“Zoobiquity”

Pilot

by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN BOSTON - DAY

A BLAST of SIRENS and SHOUTING COPS as the camera RACES PAST gawking ONLOOKERS and follows a trail of BLOOD and BROKEN GLASS. We are chasing something... danger, death. As we try to figure out what the hell has caused the mayhem, we hear HOWLING that echoes through the streets. There is terror in the sound as--

We follow the bloody trail past a mauled dog whimpering, over two cars that have plowed into each other, the sounds of SCREAMING and PANIC grow louder as we head into -

EXT. FANUEIL HALL MARKETPLACE - CONTINUOUS

Kiosks overturned, the food court in shambles... TOURISTS, MOMS and KIDS run in all directions. POLICE stream in, guns drawn, head to -

A hip, artisanal butcher stand. The BUTCHER quakes on his display case, terrified, his arm bloody as he tosses meat down to the source of the chaos: SIX GRAY WOLVES. Giant, savage, noble, but SNARLING, FEROCIOUS, as they tear into the meat. One leaps up and grabs the butcher's pant leg, pulling at him. For survival, he tosses more meat as the cops, tasers and guns at the ready, move in -

A POLICE SERGEANT comes up to one of the COPs who is armed with a rifle and ready -

SERGEANT

Where the hell did they come from?

COP

Wolf preserve in Ipswich. First escape, they said.

SERGEANT

And last. End it.

COP

But if we miss -

SERGEANT

- Don't miss.

The COP looks at his partners, nods to them, and they all raise their weapons to wipe out the wolves -

COP'S POV

(CONTINUED)
But as he sets his cross hairs on the LEAD WOLF -

SOMETHING BLOCKS HIS SIGHTS

A MAN, mid-30’s, compelling, feral, but great looking. He looks like he’s been sleeping on a floor, living on Redbull and fumes: this is LUCAS CORT -

LUCAS
Weapons down! Now!

SERGEANT
What the - Get him the hell out of here!

LUCAS
I was called, chief. Now rein it in and back off.

SERGEANT
Jesus, you animal control guys should learn -

LUCAS
- I’m not animal control. I’m the guy animal control calls when you screw everything up.

Lucas flashed an ID and takes a few steps towards the wolves -

BUTCHER
Get me out of here, please!

LUCAS
Relax. Your sweating just inflames them.

As the wolves snarl ferociously, Lucas scans the pack. We see them from Lucas's point of view. CLOSE ON one wolf, the ALPHA. Larger than the others, tail up, curled lips -

ALPHA WOLF'S POV - Black and white, studying Lucas. The Alpha takes a threatening step closer but Lucas doesn’t budge-

BACK TO LUCAS - as he blocks out the cacophony of cops and onlookers. The five betas in the pack SNAP and SNARL, and Lucas focuses on the Alpha. Slowly, very slowly Lucas moves in -

POLICE SERGEANT
Are you crazy? There’s six of them.
LUCAS
No. There’s only one. I get the alpha, I get them all. Now keep your men back and let me work...

Lucas and the Alpha wolf are now locked on each other. The scene goes QUIET. We just hear their breath. Lucas sees the animal’s neck PULSING - blood pressure elevated, shallow, rapid breathing, hair standing on end. VAPOR rising from the ears, elevated body temperature. We call this Lucas's VET VISION. He sees things other people can’t. He keeps his eyes locked on the Alpha as he takes a few steps to a SPORTS SOUVENIR KIOSK, picks out a souvenir Bruins hockey stick and slowly moves towards the Alpha -

LUCAS (CONT’D)
You like hockey, pal? Sure you do. Everyone does.

The wolf SNARLS and LUNGES at the stick.

LUCAS (CONT’D)
Oh, a Sabres fan... I get it...

But Lucas holds his ground as the wolf SNAPS at the stick two or three times, but finally relaxes. Lucas gently rubs the blade against the wolf's head. The wolf clearly loves it, like scratching a dog behind the ears. Lucas keeps it up while awkwardly removing his sweatshirt, revealing a TAUT, MUSCULAR, but SCARRED BODY - animal attack? War? Both? The cops watch, now totally confused -

Lucas gently covers Alpha's eyes with the cloth - the wolf is now in a trance-like state. THE OTHER WOLVES take their cue from Alpha, become calm, three of them even laying down. With this, Lucas notices something is wrong with the Alpha -

LUCAS (CONT’D)
What's up with your breathing, fella? Not feeling well?

Lucas focuses on the wolf's unevenly pulsing chest, a RASPING SOUND as it breathes. He feels the animal's chest, around the sternum. Checks along the flanks, then feels something on his hand: a few specks of PURPLE GLITTER. Lucas wipes off the glitter as he turns to the Sergeant -

LUCAS (CONT’D)
(to the sergeant, re: Alpha)
I want to go back to the sanctuary with him. He needs medical care.

(CONTINUED)
EXT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Boston's oldest, largest, most prestigious hospital. A state of the art, ultra high-tech institution where medical miracles are expected. But not today.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CORRIDOR - DAY

DR. KARA MARTINS walks through the bustle of the floor, past gurneys, nurses, a swarm of med students. Kara is early 30's - the daughter of Nigerian immigrants - an intense beauty with an intellect and determination she believes can wrestle any problem into submission. She's stopped by DR. SUSAN GIBBS, late 20's, an imaging specialist. Susan is shy, a brilliant beta, more at home with machines than people-

SUSAN GIBBS
Dr. Martins, sorry to bother you -

KARA
- Can it wait, Dr. Gibbs? I haven't eaten since last night and -

SUSAN GIBBS
- I'm sorry but a patient came in to the ER... the doctor is stumped and said you're the only one who can -

KARA
- I'm sure that's not true -

SUSAN GIBBS
- I'm sorry but you know it is. (taking a baggie from her pocket)
I have some cherry tomatoes if you're hungry...

KARA
(relents)
Okay, just stop apologizing and give me the tomatoes... (eating as they head off)
This is your lunch?

And as they disappear around a corner -

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SUSAN GIBBS
I grew them myself.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ER / CARDIAC INTENSIVE - SAME TIME

A team of NURSES and RESIDENTS hovers over a patient, MELISSA DANNER, thirties, sitting on a gurney, hooked to a jumble of monitors. Respiration is rapid and shallow, she is trying not to panic. We notice that her breathing mirrors the Alpha wolf Lucas examined.

Kara and Susan push through the tangle of practitioners, Kara all business now -

KARA
I need the chart.

A NURSE hands Kara a tablet -

NURSE
Melissa Danner. Thirty-three.

MELISSA DANNER
...Can't... can't breathe right...

Kara takes out her stethoscope. She's deliberate, but is also always eight steps ahead of everyone else -

KARA
Melissa, I'm Dr. Martins.
This is Dr. Gibbs, imaging specialist, best in the business.

SUSAN GIBBS
Actually, Dr. Heller, in Zurich, is considered to be -

KARA
(cutting Susan off, to Melissa)
- why don't you tell me when this started while Dr. Gibbs gets set up.

As Susan does -

MELISSA DANNER
I was at the office. I got tired... I never get tired...

KARA
Try and breathe deeply.
CONTINUED:

MELISSA DANNER
I can't... it hurts...

Kara listens to her heart. Not good. She examines her chest, watching the monitors -

KARA
Get me a 3-D of her carotids -

Kara keeps listening to the heart as Susan looks at a 3-D image of Melissa's blood vessels, shooting blood up to the brain. The flow is sporadic, weakening before our eyes.

SUSAN GIBBS
(sotto to Kara)
The tissue in the artery looks compromised, almost shredded.

MELISSA DANNER
I'm dizzy... I...

Melissa suddenly CONVULSES -

SUSAN GIBBS
She's hypotensive, desaturating.

KARA
I need a tissue sample. Get me a PA catheter with a biotome.

SUSAN GIBBS
But with the artery damaged -

KARA
- This is not a discussion!

The team gets to work moving Melissa to a bed. As they try to lay her flat she starts GASPING. A quick series of BEEPS as the EKG goes haywire. All hell's breaking loose but Kara stays steely and focused -

KARA (CONT'D)
100 milligrams lasix drip... Hold her down, I'm going in through the neck.

