

1 **INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY (09:00)**
(CHARLIE, NS SHOPPERS)

Close on CHARLIE's face. He's looking numb, staring straight ahead. Round him harsh neon lights and muzak playing. We hear a mobile ring.

Cut to what he's looking at - a big dairy fridge in a supermarket. There's a big, empty shopping trolley in front of him. He's got nothing so far. He's looking dishevelled, unkempt, unshaven. He can't bring himself to decide what he wants, or even reach out a hand and take it. He suddenly looks at his pocket, realises it's his mobile ringing. So what?

He turns away, wheeling the empty trolley. Which aisle to now?

On CHARLIE - lost, alone, aimless. In a bad place.

CUT TO TITLES:

2 **EXT/INT. FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE - DAY (09:10)**
 (RUTH, MICK, CONNOR)
 (NS RECEPTIONIST)

Outside a family services centre.

MICK BAXTER (35, wiry, intense, a recovering addict just out of prison, in a tracksuit and with a tatty rucksack) is smoking a roll-up - agitated and jumpy. He looks at his phone, then inside his bag, tense -

RUTH
 (O.O.V)
 Mick?

He jumps, quickly zips up the bag. Behind him is RUTH WADSLEY (27, social worker, quirky, hard working, idealistic, positive outlook) with CONNOR BAXTER (12, MICK's son, serious, quiet, bespectacled and reserved). RUTH has her hand on CONNOR's shoulder reassuringly.

RUTH (CONT'D)
 Hey.

He stares at her, nervously puts the fag out - stares at CONNOR.

MICK
 Whoa... You've grown - so much -

CONNOR blinks. MICK bends down to him.

MICK (CONT'D)
 Come here son -

CONNOR flings himself into MICK's arms - they cling to each other. RUTH's heart breaks for them. MICK lifts him up -

MICK (CONT'D)
 You are heavy!

CONNOR smiles shyly - MICK sets him down -

CONNOR
 Can I go to the toilet?

RUTH
 (to CONNOR)
 Through the double doors and on the right-

CONNOR runs off. RUTH looks at MICK -

RUTH (CONT'D)
 He's very nervous. Such a long time since
 he last saw you...
 (gently)
 How you holding up? How's the hostel?

He looks at her sharply - how d'you think?

RUTH (CONT'D)
Your... probation officer tells me
you've...you've got a job? Supermarket?

MICK
Yeah. Though what does it matter anymore.

She turns to the NS RECEPTIONIST.

RUTH
Ruth Wadsley, I have room 9 booked. Well
wishing.

She turns to MICK, lowering her voice, gently -

RUTH (CONT'D)
I know how tough this is for you, but -
(empathetic)
We should still try to make this... as
positive as possible - create good
memories.

But this is sounding hollow, even to her. CONNOR comes out of the
toilet.

MICK
Yeah.

CUT TO:

3 **INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (09:30)**
(CONNIE, JACOB, ETHAN, FAITH, DYLAN, DAVID)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CONNIE charging forward with JACOB - looking at a file -

CONNIE
That complaint meeting is going to take forever - looks like I'll be in and out of meetings the whole day -

JACOB
Lucky you.

CONNIE
Where's the summary report for the staff wellbeing survey? Our charming chief executive wants it for yesterday.

They get to Admin where WILL, ETHAN and DYLAN are.

JACOB
Charlie left an incomplete one as a parting 'present' - I think Nurse Cadogan was across that.

DYLAN's ears prick up at the mention of FAITH.

CONNIE
Right - I need it ASAP -
(to ETHAN and WILL)
Dr Noble - could you take Resus along with Dr Keogh - Dr Hardy Cubicles and float around -

WILL gives ETHAN the look of death as she goes - *at least I don't have to work with you...* he takes off - take ETHAN - charming -

ETHAN
(sotto, raises eyebrow)
See ya.

FAITH coming from the other direction, holding a massive file, on her mobile - DYLAN looks.

FAITH
Asleep? That's good I guess... Okay. I'll call again.

She kills the call, DYLAN leans into her -

DYLAN
(sotto)
Luka?

FAITH
(at the file)
Yup. I'll try and go up in a bit. Right
after I go and put my head in the toilet -

DYLAN
Staff Wellbeing report?

He just takes the file - then to JACOB -

DYLAN (CONT'D)
You've done these before haven't you?

JACOB
Er... yup.

DYLAN puts file in JACOB's hands; then turns to FAITH -

DYLAN
(to FAITH)
CT are waiting for Mrs Hartley.
(sotto)
Take a small detour on the way back.

She looks at him gratefully, mouthing 'thank you'. DAVID notices -
She rushes off. JACOB looks at him.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
(dry)
I knew you'd want to help seeing as her
kid's bravely battling cancer.

JACOB
(dry)
Okay, you've shut me up.

He walks off, smiling; DYLAN sees DAVID look at him -

DYLAN
What?

DAVID
Nothing.

DYLAN trying not to wither under DAVID's eagle eyed look -

DYLAN
Good.

He scarpers. Smitten? Moi?!

CUT TO:

4 **INT. FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE. FAMILY ROOM - DAY**
(10:00)
 (RUTH, MICK)
 (CONNOR)

We're in a family room - toys, paper, colouring pens, a PlayStation. Close on a piece of paper with CONNOR's handprints - saying *TO DAD FROM CONNOR*. CONNOR and MICK are posing for a picture awkwardly. MICK has his arm round CONNOR, who looks a bit uncomfortable.

RUTH
 Okay - say Jeez Louise -

CONNOR attempts it, but MICK looks distracted. RUTH really trying to jolly things up -

RUTH (CONT'D)
 Good looking pair.
 (to CONNOR)
 These can go in your life stories book -
 (to MICK)
 I can send you some copies?

MICK nods, distracted, making a 'hmmm' sounds. He has his arm round CONNOR; CONNOR squirms a little - he's fond of his dad but he hasn't seen him in so long - he doesn't really know him... MICK looks at the clock, fidgety. Time is running out. He glances at the PlayStation -

MICK
 Fancy a game? Before you go?

CONNOR nods hesitantly; they go over. RUTH picks a folder (*LIFE STORY* on it in big letters), and the paintings - she starts putting the books together.

RUTH
 I'll stick those in.

MICK and CONNOR by the PlayStation; MICK whacks the volume up, making sure RUTH isn't listening.

MICK
 You know if it was up to me I'd rather die than have you go over to New Jersey to live with your Auntie Cath.

CONNOR looks at him - torn - doesn't know what to say -

MICK (CONT'D)
 Good. Cos it ain't gonna happen.

On CONNOR - what? MICK sneaks another look at RUTH -

MICK (CONT'D)
(quickly, sotto)
I've got it all sorted, a mate lent me a
motor... We're gonna head to Holyhead, go
on a boat - take a road trip -
(adrenalised)
You and me, eh? The dream team -

On CONNOR - floored.

CUT TO:

5 **INT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK. CHARLIE'S CAR - DAY**
(10:02)
 (CHARLIE)

CHARLIE opening his car door. He has one shopping bag with a solitary bottle of vodka in it. He throws it on the passenger seat, where we clock a pile of open bills - all red. The car's a total mess. He grabs them, feeling a wave of anger well up inside - he grabs his mobile and dials -

CHARLIE
 (sharply)
 Charlie Fairhead here. This is the tenth time I've called. My last wage slip hasn't come through.

'Could you hold...?'

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 (sarky)
 Course I'll hold. Got nothing better to do, have I...?

His knee jerks away, just being on the phone like this winds him up so much. 'Right - Mr Fairhead?'

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Yes.
 (listening)
 You what? My uniform and ID?? Why?!
 (oh, for...)
 After all these years and you still have to make this a nightmare -
 ('I'm sorry but that's the procedure')
 Oh well - if **THAT'S** the procedure - we wouldn't wanna mess with **procedure** -
 (there's a silence on the other side. He grits his teeth)
 Fine, I'll come with the uniform but I've lost the ID badge -

On CHARLIE - looking for a fight.

CUT TO:

6 **INT. FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE. FAMILY ROOM - DAY****(10:30)**(RUTH, MICK, CONNOR)
(NS FAMILY CENTRE STAFF)

Here, CONNOR has his coat on, he's on edge. MICK looks increasingly more wired and nervous; RUTH assumes it's because of the impending separation -

RUTH
Okay - so, er... Maybe give your dad a hug?

CONNOR looks at MICK, eyes torn. MICK looks at CONNOR - grabs his hand and pulls him, heading for the door, CONNOR gives a yelp and stumbles - in a second RUTH is at the door before them -

RUTH (CONT'D)
Mick. This is a really bad idea -

He starts fumbling inside his bag - he waves the bag at her.

RUTH (CONT'D)
I know it's hard - I know you're angry -

She takes her phone out - MICK unzips his bag -

RUTH (CONT'D)
Just -

Fumbling and shaking - he pulls a gun out of his bag - CONNOR gasps - she jumps.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Oh my - MICK! DON'T -

It's so clear he's never handled one before -

RUTH (CONT'D)
Mick - please -

MICK
(panicking, to RUTH)
Drop your mobile - NOW - NOW!

He's frantic, panicking a little. He cocks the gun with trembling hands. She drops her mobile - CONNOR totally floored, shaking -

MICK (CONT'D)
Hands up - HANDS - UP -
(to CONNOR)
It's all right - it's all right son -

RUTH
You're scaring him - please Mick -

MICK
(to RUTH)
Move out of the way - I'm gonna [shoot]
(to CONNOR)
Connor come with me! Now!

