THREE RIVERS
“Pilot”

by
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THREE RIVERS
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS (PAWLEY’S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA) - DAY

Sunlight streams through oak trees draped with moss. We hear FOOTSTEPS on pavement and ORGAN MUSIC, faint but getting stronger, as we follow a MAN walking toward a small brick church.

INT. RURAL CHURCH - DAY

The MAN enters and we see a wedding in progress. The bride, KIM MULLINS (22), stands before the altar holding the hand of her groom, SAM HARVEY (22, wearing a yarmulke).

PASTOR MILLER
We’re here today to join together
Kim Mullins and Sam Harvey. Kim’s
been a member of this church all
her life but Sam’s new to us. He
met our Kim just across the inland
waterway at College of Charleston.
And yes, folks, Sam’s a Yankee.
(smiling, to Sam)
We won’t hold it against you, son.
Nobody can blame you for falling in
love with Kimmy.

SAM
Thank you, sir.

Guests CHUCKLE, some shoot knowing looks to Kim’s mother, NANCY MULLINS (50’s), who forces a smile from the front pew. In the back of the church, the MAN remains standing.

PASTOR MILLER
(to Kim)
Are we ready?

KIM
Very.

PASTOR MILLER
(to Sam)
Do you, Sam, take Kim to be your
lawfully wedded wife...

Off Sam, looking lovingly into Kim’s bright blue eyes,
INT. UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH BASKETBALL ARENA - DAY

The stands are packed with screaming college students and rabid fans as Pitt takes on arch-rival Duquesne. The game is fast, the crowd is electric as Duquesne player (TYLER) takes a shot, which is blocked by Pitt player, ALVIN WEATHERS (20, African-American, confident and cocky). Weathers steals the ball, turns and hits a three-pointer from almost half-court. The crowd goes nuts and Alvin Weathers is loving every minute of it.

IN THE STANDS, RUSS COBLE (30’s) sits down next to an NBA SCOUT.

RUSS COBLE
(re: Alvin)
How do you like my boy?

NBA SCOUT
Russ --
(shaking Russ’ hand)
You’re this kid’s lawyer?

RUSS COBLE
Exploring a few possibilities on his behalf. Are the Sixers interested?

NBA SCOUT
You really think he’s ready to go pro?

RUSS COBLE
Top scorer for University of Pittsburgh. Ranked third of all league sophomores --

NBA SCOUT
He’s not the tallest kid I’ve ever seen. What is he, six one?

RUSS COBLE
Six feet even, but with his jump shot and fast break, usually has the court all to himself.

The SCOUT watches Alvin. Quick, aggressive, great shooter.

NBA SCOUT
Impressive. What do you know about the drugs?

(CONTINUED)
RUSS COBLE
I know that’s all behind him.

The Scout shoots Russ a skeptical look.

RUSS COBLE (CONT’D)
Okay, look, the kid grew up in foster care, drugs all around him. But I told him if he wanted to go pro, he had to clean up his act. That was six months ago. Since then, no drugs, respects his curfew, in the gym eight, nine hours a day. He wants this. He needs this. He’s ready.

Impressed by Russ’ belief in Alvin, the Scout looks back to

THE COURT

where Weathers has the ball, Tyler guards him aggressively. Alvin smiles, dribbles behind his back in a little flourish that sends up a CHEER from the stands.

TYLER
Hey, Showboat. Stop playing to the crowd. You ain’t the only one they’re looking at.

ALVIN WEATHERS
I’m the only one they’re gonna see.

Weathers fakes in one direction, dribbles past Tyler, makes a jump shot, sending the CROWD TO ITS FEET. Alvin struts down the court as the CROWD CHEERS --

INT. THREE RIVERS / HALLWAY - DAY

DR. ANDY YABLONSKI (39) slams out of an O.R., heads down the hall and is joined on the move by PAM ARNOLD (30’s, no-nonsense, Andy’s operative assistant and best friend).

PAM
I talked to my buddies at the Cleveland Clinic --

ANDY
Do you have any idea how many of your sentences start that way?

(CONTINUED)
PAM
Shut up. They got the luxury suite for the Browns-Steelers game and they saved me two spots, so you in or out?

ANDY
You realize you live in Pittsburgh now, right?

PAM
You realize you live in this hospital, right?

ANDY
I don’t live in the hospital --

PAM
Right, you live in the Comfort Inn connected to the hospital. Come on, it’s the Steelers. You love the Steelers.

ANDY
I’ll see if I can switch weekends with Rena.

PAM
Great. And a friend of mine’s subletting her apartment. You should talk to her.

ANDY
I don’t need an apartment, I have a house.

(off Pam’s look)
We’re going to work it out.

(Pam’s unconvinced)
Shut up.

PAM
(smiles, points to -)
O.R. two.

Andy and Pam head toward O.R. #2, intersecting with a medical team transferring a patient, MARK WILSON (50’s, weak, pale). At his side is MIRANDA FOSTER (mid-30’s, surgical fellow). Andy falls in step.

ANDY
(to Wilson)
How are you doing, Mr. Wilson? Miranda give you some good drugs?
MARK WILSON
(drifting in and out)
Make her go home after this. She can’t work around the clock, she’ll get sick.

ANDY
What are you, her dad?

MARK WILSON
(fighting sleep)
Me and Sue always wanted a daughter. Maybe we’ll adopt her. Whaddaya say, Miranda?

MIRANDA
Can I have a puppy?

MARK WILSON
(no, but)
We’ll talk.

Miranda smiles. Wilson closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep. Andy sees a very lost-looking young man (RYAN ROMERO, 25) wandering toward them.

RYAN
Excuse me? Do you know where Dr. Jordan is?

ANDY
Yes.

Andy keeps moving. Pam chuckles, then points down a side hallway as she and the team pass Ryan --

PAM
Her office is through those doors.

ANGLE ON ANDY

As he and the team head toward O.R. #2, DR. SOPHIA JORDAN (40’s; Rene Russo in scrubs; professional, attractive, impatient with anyone who hasn’t sacrificed as she has for the job) exits another O.R. She discards her surgical cap and mask as she sees Andy approaching.

JORDAN
Andy, the committee meeting was rescheduled for two p.m. today.

ANDY
Got it.

(Continued)
PAM
(to Jordan)
Dr. Jordan, there’s a lost boy back there looking for you.

Jordan sees Ryan wandering down the hall, reading each sign.

JORDAN
(like I need this...)
Great.
(to Andy)
Two o’clock. Don’t be late.

ANDY
Yes, boss.

We follow Dr. Jordan to Ryan. Still on the move, she says --

JORDAN
Are you the new assistant?

RYAN
To the transplant coordinator, yes.
Ryan Romero.

JORDAN
I’m Dr. Jordan, Head of Surgery.
Your office is this way.

Jordan continues down the hall, Ryan tries to keep up.

JORDAN (CONT’D)
Here’s the thing, you were hired to help the coordinator put together donor runs. Book the jet, bring supplies, communicate with the donor hospital and get the organs back safely for transplant.
(Ryan is about to speak when --)
However, the transplant coordinator who hired you, quit last night. So we’re going to need you to pick up some slack until we can replace her. You’re on call 24-7 so keep your phone on.
(points)
Office is down there. I’ll check on you later.

Jordan peals off in another direction, leaving Ryan stranded, alone and more than a little confused.
INT. THREE RIVERS / TRANSPLANT O.R. - DAY

Andy and his operative team -- including Pam, BUD (30’s, stocky, shaved head, fu-manchu, scrub nurse) and a MOUSY ANESTHESIOLOGIST who obviously doesn’t fit in -- prep for surgery. Mark Wilson is now unconscious and being draped for the operation. Andy opens a cabinet, pulls out his surgical goggles. Nearby, Bud meticulously drapes the instrument table with blue sterile cloths.

ANDY
Bud, you’re not a scrub nurse, you’re an artist.

PAM
It hurts his feelings when you mock him.

ANDY
He spent five years as a corrections officer and I’m going to hurt his feelings?

BUD
(to Andy; mock sincerity)
I do this for you, man. To support your genius. Now, don’t bump my table with your germy scrubs. I’ll have to drape it all over again.

Andy backs away with his hands up, heads into the...

INT. THREE RIVERS / O.R. / SCRUB ROOM - DAY

Andy enters to see Miranda, her back to him, putting her hair up under a surgical cap. A TATTOO OF CHINESE CHARACTERS runs down her neck and turns into a picture of something -- a knife, maybe? A feather...? Miranda turns, startling Andy.