A NURSE tries to hold Melissa but she starts to lose it.

NURSE
Doctor, I can't -

KARA
(to the nurse)
- Then get out of here. Now!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
As the nurse leaves, Kara turns to another NURSE (#2) -

KARA (CONT'D)
Your turn. Keep her still.

Kara is already spreading disinfectant on an engorged vein on Melissa's neck as Nurse #2 holds her down and Susan breaks open a biopsy kit, handing Kara a scalpel. Kara makes a small incision in the vein, inserts a hollow tube and threads a guide wire into the vein.

ON SUSAN'S MONITOR, we see the interior of the blood vessels as Kara manipulates the device toward the heart.

Susan narrates as she observes the screens -

SUSAN GIBBS
Passing the tricuspid valve... In the ventricle. Perfect.

As Kara works, we see INSIDE THE HEART -- a pincer protrudes from the end of the guide wire and removes a tiny piece of the right ventricle, restoring blood flow -

SUSAN GIBBS (CONT'D)
That was beautiful.

Kara allows herself the tiniest moment of satisfaction and answers with a bit of pride -

KARA
It was, wasn't it?
(then all business)
Get 100 mg nitroprusside IV bolus to stabilize. And get the tissue to pathology right away.

As Kara leaves, typing into her pager, and the others work with speed and focus -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIOLOGY - MOMENTS LATER

Kara walks through the bustle of the cardiology floor and is stopped by DR. HOWARD FOWLER, mid-forties, Chief of Medicine. He uses his good looks and geniality to get his way -

HOWARD FOWLER
I've been looking for you, Dr. Martins, the Globe wants to do a profile -

(CONTINUED)
KARA
- I already did the Sun-Times, Dr. Fowler, and I'm sort of in a rush now, I have to find Dr. Hess and get to path -

HOWARD FOWLER
(but he won't be deterred)
- Globe's twice the circulation. And there'll be a video component so they can see how charming you are.

KARA
(a slight smile)
Oh, so now I have to be charming too?

HOWARD FOWLER
(a bit more than an innocent compliment)
You've always been able to charm me. And if you'll ever agree to a dinner -

KARA
- It seems I don't ever have time to eat. But thank you. Now I really do have to talk to Dr. Hess -

HOWARD FOWLER
- Come on, Kara, you should be proud to tell your story -

KARA
- so you can use me to raise money for the hospital -

HOWARD FOWLER
- Sure, daughter of Nigerian immigrants on track to become head of cardio. Isn't that why you've worked so hard? To repay your parents for all they went through?

KARA
You really are shameless, Howard.

HOWARD FOWLER
I know. That's why I run this place. I'll schedule the interview for Thursday.

(CONTINUED)
KARA
That's my day off.

HOWARD FOWLER
(walking away)
So you'll be free.

As Kara heads off, realizing objecting is useless -

EXT. JAMAICA PLAIN - DAY

A three decker, blue-collar neighborhood in a yet-to-be hipsterized section of Jamaica Plain. Liquor stores, check cashing, unlicensed daycare and a storefront at the base of a building with a sign, "CORT VETERINARY CLINIC."

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - ENTRANCE/WAITING ROOM/EXAM ROOM

Lucas arrives at the clinic and heads through the waiting room, whose peeling linoleum floor is ringed with mismatched chairs, a chewed up coffee table with outdated magazines, and a slew of waiting PATIENTS and their owners. A bird cage with a PARROT with a little girl and her mom, someone with a caged RABBIT, someone else with a CAT, another with a GREAT DANE, all neighborhood people, most of whom will be unable to pay what they should. They say hello as he passes -

The check-in desk is manned by, AMENA EMAMI, a 20-something Afghan woman, kind, but unintimidated. She's examining a cat as Lucas passes. Off a YELP from the EXAMINING ROOM -

LUCAS
Is my dad working?

AMENA EMAMI
A son should respect his father's wishes. In my country -

LUCAS
- Please, no wisdom, Amena. You should have called me.

As Lucas moves to the examining room, Amena, in Afghani, mutters her exasperation with Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
I know a few of those words, so watch it.

We stay with Lucas who is now in the EXAMINING ROOM with his father, ERNIE CORT, mid-60s, a cranky, old school vet, who examines an angelic MIXED PUPPY, DINO -

(CONTINUED)
LUCAS (CONT'D)
Dad, why - ?

ERNIE
- Hey, it's Wolf Boy. You made the five o'clock news -

LUCAS
Why are you working? You promised no more than two hours a day and -

ERNIE
- and you promised you wouldn't get shot up over there. Guess neither one of us can keep a promise.

LUCAS
But I'm all healed up and you have a bigass tumor.

ERNIE
Don't flatter yourself, you're still scrambled, living out of a duffle after two months back -

LUCAS
- alright, alright, we're both horrible people. Why don't you just tell me what's wrong with the pup so I can get you upstairs and out of here.

ERNIE
Dog's named Dino... hypotensive, weak heart, compromised arteries... Seems like the same infection that killed the mastiff.

This alarms Lucas who takes his dad’s stethoscope, listens to the puppy's heart. As we saw with the wolf, it's a sensory, careful process. It's like Lucas can sense what's inside the animal, feel what it feels. He checks the breath with his palm...

LUCAS
Blood and fluids...?

ERNIE
All negative, same as the mastiff.

But Lucas notices something. He's concerned.

(CONTINUED)
LUCAS
Myocarditis. I saw the same thing in one of the wolves.

ERNIE
How is that possible?

LUCAS
It's possible if it crossed species from wolf to dog.

Ernie knows this could be very bad news -

ERNIE
Crossed... I'm too old for this.

LUCAS
That's what I've been saying...
(off the puppy)
We're going to need a pathology lab and a great cardiologist.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - MEDICAL EQUIPMENT STORAGE ROOM

Filled with medical devices. The room is dimly lit. STREWN CLOTHES hang on the equipment - ultrasounds, portable x-rays, etc. On a gurney a couple is having loud and enthusiastic sex. Suddenly the guy, DR. HENRY LO, 30’s, a Korean-American cardiology resident, freezes. The woman, DR. DIANA HESS, the earthy, top resident pathologist is not happy about this -

HENRY LO
What was that? Was that someone?

DIANA HESS
Are you kidding, Henry? I was just about -

HENRY LO
I'm not risking suspension, no matter how good it feels, Diana -

They both now hear a key in the door lock. Diana quickly grabs a WHITE COAT with one hand and shoves Henry off the gurney. He and his clothes land with a THUD, hidden on the other side of the gurney, as the door opens and Kara enters -

KARA
I've been paging you for ten minutes, Dr. Hess. I need you to look at some tissue right away.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DIANA HESS
Sure... I... was giving myself a breast exam.

KARA
Just get dressed.
(then to the unseen Henry)
And Dr. Lo, I need you to do my rounds while I'm in pathology.

Kara exits. Henry sits up, horrified he was caught. As they scramble for their clothes -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / PATHOLOGY LAB - NIGHT

Diana's lair. Filled with a prized collection of hi-tech diagnostic devices -- sequencers, scanners, spectrometers. Kara is with Diana. Diana is at a microscope, examining tissue which we see on a monitor -

DIANA HESS
Melissa Danner's heart tissue is definitely necrotized. But I can't identify a pathogen.

KARA
So we have heart tissue dying at an alarming rate, and you can't tell me what's causing it.

DIANA HESS
Hey, cut me a some slack, I'll get the little bastard.

Kara starts to lay out every single possibility that they might encounter -

KARA
I need you to log the bradyarrhythmias. Odds are you'll find they're subnormative. So -

Diana is the one person who can speak honestly to Kara -

DIANA HESS
- Your job's big enough, Kara, you don't have to do mine too.

KARA
... Sorry.

Separating work and friendship is difficult for Kara, and she wishes she was better at it. After a beat, she tries again -
... Dr. Lo? Seriously?

DIANA HESS
The man knows his anatomy. Or mine, I should say - How long has it been since Danny moved away anyway?

KARA
Some people aren't meant to be in a relationship. There's no shame in it.