CONNOR, terrified of the gun, backs away -

RUTH
Connor don't!

She yanks open the door - MICK fumbles with the gun - and a bullet fires by accident and hits her in the leg; she falls to the floor, bleeding. CONNOR is frozen -

CONNOR
Ruth?!

MICK, completely freaked - turns and grabs CONNOR - and pulls him to the door, stepping over a prone and groaning RUTH.

MICK
Come on!

They make to head down the corridor but NS FAMILY CENTRE STAFF are appearing at doors. Trapped, MICK panics. CONNOR, terrified, wriggles out of his grip and runs in the opposite direction to the roof doors.

CUT TO:

6A **EXT. FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE. ROOF - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

(MICK)
(CONNOR)

CONNOR, in a panic, runs to the edge barrier and peers over. He sees some large industrial bins just below.

MICK
(calling from the corridor)
Connor, come back son!

CONNOR climbs over the barrier, but nervous and panicking himself - he slips - he bounces off the bins and then to the ground.

MICK (CONT'D)
CONNOR!

Out on MICK: horrified.

CUT TO:

7 **EXT. FAMILY SERVICES. YARD - CONTINUOUS**

(MICK)
(CONNOR, NS FAMILY CENTRE STAFF)

As CONNOR lies motionless on the ground, we can see that he's fallen against thin metal beading, there's a small pile of builders waste by the bins... MICK runs to him, panicking -

MICK
Connor - Connor! Oh my -

But CONNOR's passed out from the pain and he's bleeding away.

MICK (CONT'D)
Please - please no -
(distressed)
I'm sorry - I'm -

MICK can see NS FAMILY CENTRE STAFF run out on mobiles - they shouts something like 'He needs an ambulance'... 'Call the police'. MICK, panicking, looks from them to CONNOR - if he stays here - that's game over -

He legs it.

CUT TO:

8 **INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (10:50)**

(DYLAN, FAITH, JACOB, WILL, ETHAN)
 (NS NURSE, NS MRS HARTLEY, NS PORTERS, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

DYLAN is next to an NS NURSE and NS MRS HARTLEY with NS PORTERS -

DYLAN
 Keep a close eye on her and let me know
 if she's deteriorating.

FAITH coming from the other direction - nodding to NS NURSE.

FAITH
 I'll take over now -

She joins DYLAN as they move towards the Admin Desk -

DYLAN
 How is he?

FAITH
 Oh. Refused the yoghurt but demolished
 the chocolate muffin.

DYLAN
 Ah. A gentleman of discerning tastes.

She smiles weakly -

FAITH
 Thanks - for -

Bit embarrassed, he waves his hand - 'don't mention it'.

FAITH (CONT'D)
 Kids, eh? Who needs them?

DYLAN
 Er... Wrong person to ask.

She laughs - they get to the Admin Desk where WILL and JACOB are.
 We hear the alert phone - JACOB picks up -

FAITH
 Of course. Too much commitment?
 (off his face, dry)
 No, don't tell me. You've not found that
 'special' person yet to have them with -

DYLAN
 (banter)
 Well -

FAITH
 (banter back)
 Course.
 (MORE)

FAITH (CONT'D)
No one's ever good enough and when they
are it ends *swiftly* in disaster.

DYLAN
How much do you charge an hour?

She looks at him - cheeky smile -

FAITH
For, er... which service?

Oh - he didn't mean *THAT* - he gets all embarrassed and flustered -

DYLAN
Oh no - I didn't mean - er... I meant to
give advice -

FAITH
Oh, I'm cheap. Pint for half an hour.

She smiles - loving his geekiness... JACOB off the phone - ETHAN
coming through Cubicles -

JACOB
The alert phone's just gone off. We've
got a 12 year old kid who's suffered
penetrating chest trauma and a 27 year
old with a gunshot wound to the leg.
They've asked for code red for both. Dr
Hardy we'll need you -

WILL puts an apron on -

WILL
(to ETHAN)
Get the blood warmers prepped. We'll need
O negative ready to go for both. And give
the lab a heads up that we are going to
need a stack of blood ASAP -

He shoves another apron at ETHAN - and rushes off -

ETHAN
(sotto)
Thanks (!) I think.

On ETHAN. Is this going to go on the whole day?

CUT TO:

9 OMITTED

10 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (11:15)

(JACOB, DYLAN, FENISHA, WILL, ETHAN, LEV, RUTH, FAITH)
 (CONNOR, NS PARAMEDICS, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS
 ARMED OFFICERS)

On the move, FENISHA and an NS PARAMEDIC bringing CONNOR in, ETHAN and WILL on him - on other hand LEV and an NS PARAMEDIC bringing in RUTH to DYLAN and FAITH. There's NS ARMED OFFICERS with them, staying outside the doors -

JACOB

They're from the same incident - there was a gunman on scene who was the young lad's dad. He was trying to stop him being adopted but shot the social worker before running off on foot -

DYLAN

Nice (!) - let's hope he doesn't show up here -

JACOB

They've arrived with firearms escort -

FENISHA

(reading from ambulance tablet)

This is Connor Baxter, 12 years old. He fell 8ft from a roof about 30 minutes ago landing on metal beading. This was removed prior to our arrival. He has an entry and exit wound to the right side of his chest. Air entry is reduced with hyperresonance on percussion. We've applied three-way sealed dressings over the wounds. Resps of 28 and sats 96 on O2. His BP is 90 over 70, heart rate 110 and GCS 14. He's had 5mg morphine and immobilized at the scene -

WILL

(not looking at her)

Hi Connor, I'm Dr Noble, we're going to look after you -

CONNOR is groaning in pain and doing some uncoordinated movements -

WILL (CONT'D)

(to ETHAN)

Call thoracics and the on call anaesthetist - he needs to go to theatre urgently.

(to FENISHA, icy)

Thanks.

FENISHA moves off with ETHAN - raising her eyebrows at WILL -

FENISHA
(sotto - at WILL)
How long's this gonna go on for?

ETHAN
(sotto)
I was asking myself the same thing.

Go to LEV with FAITH and DYLAN -

LEV
This is Ruth Wadsley, 27, she has sustained a single gunshot to the lateral aspect of her lower right leg with no exit wound. Distal sensation intact and pedal pulse present. Blood loss controlled with pressure and elevation. She has had 10mg morphine and IV paracetamol - no pmh of note and no allergies -

RUTH is agitated, panicky -

RUTH
(in pain)
Connor! Is Connor okay?!

FAITH
He's being looked after -

RUTH
(ruffled)
I - I -

She tries to sit up, both FAITH and LEV stop her in unison -

LEV	FAITH
No, no no -	Whoa -

They look at each other - good team work. But DYLAN's struck by it.

DYLAN
You just let us look after you, right?
I'm sure the police will want to talk to you later.
(to FAITH)
Let's send some bloods off and apply some haemostatic gauze before we send to X-ray.

As she moves to the phone, FAITH to LEV -

FAITH
(sotto)
I've been upstairs - much better -

LEV touches her arm encouragingly; their intimacy is obvious -

LEV
(sotto)
Maybe we can both go up there for lunch?

FAITH
(sotto)
Good idea.

On DYLAN, watching - his crush *crashing* - *what was he thinking?*

CUT TO:

11 **EXT. AMBULANCE RUN - DAY (11:25)**
(MICK, NS PASSERSBY)

We hear ambulances nearby - we're somewhere near the hospital.

MICK, hoodie on, is standing at the entrance, by the wall. He's shaking, upset - in a state...

CUT TO:

12 EXT. HOLBY CITY HOSPITAL. WYVERN ENTRANCE - DAY
(11:27)
 (CHARLIE, MICK, CONNIE)
 (NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

A tense CHARLIE standing at some distance, he's watching the comings and goings. He reaches in his pocket and takes something out. His ID card, which of course was never lost. And he feels *it* again - that wave of rage, and loss and grief, welling up -

He turns it off when someone bangs into him -

CHARLIE
 Whoa -

MICK
 Sorry, sorry -

CHARLIE looks at him - MICK's face is awash with tears, he's trembling. MICK wipes his eyes on his sleeves -

MICK (CONT'D)
 It's... It's my kid -
 (distressed)
 He's... badly hurt
 (beat)
 I think they took him to A&E -

On CHARLIE - despite the state he's in he can't not help someone in distress -

CHARLIE
 It's... just straight ahead - you'll see signs - to the right -

MICK hyperventilating, upset - CHARLIE puts a hand on him -

MICK
 I don't think they'll let me see him -

CHARLIE
 Of course they will.

MICK stares at him -

MICK
 They're... they're trying to keep us apart - they won't let us be together -

CHARLIE
 Well. If he's hurt - you're still his dad. He's your son. They have to let you see him. Don't take no for an answer.

MICK looks at him -

MICK
 Yeah... yeah -

He rushes off. On CHARLIE - suddenly -

CONNIE
(O.O.V)
Charlie...?

She's got a big file in her hand. He stares at her. Hold the moment for a bit. Then -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
What - (are you doing here?)

CHARLIE
(sarky)
Had no choice. They *helpfully* wouldn't release my last wage slip until I returned my uniform. NHS property - so apparently I still owe *them* something.

He turns to walk away -

CONNIE
Charlie *don't*. Hang on -
(beat)
How - how are you keeping?

CHARLIE
Great.

She looks at him - well obviously not.

CONNIE
Look, we've all been worried about you.
But, I get it - you're grieving - we were all devastated over Duffy - we still are -
(beat)
You take your time. Do whatever you have to do. We're here when you feel... the time is right.

