

1 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (18) (16:00)

(CHARLIE, DAVID)

(MARTY, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

We come in on a busy Admin area - we see each cubicle is closed off into separate, clear polythene tents. Through them, we can see all of the patients are on oxygen. Walking through is CHARLIE - he's in full PPE with FFP3 mask. He's striding with purpose, looking around, on the hunt for someone.

RASH, MARTY and DAVID (in full PPE and FFP3 masks) are very busy.

CHARLIE

Connie? You seen Connie?

Head shake from the serious RASH, a shrug from the busy DAVID before he moves in.

DAVID

Sorry?

(concerned)

Any news?

CHARLIE shakes his head. We see that troubles DAVID. CHARLIE moves on. We follow him to the back of the Admin area by the Staff Room where he heads out as he comes out of the hot zone.

We see him in a donning/doffing zone as he disrobes all of his PPE. We jump cut through, but get the sense that it's an arduous process. Gloves off first, then hands washed. Face shield taken off from the back. Gown taken off from the back. Then the strings of the face mask come forwards over the head. Then hands are cleaned with hand sanitiser again. Then Charlie heads on.

CUT TO:

2 INT. ED. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY (18) (16:02)
(CHARLIE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CHARLIE quickens his search, down the corridor, past the operating theatre, a look towards ITU - he's calling CONNIE as he goes...

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

2a INT. ED. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR / MEETING ROOM - DAY**(18)(16:03)**

(CHARLIE, CONNIE)

Charlie walks down a corridor (in scrubs, no mask) then he sees the door to the Meeting Room is ajar. He heads over, comes inside...

And he finds CONNIE slumped in the corner (in scrubs, no mask), back against the wall. Tears in her eyes... She's in scrubs, hair a mess, indentation marks on her cheeks from the face mask she's been wearing all shift. She has dried, chapped lips. She is broken and beaten by the day.

CHARLIE

(urgent - worried)

I've been calling - you just disappeared...

CONNIE

I can't do this, I can't.

On the worried CHARLIE, how has it come to this?

CUT TO TITLES:

3 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:03)
(CONNIE, CHARLIE)

CONNIE has her back against the wall, CHARLIE is close by sitting on a chair trying to reassure her. She's in a bit of a trance, eyes still wet with tears.

CONNIE
(frantic)
People are waiting for me to crack,
expecting me to fail... I can't sleep, I
can't think...

CHARLIE
Go home, take a break.

CONNIE
I'm supposed to be in charge, people are
looking to me for answers, and I don't
know what to tell them anymore.

CHARLIE
You're doing an incredible job. Where's
this coming from?

CONNIE
(snaps)
Where do you think?

CHARLIE
It's not your fault!

The following speech intercuts with scenes 4-6

CONNIE
(fretting)
I knew some of the staff were going to
get sick, we're on the frontline, it was
just a matter of time... Even though we
took all the necessary precautions, we
were always going to be vulnerable... I
just didn't realise how many would get
infected - or how serious it was going to
get.

CHARLIE worries for the frantic CONNIE.

CUT TO:

4 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (12) (12:00)

(CONNIE V.O.)

(DYLAN)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 43

Intercut with scene 3 - DYLAN (in scrubs, apron and gloves) is walking through Admin, he's sweating, wheezing. He has to lean against the wall for support.... this doesn't look good.

CONNIE (V.O.)

I knew some of the staff were going to
get sick. We're on the frontline, it was
just a matter of time...

CUT TO:

5 INT. ED. CLINICAL LEAD OFFICE (CONNIE & JACOB) - DAY
 (14) (12:05)
 (CONNIE V.O.)
 (JACOB)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 50

Intercut with scene 3 - JACOB (in scrubs) is in the office - he's shivering, exhausted looking. Has a thermometer in his ear... looks at it 39.5

 CONNIE (V.O.)
Even though we took all the necessary
precautions, we were always going to be
vulnerable...

CUT TO:

6 INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (16) (12:10)

(CONNIE V.O.)

(NOEL)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 16

Intercut with scene 3 - we see the sheepish looking NOEL (in civvies with a domestic mask) walking into Reception. He's finding it hard to breath. He takes a seat in the hot zone... he coughs. He's scared.

CONNIE (V.O.)

I just didn't realise how many would get infected - or how serious it was going to get.

CUT TO:

7 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:10)
(CONNIE, CHARLIE)

Then we're back with CONNIE in the Meeting Room, still glassy eyed, a bit frantic and on edge.

CONNIE

The ICU doctors have asked me to speak to the family - I don't know what to say. As soon as I do that they're going to withdraw care... And I'm not ready to let go.

CHARLIE

(gently)

Maybe you're too close to this...

CONNIE

(snaps)

Of course I am. This was *always* going to be personal...

CHARLIE

Then take a step back, try and be objective... Ask yourself if you really are right to keep fighting for it.

CONNIE

What's the alternative - I give up? I let them turn off his life support?

A moment, we see how torn up CONNIE is about the prospect of this decision.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

(with regret)

How did I let this happen?

CUT TO:

8 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (1) (11:00)

(NEWS REPORT, ETHAN, RASH, CONNIE, JACOB, CHARLIE, DAVID,
DYLAN, WILL, ROSA, MARTY, NOEL, ROBYN)
(NS ELDERLY MALE PATIENT, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CAPTION - 12 Weeks Earlier - Days Before Lockdown: 10

We see the confident CONNIE walking into Admin - she's dressed smart, looking good. She is followed by JACOB.

At the Admin Desk we see ETHAN and RASH looking at their phones watching a news item on the state of Italian hospitals. CONNIE and JACOB stop to look at it too.

NEWS REPORT

It was announced yesterday that the devastating death toll in Italy has exceeded 1000. As confirmed cases reach 15,000, hospitals in the North of the country are reporting worrying levels of admissions.

They are open mouthed, worried.

ETHAN

This is Italy, *Italy*. Modern, well-funded hospitals that are buckling under the pressure.

RASH looks, nods. We see the dread that fills them with. Almost instinctively, RASH gets antibac gel out of a dispenser...

RASH

(tries to be light - ironic)
Not at all worried.

We feel their sense of dread as ETHAN puts his phone away.

CONNIE

(focused - reassuring)
We've got another meeting with the estate team this afternoon - we'll be as prepared as we can be.

She moves on with JACOB. ETHAN and RASH get back to work.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I suggest we set up the hot zone down here for anyone with a fever or respiratory illness. Separate entrance, separate teams, completely isolated from the rest of the hospital.

JACOB

And make Cubicles 3 the cold-zone.

Then we see CHARLIE with boxes of PPE - he's doing a stock check.

CHARLIE

Connie, I think we're going to need to speak to procurement about daily deliveries of PPE.

CONNIE

Why are we so low?

CHARLIE

We're not *low low* - we're just *pandemic* low.

CONNIE

(annoyed)

So that's us and the rest of the world trying to get our hands on the same stock at the same time?

CONNIE moves through to Reception leaving the despondent CHARLIE sorting through the stock. JACOB follows her.

DYLAN crosses with DAVID who's just leaving an NS ELDERLY MALE PATIENT of Indian heritage.

DAVID

I think the patient in bay 3 is suffering from a UTI. Need you to take a look.

