

Emergency Contact

By

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FADE IN

Some shots of Times Square and the Empire State Building,
STOCK FOOTAGE of NYC to establish location.

INT. NEW YORK CITY JEWELRY STORE -- DAY

Emerging from a CROWD of people on a city street, DANIEL ANTHONY, late 30's, tall, African American, very casually dressed, walks into a midtown jewelry store, he is greeted by a CLERK, 20's, female, semi-casually dressed.

CLERK

Good afternoon sir, can I help you?

DANIEL

Yes, I'm looking for something unique.

CLERK

How unique are we talking?

DANIEL

How about *'if you have to ask you can't afford it'* unique?

CLERK

Touché; help me out then, a ring, chain, a bracelet maybe?

DANIEL

A bracelet I think; maybe like one of these over here.

Daniel points out a diamond tennis bracelet in the case. The clerk begins to search around for the key to remove the bracelet from the case but cannot seem to find it.

The STORE MANAGER, 50's, graying, half-glasses, is seated in his office in the rear of the store behind a large plate glass door. He looks over at the surveillance camera at Daniel, then over at a composite SKETCH of a man fitting Daniel's description on the wall next to him.

He looks back and forth at the monitor and the sketch few times then picks up the telephone and dials.

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

911 emergency.

MANAGER

Yes, ah, hello.

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

Where's your emergency sir?

MANAGER

I'm at Lyburgh Jewelers on 46th and Avenue of the Americas.

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

Are you being robbed sir?

MANAGER

Yes, by a guy from this composite sketch the police handed out.

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

Are you sure it's him sir?

MANAGER

What do you mean am I sure? I'm looking right at him, could you send help please?

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

Is he armed? Is there anyone else in the store?

MANAGER

I...I can't tell if he's armed and no, no customers are here, we're supposed to close in a little while.

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

OK sir, I'll send assistance, are you going to stay on the phone?

MANAGER

No, ah, my assistant is out there so I'm going to walk out and send her in back.

911 DISPATCHER (O.S.)

Sir, I must caution you to...sir?
Sir?!

He drops the phone, walks out of the back and steps up to the counter to take over the sale. The clerk walks to the back of the store.

MANAGER

I'm sorry sir, may I help you?

DANIEL

Yes, this is the bracelet I'm interested in over here.

The manager nervously reaches for his keys and takes the bracelet out of the case and hands it to Daniel. Daniel notices the man's hands shaking.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You alright?

MANAGER

Yes, of course. Tell you what...you go ahead and look at that and I'll get you a box. Will you be paying cash or charge?

DANIEL

Cash; and I need to get going so could you ring this up for me?

The manager, hands still shaking stalls.

MANAGER

Yes, sure sir...but, I'm going to have to take that and clean it. It might take a moment or two. There's a coffee shop across the street so why don't you go and have a latte? By the time you get back I should be done, it'll only be a minute, really.

DANIEL

OK, I'll be back in a few.

Daniel walks out. The clerk and manager review the COMPOSITE SKETCH of a face very closely resembling Daniel's.

CLERK

I don't think that's the guy.

MANAGER

It's him alright, look at this picture.

CLERK

I don't know, he seems legit. Maybe we should just sell him the jewelry?

MANAGER

According to this information the guy always asks to purchase something, waits until its wrapped and then shoots whoever is there. Do you want to take that chance?

CLERK

No, but that bracelet costs over three thousand dollars, I could use the commission.

MANAGER

And who walks around with three grand in their wallet?

The clerk stares at the manager and shrugs her shoulders.

The police arrive. DETECTIVE OLIVER, late 50's, balding, walks into the store with another DETECTIVE, 40's, coat and tie, and engages the manager.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

OK, where is he?

MANAGER

I told him I needed to clean the piece so he went to get coffee. He's across the street at Starbucks.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

What's he wearing?

MANAGER

Ah, a pair of jeans, jacket and a ball cap, the Knicks I think.

The other detective positions himself in the rear of the store. Detective Oliver looks around the store and notices a VIDEO CAMERA just above the door by the office in the rear of the store.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Listen, I'm gonna hang around in here until he gets back. I'll have back-up waiting so when he walks out of the store we'll get him..

(on radio)

...this is command. The 2-11 suspect is wearing a pair of jeans, a blue jacket and a Knicks cap. He'll be walking out of the coffee shop across the street and back toward the store. I want two uniforms on either side of the store and one directly in front, we'll box him in and he won't have anywhere to run. This guy may be armed so don't take any foolish chances. Wait for my signal.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP STOREFRONT -- DAY

Daniel walks out with his coffee and brushes past OFFICER STEPHANIE DESHOTEL, early 20's, bobbles his coffee, the cup slips from his grasp and he drops it.

DANIEL

Damn it! You know how long I had to wait for that coffee?

Daniel reaches inside his jacket.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Freeze!!!

Officers draw their weapons and point them at Daniel, who is turning to see what is happening. PEOPLE on the street begin running and SCREAMING as the police move in.

Daniel notices the police moving in toward him with their WEAPONS drawn in his direction and he turns to see what is happening.

DANIEL

What?!! What's goin' on?!

OFFICER'S SCREAMING

Get on the ground!!! Police!!!

Daniel turns around again and SHOTS ring out.

Daniel is hit twice; the ACTION appears to move in SLOW MOTION as a white hanky flies out of his hand as he falls to the ground.

The hanky falls just beyond the reach of his hand. He continues to reach for it though in excruciating pain and bleeding.

Officers swarm in with weapons drawn. Detective Oliver runs out of the store to see Daniel gasping for air; he has his radio in his hand. He runs across the street and stands over Daniel.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

(*on radio*) Man down, man down! 46th and 6th code three! (*to Daniel*) We're gonna get you some help so hang in there.

Detective Oliver kneels next to Daniel; he looks into his face with a look of recognition.

INT. HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

Detectives and other OFFICERS are standing in the emergency room as PEOPLE are seated close by. A JANITOR, 50's, uniform, is mopping the floor. The CLOCK on the wall registers 6:30.

Doctors, nurses are walking about. Other DETECTIVE (unnamed), 30 youthful, walks over to Detective Oliver with a strange look on his face.

DETECTIVE 1

The prints are back...it's not him.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Yeah, I figured...please tell me he's not who I think he is.

DETECTIVE 1

His name is Daniel Anthony. He has an address on Park Avenue, downtown.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Shit! We got a big problem here.

DETECTIVE 1

Sir?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Daniel Anthony is a millionaire businessman...and the mayor's golfing partner.

DETECTIVE 1

I have his wallet and you're not going to believe who he has a

picture of. She's listed as the emergency contact.

Detective 1 removes the picture from Daniel's wallet and hands it to Detective Oliver. He sees a very attractive AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE.

DETECTIVE OLIVER
Tracy Ellington from Channel Four News; this just gets better and better.

They shake their heads; Detective Oliver walks away and pulls out his cell phone.

DETECTIVE OLIVER (CONT'D)
Could you connect me with Channel Four? Yeah right, the news station.

EXT. TV STATION MAKEUP ROOM

News anchor TRACY ELLINGTON, 30's, exquisitely dressed, is looking over the evening's news reports with her PRODUCER 40's, female, wearing a striped shirt, glasses and a headset.

Tracy stops reading for a moment, places the papers down and looks around. She stands up suddenly, places her hand on her chest and starts to breathe heavily. The others notice but do not comment.

She walks to a nearby water cooler and gets a drink and leans against the wall. SPENCER, 20's, her makeup artist/stylist, and an INTERN, 20's both causally dressed, are close by.

PRODUCER
Are you OK?

TRACY
I don't know. I just started feeling ill all of a sudden.

PRODUCER
My God, the color has drained from your face. Spencer, could you touch her up again? And hurry, she's on in five!

INTERN

Ms. Ellington, you have a call on
line 2.

TRACY

You know I can't take calls now, I'm
on soon, and who is it?

INTERN

It's the police ma'am, they said
it's urgent.

TRACY

Urgent. Spencer, I'll drink this
water and I'll be fine. Am I clean?

SPENCER

Child, you're as clean as the Board
of Health.

TRACY

Good, let me take this call...hello...Oh
my God.

Tracy slumps as Spencer runs over to catch her before she
hits the floor. She struggles to her feet. Tracy looks
around with horror then starts toward the door.

PRODUCER

Tracy, what's the matter, where are
you going?

TRACY

I'm sorry but I have to go.

PRODUCER

You're on in three, what's happened?

TRACY

I'm sorry.

Tracy doubles back, grabs her coat and runs for the door.

PRODUCER

We're hot in two-forty two and
John's flying solo so let's go
people!

TWO YEARS EARLIER

EXT. NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOOD (STOCK FOOTAGE) -- DAY

People walking around neighborhood, children playing. Bright sunshine.

INT. ANTHONY RESIDENCE -- DAY

Daniel Anthony is preparing to leave for work. His wife, ADRIENNE ANTHONY, African American, early 40's, plainly dressed, is seated in the quaintly decorated but "*lived in*" family room.

Adrienne is sipping coffee from a mug with "Drama Queen" monogrammed on it. The telephone is ringing off the hook but she ignores it.

DANIEL

Adrienne can you get that?
Adrienne?!

Daniel walks into the room.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Why didn't you answer the phone? You know I'm trying to get ready for work.

ADRIENNE

Did you fire the help again?

DANIEL

I don't have time for this Adrienne, I have to go.

ADRIENNE

You always have to go. Do I have to make an appointment? It's all I can do to get some every now and then.

DANIEL

That's not true. We were fine until you started drinking but I don't even want to revisit that.

ADRIENNE

I swear, if you throw that shit up in my face again...

DANIEL

...You're gonna what Adrienne? I'm not throwing anything up in your face but as usual you have a chip on your

shoulder and think everyone owes you something.

ADRIENNE

No Daniel! You owe me! You!

DANIEL

Oh, I owe you?

ADRIENNE

Yes you do.

DANIEL

Since when are we keeping score?

ADRIENNE

So she was just a piece of ass after all, huh?

DANIEL

What?

ADRIENNE

You remember, don't you Daniel? The young lady we ran into at the mall.

DANIEL

A few thou on counseling and the band plays on...

ADRIENNE

...That's right Daniel, you cheated, not me.

DANIEL

So much for forgiveness, huh Adrienne?

ADRIENNE

You have goodness knows what kind of sex with that slut and expect an apology to be enough?

Daniel stares off into space as Adrienne lights a cigarette.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

What's the matter Danny? Cat got your tongue, or should I say Cathy? That was her name wasn't it? The one with the really big butt.

DANIEL

If you want out Adrienne just say so, I'm not apologizing anymore.

ADRIENNE

Well you should; you really hurt me Danny.

DANIEL

That was eight years ago.

ADRIENNE

It feels like yesterday.

DANIEL

Adrienne...

ADRIENNE

...I know Danny, you're sorry.

Adrienne walks away; Daniel grabs his lunch, briefcase and walks out, slamming the door behind him.

INT. DANIEL'S OFFICE -- DAY

Daniel arrives at his office. He's standing with his back to the door of his office talking on the phone and holding a cup of coffee.

TRACY ELLINGTON, early 30's, is standing at Daniel's office door with his ASSISTANT, 20's, male African American.

Daniel is unaware of the presence and continues his conversation.

DANIEL

...Are we supposed to stop moving forward because they can't get their asses in gear?

ASSISTANT

Mr. Anthony? Mr. Anthony? Mr. Anthony?

Daniel waves off the secretary but keeps his back turned.

DANIEL

I'm not sure about that George, we have to have those figures straight before we get to the table, we can't just wing it, those bastards will

tear us a new one...just get the numbers right and we'll go from there...

Daniel turns slowly and stops speaking in mid-sentence, dropping his hot coffee onto the floor.

ASSISTANT

Oh, Mr. Anthony, I'll get some paper towels.

DANIEL

No, it's OK; I'll just get away from over here. George I'll call you back.

Daniel reaches to hang up the phone but it ends up on his desk; he never takes his eyes off of Tracy.

ASSISTANT

Mr. Anthony, this is...

DANIEL

Tracy Ellington, Channel Four, right?

TRACY

That's right. You know, you really should be more careful with your coffee; you could hurt yourself.

Daniel and Tracy stare at each other with interest as the scene fades.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

EXT. SCENE OF SHOOTING -- NIGHT

Area is cordoned off, people looking on as police officers photograph scene, mark shell casings and measure distances. Large FLOOD LIGHTS illuminate the scene.

POLICE DETECTIVES dressed in squad jackets shown re-enacting scene. Officer Deshotel is in a squad car with her PARTNER, 30's, burly. She's holding a cup of coffee.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

He was going for something, I know he was. They'll find it. It was probably tucked deep in his jacket or maybe he dropped it in the

gutter, that's why they couldn't find it, right?