He looks at her in disbelief, which she mistakes for 'I don't wanna talk'. She doesn't want to push it.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Okay.

She turns and walks away. Stay with him, as he sees her go into the building. He feels the rage well up - how dare she patronize him like that?! LIKE HELL SHE'S GETTING AWAY WITH IT THAT EASILY.

CUT TO:

13 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (11:32)

(MICK, NOEL, NS ARMED POLICE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

MICK's POV - busy corridors, walking next to the walls, head down. Down the corridor is NOEL, talking to an NS POLICE OFFICER. MICK glances towards Resus, two NS ARMED POLICE outside - this must be where CONNOR is then...? He looks round him, what's his next step?

CUT TO:

14 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (11:35)

(RUTH, FAITH, DYLAN, WILL, ETHAN)
(CONNOR, NS NURSE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

FAITH and DYLAN treating a very anxious RUTH - she glances towards CONNOR -

RUTH

(anxiously)

I just... I never thought - I've known Mick for years - he's been in and out of prison but always... petty theft - minor dealing - I -

FAITH

What about the mum?

RUTH

Died of an overdose. When Connor was 2 -
(beat)

That's where he was moving - to her sister's - she lives in the States - New Jersey.

FAITH

Oh. Long way away.

RUTH

She's been trying to adopt Connor for a while -

FAITH

Is that what Connor wants?

DYLAN throws her a look - don't get involved.

RUTH

Connor's been in foster care nearly all his life - he hasn't seen Mick for a year now cos he's been inside again -
(sadly)

He deserves a proper home. This is the best thing for him.

On FAITH, unconvinced. DYLAN pitches up (before she says anything else...)

DYLAN

Okay - the bullet may have caused a compound fracture - she'll need an X-ray.

(to FAITH)

IV co-amoxiclav - let's get some tetanus immunoglobulin -

FAITH moves off with him; she glances at CONNOR -

FAITH
So the only option is ship him off to another country -

DYLAN
At least there *is* an option.

FAITH
An awful one. For him - for the dad...
Can't even imagine what that must feel like -

On DYLAN, looking at her - she will never leave her family.

Go to WILL and ETHAN over CONNOR, WILL listening to his chest. NS NURSE with them.

WILL
(to NS NURSE)
Chest sounds reduced on the right -
(listening to his chest)
We're gonna need to get a drain in.

CONNOR is out of it - just groaning - WILL is warm and reassuring -

WILL (CONT'D)
Connor, I'm going to give you some ketamine - that way you won't feel any pain and we can treat you.

ETHAN
Why are you going with ketamine? He needs RSI and intubation -

WILL gives him an icy look - as if he's being slow -

WILL
Why? He could have tamponaded a vessel. If we give him a muscle relaxant he'll lose the tamponade and bleed out. It'd be better to save the RSI until he can get straight to theatre -

ETHAN
If we don't protect his airway and he's bleeding into his lungs he'll aspirate -

WILL
(icy)
I'm team leader. Whilst I get your point we'll keep control with ketamine for now.
(to NS NURSE)
I want blood products ready for transfusion and call theatre.

NS NURSE goes. ETHAN and WILL move aside -

ETHAN
(sotto)
Is this 'freezing me out' working for
you? Cos I'm not so sure it's in the
interest of the patients -
(WILL tight mouthed)
I don't know how many times I'm going to
say - you didn't even know her at the
time. It was a one night stand -

WILL
Who knew congratulations would be in
order, eh?

ETHAN
(sharply)
They're *not*. Not any more.

WILL looks at him -

ETHAN (CONT'D)
She didn't want it. She had an abortion.
(matter of fact)
I'll get the ketamine.

He walks off. On WILL - floored.

WILL
I'll go and call theatre.
(to FAITH)
Let me know if anything changes.

CUT TO:

15 INT. ED. RESUS CORRIDOR / RESUS - CONTINUOUS

(WILL, CHARLIE, CONNIE, MICK, JACOB, FAITH)
 (CONNOR, RUTH, DYLAN, NS ARMED POLICE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS KIDS)

WILL coming out to the Nurses' Station, on his mobile, away from people - he gets FENISHA's voicemail - damn. In b/g is MICK, trying to stay inconspicuous.

WILL
 Hi... Fenisha, it's me.
 (swallows)
 I, er... I've just spoken to Ethan -
 (beat)
 Look, I -

Take MICK - spotting CONNOR in Resus. Cut to CONNIE coming in with a coffee. Suddenly -

CHARLIE
 (sharply)
Hey.

She stops, surprised to see him, he's charging towards her, face like thunder -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 So - you were devastated over Duffy?!

CONNIE
 Well, I - yes -

CHARLIE
 (letting rip)
 But not devastated *ENOUGH* that you'd stop her falling on her sword instead of *you*!?

CONNIE
Charlie -

CHARLIE
 (quoting her)
 'I get it - you need to grieve' - where do you get off?!

WILL notices - CHARLIE? What's he doing here?

WILL
 (on mobile)
 Anyway, let's talk okay? Call me back -

CHARLIE
 'We're here for you' - what, after you all got rid of me?

She tries to move him away -

CONNIE
Charlie - come on -

WILL
(rushing over)
Hey - there's no need to -

CHARLIE
(at CONNIE)
What?! Thought it was all bygones? What
you did? The way you all... carried on
without her -
(beat)
Well it hurts just as much as before.
Even *more* now she's gone.

CONNIE
I'm -

CHARLIE
(letting rip)
It was because of **YOU** that she left here
with her reputation destroyed - after
years and years of being a loved and
respected nurse -

WILL CONNIE
Come on, man - Let's just go into my office -

CHARLIE
(fronting her)
Why?! So nobody finds out?!

Take MICK on the sidelines, listening –

WILL
All right -

CHARLIE
(pushes him off)
Stay out of this! You didn't care about
her - no one here really did -
(looks at CONNIE)
Get this - if I ever needed anyone -
you'd be the last person I'd come to. And
if I never see this place again - it
would be too soon. You can all go to hell
for all I care.

He turns to storm off, notices MICK who's staring at him -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Oh, you found it.
(pointing at CONNIE)
See?! That's your person - she's the BIG BOSS - and she's dirty as hell - don't let her get away with anything!

WILL notices MICK - they lock eyes for a second; but a trolley is going past, lots of NS PATIENTS in the way - alarm bells for WILL -

WILL
(to MICK)
Excuse me -

Two NS KIDS cross MICK's path. On MICK - this is it! Before anyone can do anything he's got CONNIE in a headlock with the gun against her back -

MICK
(shouting)
Stay back - **STAY BACK** - I will shoot!

WILL
He's got a gun!

It's **CHAOS**. The NS KIDS screaming, running, lots of NS PATIENTS and NS STAFF. Screams, shrieks - 'he's got a gun'! People running for cover. NS ARMED POLICE draw their weapons - but there's no way of shooting without hurting civilians. CHARLIE stands frozen - what the hell is happening??

MICK
(to NS ARMED POLICE)
DON'T! I'll shoot - I'm telling you -
(at WILL)
Back! Back, you!
(shouting)
Everyone on their knees **NOW!**

NS ARMED POLICE shouting 'Drop your weapon! Drop your weapon!' But he's got his hand on her throat, her eyes wide in shock - the NS ARMED POLICE are still holding their weapons -

MICK (CONT'D)
(to NS ARMED POLICE)
Drop your weapons! DROP THEM! **NOW!**

They won't. JACOB comes rushing in -

JACOB
What's happen-

He stops in his tracks seeing MICK with the gun against CONNIE; CHARLIE standing there, frozen -

MICK
DOWN! Shut it -

JACOB
(to MICK)
Okay - okay -
(to everyone else)
Just... Just do as he says -

MICK
 (in a frenzy - to the NS ARMED
 OFFICERS)
Get back! Or she gets it -

He turns to CHARLIE -

MICK (CONT'D)
 (to CHARLIE)
 Come behind me -

CHARLIE
 What??

MICK
 Behind me -
 (to NS ARMED POLICE)
 OUT OF THE WAY - OR I'LL SHOOT HER -

WILL
 (sotto to JACOB)
 This must be Connor's dad.

Resus door is opened by FAITH -

FAITH
 What -

She immediately freezes -

MICK
 (to FAITH)
 Stay there. Don't move -
 (in - to CHARLIE)
 Go on - move it - BEHIND ME -

CONNIE looks at CHARLIE - eyes torn. CHARLIE comes to stand behind him, so that MICK is 'sandwiched' between him and CONNIE -

MICK is all pumped up - taut like a coiled spring - adrenaline rushing. JACOB makes an attempt -

JACOB
 Listen, Mr Baxter - I presume it is Mr
 Baxter -

MICK
SHUT IT! Now!
 (to CHARLIE)
 Let's go - in there (Resus)

He cocks the gun. Shrieks everywhere - on CHARLIE -

CHARLIE
 Okay, okay!

The NS ARMED POLICE have now adjusted themselves but there's no way they can shoot without hurting either CONNIE or CHARLIE -

MICK
Move!

MICK to CHARLIE, dragging CONNIE against him -

MICK (CONT'D)
(pointing to Resus)
We're going in there -
(off CHARLIE's look)
Open the door - go in first - **IN** -

They move as one unit -

CUT TO:

16 INT. ED. RESUS - CONTINUOUS

(MICK, DYLAN, RUTH, FAITH, CONNIE)
(CHARLIE, FAITH, CONNOR)

MICK, dragging CONNIE, and CHARLIE burst in - doors shut behind them - MICK wielding the gun straight at DYLAN -

MICK
Against the doors - NOW -

DYLAN
What -

MICK pressing the gun right against CONNIE's back - we see her fight enormous panic - she's being attacked AGAIN...

