

DR. SUSAN BARBER

4.  
Scene 1  
F41

DR. MILLER

Yes, Mrs. Hubbard, I am going to have to shave off your hair, and cut through your scalp, drill a few little holes into your skull so that I can suction out the dead and rotten brain tissue that's been making you forgetful, weak. But you're not going to feel a thing. You'll be dreaming about your granddaughter's wedding. Now, do you have any more questions?

MRS. HUBBARD

Yes, actually, Doctor. I was --

DR. MILLER

Good. Susan over there will answer them. The nurses are here all night and there's a doctor on call. I'll see you in the morning, dear.

Dr. Miller pats Mrs. Hubbard's hand, leaves quickly. Susan checks Mrs. Hubbard's chart, makes notes on her scrubs.

MRS. HUBBARD

I want to talk to the doctor on call.

SUSAN

You're talking to her. I'm Dr. Barber. How can I help you?

MRS. HUBBARD

How old are you?

SUSAN

Today I feel about 50.

MRS. HUBBARD

Well you look about 35.

SUSAN

You had questions?

MRS. HUBBARD

Yes. What does your boyfriend think about all this?

Susan sighs, rattles off answers to all the questions she knows are coming next.

START

CHD OPERATORS

1b

SUSAN

No, I don't have a boyfriend. No, I'm not married. Or divorced. No kids. Yes, I love what I do. And I do it because I get to help people like you. And also, I'm 26.

Susan notices something in the chart.

SUSAN

Did someone come by to give you your meds?

MRS. HUBBARD

That nice young nurse with the pretty face brought me dinner.

SUSAN

What about a nice young man with a cup full of pills?

MRS. HUBBARD

All the doctors here seem like nice young men. You should try to get one. There's more to life than work, dear.

SUSAN

Not tonight.

Susan walks out into --

INT. NEUROSURGERY FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

She stands as still as a statue and carefully scans the FLOOR, looking for Mike. DR. PETER ANDERSON 31 year old Chief Resident (in his 7th and final year) comes up behind her. He has cold eyes and a brusque manner.

PETER

What are you doing, Barber? You should be getting ready for tonight.

Susan is awkward, unsure how to act around Peter.

SUSAN

I am. Getting ready, I mean.

PETER

Well you have to do more than just stand around and look cute.

(MORE)

PETER (cont'd)  
You're a second year now, you're  
going to be held accountable.

SUSAN  
I know --

PETER  
First year everybody's holding your  
hand and covering your ass.

SUSAN  
I realize that. Although it's been  
a long time since anybody's held my  
hand, or covered my ass for that  
matter.

Susan chuckles nervously, Peter doesn't.

PETER  
There are ten operations scheduled  
for tomorrow. Which means nothing  
can go wrong on the service  
tonight. Protect the schedule or  
the attendings will have my testes  
on a plate.

SUSAN  
I understand.

PETER  
This is my last year, Barber.  
Gotta start looking for a real job  
and I'm not going to have my  
reputation ruined. You better be  
able to handle this.

SUSAN  
I am. Any words of advice you want  
to give me?

PETER  
Yeah, don't let anyone die on my  
service.

L  
Peter walks off. Susan sees DR. MICHAEL WARD (1st year  
resident) a scrappy 25 year old neighborhood guy at the  
NURSES STATION flipping through TAKE OUT MENUS.

SUSAN  
Mike, you were supposed to give  
Mrs. Hubbard her meds.

MIKE  
Yeah, I know. It's on my list.

END