MIRANDA
You want me to open, right?

ANDY
(I wasn’t looking at your tattoo...)
Yeah.

Miranda begins to scrub in. Andy joins her.

MIRANDA
Wish we were giving him new lungs instead of putting him on lung support.

(CONTINUED)
ANDY
He can't wait anymore. Let's get him on the ECMO and hope we get an offer soon.

MIRANDA
I say we rip the lungs out of the factory owner who exposed Mr. Wilson to the radon.

ANDY
(beat, then -)
You really do need a nap.

Miranda smiles, exits into the O.R. Off Andy,

INT. RURAL CHURCH - DAY
Kim slips a gold wedding band on Sam's finger.

PASTOR MILLER
I now pronounce you man and wife.
You may kiss the bride.

As Sam lifts Kim's veil, the MAN in the back reveals he's carrying a HANDGUN. The bride and groom kiss, the MAN lifts the handgun and SHOOTS. Chaos in the church. People SCREAMING. More shots POP, POP, POP. Two men tackle the gunman and wrestle the gun away. Blood runs down Kim's neck onto her white dress. Nancy SCREAMS and runs to her daughter.

INT. SPORTS ARENA - DAY
Weathers' steals the ball, races down court. Tyler tries to cut him off, but Weathers goes past him for a slam-dunk and makes it. He hangs onto the rim in triumph, then drops to the floor in front of Tyler, laughing for a beat, then suddenly collapses. Confusion turns into panic as players and coaches run onto the court and swarm around Weathers.

3-WAY SPLIT SCREEN
THREE RIVERS O.R.: Miranda has finished opening Wilson’s chest. Andy comes out of the scrub room wearing his goggles, a surgical mask and cap and holding up his clean hands. Pam deftly gloves him, Bud hands him an instrument, a nurse turns on the stereo and Andy begins the operation.

SPORTS ARENA: Weathers unconscious on the court, team doctors whirling around him; “Get the ambulance.”

(CONTINUED)
RURAL CHURCH: Sam, holding his bride, covered in her blood, begging, “Somebody, call 9-1-1!” --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. THREE RIVERS / E.R. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Andy makes his way through the crowded room, looking for someone he doesn’t see.

EDDY (O.S.)
Andy. Hey, Yablonski --

Andy finds EDDY BANKS (40, working class, bruised face, blood seeping through the T-shirt wrapped around his arm).

EDDY (CONT’D)
I told ‘em I knew you. Thought they might get to me sooner.

ANDY
(examining him)
What happened to your arm?

EDDY
You know. Bar. Some jerk wanted to fight.

ANDY
That jerk being you?

Eddy laughs. Suddenly the E.R. doors BANG open and Alvin Weathers (still in his basketball gear) is wheeled in on a gurney, writhing in pain, with an endotracheal tube down his throat. Andy spots the number on Alvin’s jersey, recognizes it. An E.R. DOC checks Alvin’s vitals, shouts to the EMT’s --

E.R. DOC
Take him into three and page the cardiac team --

ANDY
(to Eddy)
I gotta go, Eddy.

EDDY
(pointed)
You should come by the bar. Carl got out last week.

Andy meets Eddy’s eyes. There’s a story here. One Andy would rather forget.

ANDY
I’ll see what I can do.

(CONTINUED)
Andy runs to Alvin’s gurney. The E.R. Doc is surprised to see Andy, treats him like visiting royalty.

E.R. DOC
Dr. Yablonski? You kidding me?

ANDY
(to a NURSE)
Get me an echo and an EKG.

Andy follows the team into the exam room.

INT. THREE RIVERS / E.R. / EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alvin is fighting the tube and the nurse attempting to hook him up to an I.V. Andy checks Alvin’s pupils as the medical team sets up the EKG.

EMT
(to Andy)
Collapsed during a game. He plays for Pitt.

ANDY
Alvin Weathers.

EMT
He arrested in the ambulance, had to shock him.

Andy leans down, face to face with Alvin.

ANDY
(to Alvin)
Alvin? Alvin, can you hear me?

Alvin’s eyes are filled with fear as he continues to fight the breathing tube.

ANDY (CONT’D)
We’re going to take care of you, okay? You’re going to be all right. That tube’s going to help you breathe, I want you to stay as calm as possible. All right? You’re gonna be okay.

Alvin nods, trying to do as Andy tells him.

ANDY (CONT’D)
(to the EMT)
History of heart disease, high blood pressure?

(CONTINUED)
EMT
Don’t know. Friend of his followed us over, should be here by now.

ANDY
(to the nurse)
Let me know the minute you’ve got the test results.
(to Alvin)
Be right back, Alvin.

Andy exits the exam room.

INT. THREE RIVERS / E.R. / WAITING AREA — DAY

Andy yells into the crowded, chaotic room --

ANDY
Who’s here for Alvin Weathers?
(louder)
Anybody here for Alvin Weathers?!

Russ pushes his way around several people to reach Andy.

RUSS COBLE
I am! I’m Russ Coble. His attorney.

ANDY
Dr. Yablonski. I’m a cardio-thoracic surgeon.

RUSS COBLE
(panicked)
He needs surgery? What’s wrong with him?

ANDY
We’re waiting for tests, right now we need a medical history, do you know how to contact his family?

RUSS COBLE
He doesn’t have any. Well, he mentioned some people in Indiana, but I don’t think he talks to them.

A nurse approaches Andy.

NURSE
Dr. Ruiz is here from Cardiology and we’re ready with the echo.

(CONTINUED)
ANDY
(to Russ)
Sit tight.

Andy moves to go.

RUSS COBLE
Will he still be able to play ball?

ANDY
One thing at a time.

Andy heads back to the E.R.

INT. THREE RIVERS / E.R. / EXAM ROOM - DAY

As Andy hurries in, a nurse hands him an EKG graph paper. DR. SERGIO RUIZ (50, Cardiologist, conservative and competitive) is standing at the echocardiogram machine.

RUIZ
Heard you were down here.

ANDY
(reading the graph)
EKG shows left axis deviation.
How’s the echo?

He joins Dr. Ruiz at the ultrasound screen, to see THREE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF ALVIN’S HEART BEATING IN 3-D. ONE VALVE IS VERY DAMAGED, THE VENTRICLE IS DILATED AND BARELY MOVING.

RUIZ
Looks like he has severe ventricular dilatation.

ANDY
Possible hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

RUIZ
The walls are thickened but I wouldn’t go that far.

ANDY
I would, but let’s start with improving his blood flow. I think we should put him on a VAD.

RUIZ
Agreed.

(CONTINUED)
ANDY
(to the staff)
Move him upstairs --

ALARMS go off as Alvin begins to seize.

ANDY (CONT’D)
He’s arresting --

Andy immediately begins doing chest compressions on Alvin.

ANDY (CONT’D)
(to the nurse)
Call Pam, get my team. We’re going
to do it here --

Nurses quickly prepare for surgery as Andy continues CPR,

EXT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC - DAY

A small, one-story cinderblock building. Looks more like a 7-11 than a medical facility, but the sign out front announces, “PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC.”

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC - DAY

The walls are clean but faded. The equipment is old. Kim Mullins lies in a hospital bed at the end of the hallway with Sam and Nancy on either side of her. We HEAR two women with Southern drawls, speaking in hushed tones --

LUCY (O.S.)
Who shot her?

WOMAN (O.S.)
Some nut. Just lost his wife, mad at God, decided to shoot up a church.

LUCY WALLACE (30’s, wearing scrubs and a lab-coat) walks into frame and heads into Kim’s room.

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / KIM’S ROOM - DAY

Lucy enters to see Sam, holding Kim’s hand and Nancy seated on the other side of the bed, stroking Kim’s hair. Connected to a ventilator and IV lines, Kim looks as if she’s sleeping.

LUCY
I’m Lucy Wallace. I’m a family care specialist. I am very sorry for your loss.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
I’m Sam Harvey.

LUCY
Kim’s husband?

SAM
(with difficulty)
Yes. And this is Kim’s mother, Nancy Mullins.

NANCY
They say she’s dead. But look at her. She’s still breathing. She’s still warm.

LUCY
The IV’s and ventilator are keeping Kim’s body stable for the moment, to give you time to make some end of life decisions.