MICK
(to FAITH and DYLAN)
Everyone back - everyone! **MOVE** - against the doors -

So that they're blocking the line of sight -

RUTH
(shocked)
Mick?!

He pushes CONNIE forwards -

MICK
Back! Against the wall - all of you!
Spread out - MORE - hands on your heads -

He makes sure there's gaps between all of them so they can't communicate -

DYLAN
Hang on a -

MICK
Quiet. EVERYONE!

He's very tense, nervous, panicking - but therefore dangerous -

FAITH
(spirited)
What is this?!

MICK
No! NO - TALKING -
(pointing the gun at CONNIE)
NOT - A - WORD -

On CHARLIE - shaken - what is happening...? MICK looks at CONNOR - freaked - welling up -

MICK (CONT'D)
Oh, son -

RUTH
Mick - what are you doing?!

He points the gun at her, like a jumpy animal - they all exchange looks -

MICK
Are you deaf?! I said no talking!

CONNIE takes a deep breath - she's got this. She's not going to pieces like last time -

CONNIE
Just do as he says everyone.

He moves from one to the other, frisking them quickly - throwing their mobiles on the floor -

MICK
(to CHARLIE)
Pick them up -
(points to work surface)
Put them on there - come on, get a move on -

CHARLIE looks at him -

MICK (CONT'D)
DO IT.

CHARLIE starts gathering the phones, very awkward - is this all down to him?

He can feel CONNIE's eyes burrowing holes into him - happy now?

CUT TO:

17 **INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES / RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS**
(JACOB, DAVID, WILL)
(ROBYN, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

JACOB tries to control the chaos -

JACOB
(to WILL)
We need to get everyone out of here - all
patients and staff need to be evacuated -
(calling)
Okay, everyone - please keep calm -

WILL still reeling - DAVID next to them... NS PATIENTS panicking
running outside - NS NURSES after them -

DAVID
(to WILL)
He's got Dylan and Faith in there as
well?! How?! And - what's Charlie doing
here?

WILL
I dunno - he was tearing a strip off
Connie - I was trying to calm him down,
then Baxter just went for it -
(reeling - to JACOB)
What was he saying to the guy? That she's
the big boss?! Has he met him before...?

They all look at each other - what is going on?

CUT TO:

18 INT. ED. RESUS - CONTINUOUS

(MICK, FAITH, CONNIE, RUTH, DYLAN)
(CONNOR, CHARLIE)

CHARLIE, CONNIE, DYLAN and FAITH are all against the wall and doors; forming a kind of human shield - MICK barricades the doors.

MICK
Face the wall! All of you! DO NOT MOVE!
I'm warning you -

FAITH
Come on this is silly -

But then she feels the back of a gun against her back -

CONNIE
(sotto)
Faith. Don't.

MICK
(sotto, menacing)
Exactly. Listen to the big boss.

On CHARLIE - when he meant this place could go down in flames he didn't quite mean *this...* what does he do now?! MICK walks to CONNOR, eyes welling up -

MICK (CONT'D)
Connor - Connor, son can you hear me?

RUTH
Mick - please - I'm begging you -

MICK
(distressed)
Begging me?! This is all your fault!
(holds CONNOR's hand)
Son - Connor - please -

But CONNOR's out of it; MICK point the gun at CONNIE -

MICK (CONT'D)
(at CONNOR)
What's wrong with him? Why's he so out of it?
(to CONNIE)
COME ON! Talk!

CONNIE
If... you let me look at the notes - I could tell you -

MICK looks at her - breathing heavily -

MICK
Go on then - get a move on -

She glances at CHARLIE who can't meet her eye; then moves towards CONNOR - takes the notes -

CONNIE
Your son... sustained serious injuries
in... the fall. He's got a penetrating
chest injury.

On MICK - swallowing - reeling... Take CHARLIE - feeling very responsible but also defensive.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
He's been given ketamine for the pain...
(beat)
...until he goes to theatre - because
he's going to need an operation -

MICK
I need to speak to him - wake him up -

CONNIE
That's not possible -

MICK
(in)
Make it possible. I need to speak to him -

DYLAN
(sharply)
You don't want him in pain, do you?

CONNIE
He's at serious risk - his breathing is
severely compromised and he could be
losing a lot of blood into his chest, we
need to treat him.

FAITH
We're trying to help you -

MICK
(in, thinking on his feet)
Yeah right. Back against the wall!

She does as he says. MICK holds CONNOR's hand -

MICK (CONT'D)
I'm here for you son. I'm not going
anywhere.

They all exchange looks. And nor are they. On CHARLIE. This is all his doing.

CUT TO:

19 **EXT. ED. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY (12:00)**

(JACOB, ETHAN, FENISHA, WILL, LEV)
 (NS POLICE OFFICERS, NS STAFF, NS PARAMEDICS, NS PATIENTS)

It's chaos. The place is flooded with NS POLICE OFFICERS. Cordons everywhere, squad cars etc. At the Main Entrance are NS POLICE OFFICERS and a steady stream of people rushing out, some on trolleys and wheelchairs - everyone is freaked out - talking to each other, asking for help... We see NS NURSES being flanked by patients, NS PORTERS ferrying people on trolleys, NS PARAMEDICS lending a hand. NS PATIENTS not knowing where to go, asking for directions. NS POLICE OFFICERS trying to direct people out past the cordons -

In the midst of this, JACOB on his mobile -

JACOB
 (on his mobile)
 Ms McGerry, I'm liaising with police right now - we're evacuating the department and diverting all emergencies to St James' -

Round him there's a sea of anxious people. Cut to ETHAN in a river of people wheeling an anxious NS PATIENT on a trolley -

ETHAN
 I'm waiting to hear from AAU - and then we'll arrange a transfer -

Cut to FENISHA rushing to ETHAN -

FENISHA
 What's going on? Someone's taken hostages?!

ETHAN
 Connor Baxter's dad. Pulled a gun inside and pulled Connie and Charlie into Resus.

On FENISHA - can't hide her panic -

FENISHA
 Resus? Where's Will?!

WILL
 (O.O.V)
 Right here.

Oh. She turns. They lock eyes - her relief is so palpable, but so is her embarrassment at showing her emotions.

WILL (CONT'D)
 I was just outside.

On ETHAN - total third wheel. Er...

ETHAN
Right.

He walks off. WILL looks at FENISHA -

WILL
Because I was calling you.
(off her face)
Ethan told me. About the...

He looks at her belly. But then she hears LEV - fronting JACOB -

LEV
I'm going in -

JACOB
(blocking him)
No, Lev - don't. Don't be stupid.

FENISHA
(to WILL)
Not now. I'll come find you -

She rushes to JACOB and LEV.

JACOB
You need to calm down -
(beat)
There are more firearms squads on the way
with a hostage negotiator -

LEV looks at him - tense, explosive. JACOB puts his hands on his shoulders -

JACOB (CONT'D)
It's gonna be fine.

LEV holds his look, then charges off -

FENISHA
I'll go after him -

On JACOB. Under the cosh.

CUT TO:

20 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (12:10)
 (MICK, FAITH, RUTH, DYLAN, CONNIE)
 (CHARLIE, CONNOR)

Here - DYLAN, CONNIE, FAITH and CHARLIE are all still facing the wall and door - hands against it - they look at each other anxious, what next...? MICK, agitated like a coiled spring, is by CONNOR's side - holding his hand, stroking his hair - heart in mouth -

MICK
 (to CONNOR)
 It's gonna be okay son, it's gonna be fine... I'm here - I ain't going anywhere.

FAITH
 (sotto to DYLAN)
 This is crazy -

DYLAN - shhhh. She locks eyes with RUTH. Despite being in pain, RUTH attempts to reach MICK -

RUTH
 Mick - please... If you love him -

MICK
 (barks at her)
 IF?! I swore to him - swore - last time we spoke - that I'm coming for him.

Take FAITH - to DYLAN -

FAITH
 (sotto)
 There's one of him - five of us - all we need is a distraction...

DYLAN
 (sotto)
 Don't be stupid. Think of Luka -

FAITH
 (sotto)
 I am.

Back to RUTH and MICK -

RUTH
 But... last time you spoke... was over a year ago -

MICK
 So? I gave him my word. Not that you'd know what that means -
 (off her face)
 You lied to me. To us. All along.

RUTH
What...?

MICK
'I'm on your side, I'm doing what I can,
I want to help, I want him to be with his
dad too' -

RUTH
I meant it -

MICK
(in)
Oh yeah? So how come your signature was
on the recommendation?!
(fronting her)
You knew - you knew that if she wins,
it's game over - I could never afford the
trip there - and even if I did - that
woman hates my guts and she would make
sure he did too -

Take FAITH -

FAITH
(sotto)
Are we just gonna stand here and do
nothing?

CONNIE
(sotto)
No one's doing *anything*.

FAITH bites her lip, frustrated. MICK advances towards RUTH -

MICK
(distressed)
I did everything you said. I stuck it out
in that rehab wing - do you know what
that was like? Do you know how much abuse
I got for it?! I fell out with everyone
who ever had my back -

Our regs exchange a look -

RUTH
(looking worse)
Exactly - you were... doing... so well -
(helpless)
But... I had to think of Connor - he's
never really had a home... and every time
you got out - we tried to support you but
you just went straight back in -

MICK
Yeah - well -

RUTH
How is that fair on him?!

MICK
(in pain)
Because I'm his dad! He wants to be with
me!

