

HOSPITALIZED

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

A deserted road in the middle of nowhere. A black sedan races by, breaking the night's silence.

INT. BLACK SEDAN - NIGHT

BILL ASHFORD (31) mans the steering wheel.

A RINGTONE goes off. Bill sighs, and picks it up.

BILL
I told you not to call me.

BILL'S WIFE
Honey, please-

BILL
I'm driving. Bye.

BILL'S WIFE
Don't hang up!

Bill reluctantly pulls his hand back.

BILL'S WIFE (CONT'D)
I've gotta tell you something.

BILL
Oh for God's sakes-

BILL'S WIFE
I'm pregnant.

Bill swerves on the road a bit at this statement.

BILL
You're what?

BILL'S WIFE
Pregnant.
(beat)
We're having a baby, Bill.

BILL
How do you know its mine?

BILL'S WIFE
What?

BILL
You heard me.

BILL'S WIFE
There's nobody else. There really isn't, I
swear to God.

BILL
Just me? Then how do you explain the
messages? The missing wedding ring-

BILL'S WIFE
I've tried to explain. You won't listen.

BILL
Bye.

Bill hangs up. The phone immediately rings again, and he shuts it off.

He grips the steering wheel, clearly annoyed. He drives silently for a few moments, then reaches for the radio.

He hits a button and LOUD RADIO STATIC blows out of the speakers. He switches the station. Still static.

His car's oil pressure light turns on.

BILL (CONT'D)

Great.

Then a series of emergency lights turn on.

Bill continues driving, now clearly panicked.

Even more dashboard warning lights.

Bill tries to hit the brakes, but the car won't stop.

BILL (CONT'D)

Shit!

It starts to swerve out of control, and off the road.

Bill notices an enormous flash of light in the sky above.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIGHT MEDICAL ROOM - LATER

Bill wakes up. He lies on a steel examination table.

He appears to be in a brightly lit hospital room. The room's

Bill looks to his left. A blonde NURSE stands beside the table. Her face is strikingly attractive, with large blue eyes and a petite chin.

She examines a high-tech touch screen attached to the wall.

BILL

(dazed)

What happened?

The nurse does not respond. She continues examining the screen in front of her.

BILL (CONT'D)

Excuse me? Miss?

She glances over at him. Huge piercing blue eyes.

BILL (CONT'D)
Sorry, but... is this a hospital?

The nurse nods, and her eyes go back to the touch screen.

BILL (CONT'D)
So what happened?

The nurse ignores him.

BILL (CONT'D)
Miss?

She moves away from the screen, and grabs a large vial containing red fluid.

BILL (CONT'D)
Is that my blood?

The nurse looks down at him and nods once. She grabs another smaller vial containing something white.

BILL (CONT'D)
What do you need my blood for?

The nurse looks back at Bill. Expressionless.

NURSE
A doctor will be with you shortly.

Then, in a swift motion, the nurse heads toward the door.

BILL
Hey, hold on.

She ignores Bill and continues toward the door.

BILL (CONT'D)
Wait!

She stops and looks back at Bill.

BILL (CONT'D)

Could you just- Look, I don't even know what I'm doing here. You've hardly said a word. Could you, please, just... fill me in?

The nurse's expression remains blank.

BILL (CONT'D)

My car veered off the road tonight. Some sort of brake failure maybe... I don't know. I think I blacked out after that.

For the first time, the nurse's expression changes. She smiles slightly.

BILL (CONT'D)

Does that have anything to do with why I'm here?

The nurse grabs a an object out of steel drawer, slams the drawer shut, and heads for the door again.

BILL (CONT'D)

Hey, wait.

The door slides open automatically.

BILL (CONT'D)

You never answered my question!

The nurse hesitates.

NURSE

A doctor will be with you shortly.

She exits the room, and the door slides shut.

Bill looks at the IV tube connected to his arm. Clear fluid flows through it.

BILL

Great.

Bill's eyes move to a small steel table a few feet away from him.

Various steel and glass instruments lie on it. Bizarre instruments. Medical? One looks like a glass corkscrew.

Bill then inspects the tube of his IV more closely.

His eyes widen with shock. The clear fluid does not appear to be flowing into his arm; rather, the fluid flows out from his arm.

BILL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
What the fuck?

Bill attempts to pull the IV out of his arm. He struggles.

A thick stream of clear liquid sprays out of his arm. Bill's eyes grow even wider - and he SHOUTS out in agony.

He stumbles onto the floor, foaming at the mouth. The liquid continues to spray out of his veins. It gradually turns red.

He rapidly crawls toward the table covered in bizarre tools; grimacing as liquid oozes out of him. A pool of blood gathers at his feet.

Suddenly - the room's door slides open. THREE NURSES enter. All blonde, eerily similar-looking. One wheels a gurney.

Bill desperately reaches for one of the bizarre instruments. It's too high.

Two nurses forcefully grab Bill. He struggles to break free, but they're surprisingly strong.

BILL (CONT'D)
What- what the hell is this?

The third nurse wraps a thick bandage around Bill's arm, stemming the bleeding.

They then hoist him onto the gurney, and strap him onto it.

A nurse forcefully shoves a black pacifier into Bill's mouth, muffling his SHOUTS of protest.

The nurses wheel Bill out of the room.

INT. CORRIDOR - BILL'S POV

Is this a hospital? The corridor is shrouded in darkness. Stars from the night sky are visible above.

Strangely shaped figures pass by.

A high tech double-door a few feet ahead.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - BILL'S POV

The nurses wheel Bill into a tiny room.

A "DOCTOR" waits inside, wearing all black. His appearance is out of focus.

The "doctor" and nurses exchange words in a foreign language. Their voices are other-worldly. Each utterance contains a multitude of contradictory tones. Sincere and taunting; compassionate and cruel.

The "doctor" steps closer, and Bill notices something very wrong. The doctor does not appear to be human at all.

His eyes look like two black holes. No ears or lips, only slits for a nose, and his skin a sickly grey.

The "doctor" extracts a long needle from his belt and hovers it over Bill's neck.

The pacifier muffles Bill's SCREAMS.

With a powerful thrust, the "doctor" shoves the needle into his neck.

The surroundings gradually blur.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY RIDE - NIGHT

Bill stands a few feet behind his black sedan. Motionless and befuddled.

He suddenly breaks out of this trance, terrorized. Remembering what happened.

He races to his car, and examines at his face in the side mirror. His face looks completely fine.

He then inspects his right arm. No signs of any prior bleeding. Relief washes over him.

He steps into his car.

INT. BLACK SEDAN

Bill puts his key into the ignition. A RUMBLING. It won't start.

He tries igniting the engine a few more times. No luck.

Bill sits silently for a moment. Defeated. He notices something in the rear view mirror.

A large, red bump on his neck.

FADE TO BLACK.