OFFICER'S PARTNER

Could be, Des. Drink up. I'll get you outta here when the suits are done with ya.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

But you saw that he was going for something, right? I mean, it's not like I was trying to kill him or anything.

OFFICER'S PARTNER

Des, if you keep it up you're gonna go nuts. Stop playing it over in your head and let the shoot team do their job.

A uniformed police LIEUTENANT, 50's, walks over to Officer Deshotel. She steps out of the car.

LIEUTENANT

How ya doin', Des?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Fine, Lieu, just anxious to get away from here. Are we almost done?

LIEUTENANT

Yeah, almost. Look, you got a PBA rep?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Yeah, I got one. Why?

LIEUTENANT

Standard procedure after a shooting like this. You wanna have your bases covered, know what I mean?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

What do you mean, *a shooting like this*? The guy was going for a gun, I saw him reach inside his jacket.

LIEUTENANT

Yeah, but did you hear him say, "*I'm pulling out my wallet to show my ID, don't shoot?*"

The scene plays again and Daniel is shown turning and facing the officers.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

He just complained about his coffee and reached in his pocket...you know, inside his jacket.

LIEUTENANT

Was that before or after he noticed all of the police coming?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Before, I think, but it could have been after. Hey Lieu, why all the questions?

LIEUTENANT

He was unarmed, Des. He was less than two feet away from you and you didn't hear him?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I don't remember. It all happened so fast.

LIEUTENANT

Do you remember drawing your weapon and firing within just seconds of doing that?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

No, I mean yeah, but I saw him reach in his jacket and he...he was...

LIEUTENANT

I'm gonna have your partner get you home so you can get some rest. It's been a long day. You're gonna get a desk until this blows over.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I understand. Thanks Lieu.

Officer Deshotel accepts a ride from her partner.

INT. IN SQUAD CAR -- NIGHT

OFFICER DESHOTEL

What did I do wrong? Lieu told me not to worry but everyone was

looking at me funny. You're my partner, please tell me the truth.

OFFICER'S PARTNER

The truth is you screwed up big time. You shot Daniel Anthony, the millionaire that's always in the papers. You'll be lucky if the only thing you get is fired.

Officer Deshotel slumps in her seat. She turns her head and faces the window.

INT. NEW YORK CITY HOSPITAL

Tracy runs into the emergency room, there are PEOPLE milling about. She looks around for a moment; suddenly a UNIFORMED OFFICER, Male Hispanic, 30's, immediately ushers her into a small room where Detective Oliver is waiting.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Ms. Ellington, I'm Detective William Oliver..

TRACY

...Where's Daniel? Why was he shot? What did he do to get shot by the police?!

DETECTIVE OLIVER

I'm sorry to say this but it appears this was a case of mistaken identity. He was in a jewelry store and the manager misidentified him as the guy who's been robbing the stores; I'm assuming you're already familiar with the story.

TRACY

Yeah, right, I've been reporting on it, but...wait...you can't possibly think it was Daniel doing those hold-ups?!

DETECTIVE OLIVER

We know it's not Mr. Anthony. Like I said, it was a mistake.

TRACY

A mistake? He's Daniel Anthony, who would make such a mistake?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

One of our rookie officers. She got nervous out there; she's only been on the force about a week...

TRACY

I've heard enough.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Ms. Ellington...

TRACY

...I said I've heard enough. Now please, just leave me alone.

Detective Oliver leaves the room. Tracy sits in a chair. They post a POLICE OFFICER, 20's, uniformed, at the door.

She picks up her cell phone and dials.

HAPPY (O.S.)

Hey girl, aren't you supposed to be on now? I thought I turned to the wrong damned channel. HA HA HA!

TRACY

Happy.

HAPPY (O.S.)

Tracy? Tracy, what's the matter?

TRACY

Daniel's been shot.

HAPPY (O.S.)

Lord Jesus. What happened?

TRACY

I don't know; the detectives said it was a mistake. Can you believe that?

HAPPY (O.S.)

He's not...is he OK?

TRACY

I don't know, he's still in surgery; I've been sitting here trying to figure out what to do.

HAPPY (O.S.)

What do you mean? Wait...did you do what I think you did?

TRACY

Not yet, I'm struggling.

HAPPY (O.S.)

You have to call her; it's the right thing to do.

TRACY

Is it? He doesn't live there his children do. This is my problem.

HAPPY (O.S.)

Easy now girl, let's think about this. Could you live with yourself if you didn't let her know?

TRACY

This is bad. What if she makes a scene?

HAPPY (O.S.)

She won't; besides, it's not about you or her right now.

TRACY

I hope you're right.

HAPPY (O.S.)

I am right; and you've been living together for what, fourteen months?

TRACY

Sixteen.

HAPPY (O.S.)

When's the divorce final?

TRACY

Don't know, but it shouldn't be too long.

HAPPY (O.S.)

Then stop worrying. Listen, girl, keep your chin up. I'm praying for both of you.

TRACY

I love you.

HAPPY (O.S.)

Love you too.

They hang up. Tracy pulls out her PDA and searches for a number. She sits for a long time as she watches the people walk through the hospital.

Her hands shake uncontrollably as she dials her cell phone. She immediately hangs up then bangs her hand against a wall inside the room. She leans against it, sits down, stands and nervously paces the floor.

She pauses, takes a deep breath then dials a second time. She calms herself enough to speak.

CHILD (O.S.)

Hello.

TRACY

Hi there, is your mommy home?

CHILD (O.S.)

Sure, hold on a second...mommy!

INT. Anthony Residence -- NIGHT

Adrienne walks into a room, takes out one of her earrings and picks up the telephone.

ADRIENNE

I got it Jenna! Hello.

TRACY

Adrienne, Daniel is at Lenox Hill Hospital and you'd better get down here.

ADRIENNE

Oh my God, Danny? What's happened?

TRACY

He's been shot. Just get here, please. He's in surgery right now, I don't know anything else.

ADRIENNE

Who is this?

TRACY

You know who this is, just get here.

Tracy quickly hangs up the phone.

Adrienne glances at the CALLER ID DISPLAY and sees the name TRACY ELLINGTON and stares at it as the scene fades.

INT. OFFICER DESHOTEL'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Stephanie's boyfriend DAVID, 20's, loud and grungy, is seated and watching television and eating popcorn. He jumps up the moment she walks in.

DAVID

Oh shit Steph! Did you hear the news? Some stupid cop shot Daniel Anthony on 6th Avenue in the Diamond District. What an idiot.

Stephanie stands and glares at David.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I know.

DAVID

That's fucked up. This guy's face is on the TV, newspapers and shit; you'd have to be living in a fucking cave not to know who Daniel Anthony is...I sure would love to know who the asshole cop is that shot him.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

It was me, David?

DAVID

C'mon Steph this is no time for jokes, quit playin'.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I'm the asshole David. I shot Mr. Anthony.

David stares intently but seemingly in disbelief at Stephanie then turns away from her.

OFFICER DESHOTEL (CONT'D)

You're looking at me as if I just shot the fucking Pope or something. It was an accident! I thought he was going for a gun in his jacket, it could've happened to anybody!

David...David, are you listening to me?

DAVID

Daniel Anthony? Ah...look, I gotta go. I promised my roommate I'd help him with something. See you later?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

David, I need you right now; please don't go.

DAVID

I'm sorry Steph.

David grabs his jacket, turns to leave and closes the door behind him. She picks up a bottle of bourbon and pours herself a drink.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

My career is over. Fuck!

Stephanie downs her drink, she pours another and drinks it down. The NEWS is on (inaudible). She walks to a closet, rummages through some of her things and pulls out a small box and opens it.

Inside, there is a .38 caliber revolver and she stares at it as she walks back over to the bottle and glass and pours another drink.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM INFORMATION DESK -- NIGHT

Adrienne Anthony arrives at the hospital and sees a lot of action in the ER, many PEOPLE are around.

She walks up to the information desk. The ADMITTING NURSE, 20's is seated next to her SUPERVISOR, 40's, graying; both are dressed in colorful scrubs.

ADMITTING NURSE

Can I help you ma'am?

ADRIENNE

Yes, my name is Adrienne Anthony, my husband Daniel is here?

The nurse looks at her supervisor who knows Tracy is waiting for Daniel; the supervisor stands and walks around to Adrienne.

Adrienne notices their strange glances and gets agitated.

SUPERVISOR

Mrs. Anthony, I'm sorry but Mr.
Anthony is in surgery...why don't you
wa...

ADRIENNE

...Then where is *she*?

SUPERVISOR

Where is who, ma'am?

ADRIENNE

Don't play dumb with me. If you
don't want a problem in here you'd
better tell me something!

Tracy steps out of the waiting room; Adrienne turns and sees her and freezes. The two women stare at each other for a moment.

Adrienne steadies herself and walks purposefully and aggressively toward Tracy who shows no outward emotion. A SECURITY OFFICER, 20's, watches from his post.

Tracy and Adrienne stand face to face (within less than a foot from each other).

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Where's my husband?

TRACY

Maybe we should talk in this room
over here...

Tracy reaches for Adrienne's elbow to guide her to the waiting room and Adrienne angrily jerks away.

ADRIENNE

...Don't touch me! Did you have
something to do with this?!

SECURITY OFFICER

Ladies, there are sick people here;
if you two wanna fight you can take
it outside.

ADRIENNE

I wouldn't give her the satisfaction! I'm here to find out what happened to my husband.

TRACY

Your husband? Really? Did he kiss you before he left today?

ADRIENNE

He is *my* husband; I have a little piece of paper that proves it.

TRACY

...And his keys open my door; deal with it!

As the two women square off the security officer steps in between them.

SECURITY OFFICER

Ladies please. Either y'all go in there and wait or separate, but you can't do this here. You can't.

The ladies stand staring at one another for a moment; Tracy begins walking toward the waiting room, Adrienne follows her.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

The two women angrily walk into the room. Adrienne sits with her back to Tracy.

A DOCTOR, 40's, glasses, wearing a lab coat and colorful surgical cap walks into the room.

DOCTOR

Good evening ladies.

TRACY

Is he alright doctor?

ADRIENNE

Is my husband going to be OK?

DOCTOR

I realize this is a delicate matter so I'll try to be as fair as I can. My responsibility is to notify the next of kin; that would be you, Mrs. Anthony...

TRACY

...Next of kin? *I* received the call about this; she wouldn't even be here if I hadn't called her.

ADRIENNE

By the way, thanks, you can go now.

TRACY

I have just as much right to be here as you do, if not more.

ADRIENNE

I'm gonna act like you didn't say that.

TRACY

Afraid of the truth?

ADRIENNE

That you're a goddamn home-wrecker?

DOCTOR

Mr. Anthony's condition is critical. He was shot twice; one bullet passed through his lower right side but the other one is lodged in his chest cavity. He's lost a lot of blood. I have to be honest with you both and say that your bickering is not helping anyone; this is very serious.

The two women look at each other with fear in their eyes.

ADRIENNE

So what now?

DOCTOR

We're going to take some more x-rays and remove that bullet.

TRACY

You said he's lost a lot of blood, you can have some of mine.

ADRIENNE

If anyone's going to give him blood it'll be me.

TRACY

Last I checked you're in no position
or condition to make that decision.

ADRIENNE

Just who in the hell do you think
you are?

DOCTOR

Time is wasting ladies. In case we
do need you, do either of you know
your blood types?

ADRIENNE

I'm AB Positive.

TRACY

I'm O positive.

DOCTOR

Ms. Ellington, it looks like you're
the logical choice. I'll get a
nurse.

ADRIENNE

Before you go running off to give
him her blood, don't I have a say in
any of this?

DOCTOR

Yes, Mrs. Anthony, you do? Either
you can consent or we'll go with
whatever the blood bank has
available and we're in very short
supply. We're gonna have to rush the
processing as it is. Are we go?

Adrienne walks off and looks away. She peers out of a nearby
window as Tracy gingerly walks over to her. Adrienne nods
affirmatively.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I'll send a nurse.

ADRIENNE & TRACY

Thank you, Doctor.

The doctor walks out and Tracy gingerly walks over to
Adrienne and engages her. Adrienne keeps her back turned.

TRACY

Adrienne...this is difficult for both of us, but if he dies neither of us will have him...and what about the kids?

Adrienne's nostrils flare as angrily she spins around.

ADRIENNE

You leave them out of this! Those are our children, mine and his. You don't know anything about it.

TRACY

I know about the nasty gash Jenna got when she fell in the park, the eight stitches? I know about Daniel, Jr. and his love for airplanes. I know that Daniel loves them deeply and how badly he misses them. I know how overboard he goes when he shops for them 'cause I shop for them too.

ADRIENNE

You shop for them?

TRACY

Those cute little pink flip-flops Jenna wears? The one's she wants to wear even when it's freezing outside? I bought them at Saks.