RUTH
(also in pain)
Of course he does - he loves you! But he
also wanted to go - he was excited to go -
he was *asked* -

MICK
(distressed)
No - no that's not true -

RUTH
It is - I'm sorry... but it is - no one would send him there against his will -

MICK
(pointing gun at her)
No!

DYLAN

FAITH CONNIE
Now come on that's enough - Mr Baxter -

MICK
(shouting)
What you looking at?! Turn around! Face
the wall! Right where you were!

On FAITH -

But suddenly - the phone starts ringing. They all look at it.

CUT TO:

21 INT. ED. RESUS CORRIDOR/ RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(NS FIREARMS SQUAD OFFICERS, MICK, CONNOR, RUTH,
DYLAN, FAITH, CHARLIE, CONNIE)

We see NS FIREARMS SQUAD OFFICERS settling at the different entry points to the area. We see MICK from their POV.

CUT TO:

22 INT. ED. RESUS/ RESUS CORRIDOR - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(MICK)
(CONNOR, RUTH, DYLAN, FAITH, CHARLIE, CONNIE, NS
FIREARMS SQUAD OFFICERS)

But here - MICK pulls the blinds shut. He's no fool. The phone is ringing.

He snatches the receiver -

MICK
Yeah?!

CUT TO:

23 OMITTED - CONTENT MOVED TO SCENE 25

24 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(STUART (O.O.V.), MICK, RUTH, DYLAN, FAITH)
(CONNIE, CHARLIE, CONNOR)

On MICK, on the phone -

STUART (O.O.V.)
Hello - Mick?

MICK
Who is this?

STUART (O.O.V.)
My name is Stuart. Stuart Lafferty. I'm
with the police. I'm here to help.

Pause.

MICK
Help?! Bit late aren't you?

Beat.

STUART (O.O.V.)
What's happening for you today?

MICK
What's happening?! I'll tell you what's
happening - I'm sick and tired of being
screwed -
(anguished)
I love my son. I love him more than
anyone - I will do *anything* for him.

It's heartfelt. Real. On FAITH - looking daggers at him -
anything?!

STUART (O.O.V.)
Of course, of course you will -

MICK
You got kids?

STUART (O.O.V.)
Yes I do. Three.

On CHARLIE - sneaks a look at MICK. There's no mistaking his love
is real. That's the kind of love CHARLIE had for Duffy.

STUART (O.O.V) (CONT'D)
Tell me what's been going on.

MICK fighting tears -

MICK
(welling up)
I thought...
(MORE)

MICK (CONT'D)
 if I proved I could get off the heroin
 they'd let us be together. This is what
 they let me think -

STUART (O.O.V.)
 It's amazing you did that. Well done you -

MICK
 Yeah but they *never* meant it -
 Now they're saying I can't have him cos I
 was a repeat offender -
 (overwhelmed)
 What chance did I have?! I'd never have
 got him back no matter what I did -

STUART (O.O.V.)
 I understand -

MICK
 Do you?! No you don't - you're just
 saying that - people like you have it
 easy from the off, and people like me
 have their card marked -

DYLAN looks at FAITH, she's seething -

STUART (O.O.V.)
 I hear you -

We hear a groan from RUTH's direction - MICK looks -

RUTH
 (suddenly)
 I... I don't... feel so well.

DYLAN
 Ruth?

MICK looks at her - her machines start pinging -

FAITH
 Her heart rates up, her BP's down -

STUART (O.O.V.)
 Mick. Mick, are you there? What's
 happening?

Blood seeps through RUTH's bandages - MICK stares at it -

FAITH
 Mr Baxter! We need to treat her -

STUART (O.O.V.)
 Mick. Is everything okay...?

MICK slams the phone down.

CUT TO:

25 INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM - DAY
(CONTINUOUS)
(STUART, MICK (O.O.V.))
(JACOB, NS POLICE OFFICERS)

JACOB and other NS POLICE OFFICERS are standing round STUART LAFFERTY (hostage negotiator, bright, stable, resourceful, experienced, warm - basically like a tougher CHARLIE in his good old days), on the phone -

STUART
Hello - Mick?

MICK (O.O.V.)
Who is this?

STUART
My name is Stuart. Stuart Lafferty. I'm with the police. I'm here to help.

Pause. He can hear him breathing.

MICK (O.O.V.)
Help?! Bit late aren't you?

Beat.

STUART
What's happening for you today?

MICK (O.O.V.)
What's happening?! I'll tell you what's happening - I'm sick and tired of being screwed -
(anguished)
I love my son. I love him more than anyone - I will do *anything* for him.

It's heartfelt. Real.

STUART
Of course, of course you will -

MICK (O.O.V.)
You got kids?

STUART
Yes I do. Three.

Beat.

STUART (CONT'D)
Tell me what's been going on.

We can hear Mick fighting tears -

MICK (O.O.V.)
(welling up)
I thought... If I proved I could get off
the heroin they'd let us be together.
This is what they let me think -

STUART
It's amazing you did that. Well done you -

MICK (O.O.V.)
Yeh but they *never* meant it -
Now they're saying I can't have him cos I
was a repeat offender -
(overwhelmed)
What chance did I have?! I'd never have
got him back no matter what I did -

STUART
I understand -

MICK (O.O.V.)
Do you?! No you don't - you're just
saying that - people like you have it
easy from the off, and people like me
have their card marked -

STUART
I hear you -

A pause - STUART doesn't realise, but RUTH is crashing and MICK is distracted.

STUART (CONT'D)
Mick. Mick, are you there? What's
happening?

A pause.

STUART (CONT'D)
Mick. Is everything okay...?

The phone line cuts out.

CUT TO:

26 INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM - DAY (12:16)

(STUART, LEV)

(JACOB, NS POLICE OFFICERS)

JACOB staring at STUART. We hear the walkie talkie - 'suspect seems to be moving inside the room, can't get a clear shot'.

STUART

We'll try again in a minute -

LEV bursts in through the door -

LEV

What's going on? I want to know.

On JACOB.

CUT TO:

27 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(FAITH, DYLAN, MICK, CONNIE, CHARLIE)
(CONNOR, RUTH)

MICK staring at RUTH, who's losing blood and getting weaker -

FAITH
She's soaking through her dressing -

DYLAN
She needs a transfusion - she's losing
blood -

MICK
(in)
Stay there.

CONNIE
(sharp)
Are things not bad enough? You want to be
responsible for someone's death?!

They make to move towards her - he holds his gun up -

MICK
Don't!

FAITH
You just said you'll do anything for your
son - ANYTHING - how's this gonna help
him?

DYLAN
Faith.

MICK stares at her almost shocked that she's talking to him like
this -

MICK
What would you know about it?

FAITH
(heartfelt)
I tell you what I know. My son's upstairs
- in Oncology - he's got cancer - and I
would also do ANYTHING for him -

MICK
(taken aback)
That's not my fault -

FAITH
No - but it's your fault that you're
stopping me from being with him now. And
he's hearing about all this - and he's
also in lock down and he must be
petrified -
(giving it to him)
(MORE)

FAITH (CONT'D)
You're not thinking of Connor - you're thinking of *yourself* -

MICK
Shut up.

CONNIE and DYLAN try to intervene —

FAITH
If you loved him you'd do anything to get
him help now - not be thinking how to get
back at his social worker -

MICK pushes her against the wall - can't bear to hear the truth -

WHOA - DYLAN SHUT IT - MICK

FAITH
Here we go - and we're supposed to
believe *you're* the victim?

DYLAN
FAITH.
(quickly - to MICK)
What's it gonna look like? If you do ever
get out - that you let her die?!

MICK
(distressed)
Stop - **STOP** -

Then suddenly - out of nowhere - CHARLIE steps forward in front of MICK -

CHARLIE
Hey. Look at me.

MICK stops, spooked - the others do too. It's the first thing he's said.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Don't give them the satisfaction, mate.

Everyone looks at him - eh?

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Cos that's what they all think of you.
That you're heartless - some hardened
criminal - some unhinged person -
(to MICK)
But you never wanted to hurt anyone did
you? You just wanted justice. You were
pushed to it.

MICK breathing heavily. CHARLIE is warm, reassuring -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
You're just angry. I get you. You
couldn't keep it in any longer. I'm the
same -

MICK stares at him... The rest do too.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
My wife died last year. Dementia.
She was totally done over by the place
she worked at. Forced to leave before her
time was up.

On CONNIE.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
She gave *her* life to that place. But when
it came to it there was no support, no
money - I had to keep working so I
couldn't look after her at home -

Everyone looks at each other - he's talking about them -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Not properly - not how I should have -
(beat)
I'd give anything to have that time back.
But now it's too late. The system's
broken - I know -

MICK looks at him - listening now.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
But you're bigger than them. You've got a
big heart. I could see that outside -
(beat)
Let them treat her. Shove it in their
faces.

MICK swallows. Looks at him. Then gestures DYLAN and FAITH over -
just do it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Good man.

DYLAN and FAITH rush over; DYLAN looks at FAITH - don't rock the
boat now -

DYLAN
Let's take the bandage off, re-apply
haemostatic gauze for 5 minutes with
direct pressure -

On CONNIE looking at CHARLIE - did he mean what he said or is he
just trying to manipulate MICK?

CUT TO:

28 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM - CONTINUOUS**
 (STUART, LEV, JACOB)
 (NS POLICE OFFICERS)

Here, LEV wants some answers -

STUART
 Look, I appreciate how difficult -

LEV
 Don't give me that 'spiel' - I'm not a
 child -

JACOB
 (in)
 Lev. This isn't helping -

LEV
 (at STUART)
 I mean - REALLY?! This guy is holding
 four members of staff and two patients
 and you're taking your time trying to
 talk him round?!