DIANA HESS
The storage room is not a relationship.

But Kara doesn't want to get into this. She changes the subject back to work -

KARA
- Did you try the serum-ascites albumin gradient?

DIANA HESS
... I really hate it when you think of things I don't.

EXT./INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Lucas, in scrubs, wearing an ID badge and carrying a large, ventilated cooler labeled, HUMAN TRANSPLANT ORGAN, rushes into the hospital, heads straight to the security desk. The security GUARD sees the transplant cooler, grows alarmed -

GUARD
What are you going?! Transplants can't come through this door.

LUCAS
Cardiology's expecting me. Unless you want the patient to die because I used the wrong door.

GUARD
(rattled)
Fourth floor.

As Lucas heads for the elevator -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIOLOGY FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas gets off the elevator. Stops a passing nurse.
CONTINUED:

NURSE
(re: cooler)
Hey, hey, those go to -

LUCAS
- Dr. Martins’s expecting this.
Where is she?

NURSE
Pathology. But -

LUCAS
Floor?

NURSE
Three, but -

And as Lucas rushes off -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / PATHOLOGY LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Kara and Diana look at a test panel on a monitor -

DIANA HESS
SAAG results are normal, but this doesn't make sense... why the increased JPV?

KARA
Is she on the pill?

DIANA HESS
Not according to her hormone levels.

Just then, the door bursts opens and Lucas enters with the transplant cooler -

KARA
What...? You can't come in here with that!

LUCAS
(to Diana)
Dr. Martins?

Diana is immediately attracted to the guy -

DIANA HESS
Wouldn't that be nice.

KARA
I’m Dr. Martins. And all organs enter through the basement -

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Just then, we hear BARKING from inside the cooler -

    KARA (CONT'D)
    What the hell is in there?!

Lucas opens the cooler to reveal THE SICK PUPPY, Dino -

    LUCAS
    I have a patient with acute-onset dyspnea, RV dysfunction with increased JVP -

    KARA
    - You brought a dog in here?!

    LUCAS
    I spoke to the CDC, the NIH, HHS to find the right cardiologist. They all said you're the best in Boston -

    DIANA HESS
    - Wait, did you say increased JVP?

    KARA
    Do not engage, Dr. Hess!

Kara picks up the phone, pissed -

    KARA (CONT'D)
    Get me security! Security! I want security now!

    LUCAS
    My god, you're like a marmot who's spotted an eagle -

    KARA
    - What?! -

    LUCAS
    - Rapidly repeated high-pitch vocalization, tension in the sternocleidomastoid muscle - but I'm not a threat. I just need -

Diana looks at Lucas' badge.

    DIANA HESS
    - He's a veterinarian, Kara.

    KARA
    (horrified)
    You're a vet?!

    (CONTINUED)
LUCAS
Yeah. And a veterinarian. So now that I have your attention -
(all business now)
- I ran panels, but I need PCR analysis, which I know you can do -

DIANA HESS
- What did the panels say?

KARA
(stopping her)
Dr. Hess!

LUCAS
Everything came back negative. Couldn't find any pathogens, not viral, bacterial, or fungal.

DIANA HESS
(to Kara)
Sorry, but the pooch has increased JVP, now this... it sounds a little too familiar, doesn't it?

LUCAS
Wait - you're seeing the same thing with your patients?

KARA
Not the same because my patients are human.

LUCAS
Both mammals.

KARA
(she's had it)
Look, I'm sorry about your dog, he's very cute, and I'm sorry you didn't get into a real medical school, but I did, and now I'm a highly trained, highly regarded physician, whose job it is to save a young woman's life, which doesn't leave me a whole lot of time to throw you and Fido a bone.

LUCAS
You sure didn't mind wasting a hell of a lot of time with that self-serving speech. And his name is Dino.
That's it. She's had it. Now into the phone as Lucas talks over her -

KARA
- Security? This is Dr. Martins. I'm in pathology -

LUCAS
- I have treated over 30 species, you treat one, only one, and I'm telling you that this dog and your -

They're interrupted by a loud voice on the hospital speaker -

SPEAKER
Code Blue! Room 315! Code Blue!

KARA
That's Melissa Danner.

Kara puts down the phone, rushes out. Lucas follows unconcerned about the consequences. As Diana runs after Lucas-

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ICU ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kara rushes into the room to find Henry Lo working on Melissa, two crash team nurses assisting, more on the way -

HENRY
She's seizing.

Kara goes to crisis mode, clearing Melissa's airways, checking the BIVAD -- an emergency exterior PACEMAKER -- that's attached to her chest -

KARA
Come on. Come on... get nitroprusside in the drip!

A tense beat as the seizures stop, but it's not good -

HENRY
She's in ventricular failure -

ON DIANA AND LUCAS, crowding into the room. Lucas scans the monitor bank, points to an image of Melissa's heart and -

LUCAS
Check the septum, the infection attacks the septum.

KARA
Get him out of here!

(CONTINUED)
DIANA HESS
(sotto)
Is he right, Kara?

He is right, but Kara is too proud to admit it and searches for another solution -

KARA
I'm not relying on a vet, Dr. Hess!
(then, to Henry)
Get her synced.

ON HENRY, at the BIVAD controls -

HENRY
I can't get in! The ventricles are acting like they're connected.

LUCAS
Because they are connected.

Kara glares at him, but knows he's right. Lucas becomes calm, quiet, whispering not to embarrass her in front of the others. It’s as if Lucas can put himself in sync with her - an animal moment, like when Lucas calmed the wolf... but with Kara it's almost seductive...

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Look, all species share traits with each other... That should turn you on not off, it means more information, more knowledge... Now, you know the septum's gone, you felt it... That means she's only got a one chamber heart.

DIANA HESS
And unfortunately no one can live with a one chamber heart.

LUCAS
Snakes have a one chamber heart and they live just fine. Set the BIVAD to single ventricle.

KARA
But she's a human being, not a reptile!

LUCAS
How about a little intraspecies humility, doc? It's your patient's only chance.

(CONTINUED)
Melissa's blood pressure is bottoming, circulation almost at a standstill. Her extremities start to fail and her eyes roll open as the brain stops receiving oxygen.

ON KARA watching Melissa die, she realizes Lucas' suggestion is all that's left -

KARA
(to Henry)
Set the BIVAD to single chamber operation.

Henry does... A painful, tense beat. Then, a BEEP from the monitors, followed by another, and another and the unmistakable sound of a working heart -

On Melissa, breath resuming, color returning to her face.

Kara is stunned and relieved. She turns to Lucas, for one of the few times in her life, at a loss and impressed with him, in spite of herself, until she sees his big 'I told you so' grin -

LUCAS
Now let's test my puppy, okay?

Off Kara wondering what she got herself into -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / IMAGING LAB - EVENING

Kara and Lucas are surrounded by cutting edge diagnostic devices. The puppy is on a plain white table. Lucas calms the dog as Kara sticks sensors to his chest, head and back -

KARA
I hope you realize I'm using the world's most advanced imaging equipment on your dog. Last week, Tiger Woods was on this table.

LUCAS
Surprised you even know who Tiger Woods is. Didn't think a fancy human doctor like you would have time for extracurricular activities.

KARA
Time is not a finite thing. You can bend it to your will -
(pointed)
- just like anything else.

LUCAS
Wow, OK, so I'm guessing your hobby is quantum physics?

KARA
And do you have a problem with science? With a life of the mind? That's why you sought me out, isn't it? Because I'm the best? Because I'm, what would you say, the Alpha?

Lucas looks at her and smiles. He's challenged by Kara and likes it. There is clearly a little something between them but neither one can admit it. Kara changes the subject -

KARA (CONT'D)
Let's just get this done. I'm taking a big risk doing this.

LUCAS
Dogs have a history here, you know. A hundred years ago this place once had a vet school. Best in the country, better than the med school.
KARA
Fortunately, we've progressed.
(re: Dino)
You can sedate him now.

Lucas gets to work, gathers the folds at the back of the puppy's neck and injects a sedative, we -

FIND SUSAN AND DIANA, watching Kara and Lucas from the other side of a glass wall that separates the control area from the machines -

DIANA HESS
He's a war hero, you know.