SAM
What do you mean?

LUCY
(respectfully)
Have you considered organ donation?

NANCY
No. She’s still here. People wake up out of comas all the time.

LUCY
I’m afraid this isn’t a coma. The scan shows that Kim’s brain function has ceased and once that’s gone, she’s gone.

As that settles in on Sam.

LUCY (CONT’D)
In a few hours, her heart could stop on its own and donation will no longer be an option. If Kim’s going to save lives, we need to start the process.

SAM
(gently, to Nancy)
Well, if she can help someone --

(CONTINUED)
NANCY
No. We don’t believe in any of that.

SAM
Kim had her own beliefs --

NANCY
You mean you had yours.
(to Lucy)
You’re not carving up my baby. This is the family’s decision.

LUCY
Yes, ma’am, but as her husband, Sam’s the next of kin. Legally, the decision is his.

Off Nancy’s look to Sam,

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU - DAY

State of the art medical technology. Computer terminals at each bedside; X-rays projected on flat screens. There is a constant BEEPING of ALARMS, the loudest at the moment, belonging to Mark Wilson, who is now hooked up to the ECMO and numerous IV’s. Miranda adjusts Wilson’s medication, stopping the alarm as Wilson’s wife looks on.

A medical team wheels Alvin Weathers (now attached by wires to a small mechanical box) into ICU; setting him up in an empty unit. Andy sweeps in behind them, surgical mask hanging around his neck.

MIRANDA
Andy.

He joins her at Wilson’s bedside.

MIRANDA (CONT’D)
How’s the basketball player?

ANDY
Stable but the heart looked enlarged when I put him on the VAD.

MIRANDA
I have Mr. Wilson’s post-ops, if you’ve got a minute.

(CONTINUED)
ANDY

Sure.
(to Mrs. Wilson)
How are you doing, Mrs. Wilson?

SUE WILSON
(re: her husband)
If he’s okay, I’m okay.

Andy gives her a comforting smile and moves away with Miranda, through the busy unit. They see DAVID LEONE (30, surgical resident, model good-looks) across the room flirting with a very CUTE NURSE.

ANDY
Too bad Wilson doesn’t need a heart. David seems to be building up quite a collection.

MIRANDA
But he always breaks them, so it wouldn’t help.

Andy smiles as Miranda stops at a FLATSCREEN, types in Wilson’s name. X-RAYS are projected onto the board. Andy and Miranda keep their poker faces, knowing the patients and their families are always watching them.

MIRANDA (CONT’D)
So far, no infection or clotting, but he’s awfully weak.

ANDY
(looking at the x-ray)
Increase his Heparin. I’m worried about what’s building up around the valves of the ECMO.

MIRANDA
How long do you think he has?

ANDY
Few days. If we’re lucky.

Off Miranda’s concern,

INT. THREE RIVERS / HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CARDIAC ICU - DAY
Ryan is peeking in the window as Jordan heads toward ICU.

JORDAN
Ryan?

(CONTINUED)
RYAN
Oh, hi. I was just getting the lay of the land --

JORDAN
Follow me.

Jordan keeps moving into ICU, Ryan quickly follows.

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU - CONTINUOUS
Jordan and Ryan enter on the move.

JORDAN
(to Ryan)
This is ICU. And this is --
(gesturing to each)
Miranda Foster, surgical fellow...

David joins then in time for --

JORDAN (CONT’D)
David Leone, lowly resident and Dr. Andy Yablonski, staff surgeon.

RYAN
(overly enthusiastic)
I’m Ryan Romero and I cannot tell you how excited I am to be working here.

Looks bounce between Miranda, David and Andy. Calm down, buddy...

JORDAN
Miranda, may I speak with you?

MIRANDA
Sure.

They walk away. Andy follows.

ANDY
(to Jordan)
We hired Spongebob?

JORDAN
He’s bright, he’s organized and he went to a better school than you did, so be nice.
(to Miranda)
Dr. Khalid wants to see you about the incident in West Virginia.

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA
I already told you --

JORDAN
Tell him.

Miranda’s not happy, but she exits.

ANDY
Why’s Khalid riding her so hard?

JORDAN
Because the building has her name on it?

ANDY
Her father’s name. Khalid needs to get laid.

JORDAN
Maybe that’s why he wants to see her.

Andy reacts to that as Dr. Jordan moves to David and Ryan.

JORDAN (CONT’D)
(to David)
David, cover Mr. Wilson.

DAVID
Yes, Ma’am. And at some point, I’d like to talk about doing my Fellowship with you.

JORDAN
You want to specialize in liver surgery?

DAVID
(seductively)
I know it’s competitive but I’m ready to do whatever it takes for the opportunity to learn under you.

JORDAN
Are you flirting with me?

DAVID
Would that be good?

JORDAN
No.
DAVID
Not flirting.

Dr. Jordan exits. Ryan and David watch her go.

RYAN
She’s scary.

DAVID
(turned on)
Yes she is.
(then, to Ryan)
Go away now. And put “Primanti Brothers” on your speed dial.

RYAN
I’m sorry?

DAVID
At some point, we’ll need to do a donor run and you have to cater the plane. Primanti Brothers has a cheese-steak sandwich with the french fries on the inside. I want that.
(off Ryan’s look)
Don’t judge me.

David goes back to work. Off Ryan, left alone again,

INT. THREE RIVERS / CLINICAL DIRECTOR KHALID’S OFFICE - DAY

Miranda stands before DR. SHAHEEN KHALID (60, Director of the transplant clinic, imperious and imposing), who sits behind a dark mahogany desk, reading from a letter.

KHALID
“... During the procurement, Foster cursed at the hospital staff, made unreasonable demands and disrupted the O.R...”

MIRANDA
Dr. Khalid, that staff’s incompetence almost cost me a good pair of lungs.

KHALID
The head of surgery --

MIRANDA
Bob Yorn.

(CONTINUED)
KHALID
Correct, Dr. Yorn has requested that you never return to his O.R.

MIRANDA
I had a nineteen year old cystic fibrosis patient with a rare blood type. The West Virginia lungs were probably the only chance she was going to get and I wasn’t going to lose them.

KHALID
I appreciate the dedication to your patients but when you are on a donor run, you are representing Three Rivers Medical Center.

MIRANDA
Yes sir.

KHALID
Obviously, allowing you to do your Fellowship here after the problems at your last hospital --

MIRANDA
I went through a difficult time when my father died and I made some bad choices.
(looking him in the eye)
I’m here to prove myself as a doctor. And I know I’m only getting that chance because of who my father was --

KHALID
Actually, I see a great deal more of your mother in you.

Miranda is surprised by that. Uncomfortable letting his guard down, Khalid quickly gets back to business.

KHALID (CONT’D)
I want you to do well here, Miranda. So if you have any problems, come to me.

MIRANDA
Thank you. May I get back to work?

Khalid checks his watch, stands.

(CONTINUED)
KHALID
We’re discussing Mark Wilson in the committee meeting. I think you should join us.

Off Miranda, wondering what this means for Wilson,

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC - DAY

Lucy tries to calm Nancy, who is focusing her anger at Sam.

NANCY
He’s not family --

LUCY
They were legally married --

NANCY
For a few minutes! That doesn’t give him the right to go against what we want.

SAM
It’s about what Kim would have wanted --

NANCY
I’ll tell you what she would have wanted. She was my baby for twenty years before you came along and you will not tell me about my own child. This --
   (gestures to the room -- EVERYTHING)
All of this is your fault.

Devastated, Sam exits into...

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND / HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam is angry, hurt, overwhelmed with grief. Lucy joins him.

LUCY
I’m sure she didn’t mean that.

SAM
She meant it. She didn’t speak to Kim for six months when she found out we were engaged --
   (upset)
So, do you need me to sign something? How do we do this?

(CONTINUED)
LUCY
Sam, you should think about it.
Families don’t forget these things.

SAM
You heard her, I’m not family. So
I’m going to do what I believe my
wife --

He chokes back tears; first time he’s used that phrase.

SAM (CONT’D)
... would have wanted. I’m
authorizing the donation.

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU - DAY

Andy enters to find Weathers in his hospital bed, switching TV channels.

ALVIN WEATHERS
You tellin’ me this lame-ass place
doesn’t even have ESPN?

ANDY
Channel 570. How are you feeling?

ALVIN WEATHERS
Like crap. Who are you?