JACOB
 Okay -

LEV
 He shot that gun once already today! What
 you waiting for?! Why aren't you in
 there? Why aren't you just going in?

STUART
 Because - in most cases this can be
 resolved without the need for -

LEV
 Oh - in *most* cases - that's great (!) -
 (losing it)
 Units have gone in and released hostages
before you know -

STUART
 So you would take the risk?!

LEV
 (bangs on the table)
 I wouldn't have to if you knew what you
 were doing!!

JACOB gets in there; it's almost a tussle -

JACOB	LEV (CONT'D)
All right that's enough -	NO - I want to know what you're going -

JACOB (CONT'D)

No - you want to vent at
someone -

LEV (CONT'D)

Get off -

CUT TO:

29 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

(DAVID, JADE, ETHAN, WILL, LEV, JACOB)
(NS POLICE OFFICERS, NS PATIENTS, NS STAFF, NS CHILD)

Total chaos. Ambulances, police cars, NS POLICE OFFICERS. There's a steady queue of NS PATIENTS forming - walk ins. In b/g we see someone arguing with JADE. DAVID is rushing round the paramedic stores looking for bandages - next to him an NS PATIENT with a head wound -

DAVID

Let me just try and sort you out but you will have to go to St James' -
(to all the other NS PATIENTS)
Ladies and gents - unless there's an emergency, please go to your local GPs or use other hospitals' A&E departments -

JADE rushes by -

JADE

You haven't seen Mrs Gibbons anywhere?
You know - the lady on the mobility scooter?
(beat)
Her husband just got here - he can't find her -

DAVID gestures the crowd around him -

DAVID

Er -

JADE

Yup. I know.

He catches a glimpse of ETHAN having to deal with an angry NS PATIENT dragging an NS CHILD -

ETHAN

Well, I'm sorry but you'll have to come back later for your mobile - right now we don't have any access into the department.

WILL is right behind him. The NS PATIENT is giving ETHAN grief - 'it's very valuable' -

WILL

(interjecting)

It's probably not as valuable as your life.

ETHAN looks at him - they're on the same side now. They walk together -

WILL (CONT'D)
(dry)
Probably doesn't want to lose his
'streaks' -

ETHAN
(clueless)
Streaks?

WILL
(what are you like)
Snapchat, grandad.

ETHAN
Oh.

But then they see LEV storm out of the Staff Room -

LEV
Get off! Get off me!

He throws JACOB off him, looks like he's about to punch him. DAVID and ETHAN rush over -

ETHAN
Whoa - whoa, whoa -

DAVID
Lev!

JACOB
(from experience)
Believe me - you don't wanna get in there
when police and guns are involved -

LEV
I'll decide that -

He tries to push him out of the way -

JACOB
What are you doing, man?! You can't go
off like this - you need to calm down -

LEV
Or what?!

JACOB
(steely)
Or - they'll have you arrested.

On LEV - breathing hard -

CUT TO:

30 **INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (12:45)**
 (DYLAN, FAITH, MICK, CHARLIE, STUART (O.O.V.))
 (CONNIE, CONNOR, RUTH)

DYLAN is applying haemostatic gauze with firm pressure to RUTH.
 Take FAITH, rage bubbling inside her -

DYLAN
 Right, I'll keep the pressure on -
 (to FAITH, sotto)
 Calm. Yes?

On FAITH, we can see her eyes flash with anger -

FAITH
 (to MICK - icy)
 I have to get some blood from the fridge -

MICK
 Just get on with it.

The phone on the table starts ringing again - MICK looks at it...
 Shakes his head at CHARLIE. Take a steely FAITH sneaking a glance
 at MICK -

CHARLIE
 Are you... not going to answer?

MICK smiles a bitter smile. FAITH watching him like a hawk, she's
 taut as a spring -

MICK
 That's how it always starts - 'we wanna
 help - tell us what's wrong'... But what
 they really want is to get in your head -
 then before you know it - they stab you
 in the back.

He's now getting very paranoid. CHARLIE thinking on his feet -

CHARLIE
 I could talk to them. For you.

MICK looks at him. Go to FAITH, while he's distracted, and she's
 by the fridge, she slips a syringe into her pocket.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 You need a plan... you can't stay here
 forever.

FAITH hurries back with the blood. MICK gestures to CHARLIE to put
 the receiver into his ear.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Hello.

STUART (O.O.V.)
 Hello...? Who am I speaking to?

CHARLIE
Charlie - Charlie Fairhead.

FAITH is hanging up blood and using a manual pressure bag to administer, all while looking at MICK. While she does she leans and puts a hand in her pocket revealing the syringe to DYLAN. He opens his eyes - **you're mad. DON'T!** But she looks straight back at him - challenging, livid - she's not taking this lying down -

STUART (O.O.V.)
Charlie. Is everyone all right in there?

CHARLIE
Yes - everyone's okay.

STUART (O.O.V.)
Where's Mick?

CHARLIE
Right here - I'm going to speak for him -

He nods at MICK; go to FAITH and DYLAN, she is still watching MICK like a hawk. DYLAN trying to catch her eye - *DO NOT DO ANYTHING STUPID* -

STUART (O.O.V.)
Tell him - it's really good he's talking to us.

CHARLIE looks at him, nodding, encouraging.

STUART (CONT'D)
What would he like to say?

CHARLIE
What else do you want to say to them?

MICK
I - I - I didn't want anyone to get hurt -

CHARLIE
He didn't mean to hurt anyone.

MICK rubs his forehead, distracted; DYLAN grabs FAITH's hand but she snatches it away - you can't stop me -

STUART (O.O.V.)
Okay -

CHARLIE
(sotto, to MICK)
You're doing well, doing well, mate - what else?

STUART (O.O.V.)
What would he like to happen now?

CHARLIE
He's asking - what would you like to
happen now?

MICK's a bit stumped - how do you solve this? His attention is
distracted for a minute - and FAITH flies at him with the syringe -

MICK
What the -

He knocks it out of her hand. DYLAN reacts and rushes forwards to
help her, CHARLIE goes to grab MICK, but MICK whacks him and
CHARLIE falls on the floor. MICK grabs FAITH - and points the gun
at her -

MICK (CONT'D)
(right in her face)
Think I won't do it?! **THINK I WON'T?**

DYLAN
NO!

He throws herself in the middle, pushes FAITH to the ground and
lands on her, covering her; but the gun fires - FAITH screams - a
blood curdling scream.

INTERCUT WITH:

31 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM - DAY (12:45)**
(CHARLIE (O.O.V.), STUART)
(JACOB, NS POLICE OFFICERS)

STUART on the phone. Ringing tone.

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
Hello.

STUART
Hello...? Who am I speaking to?

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
Charlie - Charlie Fairhead.

STUART
Charlie. Is everyone all right in there?

Take JACOB - CHARLIE's on the phone?

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
Yes - everyone's okay.

STUART
Where's Mick?

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
Right here - I'm going to speak for him -

STUART
Tell him - it's really good he's talking
to us.

Beat.

STUART (CONT'D)
What would he like to say?

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
(to MICK)
What else do you want to say to them?

Pause - MICK is answering him.

CHARLIE (O.O.V.) (CONT'D)
He didn't mean to hurt anyone.

STUART
Okay -

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
(to MICK)
You're doing well, doing well, mate -
what else?

STUART
What would he like to happen now?

CHARLIE (O.O.V.)
(to MICK)
He's asking - what would you like to
happen now?

There is no reply - commotion as FAITH attacks MICK!

CUT TO:

32 INT. ED. RESUS CORRIDOR - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(NS FIREARMS OFFICERS)

Shot and scream reverberate through. Reaction of NS FIREARMS OFFICERS.

CUT TO:

33 INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM (CONTINUOUS)
(STUART, JACOB)
(NS POLICE OFFICERS)

STUART looking at JACOB - something's happened -

STUART
They just heard a shot.

JACOB
Shot?!

STUART
They're trying to find out what's going
on -

On JACOB - blood draining from his face.

CUT TO:

34 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

(ETHAN, LEV)

(JACOB, STUART, NS POLICE, NS PATIENTS)

LEV like an animal in a cage - pacing to and fro - watching the Staff Room like a hawk -

ETHAN

Lev - stop -

LEV suddenly freezes - he's noticed the change of mood in the office -

LEV

Something's up -

CUT TO:

35 **INT. ED. RESUS/ RESUS CORRIDOR - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**
 (CONNIE, FAITH, CHARLIE, MICK, DYLAN)
 (CONNOR, RUTH, NS FIREARMS OFFICERS (O.O.V.))

DYLAN on the floor bleeding from his arm, FAITH dragging him off her; CONNIE over CHARLIE who's got a cut on his forehead -

CONNIE FAITH
 Charlie? Dylan are you okay?

MICK panting - pointing the gun at CHARLIE - CHARLIE looks at him... MICK yanks the phone off the wall, his eyes are wide now - wide and wild.

CHARLIE
 Okay, okay - let's just -

They hear a shout from outside - 'Is everyone okay?!" MICK fixes CHARLIE with a look - and drags him to the door -

MICK
 (seething)
 Tell them it's okay -

CHARLIE
 (calling)
 Yes, yes - we're okay!

MICK
 (seething)
 And it's all under control -

CHARLIE
 (calling)
 It's under control -

On the floor a shaken FAITH is checking DYLAN's wound.

FAITH
 (to CONNIE)
 Pulse is good, it looks superficial -

CONNIE
 Keep the pressure on - raise the arm.