ADRIENNE

Oh, great, I'll send them back.

TRACY

That was mature.

ADRIENNE

And fucking a married man is?

TRACY

You're acting as if he's still living with you.

ADRIENNE

He would be if...

TRACY

...If what? He left you long before he started seeing me.

ADRIENNE

And how can you be so sure about that?

TRACY

You really need to let it go.

At that moment a NURSE, 50's, with a phlebotomist's cart walks in to take blood from Tracy. Adrienne sits and studies Tracy as she watches the process.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Take two pints.

NURSE

No ma'am, I can only take one for now.

The nurse ties a piece of rubber around Tracy's arm and taps her wrist for a vein. Adrienne continues to look Tracy over.

ADRIENNE

You look a lot different in person.

TRACY

Is that good or bad?

ADRIENNE

Just making conversation. I'll shut up.

TRACY

No don't, please. This was probably a long time coming anyway.

ADRIENNE

Probably, how'd you get my number?

TRACY

I've always had it. I never called because there was no need. I kept it in case of some emergency, like this.

Adrienne paces the floor.

ADRIENNE

I see. I wonder what's taking them so long. We should've heard something by now.

TRACY

Do the children know? And how are they?

ADRIENNE

No, not yet. They're with my mother; thank you for asking.

TRACY

Can we start over?

ADRIENNE

Sure.

The nurse finishes and walks out of the room.

TRACY

Tracy Ellington, it's nice to meet you finally.

ADRIENNE

Adrienne Anthony, you too.

The women make direct eye contact and move closer to one another, shake hands and quickly pull their hands away as they move uncomfortably back to their respective chairs.

Daniel's SURGEON, 40's, scrubs, walks in.

SURGEON

I just removed a .9mm slug from Daniel's chest. He's in very serious condition and it can go from bad to worse at any moment. We've had some issues managing his blood pressure; aside from the obvious trauma does he have any history of blood pressure problems?

ADRIENNE

Well, all I know is a few years ago he wasn't taking any medication for it, but I don't know about now.

TRACY

No blood pressure problems. His internist is Dr. Howell. Here's her card in case you need to speak with her.

Adrienne looks surprised then uncomfortable as she listens to Tracy talk about Daniel's recent medical history. She does not interrupt.

TRACY (CONT'D)

He had seen a specialist for a back problem he was having but it was treated and he's...well, he hasn't had those problems since.

Detective Oliver comes in as the surgeon is leaving.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Ms. Ellington, Mrs. Anthony. Could either of you tell me what Mr. Anthony was doing with so much money on his person?

ADRIENNE

How much did he have on him?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

About forty-two hundred in cash. Not to mention his credit cards, checks, his watch, a hanky and a pair of shades. All of his things are in this envelope, including the cash.

The detective looks at both women as he tries to figure out which one to give the envelope to but holds it back.

DETECTIVE OLIVER (CONT'D)

About the money...was that normal?

TRACY

It seems a little unusual, but I guess he didn't want to use his card...

ADRIENNE

...Daniel doesn't do credit cards, he always pays cash, and he always has, even when we're on vacation. No, I don't think that's so unusual. What do you think Tracy?

Adrienne glares at Tracy but Tracy does not respond.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Has he been under any pressure lately? I see this situation and

kinda wonder what might have made
him behave that way.

ADRIENNE

Behave what way? Something you need
to say, detective?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

According to witnesses, Mr. Anthony
made a threatening gesture to one of
the officers.

ADRIENNE

What kind of gesture? What's this
about?

TRACY

Don't say another word Adrienne,
we'll talk about this privately...with
an attorney.

ADRIENNE

Tracy...

TRACY

...No, Adrienne, I think we've all
seen enough of the police trying to
cover up their mistakes by blaming
victims. This is one victim they're
not going to screw around with. Are
you finished, detective?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Ah, yes. Yes ma'am I am. Here are
Mr. Anthony's things.

Adrienne accepts the envelope from the detectives; she looks
at it and reluctantly hands it to a surprised Tracy.

Tracy opens the envelope, pulls out a white hankie and holds
it up to her nose; she walks over to a window and looks out.

Adrienne and Tracy pace back and forth, sit, read magazines
as the CLOCK on the wall slowly changes time then registers
just after MIDNIGHT.

ADRIENNE

Tracy.

TRACY

You hungry?

ADRIENNE

How'd you know what I was gonna ask?

TRACY

I could hear your stomach from all
the way over here.

The two women share a light moment of laughter and walk together out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL INTENSIVE CARE WARD -- NIGHT

Tracy and Adrienne arrive back on the floor and are met by the ON-DUTY NURSE, 30's, African American, dressed in a colorful scrub top and directed to Daniel's room.

They look at each other seemingly to decide which of them should go in first, or go in together.

Tracy races to his side and kisses him on his forehead as she cries. Adrienne stands off to the side and looks uncomfortable; she watches for a moment then leaves shortly after.

THE NEXT DAY

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT PSYCHOLOGISTS OFFICE -- DAY

Officer Deshotel is waiting for a police psychologist, DR. LEWIS, 50's, half-glasses.

She notices a large collection of elephants, pictures, figurines and stuffed animals all over the room.

DR. LEWIS

Officer Dez-- Can I call you
Stephanie?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Yes. And it's Des-hotel, just as
it's written.

DR. LEWIS

Oh OK. That's a very interesting
name. I see you've been ordered here
by your superiors but I have a
strange feeling you're anxious to
talk to me.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Why would you say that?

DR. LEWIS

Because your appointment is not until next week.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Um, what's with the elephants?

DR. LEWIS

Its a childhood thing; I got to ride on one in the circus many years ago at Madison Square Garden, you know, when Ringling Brothers would have the kids come down from the audience to be a part of the circus parade during the show. From then on, anything that had an elephant was mine, a shirt, a hat, a figurine, picture, poster; whatever I could get my hands on.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

What do you like about them?

DR. LEWIS

They're gentle, yet powerful, amazingly resilient, yet vulnerable and most of all, they never forget.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I thought that was folklore.

DR. LEWIS

You think it's just cattle prods that get elephants to perform some of the awesome tasks they do? No, they're intelligent creatures. Now, let's talk about Stephanie.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I feel like shit.

DR. LEWIS

Why is that?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I screwed up.

DR. LEWIS

And who hasn't?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

But not like this.

DR. LEWIS

Are you suggesting that your mistake was bigger than any mistake ever made?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I don't know, I'm confused. I feel alone too, that's the worst thing.

DR. LEWIS

Please, relax, make yourself comfortable and continue..

Dr. Lewis listens carefully and writes notes as Officer Deshotel kicks off her shoes and curls up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF WAITING ROOM -- DAY

ADRIENNE'S MOM, 60's, and DANIEL'S MOM, a youthful 70, are standing just outside the waiting room with Adrienne.

Tracy walks to get a cup of water and begins to listen in on a conversation when she hears her name. The ladies were turned around and do not see Tracy.

DANIEL'S MOM

Dree, aren't you going in to see Danny?

ADRIENNE

In a minute momma, I'm just waiting 'til she leaves.

DANIEL'S MOM

Oh, so the nurse in there now?

ADRIENNE

No, Tracy.

ADRIENNE'S MOM

Tracy who?

ADRIENNE

Tracy Ellington.

ADRIENNE'S MOM

You mean Tracy Ellington from TV?

ADRIENNE

Yep.

ADRIENNE'S MOM

Seems like a strange time for an interview. Isn't Danny still unconscious?

ADRIENNE

Ma, she's Danny's girlfriend.

DANIEL'S MOM

Oh.

DANIEL'S MOM

Maybe we should all get some coffee?

ADRIENNE

I don't want any coffee.

ADRIENNE'S MOM

That's a good idea, we can come back a little later.

Tracy walks up on them.

TRACY

You can go in and see him, only two at a time though.

The women look up surprised. There is an extended awkward pause.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Hello Mrs. Anthony, Adrienne, Ma'am. Mrs. Anthony I'm Tracy; I'm sorry we had to meet like this.

DANIEL'S MOM

I had no idea you and he...it's been hard not talking to Danny. We used to be so close.

TRACY

I'm not trying to monopolize him, we all love him and he needs our support so please.

Daniel's mom, Adrienne's mom and Adrienne stand looking stunned.

Tracy gets another cup of water and walks down the hallway to another waiting room.

INT. WAITING ROOM -- DAY

Tracy peers out of the window and breathes heavily. She is joined by Daniel's mother.

DANIEL'S MOM

Tracy.

TRACY

Yes ma'am.

DANIEL'S MOM

I'm so scared for my Danny. I don't think he's ever been in a hospital this long.

TRACY

He's gonna pull through this, I know he is, we just have to pray that's all.

DANIEL'S MOM

You're right, baby. How are you holding up? I know this must be awful for you.

TRACY

Awful? Something like that; I called Adrienne to tell her after the police called me.

DANIEL'S MOM

Lord, that must have been some conversation.

TRACY

No, that didn't happen until she got here, that's when things really got interesting.

DANIEL'S MOM

Oh, I can just imagine. That Adrienne has always had a temper but she's a sweet girl. You have to forgive me but...

TRACY

You don't have to explain Mrs.
Anthony, this is tough on all of us.
I just hope we can get through this
without anymore ugliness.

Daniel's mom and Tracy walk back toward the room and they
are met by Adrienne and her mom.

The two mothers break off and walk toward Daniel's room.
Adrienne and Tracy are left alone.

INT. ICU WAITING ROOM -- DAY

TRACY

Your mom is nice, we met in the..

ADRIENNE

...May I speak frankly?

TRACY

Please.

ADRIENNE

After this is over, don't expect me
to be your friend, like we're part
of some sister circle.

TRACY

I'm not looking for a friend in my
man's soon to be ex-wife.

ADRIENNE

That was ugly.

TRACY

That was real.

ADRIENNE

How would you feel if the shoe was
on the other foot and it was your
husband in there?

TRACY

It already is 'cause from where I'm
standing, you're the other woman.
Why are you still here? He can't
discuss the children with you in his
condition and consoling him is no
longer your concern.

Adrienne looks away.

TRACY (CONT'D)

And you know what else? These other people may not know but we know what's really goin' on so you can drop the histrionics.

ADRIENNE

If you think I'm gonna turn over the one trump card I have, think again. You know I could have your ass thrown out of here whenever I get ready, don't you?

TRACY

You wouldn't do that.

ADRIENNE

Don't be so sure. I like being on top, *ask Daniel*. And who knows, this could be an open door for reconciliation.

TRACY

You're dreaming.

ADRIENNE

You think you're the first one Tracy? Don't get too comfortable.

TRACY

What do you mean?

ADRIENNE

You know exactly what I mean.

TRACY

The last time he left; he was gone what, three months?

ADRIENNE

He told you about that?

TRACY

I insisted before we got together; I wanted to know everything. He's been gone more than a year and you're in the final stages of a divorce. Who's in denial Adrienne?

Adrienne becomes increasingly agitated but confused.

ADRIENNE

I'm not one of your interview subjects, don't psychoanalyze me.

TRACY

I'm not; I thought we were just talking.

ADRIENNE

Why do I feel like I have to ask permission from you to see my husband?

TRACY

I can't answer that for you.

ADRIENNE

I shouldn't have to ask your approval, or should I? Is that how this works now?

TRACY

I'd better go.

Tracy turns to walk away. She reaches the door of the waiting room.

ADRIENNE

Your first date.

Tracy stops and turns slightly.

TRACY

Say again?

ADRIENNE

Your first date, where did you go?

TRACY

I'm not doing this...

ADRIENNE

...What's the harm?

TRACY

No, no, you're torturing yourself and I won't be a part of that.

ADRIENNE

What've you got to lose?

TRACY

I'm not in the mood for another fight.

ADRIENNE

There won't be anymore fights. Look, I guess I'm looking for the Danny I fell in love with and you're the only one who really knows him now.

TRACY

I don't understand.

ADRIENNE

Please Tracy.

Tracy stares at Adrienne and walks back toward a chair; the women sit down.

TRACY

Well, he told me he was taking me to see an off-Broadway show. I was so excited because I am a major theater buff. Turns out that the off-Broadway show was way up in the Bronx at some neighborhood community center. The show was really cute, the kids forgot their lines but they were good sports. We had dinner from a local Chinese carry-out, talked a bit and he brought me home. I knew that night that I wanted to...marry him.

Adrienne gets emotional but holds it together. She breathes deeply.

ADRIENNE

Is that all.

TRACY

That's all I'm going to tell you.

Tracy gets up to leave.

ADRIENNE

Did you sleep with him that night?

TRACY

I'm not going to answer that.

ADRIENNE

You just did.

TRACY

Excuse me?

ADRIENNE

I can see it in your eyes. I used to have that look and I still remember; you will too when your turn comes.

TRACY

I gotta go.