SUSAN GIBBS
You vetted the vet?

DIANA HESS
Of course I did. Look at him.

SUSAN GIBBS
You know you don't have to try and sleep with every man you meet.

DIANA HESS
I know I don't have to.
(then)
He was in Special Forces on the front lines in Afghanistan, specialized in zoonotic and human disease, won the Silver Star...

SUSAN GIBBS
And he loves puppies.

Diana smiles at this -

DIANA HESS
I'm up for a threesome if you are.

Susan is totally embarrassed as Kara walks in with Lucas -

KARA
(to Susan)
I need visualization of the intraventricular septum and both ventricles.

Susan activates a giant, donut shaped Computer Tomography Scanner, which lowers over the puppy's sedated body.
On several monitors we see: a full body scan of the dog, isolated real time images of its circulatory system, nervous system, muscles and brain. They are focused on a monitor which shows a 3D model of the heart in incredible detail.

**KARA (CONT’D)**
This is the puppy’s heart.

Susan brings up the image of another heart -

**SUSAN GIBBS**
This is Melissa Danner’s.

**KARA**
(disbelief)
They're almost identical.

**LUCAS**
Amazing the things mammals have in common, isn't it?

Despite her desire for Lucas to be wrong, Kara can't help but be transfixed by the two hearts -

**KARA**
Both exhibit compromised tricuspid valves.

A new image - the interior of the BEATING HEART - comes up -

**KARA (CONT’D)**
Both exhibit deteriorating septum...

**LUCAS**
Indicating an unknown shared pathogen.

**KARA**
(interrupting)
Indicating the possibility of an unknown shared pathogen.

**DIANA HESS**
As yet unknown.

**LUCAS**
Then get to work because it's already jumped species -

**DIANA HESS**
- You know you can be very bossy.

(CONTINUED)
LUCAS
This thing will spread unless we find out what all these patients have in common.

They know he's right -- there is danger here. Just then, Kara's pager goes off. She looks, it's important -

KARA
(to Susan)
Analyze and compare both sets of images and rerun their panels with the new information.

And Kara rushes out, leaving Lucas, Diana and Susan -

EXT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ROOF / HELIPAD - NIGHT

Views across the massive medical complex to downtown Boston and the harbor. Kara and Henry rush out to the roof as a MEDEVAC descends onto the pad -

The rotors stop and TECHS transfer five year-old KATIE DONAHUE (hooked up to EKG, IV, etc.) to a gurney. Her mother, JULIE DONAHUE, and an EMT jump down beside her. The EMT hands Henry a tablet. ON THE SCREEN we see Katie's chart and a real time readout of Katie's vitals -

HENRY LO
Katie Donahue. Five years-old. Premature ventricular contractions, heart rate over 130 and climbing, oxygen saturation falling.

Kara takes out her stethoscope. Starts listening to Katie's heart as they're on the move.

JULIE DONAHUE
What's happening to my daughter?

We see another side of Kara now, calm, kind and empathetic to her patient, even in this high pressure situation -

KARA
We're going to find out.
(to Katie)
Hi, Katie, I'm Dr. Martins and I'm going to make you feel better, okay?

HENRY LO
(sotto, to Kara)
This is getting scary. She's presenting like the others.

(CONTINUED)
KARA
(the boss)
Your emotions have no place here, Dr. Lo. Do you understand? Now call Cardio Intensive, tell them we're on our way. And tell Gibbs and Hess to meet us there.

As Kara and Henry rush the gurney into the elevator -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / IMAGING LAB - SAME TIME

Lucas hates being left as Susan and Diana head out -

DIANA HESS
We'll be back as soon as we can.

SUSAN GIBBS
Don't touch anything. These are my machines, my children if you will, and as such -

DIANA HESS
- Gibbs!

And Diana and Susan run out. Lucas looks at the screens Susan left open and gets an idea. He clicks on Melissa Danner's info and pulls up her whole case file. As he starts to print out the file, HIS PHONE RINGS. He answers and we -

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - SAME TIME

Ernie is chasing a rabbit around the examining room as he speaks with Lucas on speaker -

ERNIE
The Ipswich Preserve called. You were right.

LUCAS
- The wolf has it, too.

ERNIE
You find out anything at the hospital?

LUCAS
Yeah, there are two human patients here with the same symptoms. One's a kid.
ERNIE
Holy crap.

LUCAS
Yeah.

Lucas seems something, grabs a paper from the printer and sees that the human patient, Melissa, has: "reddish nodules in the mouth and esophagus." This is a huge red flag-

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Get that wolf started on Cipro.

ERNIE
Cipro?

LUCAS
Yes, yes, Cipro! I'll meet you at the reserve as soon as I can.

Lucas hangs up, gets an idea. He rummages through Susan's desk, finds an ophthalmoscope which he takes back to the dog. He shines the light into the golden's pupil and sees a DISTINCT STARBURST PATTERN in the retina-

LUCAS (CONT'D)
(realizing)
It's got to be...

Off Lucas, with a lead --

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / INTENSIVE CARE / KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kara, is treating Katie, barking out orders to the team but calm and sweet to Katie. She is now looking in Katie’s eyes. We see the same STARBURST PATTERN Lucas just saw in Dino. But it doesn't seem to mean much to Kara-

KARA
Get 100 mg nitroprusside in the drip.

KATIE
I'm dizzy...

Katie's mom, JULIE, watches. She's having trouble keeping it together as she sees Susan wheeling a large scanner to position over Katie-

JULIE DONAHUE
What are you doing?!

Kara shoots Henry a look -- "handle this."
HENRY LO
We're just going to take a look at Katie's heart. Why don't you come with me so Dr. Martins and the others can help Katie?

Henry expertly escorts Katie's mother away -

HENRY LO (CONT'D)
I need you to remember what Katie ate, where she went, everything she's been in contact with for the last forty eight hours...

ON KARA with Susan, who has positioned her scanner over Katie's chest -

KARA
Don't be scared, Katie, I'll be right here. Why don't you count with me. Do you like butterflies, let's count butterflies. You can do that, can't you?

The nurse pushes the IV sedative -

KATIE/KARA
One butterfly, two butterflies, three...

And Katie's out as Susan calls up a 3-D image of the heart on the monitor. They study it and -

SUSAN GIBBS
Myocardium's deteriorating, same as the Danner woman and the dog...

Off this ominous realization -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIO / CORRIDOR - A LITTLE LATER

As Kara and Susan walk back to Kara's office -

SUSAN GIBBS
The scans are identical, Dr. Martins.

KARA
Melissa Danner and Katie Donahue have the same disease.

Diana walks up and joins them hearing this -
DIANA HESS
And the dog. But I still can't ID a pathogen.

SUSAN GIBBS
If it's gone intraspecies, we could be looking at a pandemic.

DIANA HESS
No. Whatever it is, it only spreads via direct contact with the pathogen, otherwise that beautiful vet would be dead by now.

SUSAN GIBBS
And all of us.

Just as they reach Kara's office, Dr. Fowler reappears, no longer genial. He's pissed and tries to control his anger as he takes Kara aside -

HOWARD FOWLER
So I guess you want me to tell the board you don't want to be Chief of Cardio anymore.

KARA
What? Why? There's no one better -

HOWARD FOWLER
- Then why the hell's a vet treating patients in my hospital? You want us closed down?

KARA
It's a long story but... some of his insights might prove useful.

HOWARD FOWLER
'Might?!!' This hospital saves lives every day, Dr. Martins, and if you can't do that without the help of a circus doctor, perhaps you should work someplace else.

KARA
Now wait a minute -

HOWARD FOWLER
- No. I have championed you here, Dr. Martins.

(MORE)
I never imagined you were the type of person who was foolish enough to throw away her career. Because that's what you're doing.

Kara thinks about this, her career, all her parents sacrificed... Finally -

KARA
I'm sorry, Dr. Fowler, you're right. I'll take care of this.

HOWARD FOWLER
Immediately.