FAITH applies pressure - looks at DYLAN anxiously - this has totally shaken her -

FAITH
 (sotto)
 You idiot.

He could have died.

DYLAN
 (sotto)
 I'm the idiot...?

She could have died.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Anyway. *Thank you too.*

They hold each others' gaze. His free hand grabs hers. She clutches it. Feelings are raw and very clear now - they feel the same. It's pure electricity between them - no words necessary.

MICK very near CHARLIE now, panting, breathing hard.

MICK
You - you -
(straight at him)
I know what your game is -

CHARLIE
What?

MICK
You got me to go on the phone - so that you could distract me -

CHARLIE
No!

MICK
Making me think you're on my side -
(paranoid)
Was any of what you told me true?!

CHARLIE
Yes -

MICK
Clear your pockets - now -

CHARLIE
Listen to me - you've got it wrong -

MICK
(shouting)
Clear them!

He starts looking in CHARLIE's pockets - holds something - then takes out the staff card...

MICK (CONT'D)
Senior ED Charge Nurse? You never mentioned that.

CHARLIE
Was. I'm not anymore -

MICK
(in)
But you worked here. You all know each other - you all worked with each other -

CHARLIE looks at CONNIE -

CHARLIE

Yes, I was a nurse here - but everything I told you was true - about my wife - about me - about how they screwed her - I hate this place - I hate what it did to me, to us - you saw - you saw me before with her -

But MICK swallowing - not listening by now - he's pacing about - his paranoia has kicked in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We all want the same thing - we all want everyone out of here in one piece.

Suddenly - CONNOR moans - a deep gurgle. He is struggling to breathe - alarms going off.

MICK

Connor - Connor?!

(panicking)

CONNOR!

CUT TO:

36 INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM - DAY
(CONTINUOUS)
(STUART, JACOB)
(NS POLICE OFFICERS)

STUART just off the radio with the Firearms Squad Silver Command Officer -

STUART
(to JACOB)
Obviously there's no way of knowing
what's happening inside -
(beat)
So they are now considering rapid
tactical intervention.

JACOB
(mouth dry)
What?

On JACOB, pale -

JACOB (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
No, no - you can't do that.

CUT TO:

37 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

(LEV, WILL, DAVID, ROBYN, JADE)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS POLICE OFFICERS)

DAVID, ROBYN and WILL all standing together around LEV - trying to subdue him -

LEV
Let - me - go.

WILL
Go where, man? There's a firearms squad inside - think they're gonna let you through?!

DAVID
Exactly -

ROBYN
I know you want to do something - but think about them - what's better for them?

JADE rushes over -

JADE
(to DAVID)
You know Mrs Gibbons...? Her husband just found her. She went to the chippy. Can you -

But then she sees their expression and LEV stops dead in her tracks -

JADE (CONT'D)
What's happened?

CUT TO:

38 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(CONNIE, MICK, CHARLIE, RUTH, DYLAN, FAITH)
(CONNOR)

CONNIE by the wall - MICK pacing around, in total panic -

CONNIE
He's really struggling -
(urgent)
Listen to me Mr Baxter - he needs help.
He clearly can't breathe for himself -

The machines are going nuts. MICK, next to CONNOR -

MICK
No - no, son - please -

CHARLIE
Mick - you need to let the doctors near him -

MICK
No - no - I'm not listening to you - it's all lies, lies and more lies -
(at CONNIE)
Even he (CHARLIE) said you're as dirty as hell -

He clutches CONNOR's hand -

MICK (CONT'D)
Come on, Connor - this is Dad - this is Daddy here -

RUTH
Mick please!

DYLAN
They're not lying.

MICK looks at them - nothing but terror in his eyes -

MICK
How do I know?! How do I know you've not done nothing to the machines?! You know way more than me - you could have done -

CHARLIE
Why would we?! Just think -

MICK
I can't lose him - I can't lose him -

CONNIE
Mr Baxter he needs help **NOW.**

MICK looking at CONNOR, unravelling - breathing hard -

MICK
Right... now listen - very carefully -
(huge effort to keep it
together)
You do your thing. But if *anything*
happens to him - if he gets worse - I'm
killing all of us. One by one. I swear.

He means it. They all rush to CONNOR - CONNIE and FAITH immediately into action with CHARLIE at their side -

CONNIE
Right - airway's heavily compromised -

CHARLIE
Intubation?

She nods. Just like that they are working together again. Well oiled machine all in tune -

CONNIE
(to FAITH)
Rocuronium and top up the ketamine -

FAITH
On it.

But she looks decidedly shaky - her hands have a tremor -

CHARLIE
(decisive)
I'll do it. Sit down

FAITH gets back on the floor. MICK is holding the gun straight at them. They exchange looks - CONNIE at CONNOR's head -

CONNIE
Laryngoscope -

CHARLIE
Applying cricoid pressure -

CONNIE inserts the laryngoscope -

CONNIE
Okay, I've got a good view -

CHARLIE gives her the bougie -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Okay - bougie in position -

CONNIE inserts size E6 tube -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
I'm in - remove the bougie -

CHARLIE removes the bougie - on MICK heart in mouth.

MICK
What's happening?

His gun holding hand is shaking - fatigue, nerves and panic all at the same time - they're all really aware of this.

CHARLIE
We need to check his breath sounds -

CONNIE uses a stethoscope to listen to lungs and stomach -

CONNIE
Tube's in the right place -

They secure the ET tube with tape and hook him up to the ventilator - the machines are still going. CONNIE perturbed

MICK
Why is the alarm still on?!

CHARLIE
He's tachy, BP 80 over 60 -

CONNIE
(in)
He's not shifting much air either side
and his CO2's high. We need bilateral
thoracostomies now -

(to CHARLIE)
You do right I'll do left -

They lock eyes - he nods - they're working together now -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Let's go.

On MICK - totally on the edge.

CUT TO:

39 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - DAY (12:55)**

(NOEL, LEV)
(WILL, FENISHA, DAVID, ROBYN, NS POLICE OFFICERS, NS
STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

LEV sitting down now. Leg twitching away. WILL, FENISHA, DAVID and ROBYN all standing together round him. No one says a word - they're all tense - waiting to hear... WILL tries to catch FENISHA's eyes but she's not playing ball... NOEL comes over with a cup of tea - he hands it to LEV -

NOEL
Thought you might want -

LEV waves it off. NOEL stands there with the cup - not quite knowing what to do with himself... LEV notices -

LEV
Actually... Thanks.

He takes the cup. On NOEL - beaming.

CUT TO:

40 **INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (13:02)**
(CONNIE, CHARLIE, FAITH, MICK, DYLAN)
(CONNOR, RUTH)

Back in Resus. CHARLIE, CONNIE all set up, FAITH at CONNOR's head, now assisting, watching his stats.

CONNIE
(scalpel in hand)
Ready?

They all look at each other - MICK has his gun drawn at them. One false move and they could kill CONNOR -

CHARLIE FAITH
Ready. Yup.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Sats 88% BP 70 systolic.

CHARLIE nods. Tension is at its highest - this is the most sensitive part. They both make incisions at the same time -

CHARLIE
I'm through -

They both insert fingers into the incision to check there's no adherent lung -

CONNIE
I'm clear -

CHARLIE
Me too -

CONNIE
Clamp the tube and advance into the pleural space -

CHARLIE
I'm in.

Blood drains out of the tubes - then a few beats to join up the chest drain; they attach the drains to the underwater seals -

CONNIE
(to CHARLIE)
The drains are swinging.

They all breathe a sigh of relief; MICK lets his hand relax. For a moment they all look at each other. MICK takes a step back - CONNIE looks to check the bubbles in the water buckets attached to the drains that will show if the air is moving -

CHARLIE
Bubbles on this side - all good -

CONNIE
Not here -

She adjust the drain - pulling it slightly. But then - blood starts gushing from the tubes, the alarm's going mental -

MICK
What - what?!

CHARLIE
Sats are up to 92% but he's very tachycardic -

FAITH
He could arrest at any minute - we need blood.

CONNIE examining CONNOR -

CONNIE
Get O-neg now. He needs to go to theatre. Now. There's no time.

MICK stares at her - shocked, reeling. From the floor -

DYLAN
Mr Baxter. He's bleeding internally - that's why blood is coming out of the drains -

Blood keeps pouring out - it's freaky -

CHARLIE
Mick!

MICK looks at him. Then - CONNIE suddenly snaps -

CONNIE
I've had enough of this. It's extremely urgent your son goes to theatre or he will die. I'm going to take him myself - you can shoot me if you like.

For a second MICK stares at her - as does CHARLIE. CONNIE locks eyes with him - then makes a decision -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
None of this is Connor's fault.

She starts disconnecting CONNOR from the wall monitors, MICK moves to the door - reeling. The alarms are going off like crazy -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
(to MICK)
Move out of my way -

CHARLIE
Connie -

But this is her time to pay, put herself on the line for all she's done to CHARLIE, to Duffy -

CONNIE
No. I'm doing this, Charlie.

She grabs the mobile monitoring equipment and hangs the drains off the sides of the trolley. CHARLIE steps forward -

CHARLIE
No you're not.
(to MICK)
How about this - you let them all go -
and I stay with you.

MICK looks at him - shocked -

MICK
You what?!

CHARLIE
Keep me - I'll be your bargaining chip -

CONNIE
Charlie -

CHARLIE
I've nothing to lose. When my Duffy died
I died with her. But you do. Connor still
has a chance.