ADRIENNE

Ignore me if you want to, he'll leave you too Tracy.

TRACY

No, Adrienne, he won't.

ADRIENNE

Famous last words.

Tracy storms off.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- DAY

Monitors beeping, Tracy walks to the door. Adrienne's mother walks out.

Tracy stands next to Daniel's mother and holds Daniel's hand.

DANIEL'S MOM

I see how much you love my Danny and I'm happy for you both; I just wish you and Adrienne could get along better, it will really be better for everybody.

TRACY

Daniel still belongs to Adrienne, legally and in *her* heart anyway. We all love him and I wish he'd wake up. I'm starting to worry.

DANIEL'S MOM

Have you thought about what things will be like if he doesn't make it all the way back?

TRACY

I like you and I respect you but I won't hear that from you. I won't hear that from anyone. Daniel is gonna make it all the way back. I'm just anxious to know what's going on with the investigation.

INT. INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION -- DAY

Establishing shot of One Police Plaza in Lower Manhattan.

Detectives are walking around a small interview room as a nervous and squirming Officer Stephanie Deshotel is perspiring.

She's seated in a chair as DETECTIVE MITCHELL 40's, lots of attitude and DETECTIVE CAMPBELL 50's, balding, walk into the room.

DETECTIVE MITCHELL

You know, Des, this isn't exactly your textbook shoot. You'll be lucky if the grand jury doesn't smoke you for attempted murder. Isn't that right Campbell?

DETECTIVE CAMPBELL

Yeah, but she's smart, aren't you Des? You know we don't generally lose in court unless we don't have the story "absolutely correct." Know what I mean? I know you've been at a desk when you'd much rather be back out on the street...but, the grand jury needs to hear the whole story and if you don't tell them, they'll never know.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

You guys want me to lie and I won't do it. An innocent man is lying in the hospital and possibly dying because of something I did. You guys make me sick. What are you guys the freakin' goon squad or something?

The two detectives laugh.

DETECTIVE MITCHELL

Goon squad? Did you really say that?

DETECTIVE CAMPBELL

We're your white knights, kid; we're just trying to save your ass. If you don't want any help with this, just say the word and we'll leave you alone; it's your call, Des.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Listen, guys. I really need to think about this. I have to get outta here.

DETECTIVE MITCHELL

Don't wait too long. The mayor's office is gonna want somebody's head, either yours or the vic's. Remember, it's an election year.

EXT. BUSY NYC STREET -- DAY

Officer Deshotel walks down a crowded NYC street and sighs as she sees the NEWSPAPER HEADLINES showing "Un-Friendly Fire".

On the cover there is a photograph of Daniel Anthony standing in front of a local community center she attended as a teen.

She grabs the paper and races to her psychologist's office.

INT. POLICE PSYCHOLOGISTS OFFICE - DAY

Stephanie is seated in the waiting room reading a magazine. Dr. Lewis walks out and sees Stephanie.

DR. LEWIS

Hello Stephanie, you should be at home resting. What was so urgent that you couldn't wait until our next appointment?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

That's him. That's the man.

DR. LEWIS

Yes, that's Daniel Anthony. What about him?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I shot him! Look, can't you see?

DR. LEWIS

Sit, relax, and talk.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

About seven years ago when he first came to New York, he sponsored a special after school program near my home in the Bronx. He made sure we had the best coaches, uniforms, money...

DR. LEWIS

That's one of the things that makes Mr. Anthony special. Go on.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

My brothers were into some very bad things. They were dealing drugs and committing a host of other crimes as well.

DR. LEWIS

You were aware of what they were doing, even as a youngster?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

It wasn't difficult to figure out. They would come in the house first thing in the morning and give me twenty dollars a day for lunch money. Yeah, I knew what they were up to because they never had jobs, not real ones anyway.

DR. LEWIS

I'm still not understanding what this has to do with Mr. Anthony?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

My brothers went out to a party one night and never came back home. We learned they had been shot and their bodies were dismembered and thrown in a dumpster in Brooklyn. My father lost his job, my mother got really sick. I can remember telling one of the counselors at the center and next thing I knew, my dad got a new job, my mom got the care she needed and we had a new place to live, my brothers even got a decent burial.

My eldest sister made it into college; she was awarded the William Thurgood Anthony Scholarship.

DR. LEWIS

OK...

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Don't you see, my mother didn't speak very good English but she always talked about "Senior Anthony." I never understood that but she was talking about Mr. Anthony. William Thurgood Anthony was his brother who was killed just like my brothers, but not in the same fashion. He saved my family, he saved my future and I may have killed him.

Dr. Lewis pauses and stares for a moment.

DR. LEWIS

Six degrees of separation, small world, how about that, isn't that something, which cliché would you like me to use? His involvement with your family or the lack of it was neither a contributing nor aggravating factor in you shooting him and we're not trying to find out why you shot him, neither are we attempting to make excuses for why you shot him.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Then why am I here?

DR. LEWIS

You're here to begin your process of healing.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

What, time heals all wounds?

DR. LEWIS

Maybe not, but over time the wounds become less important; the scabs go away. And one day you'll begin to see some clarity.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

So what's the first step?

Dr. Lewis walks over to a bookshelf and grabs a large photo album and hands it to Stephanie.

DR. LEWIS

You made the first step when you walked in here. You've actually made a number of giant steps already and I'm proud of you. I want to show you something...you see this photo album, all these officers?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Yes.

DR. LEWIS

I've been in practice for twenty years plus and every now and then one person walks in here and realizes they need to be here. Most people, like the officers in that book you're looking at felt they could handle anything, or I had to pull teeth just to get them to tell me what was bothering them.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

So they quit coming?

DR. LEWIS

They're dead; most chewed on their revolvers, others took drugs and some made fatal mistakes out on the street because they weren't ready to be back out there. They believed they had the answers before the questions came. They thought they could weather their own personal storms before they took the time to do what Noah did.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Build an ark?

DR. LEWIS

Prepare. They neglected to prepare.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Yeah, but what am I supposed to do about the guilt I feel? I need to make it right.

DR. LEWIS

Small steps, giant leaps. Isn't that what Neil Armstrong said when he stepped onto the moon?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Something like that. Sounds like good advice.

DR. LEWIS

Not advice Stephanie. Affirmation.

CUT TO:

EXT: Lenox Hill Hospital COURTYARD (Press Conference) -- DAY

MAYOR GRIFFIN, 60, salt and pepper hair and goatee, is holding a press conference. REPORTERS, various looks, from different news agencies are present.

MAYOR GRIFFIN

...and here you can see where the sandboxes will be for the little one's.

REPORTER 1

Mr. Mayor, is your office going to appoint someone to look into the Anthony shooting? Isn't Mr. Anthony one of your biggest supporters?

MAYOR GRIFFIN

He's my friend and what happened to Daniel was indeed a tragedy and I know he would not want me to respond to questions of that nature at this time. We're here to break ground for a park Mr. Anthony helped to fund.

REPORTER 2

...And what about the Tracy Ellington factor? Doesn't it concern you that her station has given this shooting 'round the clock coverage?

MAYOR GRIFFIN

I'll reiterate, what happened to Danny is a tragedy, for him, his family and the officer and her family.

INT. ICU WAITING ROOM -- DAY

Tracy stares at a TV SCREEN in the waiting room and shakes her head. Adrienne appears at the door.

ADRIENNE

Maybe I should release a statement?

TRACY

I was going to suggest that; maybe call an attorney to help you manage?

ADRIENNE

What do I need an attorney for when I have you? You seem to be the one everyone wants to talk to.

TRACY

I didn't ask for all this.

ADRIENNE

Yes you did too, the minute you laid eyes on him; everything he's become, the money, the celebrity, women from every corner of the world trying to get at him, they're all in bed with you now. Stings doesn't it? And if it ruins your career don't say I didn't warn you.

TRACY

I can handle it.

ADRIENNE

That's what I thought. I had a great career but when I started noticing Danny's career taking off, I started scaling back my hours to travel with him; next thing I knew I was a housewife and mother...and an alcoholic.

TRACY

I'm sorry.

Adrienne waves off Tracy and pauses.

ADRIENNE

Then one day, we were walking through a shopping mall in LA and there she was.

TRACY

Who?

ADRIENNE

Daniel's indiscretion. I looked into his eyes and knew right away, he didn't even have to say anything.

TRACY

I don't know what to say.

ADRIENNE

I picked up my first of about a thousand drinks that day and...well...be careful what you wish for Tracy.

Adrienne walks away.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT: LENOX HILL HOSPITAL -- DAY

At the Mayor's press conference, cameras are flashing and reporters are frenzied.

REPORTER 1

Is Daniel Anthony having an affair with Tracy Ellington?

REPORTER 2

Where's Mrs. Anthony? Is she with her husband or is Tracy?

The Mayor covers the microphone and leans toward one his aides.

MAYOR GRIFFIN

This has gone on long enough now get me the hell outta here.

(turning back to the reporters)

MAYOR GRIFFIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Daniel and Adrienne are friends to me and my family; I'm not

going to comment on anything of that sort.

The Mayor walks away from the press conference as the scene fades.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF LENOX HILL HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

Media have gathered reporting the story of the shooting. Reporters are walking around, drinking coffee and waiting.

Tracy and Adrienne emerge and surprise the media corps. Cameras are flashing, news camera lights are illuminating the area in front of the hospital.

TRACY

Good evening, my name is Tracy Ellington. I am not here in my capacity as journalist but as a friend of The Anthony Family. We will not be taking any questions. In spite of reports you may have heard to the contrary, Daniel Anthony was not at fault. It is believed that he was mistakenly identified as an individual currently being sought for the robbery of various high-end jewelry stores throughout the New York City area. Daniel Anthony is currently in intensive care; he is not conscious. (*emotional pause*) Standing with me is Mrs. Adrienne Anthony. Any questions you may have regarding Mr. Anthony's business affairs should be directed to his private attorney, Mr. Collin Granger. Questions about his care should be directed to his personal physician, Dr. Carolyn Howell. Thank you.

The reporters begin shouting questions as Tracy rushes Adrienne back toward the hospital doors. Security officers assist them by keeping the reporters back.

A BEAT REPORTER, 20's glasses, is persistently moving forward.

BEAT REPORTER

Mrs. Anthony, isn't it unusual to have a wife and lover showing a united front?

Adrienne breaks Tracy's grasp and angrily spins around. Cameras begin flashing fiercely.

ADRIENNE

How dare you ask me such a question while Danny is upstairs fighting for his life? Why don't you find the cop and ask why she shot him? You people make me sick! You want a story? Tracy is a friend of the family, period. Daniel has done a lot for the youth of this city and he's a wonderful father to our children. Maybe you should consider them while you're perpetuating disgusting gossip and rumor. Now good night!

The press corps backs off as Adrienne turns and walks into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL MAIN LOBBY

Tracy meets Adrienne as she walks into the hospital and out of the sight of the media.

TRACY

Girl that was good! You really told them...

Adrienne abruptly turns and slaps a surprised Tracy.

ADRIENNE

...Shut up! Just shut up! This is all your fault!

TRACY

I didn't cause this!

ADRIENNE

He wasn't buying any jewelry for me! You made me look like an idiot out there!

TRACY

Don't you dare blame me for this! You asked me to make a statement and I made one!

ADRIENNE

Did it ever occur to you to ask my opinion before you went off like the lone ranger?

TRACY

Opinion? What do you want from me Adrienne?!

ADRIENNE

What I want is for you to get out of our lives!

TRACY

What?!

ADRIENNE

That's right Tracy, just leave.

TRACY

So I'm supposed to just walk away?

ADRIENNE

Your purposes have been served, by Danny and me; I think all of New York City can see that now.

TRACY

Before you go blaming me for whatever went wrong in your marriage, you'd better take a good long look in the mirror first. And while you're at home calling me home-wrecker, slut, bitch or whatever name you've chosen for me, you think about what you did to open a door for me to walk through.

ADRIENNE

How you can even look me in the eyes knowing you've been sleeping with *my* husband for the last year?

TRACY

He's not your husband anymore!

ADRIENNE

He *is* my husband and nothing you say is going to change that!

Adrienne walks out of the room.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

Adrienne is standing in front of the hospital. She lights up a cigarette and starts to walk down the street. Reporter, CHRISTINA UNDERWOOD, 30's, African American, very attractive, follows her down the street.

Adrienne is aware of her presence and continues to walk in spite of Christina's engagement.

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Anthony, may I have a word with you?

ADRIENNE

No, I've said all I'm going to say.

CHRISTINA

Actually Mrs. Anthony, you haven't said anything. Listen, I know you love your husband, and with Tracy around I can see you're uncomfortable. I know how you feel.

ADRIENNE

You don't know shit! Now please, leave me alone.

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Anthony, the people of New York need to hear from you too. Why would you remain silent? I'm surprised you even allowed Tracy to just run over you like that?