DYLAN

Sure, of course.

WILL comes over.

WILL

(a bit hushed)

Guys - What are you making of this PPE situation - are we exposed here or what?

DYLAN

If everyone learns to wash their hands and sneeze into their elbows like civilised people - we might be okay.

DAVID

I'm not taking any chances, got myself one of these online.

From behind the Admin Desk, DAVID pulls out a respirator mask.

DYLAN

Nice bit of kit - send me the link.

They move on. ROSA passes, pushing a trolley with some boxes on. She sees DAVID with the mask, there's a second where he seems a bit daunted by it all.

ROSA
(gently)
You okay? All of this, the change to your routine...

DAVID
(snaps out of it)
Yeah, totally...
(smile)
And the new role suits you by the way.

She heads off with her trolley and gives an affectionate smile back at him.

Then we jump to MARTY, ROBYN and NOEL.

MARTY
My flight to Ibiza in June. Happening?
Not happening?

NOEL
(passing)
No way, write that off. You won't even be able to get on a bus to Weston Super Mare.
(of their looks)
What? I like the helicopter museum.

ROBYN
(amused by NOEL)
I just hope they don't close the nurseries...

Then ROSA arrives with her trolley.

ROSA
Delivery, do you know where these go?

MARTY looks at the boxes, has to read a small label to work out what they are.

MARTY
(hushed)
Are they... body bags?

They are - it hangs there for a moment.

ROSA
They're worried we're not going to have enough.

They stand there absorbing the seriousness of the coming pandemic. This is going to be on a different scale to anything they've seen before.

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

9 EXT. ED. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY (1) (11:03)

(CONNIE, ZOFIA, LEV, FENISHA, JACOB)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

We pick up the focused looking CONNIE who is coming outside the ED with JACOB.

CONNIE

(points)

St James' have converted one of the testing pods into a hot assessment area for walk-ins - we should consider doing the same.

Then we see FENISHA and LEV by the ambulance. A pregnant patient is out of the ambulance but refusing to walk towards the hospital. This is **ZOFIA NOWAK**(29) a Polish nursery worker who's desperate to be a mum, but she's freaking out - she's 26 weeks pregnant.

ZOFIA

I'm not going in there, I'll get infected.

LEV

I haven't heard of any cases in the hospital yet.

ZOFIA

People have it with no symptoms. That's what they say. You could be giving it to me right now.

FENISHA

Alright - there *is* a risk. But you're experiencing chest pains, and your blood pressure is very high. We need to get you checked out.

And she reluctantly starts to come forward.

ZOFIA

I'm not sitting on a seat, lying on a bed. I'm not touching *anything*.

They head on to the Main Entrance and we see FENISHA looking worried. JACOB and CONNIE watch them walking through, CONNIE looks concerned.

CONNIE

If we don't get the hot-zone set up fast, people like her are going to stay away...

JACOB

And only turn up when it's life or death.

CONNIE

(nods - thinks)

The sooner they lock everyone down the better. No more RTC's, no sports injuries, no drunken brawls.

JACOB

(pushing it - fun)

No 'you and me'.

(beat)

I still want to see you.

That hangs there for a moment, a crackle between them.

CONNIE

If we get hit as bad as Italy - you're not going to have the energy to 'see' me.

She walks off, he's amused. Then she turns back...

CONNIE (CONT'D)

But come round tonight.

JACOB

Last supper?

CONNIE

Something like that.

CONNIE moves inside, JACOB is left with a big grin on his face. He always enjoys their powerplay.

CUT TO:

10 OMITTED

11 INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (2) (11:07)

(NOEL, MARTY, CONNIE, LEV, FENISHA, FAITH, JAN)
(NS MALE PATIENT, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CAPTION - Days Before Lockdown: 3

In Reception, we see NOEL talking with MARTY.

NOEL
(making light)
Other hospitals are getting protective screens. *Supermarkets* are getting screens, but Noely-boy, nah! Back of the queue.

MARTY
(laughs)
I think it's personal.

NOEL
Yeah, I need to start sending out a few more Christmas cards or something...

CONNIE is coming through, She heard their conversation.

CONNIE
(upbeat)
Screens are on order - here by the end of the week.

NOEL
(delighted)
And *that* is why they put you in charge.

Then as CONNIE goes to consult with an NS DOCTOR, we jump to FAITH, FENISHA and LEV who are at the vending machine. LEV is buying a drink.

LEV
(to FAITH)
There's a guy at control who's got a couch I can sleep on.

FENISHA
You're really going to move out?

FAITH
One of us needs to keep working, and we can't risk Luka getting sick.

FENISHA
We're going to be wearing PPE.

LEV
And scooping up the worst of this - infected patients, dying patients...

FAITH

We can't take any chances, I'll speak to
Connie.

They head off. FENISHA is left considering their words. She sees
JAN coming out of Admin. FENISHA takes a breath and heads over.

FENISHA

Hey... I think I need to go home and self-
isolate.

JAN

Not showing symptoms are you?

FENISHA

(awkward)

No, I'm um... I'm kind of in a vulnerable
category...

JAN

Vulnerable? Love what's wrong?

We see FENISHA's hand is instinctively resting on her stomach, she
hesitates, flounders... and decides to lie.

FENISHA

I'm asthmatic... it's mostly mild, but
I've had to come to hospital a few times
in the last year...

JAN

You never said.

FENISHA

(makes light)

You know me, keep my private life
private... but now, what with everything,
it feels like I'm already putting myself
at risk.

JAN knows she's lying, but can't call her out on it. She's hurt
that FENISHA isn't being honest with her.

JAN

(false smile)

Right then. You need to inform Control,
let them know you're going unfit.

JAN moves on, FENISHA is left feeling awful about lying. Then we
follow JAN as she walks past the Staff Room.

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

11a INT. ED. STAFF ROOM - DAY (2) (11:12)
(JADE, ROBYN)

In the Staff Room, we pick up JADE and ROBYN.

JADE
If we're going to be wearing masks all
the time, I'm going to struggle to
communicate with people.

ROBYN
Tell me how to help.

JADE
(light)
You could learn a bit more sign language.

ROBYN's wasn't expecting that answer, but she's up for it.

ROBYN
Okay.

JADE's surprised and delighted by her response. They come out of
the Staff Room.

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

11b INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (2)(11:18)

(ETHAN, CONNIE, NOEL)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Then we pick up ETHAN (removing gloves and surgical mask) who spots CONNIE. He's holding an tablet computer, assessing a chest X-ray, and looking over at an NS MALE PATIENT (40s). He looks like a bit of a geezer, quite smart, works out.

ETHAN

Connie - you got a second. I've been looking at this patient's chest X-ray.

(nods to man)

Presented with breathing difficulties, a temperature - he was at the races last weekend...

CONNIE

With thousands of other people

ETHAN

Exactly, and this shadowing on his lungs is worrying me. I had a look at some of the X-rays coming out of Italy.

He shows her the comparison.

CONNIE

(looks - nods)

We need to isolate him immediately.

ETHAN heads over to the patient. CONNIE sees NOEL.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Contact Domestics - we've got a suspected Covid-positive patient. We need to clean this area now.

NOEL

Whoa...

CONNIE takes a breath - this is it. It's started.