And Fowler walks away. Kara shaken, heads off to do what she must -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / IMAGING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kara bursts in, determined - But Lucas and his dog are gone. She sees Melissa's file open on a monitor, knows Lucas must have been looking at it. As she rushes out, pissed -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / CARDIO / MELISSA DANNER'S ROOM

Melissa lays motionless as Lucas uses the ophthalmoscope and sees the same STAR BURST PATTERN we saw in the puppy's and Katie's eyes. Then something else catches his attention - a speck of GLITTER on Melissa's temple. We SEE A FLASH OF LUCAS'S MEMORY: he saw the same glitter on the wolf. But -

KARA (O.S.)
Out! Now!

Lucas turns to see Kara with two SECURITY OFFICERS -

LUCAS
What? No. Look! Star Retina. It can indicate Bartonella. Vets see it all the time. When the infected endothelial cells are released into the bloodstream -

KARA
(understanding)
- they can invade the phagosomal membrane... Thank you for that. But I can take it from here.

LUCAS
Don't be a fool! We're working together, we're getting somewhere here! You know that!

(CONTINUED)
KARA
I examined your dog, that was our deal. Good-bye.

Kara nods to the security officers who escort Lucas out. Off Kara hating what she did but resolved -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. IPSWICH WILDLIFE RESERVE - ESTABLISHING - DAWN

A pristine enclave on the coast. Forests, marshland and a pack of wild wolves. Lucas drives up to the administration area. Parks outside a barn-like structure marked INFIRMARY -

INT. IPSWICH WILDLIFE RESERVE - INFIRMARY - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas walks in to find Ernie and Amena sitting with the wolf who is now listless and fading...

LUCAS

How's he doing?

AMENA EMAMI

I tried to get him to stay at the clinic -

ERNIE

- I don't need a babysitter -

AMENA EMAMI

- And someone named Richard Samuels called. Twice.

Lucas darkens. This is not something he needs right now -

LUCAS

Shit. If he calls again, tell him I moved.

AMENA EMAMI

He said it was urgent. Who is he?

LUCAS

Not important. I just want to hear about the wolf, that's all.

Amena reacts, she's taken aback by how adamant Lucas is, as Ernie answers -

ERNIE

Capillary refill time is slowing.
He's such a beautiful animal...

Lucas examines the wolf, lightly presses the wolf's gums, observes the color as it pales and, a moment later, the blood returns, then feels his chest, under his legs...
CONTINUED:

LUCAS
His lymph nodes are huge.

AMENA EMAMI
I'd say Lymphadenitis but this seems like it's secondary...

The wolf can't keep his head up any longer. Lucas realizes this is the end. He lays down on his side, eye to eye with the wolf, gently stroking his head.

LUCAS
It's okay... Let go... I'll be right here...

Ernie looks at his son who is watching the wolf die, helpless to stop it -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / KATIE DONAHUE'S ROOM

Katie is hooked up to tubes and monitors. Her mother is trying to get her to eat -

JULIE DONAHUE
Please, sweetheart, how about a eating a little...

KATIE
I can't. I don't feel good.

JULIE DONAHUE
You want to watch TV?

KATIE
It hurts my eyes...

Kara enters the room, takes in the tension and fear. She handles it perfectly, with calm and compassion -

KARA
(to Julie)
Hi, Katie, how are you doing?

JULIE DONAHUE
Not well. Look at her. She's getting worse...

KARA
That's why I've put her on a course of IV antibiotics.

JULIE DONAHUE
So what's wrong with her?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KARA
We think it could be something called Bartonella, but while we run more tests, this is the most logical course of treatment.

JULIE DONAHUE
(very scared now)
So you don't know.

KARA
Not for sure, not yet.

JULIE DONAHUE
They said you're the best...
Promise you won't give up on her.
Promise you'll do everything you can to save her...

Kara looks at Katie, knowing this little girl's life is in her hands and she doesn't have any answers. She needs to stay in control, but this is getting to her. She musters her professionalism, looks at Julie and -

KARA
... Of course I will.

As Kara looks at Katie again, trying to keep her emotions in check -

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - SAME TIME

Lucas sits with Dino. The puppy is on a drip, listless, panting, shivering. It's heartbreaking.

LUCAS
I know you're cold... I'm getting you -

And with this Amena enters with some blankets, covering Dino -

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Thanks... He's dying too. And so is that little girl...

AMENA EMAMI
You can't save them all, Lucas.
Saving me was enough of a miracle.

Lucas knows there's truth in this but he can't accept it. As he strokes Dino -
INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kara is in the chair, next to Katie's bed, asleep, some children's books on her. She wakes as Julie Donahue enters -

JULIE DONAHUE
Dr. Martins, I didn't expect you to still be here.

KARA
(waking)
Oh. Yes - I must've fallen -
(awake now)
Katie and I were reading some books...

JULIE DONAHUE
How is she?

Kara listens to Katie's heart. She brightens the tiniest bit, she's hearing something good -

KARA
The S3 gallop is gone.

JULIE DONAHUE
What does that mean?

KARA
It could be good news.

Just then, Katie's eyes open -

JULIE DONAHUE
Hi, Sweetie. How are you feeling?

KATIE
(to her mother)
Who are you?

JULIE DONAHUE
It's me, Katie. It's mommy.

Katie is still totally lost, scared -

KATIE
No. I don't know you.

JULIE DONAHUE
Sweetie, it's mommy, I'm your mommy...
(to Kara, losing it)
What's wrong with her?!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Off Kara, struggling to find an answer, feeling personally responsible -

INT. CORT VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Lucas is still with Dino and now Ernie. Lucas checks the dog's vitals. It's dire -

LUCAS
He's not responding to the Cipro.

ERNIE
Are they having any luck with it at the hospital?

LUCAS
They're not talking to me.

ERNIE
Them too?... Look, kid, people can't be trained like animals. Learn to be a part of the species you were born into, it'll do you good.

Just then, Kara appears in the doorway of the examining room -

KARA
My patient is deteriorating. I need to know if your dog has developed any other -

LUCAS
- Wow, you must be out of options to come slumming down here.

ERNIE
(stepping in)
Sorry about my kid. I'm Ernie. The nice one. You must be the cardiologist.

KARA
(extending a hand)
Dr. Martins. Kara.

LUCAS
(pointed)
Dad was just leaving. (off Ernie) Bye, Dad.

And Ernie reluctantly walks out. Then -
LUCAS (CONT'D)
You tossed me out of the hospital
to save your own ass, didn't you?

KARA
... I'm sorry. But right now all
that's important is that little
girl... and I'm losing her...

LUCAS
You've been crying.

She has been but can't admit it -

KARA
... I don't cry. I just need -

LUCAS
(but looking at her eyes)
- The lacrimal puncta and
canaliculari are swollen like in an
elephant -

KARA
- I'm not an elephant. Can we
focus please?

LUCAS
You know animals use tears and
whimpering to seek aid from the
pack. Only humans deny sadness and
despair.

KARA
Perhaps because we're more evolved -
(back to business)
Look, the girl is disoriented now,
amnesic... I made her mother a
promise -

Just then, she notices something on one of the puppy's paws.

KARA (CONT'D)
Are those Janeway Lesions?

Lucas examines Dino's paws and sees the lesions. He'd missed
them and is pissed with himself but impressed with her -

LUCAS
How the hell did you see those?

Lucas grabs a magnifier, examines the dog's paw pads, sees -

(CONTINUED)
LUCAS (CONT'D)
Osler's Nodes. And splinter hemorrhages.

KARA
Both indicators for endocarditis.

LUCAS
That narrows the range of possible pathogens.

KARA
... Look, I didn't know your patients and mine could have the same disease, and since you missed these Janeway Lesions, you don't know everything either...

LUCAS
... I thought I wasn't allowed in your precious human hospital.

KARA
Oh, you're not. If we do this, we're outlaws.

As Lucas smiles, knowing he's being played, and he likes it just fine -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN.

EXT. BOSTON HOSPITAL COMPLEX - ANNEX - DAY

Across a massive sprawl of buildings, ranging from jewel box colonials to futuristic research facilities, we stop at a weird, run down nineteenth century brick building known as the ANNEX. Lucas stands with Dino (in a crate) and Kara.