MICK looks at him -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Think about it - you let them all go -
you still have me - you buy yourself more
time -
(re: CONNOR)
You've done ALL THIS for him - now you're
gonna risk it? You love that boy -

MICK staring at CONNOR -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Please. Do the right thing. Or you'll
never forgive yourself -

MICK's hand shakes - he looks at CONNOR.

CUT TO:

41 INT. ED. RESUS CORRIDOR - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(FAITH, CONNIE, DYLAN, CONNOR, RUTH, NS FIREARMS
OFFICERS)

CONNIE rushing the trolley with CONNOR out, DYLAN at her side, holding his arm; FAITH following with RUTH's trolley - we see NS FIREARMS OFFICERS run towards them - one with a megaphone.

CUT TO:

42 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(MICK, CHARLIE)

MICK looking at the gun in his hand - steely - quiet. But there's a tremor in his hand -

MICK
I'll never see him again.

CHARLIE
You don't know that.

From the outside we hear NS FIREARMS OFFICERS: **DROP YOUR WEAPON!**

MICK
That's it for me - I'll be locked up for a long time.

CHARLIE
You let everyone go - that will put you in good stead - there's extenuating circumstances.

MICK swallows -

MICK
I could shoot you now. Then shoot myself. It could all be over.

CHARLIE
Yes.

We hear NS FIREARMS OFFICERS - **DROP YOUR WEAPON AND COME OUT! HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!**

MICK
But all he'll know is that I was a dangerous psycho -
(tortured)
That's what I am aren't I? I hate this -
I hate it -

CHARLIE
True. You messed up.
(beat)
Bad things happened to you - wrong things - and you went off the rails here -
(gently)
But it's okay. You can own it. You can pay for it - you can do the extra time - you can come out the other side -

Really he's also talking to himself -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Take responsibility. But give yourself a chance -

MICK looks at him. Is CHARLIE getting through?

CUT TO:

43 OMITTED

44 INT. ED. RESUS CORRIDOR/ RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(NS FIREARMS OFFICERS, MICK, CHARLIE)

We see an NS FIREARMS OFFICER finally manage to get a view on MICK - who's still now talking to CHARLIE.

CUT TO:

45 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(CHARLIE)
(MICK, NS FIREARMS OFFICER (O.O.V.))

CHARLIE talking to MICK -

CHARLIE
(beat)
Connor will know how far you went for
him. That you could have finished it all -
here and now -
(beat)
But you didn't.

Beat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Because you loved him.
(beat)
You have something to live for. You still
do. Don't give up -

From outside, NS FIREARMS OFFICER "Drop your weapon and come out
NOW. We will move in."

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Please - trust me. We'll go out together.

MICK looks at him.

CUT TO:

46 INT. ED. RESUS CORRIDOR/ RESUS - DAY (CONTINUOUS)
(CHARLIE)
(NS FIREARMS OFFICERS, MICK,)

The NS FIREARMS OFFICERS advance - they're getting closer and closer to Resus -

Resus door opens and CHARLIE comes out - his hands up. Behind him is MICK - he lets his gun wielding hand drop down.

Suddenly the NS FIREARMS OFFICERS advance - '**DROP YOUR WEAPON, ON YOUR KNEES, NOW, HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD - ON YOUR KNEES!**'

MICK falls to his knees, the gun still in his hand. We see him lowering his hand to the floor as if about to drop it. But then - we see the NS FIREARMS OFFICERS from his POV - a terrifying army advancing towards him. On his face - pure terror. Can he do this? Is he up to what's going to follow?

"Hands on your head! HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!"

Suddenly freaked - his hand tightens its grip on the gun, he begins to raise it. He gets up, panicky -

CHARLIE
Mick - don't!

A hail of bullets hits MICK. CHARLIE shouts -

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
NO -

On MICK. On the floor. Dead.

JUMP CUT TO:

47 INT. ED. STAFF ROOM - DAY (13:30)

(CONNIE)

(CHARLIE, NS POLICE OFFICER)

The place is empty. An NS POLICE OFFICER is showing CHARLIE in. They close the door after him -

CHARLIE's numb, pale - and devastated. Slowly, he walks to the sofa; his knees give way. He sits.

The door opens and CONNIE comes in. She moves towards him. He looks at her -

CONNIE
Charlie -

Suddenly, overwhelmed - he bursts into tears.

CUT TO:

48 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (13:40)
(FAITH, DYLAN, DAVID, LEV)

DYLAN is recovering in a cubicle - his arm bandaged by DAVID. FAITH walks in - he looks up at her. Hold the moment.

FAITH
How you feeling?

DYLAN
(deadpan)
Heroic.

DAVID
(oh)
I, er... I think I'm done here... Yes.

He leaves.

DYLAN
Never been shot before - so that's a first.

She looks at him.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
So - commitment issues...?
(beat)
Clearly not... When it's the right person.

He looks at her. The air could be cut it's so charged.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
You know what I'm saying.

FAITH
I do.

DYLAN
I've waited a long time. For -
(deep breath)
Someone like you.

She can't breathe - but she can't go there either -

FAITH
Dylan, I - I -

Her mouth is all dry, she wells up - this is torture... he saves her.

DYLAN
I know.
(gets there first)
Ignore me, they just gave me morphine.

She looks at him - he gets her so quickly - it's even more heartbreakin.

FAITH
(barely audible)
Thank you.

LEV walks in - he rushes to FAITH and hugs her tight.

LEV
There you are.
(to DYLAN)
Dr Keogh.
(overwhelmed)
We owe you. Big time.

DYLAN nods. FAITH bites her lip, holding back tears -

FAITH
Luka's waiting for us.

LEV
Yes - let's go -

They leave. On DYLAN, totally devastated.

CUT TO:

49 OMITTED - CONTENT MOVED TO SCENE 48

50 INT. ED. STAFF ROOM - DAY (13:50)
(CONNIE, CHARLIE)

CONNIE is on the phone -

CONNIE
Okay - thank you.

She comes off it -

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Connor Baxter's in theatre - all going to plan so far.

He nods. She sits next to him.

CHARLIE
I really thought... he was going to be okay.

Beat.

CONNIE
Some things you can't fix.

He looks at her -

CHARLIE
You don't say.

She looks at him -

CONNIE
I can't fix what I did to Duffy.
(beat)
But you have to believe me, Charlie. It's always with me. I will never forgive myself for it.

CHARLIE
Good.

CONNIE
I'm so sorry. I wasn't in my right mind at the time.

CHARLIE
And now?

CONNIE
I'm out the other end.

He looks at her.

CHARLIE
Can't think of the last time I was in mine.

CONNIE
Today.
(beat)
You saved that boy's life.
(beat)
We need you here Charlie. And I think you
need us too.

He looks at her.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
What else will you do with the rest of
your life? Sit at home and blame the
world? Let anger consume you? Like that
man?
(beat)
You've got a chance to do something with
it - don't waste it -

CHARLIE
It... might be too late.

CONNIE
Oh I don't know... You kept your staff
card, didn't you...?

On CHARLIE.

CUT TO:

51 **INT. AMBULANCE STATION - DAY (14:30)**
(WILL, FENISHA)

FENISHA is cleaning up the ambulance. WILL walks in -

WILL
Hey.

She looks back.

FENISHA
Hey.

Beat.

WILL
Quite the day, eh?

FENISHA
Yup.

WILL
Need a hand here?

FENISHA
I'm okay.

WILL
(dry)
Wow. Anyone would think you're trying to
get rid of me.

She stops. Looks at him - okay.

FENISHA
What's Ethan said?

WILL
That... you didn't want the baby.

She nods. He looks at her - concerned about her welfare -

WILL (CONT'D)
Are you... okay? About -

FENISHA
Yes. Thank you.

WILL
I'm gonna come right out and say it
because on a day like today you realize
some things are worth it -
(beat)
Does that mean there's still a... chance
for us?

FENISHA swallows, takes a deep breath. But if it kills her, she's going to stick to what she's decided.

FENISHA
Will, I -
(beat)
I'm sorry.

WILL
I guess that answers my question.

FENISHA
(gently)
I've moved on.

Awww his face. It takes some effort to recover...

WILL
Fair enough. If you don't ask you don't get.

He walks off, keen to get away. On FENISHA - we see what that cost her.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. ED. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY (15:00)

(CONNIE (V.O.))
(NS POLICE OFFICERS)

Outside, cordons still in place; NS POLICE OFFICERS still processing the crime scene.

CONNIE
(V.O.)
We all regret today ended in tragedy. But I'm sure you'll all want to join me in thanking the emergency services -

CUT TO:

53 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

(CONNIE, WILL)

(CHARLIE, ROBYN, FAITH, LEV, JACOB, ETHAN, NS STAFF)

CONNIE addressing the staff - everyone there, including CHARLIE.

CONNIE

(beat)

The emergency services who went above and beyond to keep us safe -

There's nods, agreement.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I also have another piece of news.

(beat)

Charlie Fairhead has decided he wants to resume his position as Senior Nurse Practitioner at the ED.

Reaction from everyone.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Go home. Get a good night's sleep.

Tomorrow's another day.

People disperse; WILL leans into her -

WILL

(sotto)

Are you sure? Charlie?

(beat)

He was pretty... on the edge - this morning.

CONNIE

Aren't we all, Dr Noble - aren't we all.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. ED. CAR PARK - DAY (16:00)
(CHARLIE)

CHARLIE walking back to his car. He gets in. On the passenger seat is the plastic bag with the vodka bottle he bought this morning.

He looks at it - then at the ED exterior - and starts the car.

Is he ready?

END OF EPISODE