, I had a very close friend of mine, he was an interpreter - we went way back. He was a good man. One day on patrol, an IED went off.

JACKIE: Oh God.

WARREN: Huge explosion. He was injured on one side of the road. And three guys crying out on the other side. There was heavy shooting. I had to act fast. I was a medic, so I had to make a call.

JACKIE: What did you do?

WARREN: I went to help the three men. And I saved them. But I couldn't get to my friend in time. He died on that spot...The way I see it... you have a choice. Either you help your friend. Or you do what you can to help the most people. What are you going to do?

SCENE 18 **INT. ABACUS LAB**

ATMOS: SPA
FX: DOOR OPENS

MARY: Jackie? What did Warren say?

JACKIE: He's happy for me to do what I need to.

MARY: Brilliant.

FX: MARY SITS

JACKIE: I'm almost there. I've another dose I need you
to test.

MARY: Okay. A needle?

JACKIE: Better to inject.

FX: JACKIE INJECTS MARY

MARY: Agh! That hurt Jackie.

JACKIE: I'm sorry.

MARY: Just give me more warning next time.

JACKIE: I can't let you do this.

MARY: What?

JACKIE: I have to do what's best.

MARY: What? What are you- ? What is this Jackie? I'm

-

(GETTING FAINT)

I'm going to save...

(FAINTER)

Carl...

FX: MARY SLUMPS TO GROUND. SOUND

MUFFLED AS MARY LOSING

CONSCIOUSNESS.

SCENE 19 **INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - ABACUS**

FX: BLEEPS

MARY: Urgh... what's going on? ARLO?

ARLO CARL: You are in ABACUS. In a hospital bed.

**FX: MARY STRUGGLED. SHE'S
RESTRAINED.**

MARY: What?

ARLO CARL: Correction. Restrained to a hospital bed.

FX: TWO PEOPLE'S FOOTSTEPS

WARREN: You're awake.

MARY: Jackie? Warren? What are you doing?

JACKIE: Just relax Mary.

MARY: What are you doing?

WARREN: Have you ever heard of the horseshoe crab?

MARY: The what?

WARREN: It's been around since before the dinosaurs -
450 million years. Its blood contains a chemical
which we use to make vaccines. Measles,
Covid, bovine-flu - they've all been created with

horseshoe crabs. Every year, we round up half a million of them and milk them for their blood.

MARY: Why are you telling me this?

WARREN: You... Mary... are my horseshoe crab. I'll use your blood to recreate RESET. Cure PTSD.

MARY: Jackie, loosen these straps.

WARREN: Your blood donations will help millions. Sometimes a few must suffer for the good of the many. I'll leave you in Jackie's capable hands.

FX: DOOR WHOOSHES CLOSED.

MARY: Why are you letting him do this?

JACKIE: You used me Mary.

MARY: Used you? No I didn't. I did this for us.

JACKIE: You did this for you!

MARY: No. For you and for Carl. To bring him back!

JACKIE: And then what? You take the drug, and go back in time, mess up again and come crawling back to *another* version of me to get more of this drug? Again and again?

MARY: No!

JACKIE: It seems like that's what you've done so far.

MARY: I'll do it right, Jackie. Please, you can't just abandon Carl!

JACKIE: Don't. I'll not be guilted into anything any more! I'm going to get my life back on track.

MARY: I'm not trying to guilt you. I care about you Jackie.

JACKIE: You clearly don't. You never came to see me in that hospital. You barely spoke to me after Carl died. And this whole time... I think you've been using me, so I can make this drug again just for you. Well, I'm going to work with Warren. We're going to make this drug work the way it was meant to and help PTSD sufferers -

MARY: It won't help!

JACKIE: Yes it will. We'll create it with a sedative. Allow people to view their past, but not change it.

MARY: I've seen all this before. It just makes people relive the worst moment of their life over and over!

JACKIE: I'm sorry, Mary. You lied to me. I just can't trust you anymore.

MARY: Don't do this! DON'T DO THIS!

FX: MUSIC OUTRO KICKS IN.

In EPISODE 4 of BITTER PILL by Michael Patrick & Oisín Kearney, Mary was played by Séainín Brennan, Jackie by Charlotte McCurry, Carl – Shaun Blaney, Eoin – Seamus O’Hara and Warren was Martin McCann. All other roles were performed by members of the cast and crew.

BITTER PILL was produced in Belfast by Michael Shannon.

The Executive Editor was Andy Martin.

BITTER PILL is a BBC Northern Ireland production for Radio 4.