CUT TO:

12 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:12)
(CONNIE, CHARLIE)

The stunned, and near broken CONNIE is remembering back

CONNIE

I was so naïve, that first case...
'Patient Zero'. There was almost a buzz
about it.'

CHARLIE

(of course)

It was the start of a global pandemic,
bigger than anything we've dealt with
before.

CONNIE

That poor man, terrified for himself. His
family. And part of me was already
thinking about the speech I was going to
give.

CUT TO:

13 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (2) (11:45)

(CONNIE)

(DYLAN, ETHAN, RASH, MARTY, ROBYN, NOEL, WILL,
DAVID, JADE, CHARLIE, ROSA, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CONNIE comes out of her office, having just finished a phone call.

CONNIE

Okay - if I could just get your attention
for a moment.

Everyone gathers round to listen to CONNIE. CONNIE is dressed smart, hair immaculate, looking like a leader not a doctor. In front of her we see DYLAN, ETHAN, DAVID, RASH, MARTY, JADE, ROBYN, CHARLIE, will, ROSA and NOEL gathering - they all look fairly fresh faced.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

As you've no doubt heard, we had our first confirmed case of Covid-19 today. The patient was relatively stable and has been admitted for close observation.

(takes a breath)

What we're about to face, is a once in a lifetime event. And I want you to know that we've got systems in place to protect the public, and most importantly to protect the staff. But let's be clear - Some of us will get very sick. In the coming weeks and months a lot will be asked of the teams here... We are the front-line in the battle against Coronavirus and I have faith in every single one of you.

She holds their look, people steel themselves - they're nervous, but they're up for this. CONNIE has a moment of genuine pride as she looks over her team. But we see the fear behind their eyes.

CUT TO:

14 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:20)
(CONNIE, CHARLIE)

CONNIE carries the weight of 12 long weeks of unprecedented pressure as she thinks back to that moment.

CONNIE

People's faces... the trust they placed in me. Did I believe those words? Maybe, I don't know, felt like I was making it up as we went along, still am...

CHARLIE

(more forceful)

The whole country, the whole *world* has been caught sleeping on this...

(gets firm)

I'm not going to let you blame yourself.

CONNIE

It's all such a blur - *that's* why this is so hard.

CHARLIE

You're letting the negativity cloud your judgement...

CONNIE

Because there's so much of it.

CHARLIE

And we *always* found a way to come through.

CUT TO:

15 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - DAY (4)(12:10)

(ANTHONY, RASH, ETHAN)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 10

We flash back to Admin, and see that RASH (in full PPE) is dealing with **ANTHONY O'REILEY** (25) (from Episode 34.17). RASH's in a surgical mask, apron and gloves. ANTHONY is neurodiverse (high functional autism.) He is quite breathless but he loves to chat and is enjoying the exchange with RASH who is looking at his charts. In the background, we see staff members eating donated pizza in the Staffroom.

ANTHONY
(breathless)

I am a hay fever sufferer you see. So I've had a number of false alarms with SARS-CoV-2. But one antihistamine later and I'm back on my bike.

RASH
Ah yes, I remember now. You're a big cycling fan. You had tickets for the summer...

ANTHONY
I suspect that's cancelled - you can't social distance in a peloton. The aerodynamics wouldn't work.

RASH
But you can still go out for an hour's exercise a day.

ANTHONY
I know - and I did 209.4 kilometres last week.

RASH
Mate, that is some fast cycling.

ANTHONY
Speed of course is relative - I'll settle for 'moderately quick'.

RASH
(thinks)
What is that? Average of 26/27 KPH?

ANTHONY
29.9

RASH
Okay - I'm going to officially declare that 'impressively quick'.
(MORE)

RASH (CONT'D)

And hopefully you'll be back on that bike in no time - your blood pressure's a bit on the low side. But your oxygen saturation is normal - it should be safe for you to go home and self isolate.

ANTHONY

And when you say 'self isolate'...

RASH

That means you don't go out of the house, you don't have contact with anyone else. You still live with your dad?

ANTHONY

Yes - he's shielding because of his Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

RASH

Of course - right - You are going to need to keep away from him as well. Give me a minute and I'll come explain how that could work.

ANTHONY

(stoic)

A minute - right - 60 seconds to use the little boys room...

RASH heads to the Admin Station. And behind him we see ANTHONY collapsing on his way to the toilet. He crashes down, we hear the thud, he's on the floor, struggling to breathe. RASH hurries over.

RASH

Anthony, can you hear me Anthony?

RASH gets down on the floor, puts the side of his head by ANTHONY's mouth to look for chest movements. ETHAN (in full PPE) sees him.

ETHAN

You'll have to put a visor on if he needs bagging.

RASH

Just get some oxygen.

ETHAN grabs oxygen and comes over, hands it to RASH as they talk.

ETHAN

What were his sats?

RASH

96 at rest. He was breathing a bit quick, but just collapsed when he walked to the toilets.

He puts the oxygen mask on ANTHONY. We hear him wheezing, struggling to get air in.

ETHAN
(trying to comprehend)
96? Really? Did you do a blood gas?

RASH
(snaps)
Why would I do a blood gas - his sats
were normal.

There's tensions brewing, but ETHAN backs down.

ETHAN
(calming)
Okay, of course. Sorry. We'll get his
saturation stabilised and move him to
Resus.

RASH
(looks up at chart)
Resus 1 is clear.

An NS NURSE comes over with a trolley. We go out on the stunned
RASH looking at ANTHONY as he gasps for breath. How did this
happen?

JUMP CUT TO:

16 OMITTED

17 INT. ED. RESUS / RESUS CORRIDOR - NIGHT (4) (20:35)

(CONNIE, RASH, ROBYN)

(ANTHONY, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CONNIE is in Resus looking at an X-ray - big dark patches across his lungs. RASH is with her - they're in full PPE. ANTHONY is now intubated on the bed. Both CONNIE and RASH are in scrubs with no mask, everyone in Resus is in full PPE though.

CONNIE

(stunned)

The damage to his lungs... I don't know
how he walked himself in here.

We see this troubles CONNIE - for the first time in the pandemic she's on the back foot.

RASH

I've done a quick look into this and it
seems like silent hypoxia is emerging as
a common feature of Covid - I don't think
we can rely on sats anymore.

CONNIE

So we do a blood gas as a fail-safe?

RASH

Yes - every time.

CONNIE

Okay, you've got it.

(looks back to ANTHONY)

Are you okay to speak to his father?

RASH

What do I tell him?

CONNIE

Be honest

We see RASH is going to find this hard - he looks to ANTHONY - his prognosis isn't great.

CONNIE moves into the Resus Corridor. ROBYN (in scrubs, no mask) arrives behind her in PPE.

ROBYN

Connie - we've already sent similar
patients home. High sats, no blood gas.
Shall I call them back in?

CONNIE

I'm sorry, we don't have the time to
treat and process all those patients if
they're not critical. We have to keep
moving forward.

ROBYN

But what if they're like him?

CONNIE

We just have to hope that we made good assessments at the time - and if we didn't... they'll come back through the doors.

ROBYN

In an ambulance.

CONNIE

(heavy heart)

Maybe - yes.

ROBYN finds this tough. But has to accept it. As CONNIE turns to go, we see a flicker from her... she's finding this harder than she's letting on.