ANDY
Dr. Yablonski. I’m the guy who
hooked you up to that hunk of
metal.

Alvin looks at the VAD, agitated.

ALVIN WEATHERS
What is it, a battery?

ANDY
Kinda. It’s a ventricular assist
device. Helps your heart to pump.

Russ enters, hanging up his cellphone.

RUSS COBLE
(to Alvin)
Spoke to the Sixers, we’ve got
until April to declare.
(to Andy)
Hi, doctor. Russ.
(MORE)
I understand we were incredibly lucky that you happened to be in the E.R. when Alvin was brought in.

ANDY
I was glad we were able to move fast.
(then)
Lawyer, right?

RUSS COBLE
Yeah.

ANDY
(to Alvin, re: Russ)
Tell me you’re not going pro.

ALVIN WEATHERS
I ain’t spending two more years playing for free.

ANDY
Well, on behalf of season ticket holders, I wish you’d reconsider. Team’s just coming together and besides, you need to work on your freethrows.

ALVIN WEATHERS
Excuse me? I’m the leading scorer at Pitt.

ANDY
Well, I was the third best rebounder for Allegheny Community College.

Alvin laughs in spite of himself.

ALVIN WEATHERS
When can I get outta here?

ANDY
Don’t know yet. Your heart’s not pumping enough blood. There are a few things we can do about that and I’m going to discuss them with my colleagues --
(looks at watch)
Right now. I’ll be back to talk it over with you.

Alvin nods, okay. On his way out, Andy points to Russ --

(CONTINUED)
ANDY (CONT’D)
You. Stop trying to make my season seats worthless.

Andy exits.

INT. THREE RIVERS / BOARDROOM - DAY

Committee meets around a conference table, including Khalid, Jordan, Ruiz and HELEN ROSS (50’s, African-American, social worker). Standing in back observing, are several surgical fellows, including Miranda. Andy’s at the smart board, which shows Alvin Weathers’ 3-D ECHO.

ANDY
Alvin Weathers. Twenty-year-old male, collapsed during a basketball game. Severe ventricular hypertrophy and restricted blood flow due to aortic stenosis. He’s now on a VAD and has stabilized.

KHALID
Options?

RUIZ
We could start with medication, see if he heals on the VAD.

ANDY
He’s not responding quickly enough to the meds.
(pointing to the echo)
I think we should replace the aortic valve, which would improve his ventricular outflow. The concern I have is that he may have underlying cardiomyopathy --

RUIZ
I disagree. It’s entirely possible his heart will heal if we give it a chance. We should start with meds then move to aortic surgery only if necessary.

KHALID
(to Helen)
Helen, you took the med-sosh?

HELEN
Yes. He has no family --

(CONTINUED)
ANDY
He has people in Illinois or Indiana or somewhere --

HELEN
His mother’s from Indiana, but she was estranged from her family and died when he was ten years old.

KHALID
Heart problem?

HELEN
Mixed with drugs and alcohol. Alvin ended up in foster care and was never adopted. Not surprisingly, he also has a history of drug use.

ANDY
He’s been clean for six months --

HELEN
Yes, but those influences are never far away and my fear is that faced with prolonged medical problems and no family support, he’ll revert back to his old ways.

ANDY
So, let’s move aggressively, fix the valve and a couple months from now, he’s good as new.

Khalid considers, then --

KHALID

ANDY
Thank you.

As Andy takes a seat, he shoots a look to Sergio.

KHALID
Let’s talk about Mark Wilson.

JORDAN
He’s getting too sick to transplant. We may need to deactivate him from the waiting list until he rebounds.

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA  
(blurting out --)  
He’s not going to rebound, he’s  
going to die --  

All eyes go to Miranda.  

KHALID  
Dr. Foster is the Surgical Fellow  
assigned to Mr. Wilson.  

MIRANDA  
He is getting weaker, but the only  
way to reverse his slide is to  
transplant him.  

JORDAN  
Andy, do you think he can survive  
the operation?  

ANDY  
There are no contra-indications --  
no infections, no clots. I can  
still transplant him, we just need  
a pair of lungs.  

JORDAN  
Maybe if we could remove some of the  
restrictions on the donor pool --  

MIRANDA  
I’ll go talk to him right now.  
Just please, don’t deactivate him.  

A beat, as Khalid considers, then --  

KHALID  
Let us know what he says.  

Off Miranda’s exit,  

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU − DAY  

Clutching a medical form, Miranda hurries to Mark Wilson’s  
bedside to find him sleeping, Sue watching over him.  

MIRANDA  
(urgently)  
Mrs. Wilson, we had a conversation  
with Mark early on about the level  
of risk he was willing to accept in  
a donor. No I.V. drug users, no  
prison inmates...  
(MORE)  

(CONTINUED)
Sue nods.

You and I need to have that conversation again because if Mark gets much weaker, we won’t be able to transplant him.

SUE WILSON

No --

MIRANDA

I’m not saying we won’t find him a perfect pair of lungs but if a less than perfect pair is offered, I think we should consider them.

Sue locks eyes with Miranda.

SUE WILSON

He’s only fifty-two years old. We’re supposed to have another thirty years --

MIRANDA

I’m looking for every chance, Sue --

SUE WILSON

Whatever it takes, you hear me? I put him in your hands. You tell me to take the lungs, we’ll take them. Just save him.

Off Miranda,

INT. THREE RIVERS / CAFETERIA - DAY

Ryan’s at the soda machine, mixing ice tea with lemonade in a precise (some might say obsessive) fashion. His cell RINGS.

RYAN

(into phone)
Ryan Romero...

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / NURSE’S STATION - DAY

(INTERCUT)

LUCY

(into phone)
Hi, Ryan. This is Lucy Wallace. I’m the OPO Coordinator for South Carolina. We have an offer for one of your patients...
INT. THREE RIVERS / RYAN’S OFFICE – DAY

Ryan runs into his office as a FAX is arriving. He grabs it, reads the headline:

**MEDICAL REPORT: DONOR LUNGS / PAWLEY’S ISLAND – URGENT**

Ryan exits quickly with the report.

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU – DAY

Andy enters to find Russ and Alvin watching ESPN. Andy enters.

ANDY
(to Alvin)
Okay, let’s talk about your heart.
You have a genetic defect -- one of your valves is too small to let blood flow through properly.
That’s why you collapsed. We could continue treating you with medications, keep you on the VAD and see if you improve but I’m not optimistic about that. This is life-threatening. I think we need to replace the valve.

ALVIN WEATHERS
(worried)
Can I still play ball?

ANDY
If everything goes well, yes.
You’ll need six or eight weeks of recovery but then you can start to train again.

ALVIN WEATHERS
(to Russ)
What do you think, Russ?

RUSS COBLE
Let’s get you healthy.

ALVIN WEATHERS
(beat; then -)
Okay. When?

ANDY
Today.

As that hits Alvin, Ryan hurries up, waving the report.
RYAN (O.S.)
Dr. Yablonski --

ANDY
(to Alvin and Russ)
Excuse me.

Ryan hands the report to Andy, who looks at it, then heads across the unit to where Miranda is attending to Wilson, shows her the report. Sue Wilson enters carrying a cup of coffee, sees Miranda and Andy at her husband’s bedside.

SUE WILSON
What’s going on?

Miranda holds up the report, breaks into a broad grin.

MIRANDA
We got ‘em.

3-WAY SPLIT SCREEN

THREE RIVERS NURSES STATION: Activity buzzes around Ryan, who talks on a cellphone while quickly gathering equipment.

PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC: Nancy sits with Kim (on a ventilator) as Sam and the medical team come to take her for the procurement. Nancy locks eyes with Sam.

THREE RIVERS CARDIAC ICU: Sue cannot contain her joy, or her tears. She grabs Miranda and hugs her tightly --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. THREE RIVERS / NURSES’ STATION - DAY

Andy and Miranda arrive at the busy nurses’ station, where David, Ryan and INDER (20’s, resident) gather supplies.

ANDY
(to Ryan)
Ready for your first donor run?

RYAN
Got the jet, the pilot, David’s weird sandwich --

MIRANDA
Got the cooler?

RYAN
For the drinks?

MIRANDA
For the lungs.

RYAN
Be right back.

Ryan runs down the hall. Miranda finds a roll of masking tape, rips off a piece, writes the name MARK WILSON on it, and slaps it on her chest. Andy sees, but doesn’t comment.