LUCAS
This is one of the medical school's original buildings, isn't it?

KARA
Yeah, the hospital is trying to tear it down, but it's been declared a historical landmark. Fowler's fighting it.

We stay with them as they enter -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL - ANNEX - CONTINUOUS

There are vestiges of the original 19th century architecture, but it's now used for file storage. Hundreds of boxes, crates, and stacks of antiquated equipment are piled haphazardly everywhere. As Lucas takes in the history -

LUCAS
This was an operating theater...

KARA
Some of the first research into anesthesia was done here.

LUCAS
And it's where Landsteiner lectured on blood groupings...

Kara's surprised he knows this.

KARA
It's just storage now, so we should be safe here for a while.

They continue through the boxes, into a large space -

LUCAS
... This is a pretty big risk for your career, isn't it?

Kara wonders if she should let this get personal... Finally -

(CONTINUED)
KARA
When I lived in Nigeria... one day, I was little, just five... I went with my mother to the Niger Delta, she was a nurse and went to treat patients injured in the fighting there... A boy my age, he'd been caught in the crossfire and was dying... my mother was trying everything, but she just had basic first aid supplies, no medicine... I saw her work, do what she could with what she had, but it wasn't enough... the boy died, in such pain... When I came here... I knew I had to study at the best schools, work with the best equipment - design it if I had to - work at the best hospital with the best people... I've learned to navigate the politics here, but if that's going to get in the way of saving lives, that's not the career I want, not the career my mother would want for me.

He takes this in, more than a little moved -

LUCAS
... Protecting our own is primal, no matter how much society tries to beat it out of us.

KARA
Yeah. So you'd better not screw this up for me.

Lucas smiles, then, around a corner, sees Susan, setting up a bank of giant, person-sized monitors as Diana and Henry unpack diagnostic equipment -

SUSAN GIBBS
I'm ready. There was Internet for their filing system so we're networked into the hospital.

Susan turns on her system and the monitors come to life -

INT. ANNEX - MINUTES LATER

Kara is at the monitors, reviewing the case, showing images of their patients - Melissa Danner, Katie, a MASTIFF, the wolf, and Dino, the puppy -

(CONTINUED)
KARA
We have a thirty-two year old female, a five year old female, an adult male wolf, two dogs, one adult, one puppy...

LUCAS
All contracted acute myocarditis.

DIANA HESS
Three are dead.

LUCAS
Three?!

HENRY LO
Melissa Danner died two hours ago.

KARA
(affected but hiding it)
Her heart basically disintegrated... like your animals.

Then, on images of Katie and the puppy -

DIANA HESS
Bartonella's out because there was no evidence of insects or parasites.

Kara is studying the monitors, developing an idea -

KARA
We shouldn't focus on what killed them.

Lucas is surprised by this -

LUCAS
Why else are we here?

KARA
(off Katie and Dino)
To find out why these two still alive. I'd posit because they're the youngest they have larger thymus glands -

Holy shit, he gets it, she's right and he's impressed -

LUCAS
- Yes! So they're producing more T-Lymphocytes -

(CONTINUED)
KARA
- If we can increase T-Cell counts we might be able to save them.

Off the team, with a plan -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / KATIE'S ROOM - LATER

Kara, Henry and a nurse are at Katie's bed, adding a syringe of whitish-yellow fluid to the IV. Julie, Katie's mother, is nearby, scared.

JULIE DONAHUE
And if this works, Katie will get better? She'll wake up and remember me again, right?

KARA
We hope so. We'll know fairly quickly if it's working.

Henry injects the needle into Katie's IV. Kara monitors Katie's vitals. At first, nothing. Then -

JULIE DONAHUE
She's moving!

KARA
It could be an involuntary reflex.

HENRY LO
Color is improving...

Katie has, indeed, gained some color. But her cheeks redden to an angry red -

KARA
She's flushing!

Katie, still disoriented, starts desperately SCRATCHING at her face and arms -

JULIE DONAHUE
What's happening?!

HENRY LO
Heart rate dropping -

KARA
- Hold her arms down!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Henry grabs one of her arms, but it's too late to stop Katie from ripping out her IV before she begins to COUGH -- a horrifying deep, loud, hacking sound that seems like it's tearing apart her very core.

Henry sits Katie up. This stops the coughing, but she RETCHES all over the front of his scrubs -- covering Henry with GREEN-BROWN BILE --

KARA (CONT'D)
I need epinephrine, a Levo drip --

As a nurse grabs a needle for Kara, Katie begins to SEIZE -- Julie cries out as a nurse hustles Julie out of the room and Henry tries to reconnect the IV --

HENRY
Her blood vessels have constricted!
I can't find a vein!

Henry and Kara desperately look for a vein.

KARA
We can go in through the neck.
That's how Cort did it.

HENRY LO
But she's not a dog --

LUCAS
- Are you on the team or not, Dr. Lo?! She needs clysis or we're going to lose her!

She takes the needle, gathers the loose skin at the back of Katie's neck and injects the fluid into the folds. Katie begins to calm her violent seizing and thrashing.

HENRY LO
She's stabilizing.

But Kara looks at Katie. Depleted from the seizure, scratch marks running down her arms --

HENRY LO (CONT'D)
We almost killed her.

KARA
(unbroken)
But we know it's not T-cells.
INT. ANNEX - NIGHT

We're back in the Annex with Kara, Susan, Diana and Lucas. Henry is covered in the bile that Katie threw up -

    KARA
    Can you use the bile from Dr. Lo's clothes to check for pathogens?

    DIANA HESS
    You know I can. Take 'em off, Henry.

    HENRY LO
    Is there a place, I can -

    LUCAS
    - Why can we stare at an animal in a natural state but become terrified of a human penis.

    DIANA HESS
    Depends on the penis.

    KARA
    All we need is the shirt, Dr. Lo.

As Henry removes his shirt, Lucas' cell vibrates, he looks at it. The caller ID shows: RICHARD SAMUELS. Pissed he declines the call and, unthinking, slams the phone down -

    KARA (CONT'D)
    You okay?

    LUCAS
    (feigning indifference)
    Yeah. Why?
    (changing the subject, to Lo)
    Give me your shirt.

Lucas takes Henry's shirt and examines the bile, sees something! A SPECK OF GLITTER -

    LUCAS (CONT'D)
    Glitter. This is the third time. I saw it on Melissa Danner and on the wolf and now the girl!

    SUSAN GIBBS
    Twice is a coincidence, three times is a pattern.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

LUCAS
All the patients had to have been in the same place.

KARA
(to Susan)
Can you run possible scenarios if we get the patients' activities prior to infection?

SUSAN GIBBS
Sure. I'll prepare a grid.

MONTAGE - MUSIC UNDER

- Kara talking to Katie's mother, taking notes -

- Henry going through the notes and history of Melissa Danner using both paper and internet searches -

- Lucas plowing through file from the Wolf Sanctuary, both paper and electronic -

- Susan compiles all the information. We see commonalities, tied to locations and time lines that form an intricate web:

  - Katie Donahue's home, school, play date and a birthday party.

  - Melissa Danner's jogging routes, shopping trips, commutes -

  - The Wolf's roamings from the sanctuary to downtown Boston -

  - Where Dino was walked, groomed, car rides, etc -

This web overlays on a satellite map of Boston. We see, within the Wolf's twelve mile route from the sanctuary, a number of points where all the victims could overlap -

KARA
No wolves going into a wine store or a supermarket.

Two points drop off the map.

LUCAS
Take off everything that's indoors. We know the wolf was outside the whole time.

More points drop off the map just as Kara's pager goes off -

KARA
Another one just came in.
Kara and Henry head out, Lucas follows –

KARA (CONT’D)
(to Lucas)
Stay!

LUCAS
(going with her)
Not this time. We're a pack now.