CUT TO:

17a INT. ED. ICU - NIGHT (11)(12:37)
(RASH, ANTHONY, NS ICU DOCTORS)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 23

We see ANTHONY on a bed in an ICU suite. He's flatlined. The ICU doctors (in full PPE) start to disconnect his life support.

Then we pick up RASH (scrubs, no mask) who was looking on from outside the suite. He's streaming tears. Can't believe he's gone.

CUT TO:

18 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:24)
(CHARLIE, CONNIE)

CONNIE is struggling with this memory, CHARLIE too. It still hurts.

CHARLIE
What you're feeling right now is a
perfectly natural response to an
incredibly difficult situation.

CONNIE
(with admiration)
I don't see you freaking out.

CHARLIE
(back at her)
I've been there, of course I've been
there...

And we see there is a hurt behind his eyes as he remembers.

CUT TO:

19 INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (3) (13:45)

(NOEL, DORIS, KARLA, CHARLIE, DYLAN)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 5

In a cubicle in the cold zone, at the start of the pandemic. NOEL is in his uniform with no mask as we meet **DORIS PARRY** (82) she's on a trolley with her care home worker, **KARLA CAPELLE** (45), neither are wearing a mask. DORIS is quite frail, she has COPD and is on long term home oxygen. She is wheezing and short of breath but good humoured.

NOEL

Doris, no! Back again?

DORIS

Hello darling...

NOEL

You making up excuses to come see me?

DORIS

(short of breath)

Fell out of my chair.

NOEL

Twerking were you?

KARLA

(with affection)

Not this time.

DORIS

(laughs)

What are you like?

She laughs and that turns into a wheeze, and we see how weak she is. She then spots DYLAN (putting on surgical mask) on his way round, looking at an X-ray.

NOEL

I'll leave you to it.

DORIS

Get them to open the usual entrance again. I hate coming the long way round.

CHARLIE (scrubs, no mask) hears that as he passes through to deal with a patient in another cubicle.

CHARLIE

If he had the power to do that, he'd be a very rich man indeed.

DORIS

(can't really see)

Who's that?

KARLA

It's Charlie, you remember Charlie - 'if you were twenty years younger'. That's what you said.

DORIS

(laughs)

Oh yeah, Charlie.

Again DORIS wheezes as she takes in breath.

CHARLIE

Hello Doris.

CHARLIE goes to his patient as NOEL walks away. DYLAN comes over to her, he looks hassled and serious.

DYLAN

Right - from the X-ray it looks like the hip isn't broken. But as you're immobile, I would like to do a CT scan. Let's see if we can get you doing backflips again.

DORIS

Look at that he made a joke.

KARLA

(with affection)

Can you do anything about her raging sarcasm?

DYLAN

I could do you a deal on a box of sedatives.

DYLAN fights an amused smile. Despite her bravado, DORIS is quite frail, and as she laughs, and it turns into a cough, and a bit of a wheeze.

CUT TO:

20 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:28)

(CHARLIE)

(CONNIE)

We're now on CHARLIE's as he remembers DORIS. CONNIE looks on, the depth of his emotion is news to her.

CHARLIE

She didn't have a temperature and I didn't have the directives to swab everyone for Covid. Even if I had, I still would have sent her back to the care home.

(with bite)

'A stiff-broom to free up space in the hospital'

(beat)

There she was, frail, yes... but happy... and I sent her home without a test.

CUT TO:

21 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (5) (14:00)

(DYLAN, CHARLIE, JADE, ROBYN)
(DORIS, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 12

We see DORIS in Resus, on a bed, oxygen mask over her face. DYLAN is leading it. CHARLIE, JADE and ROBYN are helping out - all in full PPE. We see her heart rate on the ECG.

DYLAN

She's acidotic on her gas and her CO2 is high at 10. She's too unwell for NIV and she wouldn't be considered for intubation

CHARLIE

She's getting tired.

DYLAN

I'm afraid there are no more options. She needs more oxygen but that would make her COPD and CO2 worse. She's going to arrest.

CHARLIE

And we just let her go?

DYLAN nods - but JADE hasn't heard their conversation. She is already flattening her bed.

DYLAN

Jade - stop.

He moves to catch her eyeline, waves his arms.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Stop.

JADE is stunned.

JADE

What, why?

DYLAN

If she's arrests now despite our treatment, she's not going to survive ventilation.

JADE

(getting upset)

What's he saying, why are we stopping?

CHARLIE

(loud - clear)

This situation isn't reversible.

Then we see ROBYN doing a simple sign to help JADE out.

ROBYN
We stop.

JADE
(horrified)
No, no we can't.

CHARLIE
I know this goes against every instinct,
but we've all seen the guidelines and
predicted outcomes.

JADE
(still confused)
This isn't right.

CHARLIE
We're all adjusting to the new
directives.

But it's all moving too fast for JADE. She can't understand
because she can't hear or lipread.

JADE
What, what?

DYLAN
(more blunt)
We're in the middle of a pandemic here.
We have to make realistic and difficult
decisions. Some people just don't have
the reserve to wake up from ventilation.

ROBYN then speaks and does a simple sign for JADE.

ROBYN
I'm sorry.

JADE is flushed, but has to fight her tears.

DYLAN
I'm going to call it.
(heavy heart)
Time of death 14:02.

They stop what they're doing. JADE is struggling not to break. A
long beat as they absorb the impact of her death... Then JADE
turns and leaves Resus. DYLAN turns to CHARLIE, he's a little bit
awkward.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I hate these masks as much as anyone -
but if her hearing is going to affect her
ability to do the job - we might need to
reconsider her role.

CHARLIE takes a breath - he could be right.

CUT TO:

22 OMITTED

23 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:30)

(CHARLIE)

(CONNIE)

We come in on the stunned looking CHARLIE - a long silence, we see how hard this was.

CHARLIE

Doris was at that care home for days
before she was diagnosed. We sent her
back there, a ticking timebomb, silently
spreading the disease...

He's choked up, emotional. CONNIE feels his pain.

CUT TO:

24 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY(6)(14:06)

(CONNIE)

(DYLAN, DAVID, WILL, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 14

The following scenes are part of a a montage of Resus situations, our team are in full PPE throughout.

CONNIE, WILL, JACOB, ROBYN, MARTY, DAVID and CHARLIE at different times, all with different patients from the Holby North Care Home - most of them men. DYLAN and DAVID are in matching respirators.

Through it all we pick out CHARLIE, each death hits him hard.

CONNIE

I'm calling the time of death.

CUT TO:

24a INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (7) (14:09)

(WILL)

(CHARLIE, ROBYN, MARTY, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Then the caption rolls on a few days - **Days Since Lockdown: 15**

We jump to another patient in Resus.

WILL

CPR commenced en-route - but I now think
it's best if we stop.

CUT TO:

24aaINT. ED. RESUS - NIGHT (7)(15:34)

(JACOB, ROBYN, DAVID, ETHAN, NS STAFF, NS PATIENT)

The team all look on crest fallen as they lose another patient from Holby Care Home...

CUT TO:

24abINT. ED. RESUS - DAY (8) (12:02)

(WILL, JADE, JACOB, MARTY)

The team are trying to save an elderly patient but they flatline.
They can't do CPR, it's no use. The team are broken...