MIRANDA
The lungs are perfect. Same with the heart, liver and kidneys but we’re not getting any of those.

ANDY
Which means you’re going to be tripping over a bunch of other teams in a crowded O.R.

MIRANDA
Don’t worry, I’ll play nice. (smiles)

Miranda, David and Inder head out. Ryan runs by, carrying a red IGLOO COOLER, trying to catch up. Pam joins Andy.

PAM
I’m scheduling the transplant for two a.m. You should grab some sleep while they’re gone.

(CONTINUED)
ANDY
I’d rather replace Alvin Weathers’
aortic valve.

PAM
So would I, if I lived at the
Comfort Inn.

Andy ignores her and moves off. Pam dials the house phone.

PAM (CONT’D)
(into phone)
This is Pam Arnold. I need an O.R.
for Dr. Yablonski... Another O.R.

INT. PRIVATE JET - NIGHT

The procurement team boards the private jet. David and Inder
take seats and settle in – having done this numerous times.
Ryan looks around, impressed.

RYAN
Hard to believe people fly like
this. I mean, regular people, not
the president or anything.

DAVID
Sit down, Jethro.

Ryan takes a seat as Miranda enters the cabin with the PILOT.

MIRANDA
(to the pilot)
We can’t have any delays on the way
back. The lungs are only viable
for five hours and it’s a three and
a half hour flight.

PILOT
Shouldn’t be a problem. I’m
watching a storm system in the
Gulf, but if we stick to the
schedule, we won’t get anywhere
near it.

DAVID
(flirting)
Miranda, I saved you a spot under
my blanket.

MIRANDA
Oh, my goodness, we forgot to bring
a bimbo for David.

(CONTINUED)
RYAN
(don’t blame me...)
I was told to get a sandwich --

Miranda takes a seat, buckles in. David hands a CD to Inder.

DAVID
You know what to do, my friend.

Inder slides the CD into the sound system, cranks it up, BLASTING Three Doors Down’s “IT’S NOT MY TIME,” as the ENGINES ROAR and the plane starts to taxi. THE MUSIC CONTINUES OVER --

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU - NIGHT

Andy is there, overseeing Alvin’s transfer to the O.R. As Alvin is wheeled out, he looks back to Russ, who gives him a hopeful thumbs-up.

INT. THREE RIVERS / O.R. - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP ON LIVE IMAGE OF VALVE SURGERY

Andy’s skilled, gloved hands suture the new valve. PULL BACK to reveal Pam, Bud and the operative team, working in concert with Andy, anticipating his needs; a beautiful machine.

ANDY
New valve looks perfect. Let’s take him off the VAD.

As Andy and Pam begin to disconnect the heart pump, Alvin’s heart begins to slow down.

ANDY (CONT’D)
(suddenly worried)
Pam, check this --

She looks up to the FLATSCREEN showing Alvin’s heart, beating slowly and erratically.

PAM
It’s not contracting well --

ANDY
We can’t take him off the pump, he won’t get enough blood flow. Leave him on the VAD and take him back to ICU. I’ll go talk to Dr. Jordan.

Off Andy, quickly exiting the E.R.,
INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC - NIGHT

Miranda, David, Ryan (carrying the red cooler) and Inder (wearing earbuds, listening to his iphone), walk with Lucy.

LUCY
Abdominal team is in the O.R.
We’re expecting the heart guys any minute.

MIRANDA
Is the donor stable?

LUCY
We’re struggling to keep her blood pressure up. We need to get into surgery before we lose the organs.

MIRANDA
Paperwork’s in order?

LUCY
The husband authorized the donation but the mother’s not happy. I’m only telling you because this is a small place and you may bump into them.

MIRANDA
I don’t plan to be here that long.

Lucy motions toward a door and they enter...

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / O.R. - CONTINUOUS

... to find another procurement team, including an ABDOMINAL DOC, prepping Kim’s body for surgery.

MIRANDA
Hold on. What are you doing?
Thoracic organs go first.

AB DOC
I’m going to split the liver, so you’ve got a couple of hours.

MIRANDA
I’m not making my patient wait. You can do the split ex-vivo on the back table.

AB DOC
I’m old-fashioned. I prefer to do it inside the body.

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA
I prefer you get out of my way --

The HEART TEAM, including DR. BOB YORN, enters.

DR. YORN
(re: Miranda)
Oh, god, you again?

MIRANDA
Yorn?

Inder looks to David, whispers --

INDER
Is that --?

DAVID
West Virginia.

DR. YORN
(to AB DOC)
Careful, doctor, she throws things.

MIRANDA
Bite me, Yorn. This guy wants to split the liver in the body.

DR. YORN
Let him. I could use some coffee.

MIRANDA
I’m not wasting two hours.
(to David, Inder, Ryan)
Scrub in, guys. Ryan, start the sterile slush.

RYAN
I’m sorry?

DAVID
(to Ryan)
Slush. Start with three bags.

David heads to the scrub room. A dozen people buzz around the small O.R. as Miranda sees Ryan frozen in place.

MIRANDA
Why are you just standing there, get the damn slush!

RYAN
I don’t know what that is.

(Continued)
Miranda (and everyone, for that matter) stops to face Ryan.

MIRANDA
Where did you get your medical training?

RYAN
I don’t have medical training. I was hired to assist the person who had medical training --

The others in the room smirk and try to look away.

MIRANDA
What kind of training do you have?

RYAN
I was a stringer for a newspaper in Columbus and I did the farm report on a local radio station --

MIRANDA
You’re a D.J.?

RYAN
No, I did the news --

DR. YORN
Why don’t the two of you settle this outside while those of us who have medical training do our work.

Miranda gets in Yorn’s face.

MIRANDA
Stay out of this, Yorn, this isn’t your hospital --

DR. YORN
(to his team)
Can someone call security. This woman is unstable --

David comes into the room, sees Miranda squaring off with Yorn and runs to get between them.

DAVID
(to Dr. Yorn)
Do not make me kick your ass --

In the midst of the yelling and posturing, Lucy enters.

(CONTINUED)
LUCY
Stop it, everybody! The mother got a court order stopping the procurement. Until we hear from the judge, we’re on hold.

MIRANDA
No! Talk to the mother, make her change her mind --

LUCY
I can’t do that --

MIRANDA
Well, I can’t let my patient die when there are lungs waiting for him right there --

DAVID
Miranda --

David gently pulls her back and she allows it. She looks at the clock on the wall: 7:00 p.m.

INT. THREE RIVERS / CARDIAC ICU - NIGHT

Andy stands in front of a FLATSCREEN, looking at Alvin’s new 3-D echo with Sergio and Jordan.

RUIZ
You were right about the cardiomyopathy. This heart won’t recover.

JORDAN
Let’s start a transplant evaluation.

ANDY
We need to expedite it. His heart could stop at any moment.

JORDAN
I’ll talk to Khalid.

A RESIDENT interrupts.

RESIDENT
(to Andy)
Excuse me, Dr. Yablonski, we’re unable to keep Mr. Wilson’s systolic pressure up. Could you take a look?

(Continued)
Andy walks with the resident to Wilson’s bedside, checks his vitals stats on the monitor. Pam hangs up the house phone.

PAM
Andy, the procurement’s on hold indefinitely. Storm’s picking up, Inder’s tracking it.

Andy hears that, then tells the resident --

ANDY
Keep the dopamine, start him on Levo. And page me if there’s even the slightest change in his condition.

The resident nods and goes to work. Andy watches the numbers on the monitor.

ANDY (CONT’D)
(under his breath)
Hurry up, Miranda.

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / HALLWAY - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP ON A CLOCK: 8:15 p.m.

Move down to find David, frustrated, his surgical mask untied and hanging around his neck, heading to the coke machine. Nancy Mullins waits for coffee from another machine. As David slams quarters into the slot, Nancy eyes him -- his surgical scrubs, paper booties covering his shoes. Finally, he says --

DAVID
Hello.

NANCY
Are you one of the vultures who came to pick my daughter apart?

David takes that hit, and realizing who he’s talking to, decides not to defend himself. Taking his Coke, he starts back down the hall, but then pauses.

DAVID
For the record, your daughter was gone before we were called. And you are making a terrible mistake. Not for us. For yourself.

NANCY
How do you figure that?