ADRIENNE

Run over who? I think I need to clarify something for you Miss; I'm here because my husband is in intensive care after being shot by the very police he's been breaking his neck to defend. I'm here because I have two children that love their daddy more than their toys, so what exactly are you talking about?

CHRISTINA

I'm talking about dignity Mrs. Anthony. I'm talking about what's right. You just seem to go along with the program like it's no big

deal when you clearly have something invested here.

ADRIENNE

Why don't you tell me what this is really about? You work for Channel Four don't you?

CHRISTINA

Yes I do.

ADRIENNE

Aren't you the one they send to all of those kiddie parties and schools?

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Anthony...

ADRIENNE

Looking for a promotion? Maybe unseat Tracy from her anchor's chair? 'Cause if that's the case Miss, you've come to the wrong place.

CHRISTINA

That anchor's chair should have been mine but I'm not sleeping with Daniel Anthony.

Adrienne stops walking and turns angrily toward Christina.

ADRIENNE

Do you really think I needed to hear that?

CHRISTINA

That was insensitive, I apologize. But it's a hard fact. Isn't it?

Adrienne begins walking away.

ADRIENNE

Danny didn't have anything to do with Tracy getting that job; I'm sure she earned it.

CHRISTINA

Are you really? From where I stand I see a different picture. I see a

woman that will stop at nothing to get whatever she wants.

ADRIENNE

...Pot calling the kettle?

CHRISTINA

Please. Do you know how many years I've been busting my ass up there? Making and delivering coffee, getting my ass squeezed by a bunch of crusty old men then out of Philadelphia comes this plastic, made up, Barbie-doll figured escort-type and takes the job I was after...and your husband. I think we have a lot in common.

Adrienne stops walking, drops her cigarette, steps on it and turns slowly toward Christina.

ADRIENNE

Let's get one thing straight, the only thing we have in common is that we're women, Black women. Maybe someday we'll get to a point where we can see things for what they truly are instead of looking and acting like victims.

CHRISTINA

Fine. I'll agree with you on that but what's the harm in talking with me for just a few minutes, about Mr. Anthony, your children? Just long enough to tell your story. You don't even have to mention Tracy. It would be a great piece.

ADRIENNE

I'm sorry, I never got your name.

CHRISTINA

Chris, it's Christina Underwood.

ADRIENNE

No thank you Chris. You'll just have to find another way to unseat Tracy; in spite of what I might feel I won't be a part of that.

CHRISTINA

Then take my card in case you change your mind. I'll drop whatever I'm doing, come to wherever I need to get your story on the air. Deal?

ADRIENNE

You're a pushy one aren't you?

CHRISTINA

There's a lot more to me than kiddie birthday parties and chili cook-offs.

ADRIENNE

I'm sure there is.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM (ICU) -- NIGHT

After checking her messages and watching her station's news Tracy walks back to Daniel's room. As she gets to the door she sees her best friend, HAPPY, a 40-something African American female modern day flower child, standing over Daniel.

She joins her at his bedside.

HAPPY

He looks good, girl.

TRACY

Happy don't talk like that. You sound like one of those old ladies at the funeral home. *He look good, don't he?*

HAPPY

You are still crazy, even in all of this craziness. How you holding up?

TRACY

I'd be fine if I could just get some peace. I can't seem to find a way to reconcile things with Adrienne.

HAPPY

What are you trying to reconcile? She had him, you have him, isn't that easily understood by everybody?

TRACY

You'd think it would be but I had no idea how much she loves him.

HAPPY

Does she love him or is it that she doesn't want you to have him? There's a difference you know.

TRACY

I know, but...

HAPPY

No buts. You have a thing or two to learn about being the new woman. Rule number one, don't even think about endearing yourself to the ex. Rule number two is not to forget rule number one. Hell, if you want to share him you might as well just turn your back and let him screw her.

TRACY

But you don't understand. I'm just trying to do something different than the expected norm; does every blended family have to have so much drama associated with it?

HAPPY

All I can say is don't get your hopes up.

TRACY

Ever since the first night we've been back and forth.

HAPPY

Your man sure can pick 'em, can't he?

TRACY

All I know is that he picked me. That's where I am with that.

Happy leans over to kiss Daniel and whispers in his ear.

HAPPY

Danny, it's Happy. I know you can hear me in there so stop faking sleep and wake yo' ass up. Oh, and

by the way, I'm still waiting for my Knicks tickets. You think you and Spike are the only two that can sit courtside in this town? I'd hock my grandma's silver candle-sticks to get the privilege, so get on it. I love you.

EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

Happy and Tracy leave the hospital for. Adrienne is smoking outside and sees them leave but they do not see her.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Adrienne arrives at Daniel's room. She pulls up a chair close to Daniel's bed. She slowly reaches to touch his hand and strokes it as she watches him.

ADRIENNE

Danny, when you wake up I probably won't be here; I've been neglecting the children even though momma has been doing wonderfully with them. She seems to always enjoy it whenever she has them to herself. I said I wouldn't, but I have to; I love you. I've loved you from the day we met back in second grade and how I'm gonna move on from this lifetime love we have is, well, I don't know what it I'm gonna do. Tracy is strong, a lot stronger than I was at her age. I thought I'd never be at the point where I could admit it but she's perfect for you, and I know she'll be good to the children...

Daniel moves slightly, the monitors beep. She looks nervous and steps out of the room to get a nurse.

INT. ICU NURSE'S STATION -- NIGHT

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Ah, excuse me, something's going on in here.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- NIGHT

An ICU NURSE, 40's, walks in and reaches for Daniel's arm to take his pulse. She looks at Daniel closely and taps his hand lightly.

ICU NURSE

Mr. Anthony? Can you hear me?
 Hmm...looks like Mr. Anthony is wakey
 wakey.

ADRIENNE

How can you tell? He looks about the
 same to me.

ICU NURSE

Mr. Anthony...Mr. Anthony...if you can
 here me, squeeze my fingers...he's
 awake.

ADRIENNE

Are you serious? Oh my God. Oh
 Danny, thank you nurse, thank you
 for saving his life. Thank all of
 you. Jesus.

Adrienne stands and stares at Daniel.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Danny, I know you can hear me now.
 I've been here every day since you
 got hurt and I've been by your
 side...with Tracy. She's gone but I'm
 gonna call her and tell her you're
 OK. The kids are OK. They know
 what's happened but momma has them
 and they're fine.

A monitor in the room shows Daniel's heart rate increasing.
 Adrienne watches it as she sits.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Danny, if this situation has done
 anything it has shown me how much
 you mean to me. I don't know why,
 but I can't just give up like I did
 before. That's what I did with my
 drinking and look what I have to
 show for it. There's a new Adrienne
 sitting next to you and...what am I
 saying...I'd give my right arm if
 you'd just come back to me.

Daniel turns his head slightly and tries to move his arm. His eyes are rolling around in his head and he is moving his lips trying to speak. Adrienne moves closer to hear him.

DANIEL

Tracy.

Adrienne falls back into the chair and reacts with shock.

ADRIENNE

Shit...nurse!

Adrienne moves away from Daniel's bed as the nurses and the MEDICAL PERSONNEL attend to Daniel.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY NEAR DANIEL'S ROOM

She leaves the room and walks toward the waiting room and stares at the pay phone close by.

She looks on TV and watches a replay of her and Tracy's impromptu press conference and Tracy's face in front of the microphones.

She picks up to dial the phone then puts it back down. Adrienne returns to the room. The ICU DOCTOR, 50's walks in.

ICU DOCTOR

Mrs. Anthony?

ADRIENNE

Yes.

ICU DOCTOR

Mr. Anthony's condition is still very delicate. He's probably going to need some rest, so try and keep his talking to a minimum.

ADRIENNE

I can talk to him?

ICU DOCTOR

Of course, but not for too long.

ADRIENNE

Thank you Doctor, I won't.

Doctor and nurse leaves. Adrienne walks to the nurse's station and speaks to a NURSE dressed in blue, (unnamed), 20's who was writing in a chart.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

NURSE 3

Yes ma'am.

ADRIENNE

Would you kindly do me a favor?

NURSE 3

Sure.

ADRIENNE

There should be a contact number for Ms. Ellington somewhere; would you...never mind...I'll call her and give her the news.

NURSE 3

Ma'am?

ADRIENNE

Could you get us some ice chips or something?

NURSE 3

Yes ma'am, right away.

ADRIENNE

Thank you.

Adrienne walks back into the room and sees Daniel's eyes open and moving around.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Hi Danny.

DANIEL

Adrienne, hi.

ADRIENNE

Don't try to talk Danny; I just promised the doctor that I'd keep you quiet.

DANIEL

The kids.

ADRIENNE

They're good, Baby. They're with
momma and they're fine. I'm so glad
you're OK.

DANIEL

What's today?

ADRIENNE

You mean, the day, or the date?

DANIEL

The day.

ADRIENNE

It's early Sunday morning. It's
about two AM.

Daniel looks away. Closes his eyes.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Do you remember what happened to
you?

DANIEL

Not really.

ADRIENNE

Would you like me to tell you?

DANIEL

Please.

ADRIENNE

You were shot Daniel.

DANIEL

Why? Who?

ADRIENNE

A police officer; the police aren't
really talking but they will, you
can bet on it.

DANIEL

The officer; is he OK?

ADRIENNE

She. A female officer shot you, but
we don't need to talk about that
now. There'll be plenty of time to
talk when we get her in court.

DANIEL

No.

ADRIENNE

No what, Baby.

DANIEL

No, no court. Adrienne?

ADRIENNE

Yes, Danny.

DANIEL

Why aren't you with the kids?

ADRIENNE

I just thought I should be here with you.

Daniel looks away.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Listen, you get some sleep. I'm gonna go home and pick up the kids tomorrow. I'll be back to see you. OK?

Adrienne leaves.

Cut to:

INT. DANIEL AND TRACY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Tracy is lying in bed, she is restless. She sits up in bed, turns on the light on her nightstand and looks over at a PHOTOGRAPH of her and Daniel.

Tracy gets out of bed and begins to dress.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- NIGHT

She arrives at Daniel's room and walks in. A male ICU NURSE, 30's, colorful scrubs, is walking in to check Daniel's vital signs and adjust his medication.

TRACY

Daniel, you're awake, oh my God. Baby you've had a rough ride but the worst is over now; you'll be better and come home to me soon. I was so worried I had lost you.

DANIEL

Where were you?

TRACY

I went home for a little while, I've been here every moment and I just needed to go home and take a bath. What's wrong?

DANIEL

Nothing.

TRACY

Daniel?

DANIEL

What was she doing here?

TRACY

Who Baby? Adrienne? What did she say? Did she upset you?

DANIEL

No, but...

Daniel coughing, in pain.

TRACY

I'll get the nurse.

Tracy runs out to the nurse's station.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Something's wrong.

Tracy and the ICU nurse run in together.

ICU NURSE

Mr. Anthony, what's wrong?

DANIEL

Pain...in my side.

ICU NURSE

I'll give you something to help you sleep. Ms. Ellington, I'm sorry but we've been bending the rules like crazy since all of this...go home and get some rest and come back in the morning. I promise to take good care of him.

TRACY

OK. I understand. Daniel, I'll be back in the morning. I love you, Baby.

DANIEL

Love you back.

Tracy turns to leave but seems uneasy and turns back to look at Daniel. He has already begun to drift off to sleep. She kisses him and leaves the hospital.

INT. ADRIENNE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Adrienne looks over at the clock and sees that the news is just starting.

She's already turned on the TV but the sound is low; she picks up the remote control and turns up the volume. In her other hand she has a cup of juice. Christina Underwood is in the anchor chair.

TV SHOT:

CHRISTINA

The shooting of Daniel Anthony is still under investigation today. Though we have heard from our own Tracy Ellington, spokesperson and *personal* friend of the Anthony Family, we have not heard from Mrs. Anthony herself. Sources tell our Bruce Fennell that Mrs. Anthony has gone into hiding. Bruce.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

TV Reporter BRUCE FENNELL, 30's, animated and colorfully dressed.

BRUCE

That's right Christina, it looks as though Adrienne Anthony, the estranged wife of millionaire Daniel Anthony has been a no-show here since the surprise press conference with Tracy Ellington. As you've already stated, Tracy Ellington has been serving as family spokesperson and some are now questioning how deep her connection goes with this

family, more specifically, to Mr. Anthony. We have unconfirmed reports that immediately after that press conference, Mrs. Anthony and Tracy Ellington nearly came to blows and had to be separated by security officers but no one could confirm that.

CHRISTINA

Bruce?

BRUCE

Yes, Chris.

CHRISTINA

What about Mr. Anthony's condition? Is he improving since he's awakened? Is he talking? Have you seen Tracy Ellington?

