

ACT FOUR

19

INT. HOSPITAL - PT CENTER - DAY (D2)

19

Cristal once again waits in the PT Center for the errant priest to show up. Impatient, she turns to a cool VETERAN (JASON, 20s) working out nearby.

CRISTAL

Excuse me, do you know Father O'Brien?

JASON

Of course.

CRISTAL

Great. Have you seen him around? I was supposed to meet with him ten minutes ago.

JASON

Oh, I haven't seen him around lately. He retired last week.

CRISTAL

But his office just emailed me this morning...

JASON

You should talk to him.

Jason nods across the room at Caleb. As soon as Cristal catches his eye, he starts toward her. That thing sparks to life again. Unnerved, Cristal drags her gaze back to Jason.

CRISTAL

Him? Why?

JASON

He's the new guy. Father Soto.

By this point, Caleb has reached them and Cristal is reeling:

→
START

CRISTAL

Father Soto? There's no chance he's calling you that because he's your son, is there?

Caleb laughs.

CALEB

Afraid the only children I'm responsible for are children of God.

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SCENE
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(CONTINUED)

Cristal cringes, realizing:

CRISTAL

You're the new hospital priest? Why didn't you tell me yesterday?

CALEB

Should I have done that before or after you accused me of having a lack of boundaries?

Cristal nods. Good point.

CRISTAL

I am so sorry about that. I'm just a little anxious about this program and I was counting on Father O'Brien's help with the Board. Perhaps the two of us could sit down for a coffee? My treat.

CALEB

Sorry, but I'm not that kind of priest.

CRISTAL

That kind of --?

CALEB

Unlike my predecessor, I don't believe the clergy has any place in hospital politics. No matter how enticing the bribe.

Cristal flushes.

CRISTAL

I, that's not --

CALEB

But don't worry. From what I've seen, I've no doubt you can hold your own with those guys.

With a wink, Caleb strolls away. Off Cristal, having royally screwed this up.

~~STOP~~

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SCENE
13

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - DAY (D3)

36

Caleb has just finished praying over a COMATOSE PATIENT when Cristal enters. He perks up a little.

→
START

CALEB
Mrs. Carrington?

Cristal holds up a finger, then pulls the curtain around the bed, separating herself from the coma guy and Caleb.

CALEB (CONT'D)
What are you --

Cristal kneels and makes the sign of the cross:

CRISTAL
Forgive me father, for I have
sinned. It's been three weeks since
my last confession.

Caleb laughs, realizing: Cristal has used the curtain to create a make-shift confessional booth.

CALEB
You know what? Good enough. Tell me
what's troubling you.

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(CONTINUED)

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CRISTAL

Someone recently accused me of
being political and manipulative.
And they were right.

She trails off, tearing up.

CALEB

Go on.

CRISTAL

This clinic was supposed to be my
absolution... but even it's become
corrupt. It feels like every day
I'm moving further from God's
graces and I'm afraid that someday
soon, I won't be able to find my
way back.

CALEB

God doesn't forsake his children.

CRISTAL

I know I can't undo the harm I've
caused. But I can vow to put good
into the world from here on out...
If you'll help me.

Cristal pauses, waiting for his response, but it doesn't
come. Instead, he yanks the curtain back.

CALEB

I'll talk to the board. But only
because I hate tears and love the
vets as much as you do.

Cristal scrambles to her feet.

CRISTAL

I can't thank you enough. And I
really am sorry about getting off
to such a rocky start, Father.

(cringing)

I can't believe I accused you of
flirting with me.

Caleb laughs.

CALEB

Oh, I was definitely flirting with
you.

(off Cristal's surprise)

Looking forward to working
together...

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(CONTINUED)

As he walks away, he calls out:

CALEB (CONT'D)
Five Hail Marys and an Our Father!

Off Cristal, realizing the road to hell is paved with good intentions...

~~STOP~~

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