JADE watches from outside Resus, wanting to help.

CUT TO:

24b INT. ED. RESUS / RESUS CORRIDOR - NIGHT (8)(14:20)

(DYLAN)

(ROBYN, MARTY, CHARLIE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Then the caption rolls on a few days - **Days Since Lockdown: 17**

And another Resus situation, ROBYN, MARTY and CHARLIE working together with DYLAN. They lose their patient.

DYLAN

14:20 - I'll call the family

We see them all struggling with the reality of this. MARTY fights his emotions. Anger flashes out as he thumps his fist on a door.

CHARLIE looks on. A struggling ROBYN has to get out of there.

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

24c INT. ED. RECEPTION - NIGHT (8) (14:22)

(JADE, JACOB)

(ROBYN, CHARLIE, NOEL, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

ROBYN (in full PPE) comes into the busy Reception, walks towards Admin. She's fighting tears. NOEL is behind the Reception Desk (which now has a screen on it) he see's ROBYN and looks worried for her.

Then we pick up a troubled JADE (in scrubs, no mask) who's seen ROBYN too. We see she's holding a bunch of files, now doing admin work. She turns to JACOB (also in scrubs, no mask).

JADE

I should be in there helping them,
helping patients...

JACOB

I know your job has changed a bit...

JADE

(in)

I going to find a way to do more. I *have*
to.

The determined JADE moves on. CHARLIE comes into Reception, removing his visor and mask, fresh off the back of another lost patient. We see the toll this is taking on the team.

CUT TO:

25 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - NIGHT (10)(21:25)

(CONNIE)

(MARTY, CHARLIE, DAVID, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Then the caption rolls on a few days - **Days Since Lockdown: 19**

Another patient, this time in the middle of a busy Cubicles - there's a monitor attached. A non-shockable rhythm. WILL (full PPE) is doing CPR... CONNIE (full PPE) stops him. Another death. It's getting harder.

CONNIE

I'm sorry everyone.

And we pick out WILL, he is at the heart of this situation. He's at breaking point. He walks away. CONNIE sees him go, follows after him. He's stressed, angry.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Will, wait, talk to me.

WILL walks off towards the donning/doffing area.

CUT TO:

25a INT. ED. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY (10) (21:35)

(WILL, CONNIE)

(NS STAFF)

WILL is pacing upstairs, frustrated. CONNIE approaches carefully.

WILL

We're the same as them right, the care home residents - sitting ducks, just waiting to get infected. We pulled the labels off the PPE and it's two years out of date.

CONNIE

The guidance from Public Health says it's still effective.

WILL

Yeah - their guidance left us unprotected for weeks. Marty's done 10 days straight without any let off. We're all going full-throttle, every shift, no chance of a rest. And David and Dylan are walking round in respirator masks they bought themselves...

CONNIE

(bites back)

If people have complaints.

WILL

(snaps back)

We've all got complaints.

The riled CONNIE has had enough of towing the party line. She snaps back at him.

CONNIE

Don't make me the bad guy here. I'm under the same pressure as you. I'm not taking any time off either.

WILL

(backtracking slightly)

I'm not blaming you...

CONNIE

(raging)

I became a doctor because I saw my father die in a hospital corridor. I swore I'd never let that happen. But now I'm losing patients in the middle of a packed ED because we don't have enough High Dependency Cubicles...

WILL

(with heart)

I know, it's awful.

CONNIE

(goes for it)

And you want to know why we're struggling? Why is this so tough? Because the NHS was on it's knees already. Years of austerity, massive budgets cuts, even though the demand was going up... *then* we got hit with a pandemic.

(venting her anger)

Stick 'protect the NHS' on your posters, but where were you for the last five years!

Both are flustered, emotional, both catching their breath...

CONNIE (CONT'D)

(trying to calm)

If you need to take some time off.

WILL

And leave the team short staffed? Like any of us are going to do that.

WILL heads off - we see CONNIE is finding it hard to stay in control.

And then we pick up CHARLIE as he walks into the Staff Room a broken man after another lost patient. He sits down at the table, face mask off and we see he's on the verge of tears.

CUT TO:

26 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (16:33)
(CHARLIE, CONNIE)

CONNIE is now more thoughtful, controlling her emotions and listening to CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

We could have put every one of those elderly patients on a ventilator... but all we'd be doing is delaying the inevitable. We've had three months of tough calls. And we didn't shy away from a single one of them.

(beat)

Don't be the first.

CONNIE

You think that's what I'm doing?

CHARLIE

You tell me - there's an experienced ICU team just waiting for you to speak to the family. You know the decisions been made right?

CONNIE

But the situation is changing so fast, I can't stop thinking about new treatments in trials...

CHARLIE

(pointed)

And a cure for cancer.

CONNIE wells up, It's so hard.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

When Duffy reached the end, I had a medical team around me telling me it was over - I didn't hear it. 'What do we do now, what's the plan...' I kept saying. You remember it?

CONNIE nods.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You told me you were sorry. Dylan - he gave it to me straight, he understood the need for that - a 'catastrophic' bleed I think he said. I'm experienced enough to read between *those* lines...She was gone. It was over... Any delay now, is about you, not the patient.

She knows he's right. There's only one course of action. She can't fight this any longer.

CONNIE

Okay.

He gives a gentle nod - that's the right decision.

CHARLIE

I'll give you space.

He gets up and heads out. She has a moment where the emotion nearly gets to her, but she sucks it back, pulls the phone towards her and prepares to make the call.

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

27 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM / CORRIDOR - DAY (18) (16:37)

(CHARLIE, DAVID)

(CONNIE)

As CHARLIE comes out of the meeting room he sees DAVID. DAVID (in scrubs, no mask) looks through the glass and sees CONNIE starting to make the phone call, we can see she's struggling to hold it together.

CHARLIE

Difficult phone call.

DAVID

(understands)

You mean he's...?

CHARLIE nods - this hits DAVID hard... He wells up as he watches CONNIE making the call.

CUT TO:

28 INT. ED. CLINICAL LEAD OFFICE (CONNIE & JACOB) - DAY
(13)(15:05)
(ETHAN, DAVID)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown: 48

Intercut with the following scene of a patient in an HDC suite. DAVID is looking on as we see ETHAN (scrubs, no mask) on the phone.

ETHAN

I know his mind is sharp, very sharp.
I've spoken to your father at length...
he understands why he can't be escalated
for further treatment. And he's requested
that we do not Resuscitate.

(fights emotion)

Yes, Yes. Our main aim now is to keep him
comfortable and make sure he's not
distressed or in any pain.

(listens)

We don't know enough about this illness
yet to give you any certainties - but
from similar cases - It doesn't look like
it'll be long.

Then she asks a question, that he was dreading, he shakes his
head, winces...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

No - we *can't* have any relatives in the
emergency department. No exceptions, I'm
really sorry.

(calming)

I do understand. It's horrible, of course
it is... but he won't be on his own...
yes, yes. One of our nurses has just
finished her shift... she asked if she
could sit with him. Yeah, incredible, her
name's Jade. I will, I will... Thank you.
I wish we could have done more.