BRUCE

Well the answers to those questions are: Mr. Anthony is indeed awake and talking, he's listed in serious but stable condition and he's still in the intensive care unit. Doctors are reluctant to move him just yet. According to what we heard in the doctor's press conference earlier this morning, Mr. Anthony could conceivably be going home in about a week or so.

CHRISTINA

That's great news Bruce; what about Tracy Ellington, any sight of her anywhere?

BRUCE

Oh yes, I spoke with Tracy just a few moments ago when she arrived here at the hospital and while she wouldn't speak on camera, she has not left Mr. Anthony's side; she's left the hospital for home now, but no citing of Mrs. Anthony at all. This is Bruce Fennell outside of Lenox Hill Hospital, back to you in the studio.

Adrienne is furious. She looks over at the bar in her room then walks over, pauses and stares at the LIQUOR BOTTLES and pours a drink.

She sits sipping the drink and pours another; she lights a cigarette and is visibly shaken and upset. She stands and looks in her purse, pulls out a business card, picks up the phone and dials the phone.

CHRISTINA (O.S)
Hello, this is Christina.

ADRIENNE
I'll do it.

CHRISTINA (O.S)
Excuse me?

ADRIENNE
This is Adrienne Anthony...you got your interview.

CHRISTINA (O.S.)
Great. My producer thinks it would work better if I came out to your home; is that OK with you?

ADRIENNE
Tomorrow good?

CHRISTINA (O.S)
We'll be there Mrs. Anthony.

ADRIENNE
Good, see you then.

Adrienne slams the phone down.

INT. DANIEL'S NEW ROOM AT HOSPITAL -- DAY

Moved from ICU, Daniel has begun receiving visitors.

Detective Oliver and another DETECTIVE, African American 30's, suit, comes in while Daniel is resting.

DETECTIVE OLIVER
Looks like he's asleep, we'd better come back later.

DANIEL

I wouldn't do that detective; I might not be so willing to cooperate.

DETECTIVE OLIVER
How are you, sir?

DANIEL
It's been interesting. Tell me detective, you ever taken one?

DETECTIVE OLIVER
Yeah, in Hanoi in '75, goddamn VC snipers. Mr. Anthony, I'm here to find out what happened that day from your perspective. We've talked to the officer involved and she...

DANIEL
Wait...who is she?

DETECTIVE OLIVER
Her name is Stephanie Deshotel.

DANIEL
Is she OK?

DETECTIVE OLIVER
Well sir, she's been a bit shook up and no one's seen her. We're a little afraid that she may be alone and that's not a good place for a young cop to be, you know what I mean?

DANIEL
Alright then, someone find her and bring her here. I'd like to meet her.

DETECTIVE OLIVER
Sir?

DANIEL
I'd really like to meet her.

The detectives look at each other puzzled.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

That seems like an unusual request, sir. Could we talk about the incident? Do you feel up to it?

DANIEL

Sure, but there's nothing to talk about.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

I don't understand.

DANIEL

From what little I can recall, I stepped out of a coffee shop on 6th, I bumped into an officer, dropped my coffee and I looked her right in the eyes; then out of nowhere there were other officers all over the place, I thought I had walked into some kind of raid. I reached for a hankie to wipe off my jacket and try to get the hell out of the way and it felt like someone had taken a hot poker and shoved it into me. I don't remember much else after that.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Do you remember the officer saying anything to you? Or you were saying anything to her?

DANIEL

No, no I don't remember that, but it wasn't her fault.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Come again?

DANIEL

It was noisy, there were a lot of people out there and I could understand how she could make a mistake, especially under those conditions.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Sir, that's very generous of you and I have to tell you, I'm...I'm speechless right now.

DANIEL

I could tell she was scared, so was I; guns everywhere, people shouting. I guess I should've worn my business suit that day, huh?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Not at all sir. It should've never happened.

DANIEL

What's going to happen to the officer, and what's her name again?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Des-hotel, Officer Stephanie Deshotel. Well sir, she's got to go through mandatory counseling and she's on a desk until the investigation is completed. Chances are the DA is going to want to speak with you too; I'm surprised they didn't beat us up here when the news reported you were better. She'll probably be charged with assault and subsequently fired from the force.

DANIEL

I'd rather not see that happen. How old is this young lady?

DETECTIVE OLIVER

About 23, 24? Something like that.

DANIEL

So what's she supposed to do for a job if she's fired? Work security for a supermarket? Look, she got rattled during her first big scene and I have to tell you, I probably would have too. You know detective, I've made it a point to lend as much support as I can to the PBA.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Yes sir, of course and we appreciate all you've done, it's helped a lot with recruiting. We just find it a little strange that you'd want to help an officer that almost took you out.

DANIEL

She's not the only officer in this city to panic in a stressful situation. I'll call the district attorney's office; I don't want that officer anywhere near a courthouse. You can take that back to your superiors.

DETECTIVE OLIVER

Yes sir. I understand. And thank you sir.

INT. ADRIENNE'S HOME -- DAY

TELEVISION CREW of 4 (TWO MEN, TWO WOMEN) are setting up floodlights and checking monitors at the Anthony Residence.

A visibly agitated Adrienne is pacing the floor as Christina Underwood nervously watches.

ADRIENNE

How long is this going to take?

CHRISTINA

Not long Mrs. Anthony; Charlie let's get these lights set up and do this.

ADRIENNE

Do you need anything? Can I get you or your people something?

CHRISTINA

Just some water.

ADRIENNE

I have to check on the children; you guys get set and I'll be right back.

The crew continues to get ready; Adrienne returns and the taping begins.

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Anthony, thank you for having us in your home. It's very lovely.

ADRIENNE

Thank you, Christina. We've worked hard on it.

CHRISTINA

I know you have a lot on your plate so I'll just get to the point; your husband, Daniel, is in the hospital and he's there because he was shot by a police officer. Can you comment on that for us?

ADRIENNE

I was very upset when I heard that a police officer shot Danny, he's a huge supporter of the police. It was a real shock.

CHRISTINA

Are you planning to file a lawsuit against the city and the officer in question?

ADRIENNE

That's something I can't comment on. Danny's going to be the one to make that decision. But if I know Danny, he'll want nothing to do with a lawsuit; I can't speak for him though. I'm sure this situation will cause him to reflect on some things.

CHRISTINA

Things like what?

ADRIENNE

It's been reported that Danny and me are not speaking and that's not true. We actually had a short but very beautiful conversation last night when he woke up. I was thrilled that he woke up at that time.

CHRISTINA

I'm glad to hear that; how'd you manage to be there when he awakened?

ADRIENNE

I'm his wife, where else should I be?

CHRISTINA

It's interesting you'd say that.

ADRIENNE

How so?

CHRISTINA

Published reports have said you and your husband are involved in a bitter divorce action and to hear you say that suggests there may be reconciliation in the works.

ADRIENNE

I won't comment on that, but I will say that like all couples we've had our issues and we'll get through this too.

CUT TO:

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- DAY

Tracy and Daniel watching the interview. Tracy is on the phone.

TRACY

How could you allow something like this to happen?! Who gave her clearance for something like that? No, Joel, that's not good enough...what the fuck do you mean it's not affecting me? She's interviewing Daniel's ex and it's not affecting me? Joel, this is not some sleazy tabloid show, we do hard news...no, Joel, you're the only one who knew I was involved with him and you go and pull this shit for ratings...no! Fuck sweeps! This is my life! You should have let her do a report on Brooklyn's largest cookie factory or something, not this. Joel, that's bullshit, good-bye Joel.

Tracy slams the phone down.

DANIEL

Who's she and why are you so upset?

TRACY

The woman interviewing Adrienne is Christina Underwood. From the day I arrived she's been after my job and

it looks like she's well on her way to getting it. Joel, one of the producers, just told me that he gave her the green light to give the interview when Adrienne agreed to it at the last minute.

DANIEL

I figured something like this might happen.

TRACY

What are you talking about?

DANIEL

The moment it hit the news that I'd been shot, anyone and everyone that has any connection with me at all becomes a story. I'm sorry about all of this, baby.

TRACY

No, Daniel, I'm the one that should be sorry.

DANIEL

Why? You're not responsible for her. I should've known she'd pull a stunt like this.

TRACY

I have to tell you something and I hope you won't be angry. I was the one that called her; she was here the first night. We were here together. It's been dreadful. We tried to make a go of it a few times but it was obvious that we couldn't be in the same space for more than a few minutes without going at it.

DANIEL

That must have been tough, but you did the right thing. How'd this lady get to Adrienne anyway? She's usually very private.

TRACY

I'm willing to bet she badgered her, or better yet she probably threw me up in her face.

DANIEL

What are you gonna do?

TRACY

About what?

DANIEL

Don't you think you should go back to work? I'm certainly not going anywhere until the doctors clear me, and that could be another week.

TRACY

But my place is here with you; and what about Adrienne?

DANIEL

In spite of what she may have put you through, this was never about Adrienne, she knows that.

TRACY

I just feel funny about leaving you before you've recovered.

DANIEL

Speaking of which, you think you can handle this recovery bit with your crazy schedule?

TRACY

I'll quit if I have to.

DANIEL

You can't do that.

TRACY

I will if I have to. I'll take care of you baby.

DANIEL

Tracy...

TRACY

What is it Daniel?

DANIEL

Some years ago, Adrienne made the decision to stay at home and care for the kids after my business started gaining momentum...

TRACY

I don't need to hear this Daniel.

DANIEL

...Yes you do. In the midst of looking after me, the kids, the house, she lost herself in the process...and I took her for granted; I don't want anything like that to happen between us.

Tracy looks away.

TRACY

I don't know what to say.

DANIEL

Why?

TRACY

Adrienne talked to me about this already and I just dismissed her like it didn't even matter...I guess I should've been more understanding.

DANIEL

Don't beat yourself up; well, just don't lose yourself while you're busy taking care of me.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIENNE'S HOME -- DAY

The interview is continuing.

ADRIENNE

...and I'll be sure take good care of him when he comes home.

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Anthony, I'm awed to be in your presence. You're a strong woman, a loving and devoted wife and an example for women across this nation. I want to thank you for allowing us in to speak with you. Best of luck. This is Christina Underwood reporting live from the Anthony Residence.

CUT TO:

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- DAY

TRACY

...and *she's* trying to ruin my life.

DANIEL

C'mon Tracy, you of all people know the public is always looking for something juicy.

TRACY

I know Baby, but this is bigger than that. When they were trying to ship Christina off to some far off location I stepped in and suggested that she stay; management agreed and even bumped up her salary and this is the thanks I get?

DANIEL

You're making too much of this, she can't touch you if you don't let her.

TRACY

Maybe you're right.

DANIEL

Can you get to the studio in time for the late news?

TRACY

Baby, I haven't been to work in days and they're not expecting me.

DANIEL

That's just my point. Get back to the studio and show them who Channel Four hired to be the anchor.

TRACY

That's very tempting, but if I call now or just show up then it's going to look suspicious.

DANIEL

To whom? Last time I checked, you do still have a job, don't you?

TRACY

Yeah, I do.

DANIEL

Then go to work.

INT. CHANNEL FOUR NEWSROOM

Lots of people movement, Tracy walks in and is given a standing ovation by the newsroom.

She pans the room for Christina. She finds her in editing.

Christina is working when Tracy barges in.

INT. EDITING ROOM

TRACY

Would you kindly excuse us for a moment?

EDITOR, 50's, simply dressed quickly leaves. Christina turns her back to Tracy, looks surprised and nervous.

TRACY (CONT'D)

You fucked me; how could you?

CHRISTINA

I fucked you? I think you got the wrong man...OK Tracy, you wanna know why? I'm tired of being the one everybody overlooks when some hottie walks in off the street.

TRACY

So you think I'm just some bubble-headed bimbo they brought in because they needed a new piece of ass around here?

CHRISTINA

If the stiletto's fit.

TRACY

You really don't know what was about to happen to you, do you?

CHRISTINA

I don't know what you're talking about.

TRACY

They were about to send you down to Sumter, South Carolina.

CHRISTINA

You're making that up.

TRACY

I wouldn't lie to you, Chris. I begged them to keep you because I knew I needed backup, and I wanted you to be here in the event that something happened and I couldn't be. I was looking out for you. Without the two of us, they would've just moved Brad or one of the other guys into the chair; you know how this thing works! I don't even know why I'm wasting my time. I'll see you later.

CHRISTINA

Tracy.

TRACY

What.

CHRISTINA

Sorry?

TRACY

Are you asking your way to an apology?

CHRISTINA

I'm sorry.

TRACY

I'm sorry too, Chris; I'm sorry I trusted you.

THE NEXT WEEK

INT. DANIEL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Tracy arrives at the hospital with some goodies for Daniel and sees that two doctors are in Daniel's room; Daniel is covered in perspiration. Tracy heads for the door and is denied entry by one of the NURSES, 40's, scrubs.