(CONTINUED)
DAVID
No one ever regrets saying yes. But ninety percent of the ones who say no, are haunted by that decision because the one thing they could have done to keep some part of their loved one alive, to honor that person... they didn’t do.

(then)
We don’t get a commission for the organs we bring back. We’re trying to save a man’s life. That’s why we’re here.

(then)
I’m sorry about your daughter.

David walks away. Off Nancy,

INT. THREE RIVERS / CARDIAC ICU - DAY

Russ and Alvin watch a basketball game. Alvin’s wearing an oxygen cannula under his nose and there is surgical dressing under his hospital gown.

ALVIN WEATHERS
(weak, short of breath)
I would’ve blocked that shot.

Russ agrees. Andy enters, turns off the TV.

ANDY
We need to talk.

He goes to Alvin’s bedside.

ANDY (CONT’D)
We were hoping we could repair your heart by replacing the valve. That didn’t work. The damage is irreparable.

ALVIN WEATHERS
What does that mean?

ANDY
You need a heart transplant.

That hits Alvin hard.

RUSS COBLE
Holy crap --

(CONTINUED)
ANDY
I know it’s a lot to process but we’re out of options. Transplant offers you the best possible long-term outcome.

ALVIN WEATHERS
How long before I can play ball?

A beat. Then --

ANDY
You won’t be able to play ball.

ALVIN WEATHERS
You mean never?
   (fear rising)
No, I’m not doing it. Forget it --

ANDY
We can’t forget it. You won’t survive.

ALVIN WEATHERS
(to Russ)
Russ, do something.

Russ is at a loss.

ALVIN WEATHERS (CONT’D)
Tell him. I’m going pro --

RUSS COBLE
Alvin, the doctor’s saying you can’t --

ALVIN WEATHERS
Well YOU tell him I can! Come on! You said it was a done deal, I’m gonna be a lottery pick --

RUSS COBLE
That was before --

ALVIN WEATHERS
You said this was my year!

RUSS COBLE
You were a great player --

ALVIN WEATHERS
Were? Get outta here!

Alvin swings his arm, knocking over a nurse’s tray.

(CONTINUED)
RUSS COBLE

Kid --

ALVIN WEATHERS

Go! Get out!

Alvin’s monitors are spiking, alarms go off. Frightened, Russ backs out. Andy grabs Alvin by the arms, forcing him to lie still.

ANDY

Alvin --

Andy looks deep into the young man’s eyes. Alvin is shaking with anger and fear.

ANDY (CONT’D)

You’re scared.

Slowly, Alvin focuses on Andy.

ANDY (CONT’D)

It’s okay. It’s okay to be afraid. I’d be scared, too, but this is where we are. The choice is pretty simple -- do you want to live or do you want to die?

Off Alvin, his world crashing in,

EXT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC - NIGHT

Driving wind and rain bend the trees, lashing their limbs against the windows of the small building.

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / HALLWAY - NIGHT

YELLOW CAUTION signs guard plastic pails, catching leaks. Sam looks through the window into the O.R., watching Miranda and Inder adjusting the fluids going into Kim’s body. They seem worried. Miranda sees Sam watching, comes out.

MIRANDA

You shouldn’t be back here.

SAM

She’s my wife. What’s wrong in there?

MIRANDA

(feels for him)

We’re trying to keep her blood pressure up, it’s not easy.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
It’s not going to work, is it?
We’re just going to lose her --

Miranda blocks Sam’s view.

MIRANDA
Please. Go back to the waiting room.

In no mood to wait, Sam walks away with purpose.

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sam slams through double doors, angrily searching for Kim’s mother. He passes a room that has been turned into a chapel. Nancy sits in a pew, focusing tearfully on the cross, hanging on the wall over the altar. Sam enters.

SAM
Why are you doing this?

Pained, Nancy keeps her eyes on the cross.

NANCY
I was born and raised on this island. Only been across the waterway a handful of times. Charleston’s nice but why would anybody leave a place this beautiful?

He can see that she’s struggling. He softens.

SAM
Kim was proud of growing up here. No matter what you think, she loved coming here.

NANCY
She didn’t do it much. Not lately.

SAM
Well, things got... complicated.

This pains Nancy even more.

NANCY
She was going to get her degree and come back here to teach. She wanted to give something back, raise these kids up. That’s what she always said, until she met you. Suddenly, she’s moving to New York.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
Just until I finished grad school.

NANCY
Her dream got changed for yours.

Beat, then --

SAM
She came with me to visit NYU, did you know that?

Nancy shakes her head, no.

SAM (CONT’D)
She wasn’t crazy about the city, but she visited some elementary schools. Disadvantaged, poorer schools. You know Kim...

(then)
She spent time with the children and said she realized that there was no difference in helping them or helping the kids in Pawley’s Island. There was so much work that needed to be done and the important thing was to do it, where ever you were.

NANCY
I said the most awful things to her this morning. I tried to talk her out of going through with the wedding. Told her she was turning her back on her family, the way she was raised.

(then)
She’s got to wake up, Sam. She’s got to forgive me.

Sam puts his arms around Nancy and she allows it.

NANCY (CONT’D)
I feel like I didn’t even know her. I stopped listening, so she stopped telling me things.

SAM
I could fill you in on the last year. And maybe you could tell me about everything before that?

Off the look between Nancy and Sam,
INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / DOCTOR’S LOUNGE - NIGHT
A small room with a kitchenette and lockers. The lights FLICKER OFF then ON AGAIN, revealing a lot of people in scrubs going stir crazy, pacing and drinking coffee. Rain POUNDS, the wind HOWLS as Inder listens intently to the news. Miranda keeps her eyes on the CLOCK, which reads: 9:30 p.m.

INDER
The storm was upgraded to a CAT-1 hurricane. They’re closing the bridge to the mainland in half an hour.

MIRANDA
How are we going to get back to the airport?

Lucy and Ryan enter together.

RYAN
We’re back on! The mother changed her mind, judge lifted the order.

MIRANDA
(striding to the door)
Let’s go, guys --

DR. YORN
Go where? We can’t get out of here in half an hour. We should wait until the storm passes.

LUCY
Kim’s crashing. We need to take the organs now.

RYAN
(to Lucy)
Is there a landing strip on this island?

LUCY
Yeah.

RYAN
(to Miranda)
Start the surgery, I’ll get us a plane.

MIRANDA
How are you going to --

(CONTINUED)
RYAN
(adamantly)
That’s my problem, okay? Trust me.

A moment passes between them.

MIRANDA
Okay.

DR. YORN
I’m not flying in a hurricane.

AB DOC
My team can drive back to Georgia, if we leave now.

MIRANDA
Six people are waiting for these organs --

DR. YORN
I’m not risking the lives of my team.

Miranda looks to David and Inder.

MIRANDA
Guys?

DAVID
Let’s do it.

MIRANDA
Ryan, go.

Ryan picks up the phone, dials. Miranda appeals to Yorn.

MIRANDA (CONT’D)
We can do this much faster if we all work at the same time.

DR. YORN
For what purpose? You can’t get the organs to our patients or to the back up offers.

MIRANDA
Lucy can try to place them with patients near Three Rivers. We’ll fly them all back and do the surgeries there. We have to try.

Miranda is unconsciously touching the tape with Mark Wilson’s name on it.

(CONTINUED)
DR. YORN
Okay.

Miranda looks to the Ab Doc.

AB DOC
Sorry. Good luck. Let’s go, guys.

MIRANDA
(frustrated)
Come on --

As the Abdominal team exits --

DAVID
(to Miranda)
I can take the liver and kidneys.
We’re not doing the panc, right?

MIRANDA
No --

DAVID
Then I’ll do it. And you’ll tell
Dr. Jordan what a great job I did.

MIRANDA
What if you screw them up?

DAVID
Then you’ll tell Dr. Jordan
nothing.
(smiles, then --)
We’re about to lose these organs
anyway. May as well give me a
shot.

Off Miranda,

TIME CUT TO:

INT. PAWLEY'S ISLAND CLINIC / O.R. - NIGHT

David, Miranda and Yorn all work diligently on Kim’s body.
At a sterile table, Inder and Yorn’s team label containers
for the organs. Ryan enters, triumphantly.

RYAN
The heart and the liver are going
to patients who are being brought
to Three Rivers. We’ve got 48
hours to transplant the kidneys so
that’ll happen tomorrow.