He hangs up the phone. Silence. That was tough. DAVID steps in
respectfully.

DAVID

You okay?

ETHAN

Few more calls to make.

DAVID nods, he knows that's tough. Then we pull back and reveal
that ETHAN has a pile of files still to work through.

CUT TO:

29 INT. ED. HDC - DAY (13)(15:15)

(CONNIE, JACOB)

(JADE, NS ELDERLY MALE PATIENT, DYLAN, NS STAFF)

Intercut with the previous scene - we see THE ELDERLY MAN from scene 8. He's in the High Dependency Cubicle, he's got an oxygen mask on. He doesn't look good.

We then see JADE coming into the cubicle. She's in full PPE, including gloves. She takes a seat next to him and holds his hand. He squeezes her fingers, he knows she's there.

Then we time lapse through as JADE lets go of his hand, the patient dies, is transported out. Then a cleaning team come in and sanitise the whole area.

Before finally... another patient is wheeled in on oxygen. It's not until they are in position, and connected to heart rate and oxygen monitors that we realise this is DYLAN.

The emotional CONNIE in full PPE watches on from the doorway. JACOB comes past, sees her.

JACOB

You clocking off?

CONNIE

I don't want to leave him.

CONNIE looks on, she's barely holding it together.

CUT TO:

30 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM / CORRIDOR - DAY (18) (16:45)

(DAVID)

(CONNIE, CHARLIE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CHARLIE and DAVID are leaning over the rail above the stairs, looking through to the Meeting Room where CONNIE is still on the phone, it's a difficult call. DAVID is sombre, thoughtful, he knows who she's calling and why...

DAVID

With the older patients, it was like we
had a script of what to say, how to feel.
But healthy people in their prime...

(fights emotion)

Key workers doing their best to keep the
public safe, innocent kids... that's
tough.

And we know he's speaking from experience.

CUT TO:

31 OMITTED

32 EXT/INT. ED. MAIN ENTRANCE / RECEPTION - DAY
(11)(15:38)
(JACOB, LEV, ZOFIA, DAVID)
(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS PARAMEDIC)

Caption - Days Since Lockdown - 42

JACOB and MARTY (in full PPE) head to the ambulance. We see two other's queued up behind them. It's busier than it's ever been. We see JACOB adjusting his face-mask as he walks. We see ZOFIA from the start of the episode, being wheeled out of the ambulance on a trolley by LEV and an NS PARAMEDIC in full PPE. ZOFIA, wearing a mask, groans as she's hit by a contraction. Then we see her wheezing and gasping for air.

JACOB
How far along is she?

LEV
Contractions under 2 minutes. Breathing worries me. Can't get her sats above 94% on 15 litres.

ZOFIA tries to sit up.

LEV (CONT'D)
No - you need to lie down and keep the oxygen mask on.

ZOFIA
(almost delirious)
My baby, don't infect my baby.

She lets out another deep moan.

JACOB
(to MARTY)
We need a doctor out here - she's in a bad state, about to go through a prolonged period of exertion.

DAVID
You thinking she might need intubating?

LEV
Don't think we've got the time.

JACOB
I'm not sure her body will cope with labour when her sats are this low.

ZOFIA
(distressed)
I'm only 7 months, why's this happening?

JACOB
Let's get her into Resus.

JUMP CUT TO:

33 INT. ED. RESUS - DAY (11)(15:43)

(ZOFIA, JACOB, ETHAN, DAVID)

(NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS, NS OBSTETRICS CRASH TEAM)

And we then transition into the view of ZOFIA on all fours in Resus. She's on high flow oxygen and in the process of giving birth. ETHAN (in full PPE) leading it, JACOB and DAVID helping (both in full PPE). ZOFIA moans.

ZOFIA

Will it have the virus? Please just tell me.

JACOB

There's still a lot we don't know.

She lets out an animal like moan.

ZOFIA

I can't breathe, I can't. Let me lie on my back.

JACOB

We need you on all fours.

ETHAN

It'll help with the delivery and it's better for your oxygen levels.

DAVID

Come on, you're so close.

Then another moan as she pushes.

ZOFIA

(feels down)

Is it there? Is that my baby?

ETHAN feels.

ETHAN

Okay, yes that's the baby's head.

DAVID

You're doing so great.

ETHAN

Yes - we don't have long.

(to DAVID)

Chase the neonatal crash team.

He goes to the phone, calls for an update. ZOFIA gets frustrated with the oxygen mask, pushes it away. JACOB stops her.

JACOB

No, you have to keep that on do you understand. You need the oxygen.

DAVID
(phone)
What's the ETA on the crash team, okay...
(to ETHAN)
1 minute.

Then ZOFIA gives another low moan. And the baby comes out.

ETHAN
Whoa, there we go, got it... him. Got
him.

JACOB
A little boy, a baby boy.

ZOFIA
(very breathless)
Is he okay? I can't hear him.

ETHAN
(worried)
Come on. Come on little one.

And to our relief we hear the baby cry. Then they start to wrap him in towels to keep him warm.

ZOFIA
Oh baby, my baby... I need him, let me
hold him.

JACOB
Is that okay?

ETHAN
(conflicted)
She *has* tested positive.

DAVID
We don't know enough about how this virus
transmits to kids.

ZOFIA
No! My baby, please give me my baby. Just
for a second

She's starting to panic, gasps for breath, breathing gets shallow.

JACOB
Her sats are dropping - we need to keep
her calm.

DAVID
But having contact with the mum is best
for the baby.

ZOFIA
(wheezing)
Please, Please...

All eyes on ETHAN as he considers this, but a look at her dropping sats and shallow breathing makes up his mind.

ETHAN

Okay, okay, here we go. Sit back, deep breaths, okay, hold him close.

She sits back, clutching him to her chest. We're on her sobbing face, as she calms down and starts to take slower deeper breaths.

Then the obstetrics crash team come in to take over - they move to the Resuscitaire and prepare the neonatal unit with the mask on it for the baby to breath and place an oxygen sats probe on the baby's hand... JACOB, ETHAN and DAVID step back. They look at ZOFIA, clutching her baby.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

As soon as she's delivered the placenta we should get her into a High Dependency Cubicle.

JACOB takes a breath. ETHAN sees his mask has slipped round.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Your mask has slipped.

JACOB

Least of my worries right?

They all look on at the sight of a new mother, clutching her baby. She's in an oxygen mask, they're all around in full PPE. We take a moment, this is one of the most intense births they have ever experienced.

CUT TO:

34 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM / CORRIDOR - DAY (18)(16:50)

(ETHAN)

(CONNIE, CHARLIE)

CHARLIE and ETHAN are still overlooking the stairs, with one eye on the Meeting Room and CONNIE's phone call. There's a seriousness too them, they know CONNIE is discussing a colleague. CHARLIE is holding a cup of tea for CONNIE.

ETHAN

(thinks back)

Pretty sure that's when Jacob got infected - if you're dealing with an emergency situation and your equipment starts to fail - you don't stop. We *all* put ourselves at risk.

(beat - heavy heart)

And that kid, poor thing, what are the chances? Born 8 weeks premature into a pandemic...