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ER

A RESIDENT and two NURSES struggle with a patient we’ll know as GREG WILLIAMS - late thirties - as Kara, Lucas and Henry rush in; Henry with the patient’s info on a tablet –

HENRY LO
- He's a John Doe - Disoriented, heart rate 160, BP 210, difficulty breathing like the others –

KARA
(listening)
Heart rate’s increasing –

Lucas sees that the nurses have started to cut off Greg’s clothing. It's a maintenance uniform. This gives Lucas an idea. He grabs the scraps of cloth, finds what he’s looking for: a patch that says "BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT."

LUCAS
The infection’s origination point has to be a park! What park do you work in?

Greg manages a weak, unintelligible response before he starts to seize. Kara and Henry swing into action as Lucas finds the guy's wallet and sees a name –

LUCAS (CONT’D)
(reading)
Greg Williams.

As Lucas rushes out –

KARA
100 milligrams lasix drip...
(to Henry)
Will you be okay on your own?

HENRY LO
Would you have chosen me if I wouldn't be?
EXT. FRANKLIN PARK - DAY

A GARBAGE CAN BEING KICKED OVER, garbage spilling everywhere. PULL BACK to see Lucas and Kara looking through the garbage -

LUCAS
I checked the Park Department. Greg Williams works maintenance here, mainly garbage.

KARA
What are we looking for?

LUCAS
I have no idea.

As Lucas kicks over another trash can, begins wading through the detritus and Kara sifts through her pile -

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Never thought I'd see you sifting through garbage.

KARA
Humans are far more complex than animals, Dr. Cort. Perhaps you should devote more attention getting to know them.

LUCAS
... I've been hearing that a lot lately. And it's always annoying.

KARA
(then, off garbage)
Glitter!

She has glittered paper tiara. Lucas scans the area, focused, almost in a trance...

KARA (CONT'D)
Dr. Cort? Are you okay?... Dr. Cort?

But he's lost in thought as he scans the park, the trees, ground, squirrels, dogs... it's Lucas' VET VISION again... each animal seems magnified, their breathing, movements, colors... Lucas looks up and sees - A SMALL BIRD: white breast, blue green wings and crown, soaring over the park, rejoicing its flock, which is perched in a stand of trees. A small group of birdwatchers are photographing them -

LUCAS
Oh my God...

(CONTINUED)
KARA
What?

LUCAS
White Winged Swallows.

KARA
Okay... and?

LUCAS
They belong in Mexico. Boston isn't on their migratory pattern... That explains the birdwatchers.

KARA
Could the birds be the carriers?

LUCAS
They're the only anomaly in the park... But how are they spreading it...?

Beneath the tree, kids are jumping in a pile of leaves. All senses acute, Lucas focuses on the leaves, heads for them -

LUCAS (CONT'D)
The leaves!

KARA
(following)
Leaves?!

LUCAS
They're covered in droppings! (to the kids) Out of the leaves!! Now!! Get out of the leaves!!

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / ANNEX

The work tables are piled with trash bags filled with leaves from the park. Diana, Kara, Henry, Susan and now Amena are all prepping leaves for analysis -- grinding them in a lab blender, Diana feeding the fine powder into a line of DNA SEQUENCERS. Lucas enters, dragging another bag -

LUCAS
Parks and health department cordoned off the area, just in case.

DIANA HESS
Enough leaves. The DNA sequencer can't hold that many.

(CONTINUED)
The sequencer starts displaying a DENSE ARRAY OF GENETIC CODE-

DIANA HESS
This doesn't make sense.

KARA
What do you have?

DIANA HESS
It looks like Bartonella -

KARA
- But you ran cultures for Bartonella, nothing grew.

DIANA HESS
It has to be a mutation. But knowing how to treat it means breaking down the genetic code. And that could take weeks.

LUCAS
We don't have weeks.

DIANA HESS
Thanks, like I needed a reminder.

Off all of them trying to figure a way out of this -

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

FADE IN.

INT. ANNEX - NIGHT

Coffee cups and take out Chinese containers litter the annex as they work... Diana has a dozen agar plates lined up on a light table. She’s dropping solutions from different pipettes on them -

DIANA HESS
All we can do is try variants of anti-virals and antibiotics again and hope that -

KARA
- But nothing worked, Diana.

Lucas enters with Amena, striding purposefully, Lucas carrying a cage -

LUCAS
Amena and I caught one of the birds.

SUSAN GIBBS
(to Lucas, concerned)
You have cuts and abrasions to your face and -

AMENA EMAMI
- He fell out of the tree. It was funny.

Lucas shoots her a look -

AMENA EMAMI (CONT'D)
In Afghanistan we laugh when we can.

LUCAS
(continuing)
... Okay, we know the birds carry * the virus. But they don't get sick. Why not?

Beat.

KARA
Are you going to tell us?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

LUCAS
No. That wasn't rhetorical. I have no idea.

This is okay with Kara who immediately starts thinking -

KARA
Okay... They must have some resistance or metabolic defense that our patients don't.

LUCAS
Right.
(to Susan)
So put Tweetie in your machine and -

Lucas goes to Susan's imaging console and lays the birdcage on it. Susan reacts like we have never seen, a mother protecting her child -

SUSAN GIBBS
Never touch my console! Never! Do I make myself clear, Dr. Cort?!

Lucas actually takes a step back, surprised. No one has seen this Susan before and they are a little stunned. As Susan grabs the cage and moves to the scanner with the bird -

SUSAN GIBBS (CONT'D)
Based on past scans, I'd like to focus on the ventricles and circulatory system first, if that's okay, Dr. Martins.

KARA
I don't think anyone here will argue with you, Dr. Gibbs.

INT. ANNEX - NIGHT
Kara, Lucas, Henry and Diana are watching monitors as Susan images the bird, that is now a 3D scanner machine. Each monitor shows a different 3D aspect of the bird's physiology: brain, circulatory system, skeleton, musculature, heart. It's high tech and very cool -

HENRY LO
All vital signs are normal. We're back to square one.

But Kara isn't. She's focused on the bird's heart rate -

KARA
No, Dr. Lo. Look.
He does. But Lucas spots it first -

LUCAS
It's developing an arrhythmia. And the myocardium is breaking down.

SUSAN GIBBS
Now the bird's getting it, too?

ON Kara, Diana, Susan and Henry - this is a bad sign. But -

LUCAS
This is good.

KARA
You want to explain how the bird dying is good for us?

LUCAS
It gives us another variable.

SUSAN GIBBS
The difference between the bird in its natural habitat and the bird in Boston?

LUCAS
Of course! Altitude!

He goes to a terminal Amena is at and pulls up some information -

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Their natural habitat is 10,000 feet above sea level.

HENRY LO
Then why are they here?

Amena now takes over and pulls up something she remembers.

AMENA EMAMI
There's a new electrical grid in Mexico, in Campeche.

We see a Google Earth map with an area of Mexico lit up -

SUSAN GIBBS
I don't understand.

LUCAS
The birds migrate through the area. When a new area gets electrified, it can disrupt migratory patterns.

(CONTINUED)
KARA
And how high do these birds fly when they migrate?

AMENA EMAMI
25,000 feet usually.

LUCAS
A bird's heart rate would be 500 beats a minute in its habitat and at least 700 when it's flying.

KARA
That means body temperature and metabolic rate would increase drastically.

DIANA HESS
(getting it)
Polycythemia! At that altitude the birds hemoglobin would oxygenate and destroy any pathogens.

KARA
Yes!

LUCAS
So you're saying that in order to save this girl's life, we have to make her fly?

KARA
(excited now)
... Of course we do!

Lucas and the others are totally confused now as Kara starts to head out. He follows, the others after him -

LUCAS
You want to tell us what's happening?

KARA
You should know. It was your idea.

LUCAS
It was?

And they're gone -

INT. BOSTON HOSPITAL / HYPOBARIC CENTER

We are in an underground room, dominated by a large HYPOBARIC CHAMBER.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

The chamber is a translucent glass tube, about twelve feet long, four foot diameter. It's an impressive and frightening machine that sits on top of a platform that contains oxygen tanks, power supply and controls. The sick Dino is on a gurney, Lucas petting him. Diana is setting up diagnostic equipment as Susan checks the chamber's controls. Kara is with Katie and her mother. Katie is on a gurney, very weak, it's clear she's dying. Kara talks to a desperate Julie -

KARA
- The hypobaric chamber will simulate the altitude that prevents the birds from getting sick and -

JULIE DONAHUE
- Katie's not a bird!

