

IT AFFECTS US ALL

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

DONNA (40's), a sexy and sophisticated MILF, sits on a bench with her daughter JENNIFER (20), eating burgers and fries. They could easily pass as sisters.

Donna, as always, seems most concerned with her BLACKBERRY.

They are in mid conversation...

JENNIFER

...But aside from that, he's the perfect guy. Maybe you can meet him this weekend.

DONNA

Hope you haven't lost focus of school, Jennifer... How old is he?

JENNIFER

He's older.

Donna looks up.

JENNIFER

Not way, way older.
(quickly changing subject)
How's work?

DONNA

Busy, stressing...

Donna texts away. Never making eye contact.

DONNA

I-swear-these-people-can't-function-without-me.

Her BLACKBERRY gets an alert. Donna looks puzzled.

JENNIFER

Me mom.

DONNA

Okay baby. I'll save it as soon as--

JENNIFER

(blurts out)

We're gonna run off and get married before semesters over.

Donna looks up, puts the phone down.

DONNA

What Jennifer? Just slow down.

JENNIFER

Just said that mom to get your attention. You're always on that thing. Besides you need to come on over to team Iphone. I love this thing.

She puts the BLACKBERRY away. Feels bad.

DONNA

I'm sorry, Jenn. It's not easy being a single mom. I have to manage my home and my own practice. Constantly on the go.

JENNIFER

I know but when I come home I hardly see you, so I was hoping we could have some girl time.

DONNA

From the sound of it, you haven't been missing me.vOkay, how about dinner tonight? Mr. Chows?

Jennifer smiles.

DONNA

See, I haven't forgotten your favorite. And maybe this weekend we can get manicures and pedicures and massages

JENNIFER

You promise?

DONNA

Promise. I'll make reservations for 7:00.

JENNIFER

So that means you have to make em by six.

DONNA

I know. I have to get back to the Clinic. See you later.

She blows her a kiss as she leaves.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY - LATER ON

Not the most appealing place to be. The cracks in the wall and dusty carpets only add to stress of this nerve wrecking moment.

PATIENTS, male and female, of all different ages and ethnicity's, wait staring at the clock, others at the carpet, trying to appear as calm as possible.

As a FEMALE TEENAGER walks to the receptionist desk a TEENAGE GIRL, around the same age, runs out the office crying hysterically. We get a glimpse of her red puffy eyes. She definitely got some bad news. She exits,

As the Patients look on, A MUSCULAR MAN, decides he ain't strong enough to go through with this. He tries to exit unnoticed.

CLOSE ON: A clock that reads **5:42.**

INT. OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUED

We follow a MALE PATIENT into the office. He's nervous. He takes a seat.

Donna is sitting at her desk, unemotional. Just another day at the job.

DONNA

Hi, I'm Dr. Pace. I must first inform you that this is completely anonymous. We use a unique testing code to identify your results. They will not be reported to anyone. Do you understand?

MALE PATIENT

Yea.

DONNA

How are you?

MALE PATIENT

Depends on the results. I don't think anyone would be happy to hear they have AIDS.

Donna grins.

DONNA
I understand.

She opens his folder. Pauses. She looks at him.

He sulks. Buries his face into his hands. His eyes well up with tears.

MALE PATIENT
(softly)
I got AIDS...

DONNA
Your results show you are HIV positive....

DONNA
... This is not a death sentence.
People live for years with this.
Some don't die from it at all.
There are medicines,
exercises, numerous things you can do to stay healthy.
(a beat)
I'll be more than happy to answer any questions, if you have some.

A beat.

He's in disbelief. His hands cover his face.

Donna grabs her blackberry.

INSERT SCREEN

She scrolls through numbers until she gets to Mr. Chows.

BACK TO SCENE

MALE PATIENT
Are you sure? How accurate is the test?

DONNA
(looking at her BLACKBERRY)
Ninety nine percent accurate.

A beat. Donna looks up. Something about this case is different. For the first time in a long time she feels sympathy.

DONNA

Would you... want to talk about what happened? Do you have a drug problem?

He stares at the ground. SILENCE.

DONNA

There are plenty of things we can do to get you help, if that's your problem.

MALE PATIENT

My problem, huh? My problem is irresponsibility. Foolishness-- on my part. He swore he was clean.. But I had no business...

He looks down at his finger. For the first time we see his wedding band.

DONNA

A lot of people with HIV show no signs. People often go a long time before they begin to show signs. You are doing the right thing by getting tested.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUED

A WOMAN sits in the corner twiddling her wedding ring. She looks at her watch.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUED

DONNA

Is there anyone you could have possibly infected with the disease? We can call them and suggest they get tested. Again, this is all confidential.

He stares down at his feet for what seems like an eternity.

Donna, holds out a pencil and paper.

DONNA

I know it's hard.

He takes it and starts writing.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Sweat builds up on the WOMANS's brow.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUED

He puts the paper face down on her desk. He wipes his face and takes a deep breath. Stands, gathering himself and exits.

DONNA
(to herself)
Ahh, dinner. I forgot to make
reservations.

She turns the paper over. Picks up her work phone nonchalantly dialing the numbers.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUED

The Male Patient walk's towards the Woman with a reassuring look on his face. She stands, only now revealing that she's far along in pregnancy. His Eyes well up with tears. She faints, he catches her before she hits the ground.

The Patients look on crying, some come to help.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUED

The phone rings two more times.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hello?

Startled by the voice, Donna shakes it off. Can't be.

DONNA
Hello, may I speak to Alex please?

VOICE (O.S.)
He stepped out, he'll be right
back. Can I take a message?

DONNA
Jennifer?

JENNIFER (O.S)
Who is-- Mom?

Donna is in disbelief. This has to be some kind of error.

JENNIFER (O.S.)
(continued)

Mom, can you hear me? Hello. Can
you hear me? How did you get my
boyfriends number?

Gasping for breath as she stares at the phone
number. Donna gets still like a paraplegic.

JENNIFER (O.S)
Mom... Hello? Whats wrong?!

The life has been sucked out of Donna. She tries to speak
but no words will come out. She throws the phone down and
burst into tears as they fall off her face and onto her
BLACKBERRY.

FADE OUT

AIDS EFFECTS NOT ONLY YOU BUT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. KNOW
YOUR STATUS. STAY PROTECTED!