

THREE RIVERS
"Pilot"

by
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THREE RIVERS
"Pilot"

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?

(CONTINUED)

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 peels 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)

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9.

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)

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

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)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSS COBLE (CONT'D)

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

I agree. Recommend aortic valve
surgery.

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)

CONTINUED:

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

(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.

(CONTINUED)

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)
If they do.

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.

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)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RYAN (CONT'D)

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?

(CONTINUED)

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

(CONTINUED)

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...

INT. THREE RIVERS / SURGERY WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

... 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)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Got into drugs, I put my foot down.
Haven't seen him since.

ANDY

But you're here.

JOHN RUSSELL

He's my sister's boy.

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 --

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

I was the news guy...

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 --

(gesturing to...)

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