Lucas hears this and moves to Julie -

LUCAS
Look, there's no more time. And this is a brilliant solution. If we don't do it your daughter will definitely die.

JULIE DONAHUE
And you're sure -

LUCAS
- No. Of course not, but -

Julie is horrified by this, Kara quickly drags Lucas to the side -

KARA
Do you have no bedside manner at all?

LUCAS
Why do you think I work with animals?

KARA
Then back up and let me handle her.

Kara goes back to see that Katie has reached out to Dino and it now gently touching the sick dog, a connection between the two that's not lost on anyone. Kara talks gently to Julie -

KARA (CONT'D)
I wish we could give you a guarantee.

(MORE)
CONTINUED: (2)

KARA (CONT'D)
I promised I'd do everything I can and that's what I'm doing... But sometimes we can only do our best.

JULIE DONAHUE
... and pray.

KARA
And pray.

Julie, scared, nods. Henry sees this and hooks electrodes to Katie's chest, Lucas does the same to Dino as Julie is led out of the room by Amena to watch through a glass wall -

HENRY LO
(to Kara)
We can't get their heart rate as high as the bird's, it'll kill them.

KARA
We're going to have to push it as far as we can.

HENRY LO
And pray.

Off Kara as she nods -

MONTAGE -
- We see Katie and Dino being placed in the chamber, Katie clutching at Dino now, her lifeline. As Dino actually snuggles closer to Katie...

- Monitor shots showing images of their hearts, blood pressure and a million other things...

- Remote IVs injecting both Katie and Dino, readying them for the procedure...

- The chamber door being closed and locked.

- Susan turns on the chamber and we see the pressure and corresponding elevation. No going back now...

- Everyone is tense, watching anxiously as Diana monitors blood which is being drawn remotely from both Katie and the dog. Into this tense and dangerous scene -

A FURIOUS HOWARD FOWLER BURSTS THROUGH THE DOORS -

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

HOWARD FOWLER
What the hell are you doing?! I was just told - Is the girl in there already?!

KARA
Yes.

HOWARD FOWLER
With a goddam dog?!

LUCAS
We're trying to work so why don't you wait outside?

HOWARD FOWLER
Is this your circus doctor?!

KARA
We'll talk later, Dr. Fowler. I believe this is the only course of -

HOWARD FOWLER
- I'm chief of medicine at this hospital and we'll talk whenever the hell I say.

LUCAS
Not when lives are at stake -

Lucas moves to Fowler who pushes him away. Lucas, a well-trained and decorated soldier, quickly disables Fowler and puts him into a headlock -

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Now if I increase the pressure, you'll pass out and I don't want to do that - actually I do, but my dad says I should work on controlling myself.

As Lucas drags Fowler out -

SUSAN GIBBS
(to Diana)
This is a very uncomfortable situation.

FOWLER
(to Lucas)
I'm going to have your ass -

But Lucas doesn't care, tosses Fowler out and locks the door -

(CONTINUED)
KARA
You're definitely around animals too much. But thank you.
(them back to work)
Dr. Hess, do you have the live scan of the pathogen?

Diana pulls up dual images of the pathogen. We see her monitor is connected to a microscope inside the chamber.

DIANA HESS
It's active and alive.

LUCAS
Increase the heart rate...

Kara nods to Susan who increases the 'altitude'. We see Katie's heart rate begin to climb – 70... 75... 90.

SUSAN GIBBS
Barometric pressure is dropping, altitude equivalent is eight thousand feet.

On Diana's monitor, we see the bacteria are still active.

DIANA HESS
Keep going. The pathogen's still alive.

On Katie and the puppy, starting to feel discomfort as their heart rates increase...

SUSAN GIBBS
I've got Katie's heart rate up to one twenty-five...

Katie is now in real discomfort. She clutches the puppy, who also shows the strain and nuzzles closer to Katie. It's a heartbreaking sight –

HENRY LO
They can't take much more.

LUCAS
They have to.

Lucas and Kara lock eyes, both nervous but –

KARA
Lower the pressure even more.
CONTINUED: (5)

SUSAN GIBBS
Altitude equivalent: fifteen thousand feet.

DIANA HESS
Pathogen still viable.

KARA
Get the heart rate higher.

Henry hates this -

HENRY LO
... One seventy...

SUSAN GIBBS
18,000 feet... 21,000...

They're all nervous now. Could they be killing them?

LUCAS
One ninety...

KARA
We can't go over two hundred.

LUCAS
One ninety-seven... eight...

Everyone waits, watches, waits... As the heart rate clicks to 200, we see the latest blood test on Diana's screen and -

DIANA HESS
Hold it there!! It's working! The pathogen is dying!

They are all thrilled, relieved... They've done it! Kara looks at Julie watching from the other room, seeing their victory and knowing she'll have her daughter back... Kara looks at Lucas who looks back at her with a smile -

LUCAS
That wasn't so hard, was it?

KARA
Easier than finding a new job.

And off a reluctant smile from Kara...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAIL - NIGHT

Lucas is walking out of jail with Kara -

(Continued)
LUCAS
You didn't have to bail me out, my
dad's used to it.

KARA
I had nothing else to do.

LUCAS
I'm bummed Fowler pressed charges.  
I was hoping for a fight in the 
parking lot.

KARA
I'd pay to see that.

LUCAS
So what did he do to you?

KARA
I'll be fired when he talks to the 
board.

LUCAS
I know a little hospital outside 
Manila that could use a 
cardiologist.

KARA
You really can be a jerk.

LUCAS
So I've heard... Sorry I ruined 
your life.

Beat. Then she shrugs -

KARA
We did save some lives.

LUCAS
... Yeah, there's that.

And as they smile at each other, we hear -

MAN (O.C.)
Hey, Cort!

They look and see RICHARD SAMUELS, early 30's, dressed 
casually but expensively and very full of himself. This is the guy Lucas didn't want to talk to. And it's clear that Lucas wants nothing to do with him now -

RICHARD SAMUELS
I was coming to bail you out.

(CONTINUED)
KARA
I beat you to it.

LUCAS
Thank God.

RICHARD SAMUELS
Richard Samuels. You must be Dr. Martins.

LUCAS
How did you know where I was, Samuels? You been spying on me?

RICHARD SAMUELS
Of course. And I can get Fowler to drop the charges -

This surprises Kara -

RICHARD SAMUELS (CONT'D)
(to Kara)
- Cort and I, we were in the service together, we were buddies -

LUCAS
- No, we weren't -

RICHARD SAMUELS
- he saved my life. I got shot and this bastard took a viper, milked the damn snake and used the venom to stop the bleeding. Turns out the venom is a coagulant. The medical corps couldn't believe it.

LUCAS
Then he gets out and patents it, patents a snake.

KARA
Venulux. I've used it.

RICHARD SAMUELS
Every hospital does. God bless America. I also patented adhesive from a fly that works underwater -

LUCAS
- You're a leech and a thief, Samuels, and I wish I'd let you die.

(to Kara)
Let's go -

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

RICHARD SAMUELS
(stopping them)
There are a lot of building code violations at your little clinic, Cort. Fowler wanted to put it out of business, toss your old man out on the street.

LUCAS
And how did he know about that?

RICHARD SAMUELS
... Look, I heard what you two did with that little girl and the pooch. Very impressive. I'm sure you two have a few other things in those big brains of yours.

Now Kara shares Lucas' dislike of Samuels -

KARA
Sorry, but I'm about to be fired.

RICHARD SAMUELS
No, no, I talked to the board already. They're not going to fire you, Dr. Martins, they're going to make you a saint.

LUCAS
What do you want, Samuels?

RICHARD SAMUELS
I'm going to start a research facility at the hospital. You guys can work together, save all the lives you want. And you'll have everything you need to do it, state of the art all the way. You just have to agree to work with me.

And off Lucas and Kara knowing this guy is the devil, but wondering if selling their souls to him might be worth it...

FADE OUT.

END PILOT