CUT TO:

35 OMITTED

36 OMITTED

37 INT. ED. NICU - NIGHT (15) (15:55)
(ZOFIA, NS ICU DOCTORS)

Caption - Days Since Lock Down: 52

We see an incubator, the new-born baby is on oxygen (intubated). Around it are neonatal staff in gloves, aprons and surgical masks. Attached to the end of the baby's incubator is a blue knitted heart.

Outside in the corridor, looking on through the glass, we see the broken ZOFIA (in surgical mask). She's now looking healthier, in different clothes, Covid free - and she's clutching an identical knitted heart to the one we saw on the end of her son's incubator. We see it's giving her some comfort.

CUT TO:

38 OMITTED

38a INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18)(16:53)
(CHARLIE, CONNIE)

We see CONNIE putting the phone down, taking a breath, CHARLIE comes in with a cup of tea.

CHARLIE
What did they say?

CONNIE
They trust the experts.
(beat - choked)
He didn't even tell anyone he was sick.

That winds CHARLIE. Takes a moment to process it.

CHARLIE
Protecting them I guess...

CONNIE
Avoiding a painful goodbye.

CHARLIE and CONNIE consider the tragedy of that.

CUT TO:

39 INT. ED. HDC - NIGHT (17)(16:00)

(MARTY, KARLA, ROSA, ETHAN, JACOB)

(NS KARLA'S DAUGHTER, JACOB, NOEL, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

Caption - Days Since Lock Down: 58

Then we see KARLA the care home nurse. She's in the hospital bed, looking weak, struggling with her breathing and tight chest. She has an oxygen mask on. MARTY is with her, she's holding a tablet computer. He's in full PPE.

MARTY

I'll give you some privacy.

She nods, tears in her eyes... as she makes a call. We see a man in his 40's answer, this is **DEREK CAPELLE**, her husband. MARTY hangs back for just a moment.

KARLA

They're going to put me on a ventilator.
I'm not improving... this could be it.

MARTY leaves the cubicle as they both sob. He's finding this really hard. ROSA (in full PPE) comes over to MARTY.

ROSA

Calling her family

All he can do is nod - we see how hard he's finding this.

ROSA (CONT'D)

Did you want to give her one of these?

She has a pair of identical knitted hearts, like we saw in the scene with ZOFIA.

ROSA (CONT'D)

Volunteers have been making them. Me and the other Health Care Assistants have been handing them out. She takes one, we send the other to her kids... helps them feel connected.

He looks at them, looks to ROSA.

MARTY

These are lovely.

MARTY takes the hearts and very gently pulls back the curtain of her cubicle and looks in. We see KARLA, now feigning a big smile and we realise she's talking to her daughter.

KARLA

No sweetheart, Mummy's going to be okay and I'll be home soon. I just need a machine to help me breathe for a little bit, that's all. Don't you worry.

(MORE)

KARLA (CONT'D)

And look after Daddy for me. I love you.
I love you both so much.

We see DEREK is fighting tears as he hugs his daughter. KARLA finishes her call, and lies back, tears streaming. MARTY is choked.

MARTY

We can give you longer.

She shakes her head, fights tears, it's too painful.

MARTY (CONT'D)

I don't know if you've seen these...

He holds up the hearts, she nods. Wells up.

KARLA

I've been making them, for the care home residents. I never thought, *I'd* need one...

She desperately tries to hold back tears, and than needs to put her oxygen mask back on to help her breathe. And in the redness behind MARTY's eyes, we see how much of a challenge this is.

KARLA (CONT'D)

When they sedate me, is that it? I mean... they've explained it, but from that moment - I wake up... or I don't?

His silence says it all.

KARLA (CONT'D)

(rising panic)

And who takes me down there, the porters right, to Resus? And then it's an injection, like an anaesthetic, who's in the room? Who *actually* does it...?

MARTY wants to ease her despair.

MARTY

(gently)

Would you like me to come with you? I can be there the whole time.

She nods, tears flow. MARTY struggles.

Then we pick up ETHAN, he's at the Admin Desk - he looks up, sees someone, is surprised.

ETHAN

Back already?

And we reveal a healthy looking JACOB.

JACOB

One of the lucky ones.

He moves on through with purpose. He sees KARLA. He then looks around and sees more patients in their beds, a high majority of them are from an ethnic minority.

Then the curtain around the final cubicle is pulled back, and we see NOEL. He's in a bad way. JACOB moves through to CONNIE's office.

CUT TO:

40 INT. ED. CLINICAL LEAD OFFICE (CONNIE & JACOB) -
NIGHT (17)(16:05)
(JACOB, CONNIE)

JACOB (scrubs, no mask) comes into CONNIE's office with purpose.

JACOB

When is someone going to start talking about the fact that this virus is affecting a ton more patients from ethnic minorities than anyone else?

CONNIE

An official report is on the way.

JACOB

(back at her)

We don't need to wait for that. It's staring us in the face out there. Someone needs to tell them, tell *us*. Admit we're higher risk.

CONNIE

How's that going to help, unless we know why?

JACOB

If people like Noel and that care home worker, had known about the risks, they might have shouted louder when they were left in a vulnerable job without proper protective equipment.

CONNIE

(raw nerve)

When *I* left him in a job without the proper protective equipment?

JACOB

I'm not saying *you*. Bigger picture here, the NHS, society in general.

(losing it)

The most vulnerable roles are disproportionately filled by people from an ethnic minority... no one's looking out for them, no one's protecting them.

CONNIE

That's not true - this matters to *me*, you know it does.

(at a loss)

But I don't know what you expect me to do about it *now*.

JACOB

Shout with me, shout loud.

CONNIE
(pointing to cubicles)
That's not going to help *those* patients.

JACOB
And what about a second wave? What about
another virus? What about a fundamental
right to be treated equally?

And then her pager goes - CONNIE (scrubs, no mask) looks - her
face falls, frustrations coming out.

CONNIE
We haven't got the time to stop and do a
risk assessment.

JACOB
That's the point - *make* time.

It's overwhelming for CONNIE, she takes a breath, backs down.

CONNIE
You're right, of course you are, my
head's exploding, I'm feeling
defensive...
(fights emotion)
And I'm just glad you're back, healthy,
safe.

There's a moment when we can see how worried she was about JACOB.
Then she sucks the emotion down.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
(determined)
End of the shift, we'll talk, make a
plan...

JACOB
Thank you.

CONNIE takes a breath... and heads out of the office.

CUT TO CONTINUOUS:

41 INT. ED. ADMIN/CUBICLES - NIGHT (17)(16:10)

(NOEL, CONNIE)

(JACOB, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

CONNIE comes out of the office, stops at the Admin Station, checks NOEL's charts, then heads towards him. CONNIE (full PPE) crosses with JACOB as he gets back to his patient. He's cooling down from their run in, and there's a look of support and respect between them. NOEL sees the chemistry. He tries to be upbeat, but is struggling with his breathing.

NOEL

(breathless)

I think you two are great together. You should go for it.

CONNIE

(smile)

Your advice has been noted.

NOEL's amused by her response. Then we see him wheezing for air. He's really sick. CONNIE's struck by the state of him, she has to fight to muster her professionalism.

NOEL

Level with me. Is there a ventilator up there with my name on it?

CONNIE

(straight)

If it gets that serious then, yes.

NOEL nods, gets it... there's a moment where it looks like he could break. But humour is his defence.