DOCTOR WEINGART, 50 something, very tall and attractive and DOCTOR CAROLYN HOWELL, 40's, African American female, (*Daniel's personal physician*), are in the room together, their faces look grim.

They step out to greet Tracy.

TRACY

Dr. Howell?

DOCTOR HOWELL

Hi Tracy. Tracy Ellington, this is Dr. Weingart, one of our bacteriology specialists.

TRACY

What's happened?

DOCTOR HOWELL

The news isn't terrible but Mr. Anthony is going to be here a little bit longer I'm afraid. This is not unusual in cases like his.

TRACY

I don't understand.

DR. WEINGART

Gunshot victims are some of the most difficult patients to predict when it comes to care, but in this case we were able to deal with the infection.

TRACY

Infection, what infection? Why didn't somebody call me?!

DR. HOWELL

The decision we made was out of our hands.

TRACY

What decision?

DOCTOR HOWELL

Maybe we should talk over here.

They step away from the door of Daniel's room close to the nurse's station.

TRACY

Carol, what's this all about?

The doctors look anxiously at each other.

DR. WEINGART

We had to call Mrs. Anthony. We... needed her consent to run some tests. I don't know if she has arrived here as yet but we wanted you to have a heads up. We didn't want any problems.

TRACY

I understand and I appreciate your candor. There won't be any problem. Thank you.

The doctors leave and Tracy sobs heavily.

INT. POLICE PSYCHOLOGISTS OFFICE -- DAY

OFFICER DESHOTEL

How are you?

DR. LEWIS

How am I? That's interesting. I thought I was the one that should be asking you that. So as not to be rude, vague or seemingly disinterested in your question, I'm fine. How are you?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Better, now that I know Mr. Anthony is going to be better.

DR. LEWIS

I understand why you'd feel that way, but what about you? Are you any closer to a solution?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

A solution to what?

DR. LEWIS

The empty feeling you still carry with you, the fear that I see when I look at you; I feel the pulse in the room change the moment you walk in. I have a question for you; if Daniel

Anthony came walking through that door right now, what would you say?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I would say I'm sorry.

DR. LEWIS

You're sorry. *'Hi Mr. Anthony, I'm Stephanie, the cop that shot you, sorry.'* Yeah, I could see that going over well. Maybe you should take a moment and think about it.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I don't know. What else am I supposed to say?

DR. LEWIS

How about thank you?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

You're the one that needs help if you think I'd say thank you to a man I shot. That would be worse than I'm sorry, don't you think?

DR. LEWIS

When you were here a few sessions ago you talked about being a part of a special program that Mr. Anthony sponsored. You talked about how he inspired you to make something of yourself in spite of the neighborhood you grew up in. I think some form of thank you is more than appropriate. After you've had an opportunity to explain who you are and the rest, you might find that you both have something deeper in common.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I was thinking, maybe I should do what you do instead of being a street cop?

DR. LEWIS

Why do you say that?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I want to make people feel good.

DR. LEWIS
Glad I can help Stephanie.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM -- DAY

Tracy sits quietly in the waiting room and hears footsteps in the hallway. She cringes thinking it might be Adrienne but it's Happy.

HAPPY
How ya doin'?

TRACY
I'm tired. Daniel's still fighting and from what the doctors tell me it's gonna be an uphill climb. I'm ready to deal with all of that...but Adrienne is another story all together.

HAPPY
I saw her little news thing. Guess she decided to one up you, huh?

TRACY
That's not funny. I've put in sixteen months with this man and...

HAPPY
...And? You think your sixteen months means a hill of beans to her nine or ten years married to the man and two kids? She decided to go down swinging because you gave her something to fight with.

TRACY
And how, pray tell, did I do that?

HAPPY
You made her feel second, or even less than second. You backed her into a corner. Your offensive put her on the defensive. She didn't even have a plastic spoon and you turned around one day and said, *"Here Adrienne, take this knife and stab me in my fucking back."*

TRACY
I didn't want to fight with her.

HAPPY

Let me finish...if you don't put gasoline in a car, it won't run. Stop giving her a reason to keep coming back here, she may have been here for Daniel's sake initially, but now she's here to fuck with you. The whole TV thing was just the beginning. What if she decided to use this in court?

TRACY

It's too late for that.

HAPPY

I'm a divorcee and baby, it's never too late. I've been running my ex-husband's lazy, shiftless ass back and forth to court for years because he deserves it, not because I need the money. I had his ass subpoenaed while he was on his honeymoon in Jamaica a few years back, so don't think for a second that she's going to just fade away. She's gonna remember this and she'll make you pay for every pain and every itch that isn't scratched. She'll use him to get at you every time.

TRACY

She's already fired the first shot.

HAPPY

What now?

TRACY

She gave the approval for Daniel to get more tests. New York State Law required them to call her, you know, to let the spouse know what his condition is. That's ridiculous.

HAPPY

No it's not, it's called spousal privilege.

TRACY

That's bullshit.

HAPPY

That's serious shit. Spousal privilege separates the girlfriend from the wife and for right now, she's still the wife.

TRACY

I can't figure out what's been the worst part about all of this.

HAPPY

What do you mean?

TRACY

Whether dealing with Daniel being shot or dealing with Adrienne.

HAPPY

I never thought about that; that is quite a choice. Where is the lame duck Mrs. Anthony anyway?

TRACY

You know, you really have a strange way of putting things...I haven't seen her.

HAPPY

You hungry? You're looking a little thin.

TRACY

You're batting a thousand.

HAPPY

Hey, lighten up; listen, I'm heading down to the cafe, you want something?

TRACY

No, I'll be fine. Maybe I'll take a Coke if there's one around somewhere.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

Happy walks out of the room door and gets on an elevator. Adrienne is already on and beautifully dressed, she is standing behind her.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFÉ

The elevator door opens, Happy walks out and Adrienne follows. Happy holds the door for Adrienne entering the cafe.

They grab mugs and get coffee.

Standing near a counter where the sugar and cream are kept, Happy and Adrienne reach for something at the same time and make eye contact.

Happy does a double take and steps away.

ADRIENNE

Excuse me, I'm sorry.

HAPPY

Hey, no problem.

ADRIENNE

Could you pass me one of those pink sweeteners?

HAPPY

Certainly. That's a lovely outfit. And your makeup, is it MAC?

ADRIENNE

Actually this is good old Revlon. It just seems to work for me.

HAPPY

(laughing)

Yeah, it does, but I can't afford any of it. Visiting the sick and shut in or working?

ADRIENNE

Visiting, my husband is here. He's been through a lot.

HAPPY

I'm sorry; I'll keep you both in my prayers. By the way, just so God knows who I'm talking about, what's your name?

ADRIENNE

It's Adrienne, Adrienne Anthony and my husband's name is Daniel.

Happy spills her cup of coffee and bobbles the tray she's carrying.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

HAPPY

Yeah, just a little nerve gas or something.

ADRIENNE

Oh, OK. Well, it was nice talking to you.

HAPPY

You too Adrienne.

Happy races back upstairs with only a Coke in her hand for Tracy. Her shirt is stained with coffee.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Happy is out of breath but hands Tracy the soda.

TRACY

Thanks Happy, didn't you get something for yourself?

HAPPY

I dropped it.

TRACY

Ha ha ha. What's the matter? See some guy that knocked your socks off?

HAPPY

No, it was a woman actually.

TRACY

Quit playin'! HA HA HA! Whew, girl you must have known I needed a good laugh.

HAPPY

It was Adrienne.

Tracy immediately stops laughing.

TRACY

Really?

HAPPY

She was in the cafe and girl she's gorgeous. If she walked in here right now I'll bet you wouldn't even recognize her.

TRACY

Really?

HAPPY

Mmm, hmm. It was one of those weird things, you know, reaching for the sugar at the same time and bam! There she was. She's got on this little skirt and I mean little, but it's cute on her, a pretty blouse and some nice pumps. And she's wearing makeup, very smooth, girl. She's dressed today, she looks like you usually look...irresistible.

TRACY

Did you speak?

HAPPY

Oh, yeah but I was so shocked when I found out who she was, I just fumbled my tray and ended up just getting you this soda. She's probably gonna come up here at some point, so I'm outta here.

TRACY

Thanks friend.

HAPPY

No problem; don't worry, it'll be OK.

Happy leaves. Time passes. Tracy remains in the waiting room watching the clock change time.

Dr. Howell walks in and greets Tracy.

DR. HOWELL

Ms. Ellington, I'm happy to report that we don't think there will be any more problems and in a few days, he'll be able to go home.

TRACY

Thank you doctor, that's wonderful.

Tracy picks up her cell phone. She scrolls and sees Adrienne's name. She considers calling when she decides against it, but her phone rings.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Hello?

ADRIENNE (O.S.)

How's Danny?

TRACY

He's fine...Adrienne? You surprised me, I thought you were someone else. The doctors were just here a few moments ago to tell me about Daniel. Where are you?

ADRIENNE (O.S.)

I'm downstairs in the cafe. Join me for coffee?

TRACY

Sure, I'll be right down.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFE

Adrienne is seated at a table across the room. Tracy arrives at the door and looks around but doesn't see anyone she recognizes.

Many PEOPLE in the cafe recognize them and a hush falls over the room as Tracy walks slowly toward Adrienne.

TRACY

You look beautiful.

Adrienne stands and greets Tracy with a big hug, surprising her. They embrace for more than a moment. PEOPLE are staring and whispering as Tracy and Adrienne are seated.

ADRIENNE

You think you're the only woman in this town that has a skirt?

TRACY

Is that what you call that little thing? You have a cute shape Adrienne. Look at those Legs. I like your shoes too.

ADRIENNE

Thanks. One of the few indulgence's I have left. You're looking pretty normal these days.

TRACY

I haven't been to work and just haven't felt all that good lately but you seem to have been refreshed, what's going on?

ADRIENNE

Not much. I felt it was time to step it up a bit, so that's the reason for these clothes and my *new* look, so to speak. Have you seen Danny?

TRACY

Not since early this morning. He had a high fever and it appears that he had some kind of infection or something...

ADRIENNE

...ah, that's quite enough Tracy. Sorry, but I can barely stand the smell in here let alone hearing about stuff like that, it freaks me out.

TRACY

Sorry...Daniel should be ready to come home some time soon.

ADRIENNE

Home. That's interesting.

TRACY

How so?

ADRIENNE

I used to believe his home was wherever I was and the children, but that's all changed now.

TRACY

I don't know what to say. I feel awful about this, like maybe we should've met under different circumstances...

ADRIENNE

...or not at all.

TRACY

I didn't say that.

ADRIENNE

No, you didn't.

Adrienne stands and leaves a puzzled Tracy at the table alone.

Tracy looks at her watch and sees that visiting hours will soon be over so she finishes her coffee and heads up to Daniel's room.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Tracy arrives in time to see Adrienne leaning over and kissing Daniel on the lips. She grabs her stomach but stays away.

Adrienne is unaware of Tracy's presence. Daniel is barely awake and has slightly slurred speech.

ADRIENNE

I have to tell you something and you have to promise me you won't throw me out.

DANIEL

I would never do that Baby.

ADRIENNE

I love you, I'll always love you and I'm sorry.

DANIEL

Stop apologizing baby you didn't do anything wrong. I'll be better soon. I wanna go home. I don't like it here.

ADRIENNE

(sobbing/whispering)

I know baby, I want you home too. I have to go, but I'll be back another time, OK? Just get better. I love you Daniel.

DANIEL

Love you back.

Adrienne leans again and kisses Daniel all over his face. She walks out and right into Tracy who's standing in the hallway seething and crying.

ADRIENNE

Tracy. I didn't know you were still here. Danny's asleep; why don't you go home and get some rest? You look tired.

TRACY

Good-night Adrienne.

Tracy turns and leaves.

INT. DANIEL'S ROOM -- DAY

Tracy arrives to see Daniel awake. She walks in the room and is pensive.

DANIEL

I was hoping you'd be here earlier. They're about to take me for some more damned tests.

TRACY

The tests are necessary, baby, don't you think?

DANIEL

Sure, that's what the doctors always say, but how much of that is real? What's wrong? You seem preoccupied?

TRACY

Adrienne.

DANIEL

What did she do now?

TRACY

Nothing Baby. That wasn't for you to react to. She's...well...I guess I just don't know what to say about what I saw. I just want you outta here and back home.

DANIEL

We don't keep secrets, or do we?

TRACY

OK, alright. I came up from the hospital cafe and she was all over you, Daniel, kissing you, touching you...I just stood back and let it happen like I owed her something. Just before that, she invited me downstairs to the cafe and she insulted me. I felt so stupid.

DANIEL

I'm sorry.

TRACY

Maybe I should extend an olive branch?

DANIEL

Is it really that important to you?

TRACY

I'm not trying to kiss her ass or anything but I don't want her to hate me either.

DANIEL

I can understand that, but I think it might be too late for that.

TRACY

I love you. I got you some new PJ's. At least you won't have to walk around with all your business exposed now.

(laughing)

When you got up one day last week, the moon was shining a little too brightly.

They continue talking and laughing. MYRON, 20's glasses, suspenders, (A young man that works for Daniel) peeks into the room. Tracy sees him.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Hi, come in. How can I help you?

MYRON

Wow, Ms. Ellington, it's so nice to meet you. Wow! Tracy Ellington...

DANIEL

...What is it Myron?

MYRON

Oh! Mr. Anthony, it's very good to see you looking so, so well. We're all very worried back at the office and I drew the short straw to see how you were doing and to see if you'd be willing to allow us to bring you some things that really need your attention?

TRACY

Mr. Anthony needs his rest; I'm sure these things can wait at least until he gets better, can't they?

MYRON

Well...not really...it seems that we just closed another big deal and Mr. Anthony has been invited to join an investment group that's looking to purchase a clothing and shoe manufacturer.

TRACY

Daniel...wow...

DANIEL

Myron, how many documents? Who did the deal?

MYRON

It's only a few documents and legal has already looked them over, all they need is your signature. The entire group did the deal; they took initiative like you've been screaming about and, well, the board approved it. I hope you don't mind?

Daniel takes the papers, reads through them, signs them and hands them back to Myron.

DANIEL

No, not at all, you guys know you have my confidence. Here are your precious papers, try not to lose them on the way back?

MYRON

No sir, not a chance! Thanks Mr. Anthony. The ladies in the office send their love, hugs and kisses, but I won't do that. I'm gonna leave now. Oh, wait, I knew there was something else. This letter was hand delivered by courier and the courier insisted it get into your hands only. We turned it away a few times because you weren't there and the guy just left it one day. It looked important so I brought it, here it is.

DANIEL

Myron, what would I do without you?

MYRON

Probably sleep better, sir?

DANIEL

Get out Myron.

MYRON

Yes, sir.

DANIEL

Give everyone my best, tell them all I said thank you for everything and I will be calling in tomorrow to give everyone the good news...better yet, why don't you just tell them to take the rest of the week off.

MYRON

Are you sure you're feeling OK sir?

DANIEL

Good-bye Myron.

MYRON

See you. Ms. Ellington.

TRACY

Bye Myron.

Myron leaves, Tracy closes the door and jumps and claps her hands with excitement.

TRACY (CONT'D)

What does this mean?!

DANIEL

It means that life is about to get even more interesting.

TRACY

I am so excited for you, you deserve it, and so do I.

DANIEL

I'm glad you feel that way; say, you think you could find a nurse? I'm ready to get the hell outta here.

TRACY

You're just a few days back from being very sick and you're trying to leave? Maybe you should be the one to hold on. What's that letter?

DANIEL

I don't know.

Daniel struggles to open the letter, Tracy takes it and reads it to him.

LETTER:

Dear Mr. Anthony,

I don't even know where or how to begin, but my name is Officer Stephanie Deshotel. You don't know me but you probably recognize my name. I am the officer who is responsible for shooting you. It was a terrible mistake I am going to live with for the rest of my life. My career as a police officer is over and depending on what happens with the Grand Jury, I might even be prosecuted, but I deserve that. In case you don't remember me, I enclosed a photograph of me when I was 14 and on a double-dutch team at Kips Bay Community Center in the Bronx. You came there to give my coach money so we could have uniforms and go to our tournaments. You also helped my family a lot when my two brothers were murdered. I still sleep in the same bed you bought for my mom so we could have a place to sleep and my mom still lives in the apartment you helped us to get. I know this is going to sound crazy, but I wanted to thank you for everything you've done for me. You helped shape me into a productive citizen and in spite of my horrible mistake, you changed my whole life. If you don't want to hear from me I completely understand, but I am begging your forgiveness and I hope your recovery is complete. I have watched the TV coverage about you day after day and I pray for you

constantly. I am so sorry for what I did and I just pray God will forgive me too.

You are a special man.

God Bless You,

Stephanie Deshotel

Tracy wipes a tear from her eye as Daniel picks up the hospital phone and dials.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Myron, I need you to do me a favor..

INT. STEPHANIE DESHOTEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Myron is casually dressed and knocks on the door; Stephanie opens it.

MYRON

Officer Deshotel?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Yes.

MYRON

Mr. Anthony would like to see you tomorrow. Can you be at the hospital at 11:00 AM?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Yes...sure...I'll be there a little earlier even.

MYRON

...wear your uniform too.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

...but I'm suspended.

MYRON

Wear your uniform, Mr. Anthony insists.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

OK, I'll wear it.

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL MAIN ENTRANCE -- DAY

Media have converged on the hospital.

News reporters are warming up, getting ready for a major news conference.

A live feed has been set up in Daniel's room. The CAMERAMAN 20's grungy, is setting up.

TRACY

Good Morning, I'm Tracy Ellington reporting live from the hospital room of Daniel Anthony, a businessman, family-man and friend of New York City who has been recovering from two gunshot wounds; these wounds were inflicted when police were called to the scene of a would-be robbery and Mr. Anthony turned out to be an unfortunate victim of mistaken identity. The officer that fired the near fatal shots is Officer Stephanie Deshotel, at the time, a one-week veteran of the force. She is facing both criminal and departmental charges as a result of her actions that day. We're here because Daniel Anthony and Stephanie Deshotel will meet and talk for the first time since the incident. When we come back, we will experience their conversation live from this room.

CAMERAMAN

OK, we're off. Officer, come and sit over here.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I'm so nervous. I can't believe I'm doing this. Is this really gonna be seen by everybody?

DANIEL

Everybody that counts, Stephanie.

CAMERAMAN

OK, we're back in five, four, three, two...

Cameraman signals to Tracy.

TRACY

If you're just joining us, I'm Tracy Ellington, reporting live from Lenox Hill Hospital and the room of businessman, Daniel Anthony. Mr. Anthony was seriously injured in a near fatal shooting outside of Lyburgh's Jewelry Store in Midtown. He is speaking with Officer Stephanie Deshotel, the rookie officer that shot him, let's listen in.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

...and I'm so sorry I shot you, I'd give anything to take it back. I swear, if I could change places with you I would. I feel terrible for what I did to you and I hope you can forgive me.

DANIEL

You were doing your job. You had no idea who I was and you didn't know whether or not I would've shot you or one of your fellow officers. I forgive you, Stephanie. I'm alive and the doctors seem to think I'll be able to walk outta here in a few days. There's one thing I'd like to put on the record; I will not be filing any civil suit against Officer Deshotel, the New York City Police Department, nor the City of New York. I am not interested in seeing any criminal proceeding go forward against Officer Deshotel. Any attempt to get me to testify will be met with my refusal to cooperate, no matter what the cost to me personally. She made a mistake that almost cost me my life, but I'm still here and I want her career to continue, just as my life will.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Thank you Mr. Anthony, thank you.

She hugs him.

TRACY

As they continue talking, we're going to break away from this very special moment to return you to your regularly scheduled programming. From the hospital room of Daniel Anthony at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, I'm Tracy Ellington.

CAMERAMAN

Hold...we're clear.

DANIEL

Stephanie, you done good. Hopefully that will keep a few of the monkeys off your back.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I can't believe you'd do this for me. If you had any idea what I went through the first few days, weeks. I was gonna kill myself.

DANIEL

No, no, we can't have that kinda talk in here.

DR. LEWIS

No we can't. You did very well Stephanie and the healing has begun, for everyone. Mr. Anthony, you're a remarkable man. I've got appointments so I'll see you folks. Be well.

DANIEL

OK, doc, good deal. Stephanie, you gonna hang around for a little while?

OFFICER DESHOTEL

I can't, I promised my dad I'd stop by and see him. But thanks Mr. Anthony, thank you so much.

DANIEL

You're welcome. And it's Daniel. Hey, what do you say we have lunch after I get better? I'll come to the station house personally and pick you up. No photographers or reporters, just you and me.

OFFICER DESHOTEL

Ms. Ellington, is this how he got you?

TRACY

I'm afraid so Stephanie, watch him. Baby, I'm gonna head back to the studio to finish out this piece for the evening edition and I'll be back a little later, OK?

DANIEL

Well, looks like it's just me and the new nurse that looks like Alicia Keys?

TRACY

I'll be back...soon. Behave yourself.

INT. DANIEL'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Daniel is about to be discharged. He's standing, dressed and packing the last of his personal items. Tracy is standing near the window.

The nurse's have gathered at his room and begin hugging and kissing him. NURSE 2, very attractive, 20 something, emerges from behind the group with a wheelchair.

DANIEL

I'm not riding in that thing.

NURSE 2

But Mr. Anthony, it's hospital policy. You know, it's really comfortable.

DANIEL

Then you ride in it.

NURSE 2

Ms. Ellington, can you help?

ADRIENNE

He is kinda stubborn that way.

The nurses look nervous as they look over at both Adrienne and Tracy.

Both Adrienne and Tracy are stylishly dressed, almost competitively.

DANIEL

What are you doing here?

TRACY

Daniel?

ADRIENNE

No, it's OK Tracy. It's good to see you too, Danny. I really am very happy you're OK. Contrary to what you believe, I hurt for you still.

DANIEL

Adrienne.

ADRIENNE

I'm so sorry, Danny, I'm sorry for everything.

DANIEL

There's nothing you have to be sorry for.

Adrienne begins to sob, Tracy becomes emotional and begins to leave the room.

ADRIENNE

Tracy don't leave; please, I'm gonna confess this the right way. Danny, I found out what happened to you because Tracy called me. She did the right thing; I...I just came to say good-bye, and to wish you both well. You'll be pleased to know that your chat with Officer Stephanie caused the D.A.'s Office and the department to drop their charges, the press conference was on just after you. She's been restored to active duty.

DANIEL

Thanks, Adrienne. Thanks for being here.

Daniel walks over and hugs and kisses Adrienne softly on her lips, Tracy notices Adrienne's glistening diamond anniversary band and looks away as they share a private moment.

ADRIENNE

I'm gonna say something and I don't want a response, I just need you to listen...I love you. I have loved you since we were kids. I'm dying inside because this is really it.

DANIEL

Adrienne don't...

ADRIENNE

...Danny please. Just know that I love you, OK?

DANIEL

OK. I love you too.

ADRIENNE

I know. Can I see you, Tracy? Alone?

TRACY

Sure.

Tracy and Adrienne walk out of Daniel's room and into a waiting room close by.

INT. WAITING ROOM -- DAY

TRACY

So I guess this is goodbye for now?

Adrienne reaches in her purse.

ADRIENNE

These came in the mail today.

TRACY

This is?

ADRIENNE

Your green light, the final divorce decree. I knew you would probably want to see it right away. He should be getting his copy shortly. I just wanted to say good luck to you and to remind you that I'll always love him no matter what.

TRACY

I can understand that.

ADRIENNE

And I'll never forget what you did to me either.

TRACY

Are we going back to that again?

ADRIENNE

Back to what? We never left it. You knew he was married and even though he was separated you made yourself available to him. You basically gave him a reason to walk and I just hope it doesn't happen to you.

TRACY

I'm sorry you feel that way.

ADRIENNE

I guess it was only a matter of time anyway.

TRACY

Good luck to you.

ADRIENNE

I'll see you around then.

TRACY

Sure.

Tracy turns to walk away. Adrienne is emotional and does not move from where she is standing.

ADRIENNE

Tracy?

TRACY

Yes, Adrienne?

ADRIENNE

The other part is...if not for you here, sharing this experience with me, I might not have made it through this. I learned a valuable lesson.

TRACY

How so?

ADRIENNE

I was so busy focusing on Adrienne that I didn't consider how much

Danny needed me. My job as his wife is...was, to put his needs before my own.

TRACY

I don't know what to say.

ADRIENNE

He's not perfect but he's a good man, Tracy. Say you'll be a good wife to him; say you appreciate him, tell him that you're proud of him.

TRACY

I promise I will.

ADRIENNE

Bye Tracy.

TRACY

Bye Adrienne.

The two women walk away from each other.

ADRIENNE

Tracy.

TRACY

Yes.

They walk back to each other and stand very closely together.

ADRIENNE

I guess it might be possible someday for us to even be friends; what do you think?

Adrienne leans in to hug Tracy but she resists slightly holding her back a bit. There is a long uncomfortable silence as Tracy studies Adrienne's eyes.

TRACY

I don't think so.

Tracy and Adrienne smile uncomfortably and step away from each other; they stare at one another for a moment.

They turn and walk away from each other down opposite ends of the hallway with their heads high, never turning to look at the other.

FADE OUT