(MORE)
And I got a farmer named Don Poitras to fly us out of here in his Cessna.

MIRANDA
Yes!

DAVID
You know farmers?

RYAN
There’s a group called Angel Flight, I did a story on them once. Local pilots volunteer to fly patients in medical emergencies.

DR. YORN
(to the room)
Ready to crossclamp.

MIRANDA
Inder, call Three Rivers, let Dr. Yablonski know.

(checks the CLOCK: 10:15)
Ryan, get those containers ready, because once he crossclamps, we’ve got until three-fifteen to get the lungs into Mark Wilson. And Ryan --

Ryan looks to her.

MIRANDA (CONT’D)
Nice work.

Ryan smiles. As Inder dials the phone on the wall, the POWER FAILS, LIGHTS GO OUT, plunging the O.R. into darkness for a moment before the backup power kicks in. As the LIGHTS FLICKER BACK ON, Lucy enters.

LUCY
Everybody okay?

DAVID
Fine.

DR. YORN
Damn...

Miranda looks down to see blood pouring into the cavity around the heart.

MIRANDA
What happened?
Miranda immediately assists, suctioning the blood away so Yorn can find the problem. As quickly as the blood is cleared, more appears.

MIRANDA (CONT’D)
Is it a tear?

DR. YORN
I think I nicked it. The aorta’s going to be too short for transplant.

MIRANDA
(inspecting it)
Get Dr. Yablonski on speakerphone, now --

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU - NIGHT (INTERCUT)

A RESIDENT hands the house phone to Andy.

ANDY
(into the phone)
You almost done?

MIRANDA
(loudly, for the speakerphone)
Ten more minutes. Listen, we have a problem. We lost power, the aorta was nicked and we’re having to cut it short. Is there anything you can do? This is a perfect heart, otherwise --

ANDY
Bring the remnant of the aorta, we’ll try to repair it.

MIRANDA
Okay. We’ll see you in three hours and forty-seven minutes.

Andy hangs up. Miranda nods to Yorn, who then lifts the heart out of Kim’s body and places it in the sterile bag David holds for him. That bag is placed into a second sterile bag, then into a hard plastic container and finally into a blue igloo cooler...

EXT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / AMBULANCE - NIGHT

... which David loads into the back of an ambulance along with three others.
Looking at the coolers, David has a sudden thought, runs into the hospital, passing Miranda on her way out.

DAVID
(to Miranda)
Be right back.

INT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / HALLWAY OUTSIDE O.R. - NIGHT

David runs to the O.R., opens the door to find Lucy standing by as Sam and Nancy view Kim’s body, which has been sutured, cleaned and covered. Nancy’s eyes connect with David’s. They hold the moment, then David mouths the words --

DAVID
Thank you.

Nancy nods. She takes Sam’s hand, they bow their heads and pray together. David exits, closing the door quietly.

EXT. PAWLEY’S ISLAND CLINIC / AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Dr. Yorn hands the red cooler to Miranda, who pulls the tape bearing Mark Wilson’s name from her scrubs and affixes it to the top.

DR. YORN
Mark Wilson is very lucky.

MIRANDA
Let’s hope they all are.

DR. YORN
If you’re ever in West Virginia...

MIRANDA
You’ll throw me out?

Miranda smiles. So does Yorn. Inder, Ryan and finally David climb in the back. Miranda and Yorn close the ambulance doors. Miranda runs through the rain to the passenger door, jumps in. LIGHTS and SIRENS and the ambulance heads for the airfield with our team.

3-WAY SPLIT SCREEN

THREE RIVERS ICU: Wilson's wife watches nervously yet hopefully, as Andy and his team wheel Wilson out of ICU.

ALVIN is alone, staring into space, his eyes watery and lost.

EXT. AIRFIELD: AN OLD CESSNA carrying our team takes off into the storm --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. CESSNA (IN FLIGHT) - NIGHT

Small, cramped - basically a flying Volkswagen. The violent motion of the plane fighting the storm jostles Miranda, David, Ryan, Inder and the coolers stacked between them.

DAVID
(yelling over the noise of the plane)
Why is Ryan trying to kill us?!

RYAN
(yelling)
You eat fried potatoes inside of sandwiches! Nothing will kill you!

The plane suddenly DROPS IN ALTITUDE. The team is rocked as the Cessna attempts to climb out of the storm. It feels as if it might come apart. The team members hold on tight, some shutting their eyes. Miranda looks protectively to the coolers, which are also being jolted.

INT. THREE RIVERS / HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF O.R.’S - NIGHT

Andy looks in on Wilson, being prepped for transplant. Khalid is in surgical scrubs. Bud exits Wilson’s O.R.

BUD
(to Andy)
We’re doing the heart in O.R. two.

ANDY
When’s the last time Khalid was here in the middle of the night?

BUD
All-star line up tonight, buddy. Khalid, Jordan and you.

Jordan approaches, wearing scrubs.

JORDAN
Actually, Andy’s going home. Just got a call. The heart recipient backed out. She’s refusing the heart.

ANDY
Because of the nick?

(CONTINUED)
JORDAN
She doesn’t want to chance it.
Says she’ll wait for the next one.

ANDY
She’s assuming there will be a next one --

A beat, Andy gets an idea.

ANDY (CONT’D)
Let’s give it to Alvin Weathers.
Blood type on this heart works,
size should be fine --

JORDAN
We can’t do that. We have to let UNOS offer it to the next person on the list.

ANDY
There’s no time to send it to another hospital. That heart has about an hour and half of viability left, not to mention a shortened aorta which will be hell to attach so no one else will want it. That heart goes in Alvin Weathers or it goes to waste.
(starts to go)
I’ll call UNOS and clear it --

JORDAN
No, I’ll call UNOS. You talk to Alvin Weathers.

INT. THREE RIVERS / ICU - DAY

Andy enters to find Alvin alone. All bravado gone, Alvin is just a scared, sick kid.

ANDY
(with gravity)
Showtime, Alvin.

Alvin looks to him.

ANDY (CONT’D)
There’s a heart arriving in half an hour. The aorta is short but I can fix that. It’s a perfect heart otherwise and it’s yours if you want it.

(CONTINUED)
ALVIN WEATHERS
(quietly)
Give it to somebody else.

ANDY
I’m trying to save your life.

ALVIN WEATHERS
I can’t play ball, I got no life.

ANDY
I don’t believe that.

ALVIN WEATHERS
You’re a rich doctor, what do you know --

ANDY
I know. Okay? I grew up on Coal Hill. I’m a lot more like you than you think.

(then)
There was a moment in my life when things went very, very wrong. But I got a chance to turn it around and I did. Here’s your chance. So you’re not going to play in the NBA. Tough. You’ll do something else. Something maybe you can’t even imagine at this moment.

Overwhelmed with fear, Alvin’s not so sure.

ANDY (CONT’D)
A second chance is a powerful thing. Take it.

Off Weathers --

TIME CUT TO:

INT. THREE RIVERS / O.R. #1 - NIGHT

Jordan and her team prepare a FEMALE PATIENT (40’s) for transplant.

INT. THREE RIVERS / O.R. #2 - NIGHT

Andy checks under the sterile blue cloth to see that Alvin Weathers is under anesthesia and breathing well. Andy lays the cloth gently over Alvin’s face so that all that is visible to the transplant team, is Weathers’ chest. Just then, Andy’s PAGER GOES OFF. He reads the display --

(CONTINUED)
ANDY

Wilson.

Andy blasts out of the O.R. --

EXT. THREE RIVERS / EMERGENCY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

LIGHTS AND SIRENS as an ambulance rushes up. Miranda jumps out of the passenger seat, David and Inder pour out of the back, grabbing coolers. Miranda grabs the red igloo cooler, sprints into the hospital.

INT. THREE RIVERS / HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF O.R.’S - NIGHT

The team hurries down the hall. Jordan is standing at the door to O.R. #1. David gestures to the cooler in his hand --

DAVID

Liver.

He heads into the O.R. with Jordan.

MIRANDA

(to Inder)

Inder, take the heart to Andy.

Inder heads into O.R. #2 with the blue cooler. Miranda hurries into O.R. #3 with the red cooler...

INT. THREE RIVERS / O.R. #3 - NIGHT

... to find Andy and Khalid standing over Wilson.

MIRANDA

What’s going on?

ANDY

He threw a clot while he was on the table, he’s gone.

MIRANDA

What --?

ANDY

There was nothing anybody could do.

Miranda is beside herself, trying to keep her emotions in check, struggling with anger and a deep sense of failure. Khalid is upset by Miranda’s display of emotion.

KHALID

There’s no reason to fall apart. These things happen.
Determined to pull Miranda out of her emotional spiral and away from Khalid’s judgemental glare, Andy moves to the door.

ANDY
(to Miranda)
Come on. I need you in my O.R.

MIRANDA
What? No, I have to find someone to take these lungs --

ANDY
The lungs are done, Miranda. Let’s save the ones we can save. Scrub in.

Miranda forces herself to exit. A look passes between Andy and Khalid before Andy follows Miranda out.

INT. THREE RIVERS / TRANSPLANT O.R. #2 - NIGHT

Andy (assisted by Pam and Bud) connects Weathers to the heart/lung bypass machine.

The CLOCK reads: 3:00 a.m.

ANDY
Going on bypass.

Andy clamps the aorta. Red blood flows through the many tubes connecting Weathers to the heart/lung machine. We watch as Weathers' heart beat slows until it stops. Andy cuts the connecting arteries, the old heart is removed.

3-WAY SPLIT SCREEN

DAVID holds up the ice-filled bowl containing Kim's heart. Andy takes the pale, lifeless heart in his hands --

MIRANDA enters the O.R. holding up her clean hands and is gloved by Bud. Her game face on, takes her place opposite of Andy.

ANDY lowers Kim's heart into Weathers' chest --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. THREE RIVERS / TRANSPLANT O.R. - NIGHT

Andy works diligently, having difficulty with the short aorta. Miranda suctions the blood away as Andy works. On one of the FLAT SCREEN MONITORS OVERHEAD, we watch the action up close as Andy’s gloved fingers guide a large needle through the walls of the aorta. Andy ties off the stitches and says --

ANDY
We’re in. Get ready... taking off the clamps.

Andy watches A DIFFERENT OVERHEAD MONITOR for Weathers’ vital stats until the moment comes.

ANDY (CONT’D)
Going off heart/lung...

Blood starts to flow back into Weathers’ body from the heart/lung machine.

ANDY (CONT’D)
Here we go.

Andy massages the heart as it begins to pink up with the blood flow. All eyes are on the heart as the team waits for it to beat.

ANDY (CONT’D)
Come on...

Everyone holds their collective breath until...

The heart pinks up and begins to beat.

Andy smiles at Pam over his mask.

ANDY (CONT’D)
I never get tired of that.

Pam smiles back. Andy looks to Miranda, whose smile is muted.

INT. THREE RIVERS / OUTSIDE OF O.R. - NIGHT (LATER)

Surgery over, Miranda comes through the O.R. doors, ahead of the other medical personnel. Andy exits the O.R., pulling off his surgical cap, following Miranda into...
... where an African-American man in his 40's (JOHN RUSSELL), is waiting alone. He intercepts Andy, Miranda keeps walking.

JOHN RUSSELL
Doctor? I’m here about my nephew. Alvin Weathers?

ANDY
Alvin? Yeah, I just finished his surgery. I’m Dr. Yablonski.

JOHN RUSSELL
John Russell. How is he?

ANDY
Everything went well. The heart’s beating. I don’t know how much you know about his condition...?

JOHN RUSSELL
Not much. I drove here from Indianapolis after I got a message from --
(looks around)
This gentleman.

He gestures to a very tired-looking Russ Coble, who has just come into the room carrying two cups of coffee.

RUSS COBLE
How’s he doing?

ANDY
He’s okay.
(pointed)
Thank you.

RUSS COBLE
He really was the best player I’d seen in years.

ANDY
I know.
(to John)
You planning on taking Alvin back with you?

JOHN RUSSELL
I tried that once before, when his mother died but he wouldn’t listen.
(MORE)
Andy smiles.

**ANDY**
Wait here. I think Alvin will be happy to see you.
(to Russ)
Both of you.

Andy heads down the hall.

**EXT. THREE RIVERS / ROOFTOP - NIGHT**

Exhausted from crying and no sleep, Miranda looks out at the panoramic view of Pittsburgh at night. Bridges in every direction, their arches lit up in the night, reflecting on the water of the three rivers. A sign on the hospital wing facing her, reads: “WILLIAM H. FOSTER TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE. Andy exits the stairwell and joins Miranda at the railing. A long moment of silence, then Andy says --

**ANDY**
We don’t control anything.

**MIRANDA**
That’s not what my father believed. He said it was up to us. To be the best at what we do, to never give up, to take chances and do the thing no one else can do because we’re their last hope.

**ANDY**
We’re just one piece of the puzzle.
(looking out)
Somewhere out there, somebody’s getting up to go to work and they have no idea they’re going to become a donor today. And somebody they’ve never met will live because they died.

Looks to Miranda.

(CONTINUED)
ANDY (CONT’D)
You did your part. Took every
chance you could. You wouldn’t
give up on that heart, even flew in
a damn hurricane. And because you
did, Alvin Weathers and three other
people are going to live. Let’s
take the win and go home.

They hold a look for a moment, then, Miranda lets go of the
railing and they head inside.

INT. THREE RIVERS / HALLWAY – MORNING

Andy walks, Miranda and David join him.

DAVID
Ready for rounds?

ANDY
Gotta see Alvin Weathers, I’ll meet
you in ICU.

Ryan pops out of an adjoining hallway, falls in step.

RYAN
Oh, guys, hi. I’m having a hard
time locating a three millimeter
catheter adjuster.

Andy looks to David and Miranda. What is he talking about?

MIRANDA
David and I are helping Ryan with
his medical knowledge.
(to Ryan)
Did you ask about a six millimeter?

RYAN
Yes, but no one seems to --

Ryan notices the smirks between Andy and David.

RYAN (CONT’D)
There’s no such thing, is there?

ANDY
Tell you what, Deejay, why don’t
you hold a contest, see if the
tenth caller can tell you.

As Andy exits into a patient room, he hears Ryan say --
INT. THREE RIVERS / ALVIN’S ROOM – MORNING (DAYS LATER)

Alvin Weathers is sitting up in bed, watching a basketball game when Andy enters.

ANDY
Couple more weeks like this and you’ll be able to go home.

ALVIN WEATHERS
I think you mean Indiana.

Alvin turns off the television.

ANDY
Give it a chance.

Alvin shrugs, unsure of what his future holds. A KNOCK on the door, Helen enters.

HELEN
The donor family’s here.

ANDY
(to Alvin)
What do you say? We could wait --

ALVIN WEATHERS
(nervous but willing)
Nah. Let’s do it, now.

Alvin sits a little taller, straightens his shirt and robe as Helen opens the door for Nancy Mullins and Sam Harvey.

HELEN
This is Sam, Kim Mullins’ husband and Nancy, Kim’s mother. Dr. Yablonski and --

Alvin Weathers.

Nancy nods but stays quiet, not sure what to make of Alvin. Sam shakes Alvin’s hand.

SAM
Thank you so much for agreeing to see us so soon.

ALVIN WEATHERS
Sure.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
I brought a picture of Kim.

Sam pulls out a PHOTO OF KIM. She’s radiant, beautiful.

SAM (CONT’D)
She wanted to teach second grade.
I asked her why second grade and
she said because the kids were
still sweet and hadn’t been twisted
by learning fractions.

ALVIN WEATHERS
(struggling)
I, uh... Thank you. For... you
know...

Nancy finally finds her voice and approaches Alvin.

NANCY
(to Weathers)
Can I hear my daughter’s heart
beat?

Weathers is surprised by the request but nods, yes. Nancy
puts her ear to Alvin's chest and hears the steady thumping
of Kim's heart - alive and strong again. She wells up.

NANCY (CONT’D)
You have to live for two, now. You
understand? She was my baby and
she was a bright light in this
world and you have to live for her,
too.

A beat. Weathers is struck very deeply by this. Andy sees
this working on Weathers as he says --

ALVIN WEATHERS
I will.
(then)
I will.

Off Andy, watching Alvin’s transformation,

INT. THREE RIVERS / HALLWAY - MORNING

Andy comes out of Alvin’s room. For a moment, he stands in
the hallway, letting the moment sink in. We PULL BACK as
Andy heads down the hallway. He enters the ICU and is joined
by Miranda and David and we --

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT EPISODE