NOEL

No point being here if you're not going to experience the full works, right? I've read the reviews online that ICU gets four and a half stars.

CONNIE

4.75.

NOEL

Then check me in baby!

CONNIE nods, his smile breaks her heart. Then he has a moment of emotion, fights his tears.

NOEL (CONT'D)

But don't do me any favours yeah, if I'm fighting a losing battle, if I'm blocking a bed that someone else needs...

She stops him, calms him.

CONNIE

There's no reason to think like that -
you've got as good a chance as anyone
else.

He nods, gets it. And then the reality hits him for a moment.

NOEL

Might never see my grandkid.

CONNIE is caught off guard by that, it makes her more emotional
than she expected. We see a chink in NOEL's bravado. He's scared.

CONNIE

Hey, when the world returns to normal,
when you're out of here. Let's do a
drink, a dinner... we've never really
done that.

(swallows emotion)

And we should.

And we see NOEL is made up by that, it's what he's always wanted.

NOEL

Sure...

(beat - cheeky)

You're paying right.

He chuckles and she laughs through her emotion as she walks off.

CUT TO:

42 INT. ED. MEETING ROOM - DAY (18) (17:00)
(CHARLIE, CONNIE)

A calmer, thoughtful CONNIE, is getting up. Putting her chair away, preparing to go back into ICU. But she's still hesitating... and CHARLIE can sense this.

CHARLIE
Tell me...

And that clinches it for CONNIE - she takes a breath, steels herself.

CONNIE
I know what I have to do - but why wasn't I ready? We've had 12 weeks of tragedy...

CHARLIE
Because this cruel disease treats everyone differently - the strongest patients can be struck down, and against all of the odds some of the most vulnerable patients pull through. There's always a tiny bit of hope - just when you think there's no way back...
(beat)
A miracle happens.

CUT TO:

43 OMITTED

44 OMITTED

45 INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (18)(16:30)

(ROBYN, JACOB, DAVID, MARTY, JADE, LEV, JAN, ETHAN, WILL, DYLAN, RASH, ROSA, CONNIE, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS,)

Then we see the staff gathering in Reception (surgical masks and scrubs for everyone) at the bottom of the stairs all in PPE.

ROBYN, JACOB, DAVID, MARTY, JADE, LEV, JAN, ETHAN, WILL, ROSA, RASH... and then finally we reveal a healthy DYLAN joining them.

They all look up to the stairs and see ZOFIA coming down. She's holding her baby in a car seat, she's ready to take him home. She has tears flooding down her face. Attached to the car seat are the matching knitted hearts finally reunited.

Everyone starts to applaud and cheer the little boy's recovery.

Then we cut to the top of the stairs and see CONNIE (scrubs, no mask) looking on. She's ready to go back into ICU.

She walks away from the stairs, the clapping fades away behind her, and we see she's fighting tears.

JUMP CUT TO:

46 INT. ED. ICU / ICU CORRIDOR - DAY (18)(18:10)

(CONNIE)

(NOEL, CONNIE, ICU DOCTOR)

In full PPE, CONNIE walks towards ICU - she goes in and we see there is a patient on a ventilator. An NS ICU DOCTOR is working away. We see the patient's sats are low, heart rate slowing, and then, for the first time, we reveal the patient is NOEL.

CONNIE

I've spoken to the family. They understand.

We see the ICU doctor nod. CONNIE takes a seat next to NOEL. She grips his hand, tries to fight desperate tears. She's distraught it's come to this.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

She bows her head, sobs tears of regret as NOEL's life support is switched off.

From behind her PPE, we can see CONNIE has tears streaming down her face.

CUT TO:

47 INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (18)(18:45)

(CHARLIE, CONNIE, ROBYN, ETHAN, JACOB, DYLAN, ROSA)
(DYLAN, CHARLIE, WILL, DAVID, MARTY, RASH, JADE, NS
PATIENTS, NS STAFF)

We pick up our regs in Reception, the team are receiving donated food - coffees and donuts.

We see the shattered CONNIE coming in, she looks a bit lost, looks to the team... she goes to speak but stops. Takes a breath. They look happy, upbeat. CHARLIE sees her, comes over.

CHARLIE

Are you... [going to tell them]

CONNIE

They're on such a high...

She watches on, there's a good energy in the room, laughter, teamwork, friendship - this is going to crush them. CONNIE fights a tear. And then finally, she goes for it.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Can I just get everyone's attention
please?

People stop and look round. CONNIE looks broken, emotional, and in her scrubs (in contrast to the start of the episode) she looks like a doctor, not a manager.

When they see her they realise what's happened. Their joy fades, a seriousness hits them, a hush descends.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Um, er, right... yes.

She looks to CHARLIE who gives her a nod. We see there are tears in his eyes.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

(calm - straight)

This afternoon, in consultation with the
ICU doctor, and after a lengthy phone
call with his family. Noel was taken off
life support. He passed away at 18:23.

There are a few chokes of emotion, as people fight to be strong.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

He was a much-loved member of staff,
first in and last out every shift. And I
know he was a dear friend to you all. I
personally can't imagine this place
without him.

We go round the room as the news sinks in. People torn up inside, and trying not to show it, they knew it was on the cards but the reality is hard to stomach.

Then the red phone at the admin station starts ringing.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

With the exec, I've discussed the option of a divert to St James'. It may help at the moment.

ROBYN

(emotional - but strong)

We're here now, we've just... started a night shift.

CONNIE

The team at St James' are happy to help.

ETHAN

They've lost people too.

Then JACOB answers the phone.

JACOB

Go ahead. Okay, okay

DYLAN

Last time I checked there was still a global health crisis.

ROBYN

And Noel would finish his shift.

ROSA

Always.

JACOB hangs up the phone. They all look to him.

JACOB

We've got a multi-vehicle RTC. Three patients en route. 2 critical.

(beat)

We're all in shock, let's be kind, look after each other tonight, and show Noel what a team we are.

And the department springs back into action, everyone jumps to it. Wiping back tears where they need to. Some closer to breaking than others. But all of them working. We follow them through Admin around Reception, back helping patients and doing their jobs.

CUT TO:

48 OMITTED

49 EXT. ED. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY (18)(19:00)

(JACOB, CONNIE CHARLIE, ROBYN, ETHAN, DYLAN, JAN, LEV, KARLA, DEREK, KARLA'S DAUGHTER, NS PARAMEDICS, NS DOCTORS, NS PATIENTS)

Then we see the exterior of the hospital. Two ambulances are pulling up. And our team, in full PPE and lead by the confident and assured CONNIE, come out to meet them. JACOB, CHARLIE, ROBYN, ETHAN, DYLAN are with her... JAN and LEV are the paramedics they're meeting.

They are a team of focused professionals carrying on with their day job.

In the background, we see KARLA leaving the hospital. She's recovered, but is still looking weak. She is met by her husband DEREK and her smiling daughter, who races forward and gives her mum a hug. It's a happy moment, but she's got a long recovery ahead of her.

We rise up and our final shot is of a busy hospital that survived the first wave of the pandemic, and is continuing the fight against Coronavirus.

CAPTION - 'Dedicated to the extraordinary staff of the NHS. Thank You'

FADE TO BLACK: