

ACT FIVE

INT. VALENTINO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Gianna wakes up, remembering where she is. She looks over at Detective Valentino. Oh, yeah. Him. Gianna's "fuck and run" impulse kicks in. She doesn't even stop to ask herself what she's afraid of here as she slides out of bed, trying not to wake him as she gathers her clothes.

VALENTINO

I guess we're not having breakfast.

GIANNA

Oh. I... um, have to work. But...
I'll call you.

So she says but she couldn't be scrambling out of there faster.

GIANNA (CONT'D)

See you around.

And she's gone. Valentino is left alone in his bed.

VALENTINO

See you later.

INT. CHLOE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Chloe is getting ready when there's a knock at her door. She opens it: Veronica.

CHLOE

Oh. Hi.

VERONICA

Hey. I was thinking about running
an errand. You want to grab your
coat and come with?

Chloe looks puzzled but obeys.

EXT. AN APARTMENT - DAY

Chloe and Veronica walk up to this run-down apartment and knock on the door. Lisa Washington, the mother of the poor dead boy, the one who slapped Veronica -- opens the door and immediately looks wary.

VERONICA

Mrs. Washington, please don't shut
the door. I'm Veronica Callahan and
this is my colleague Chloe Payne.

(MORE)

START

Mercy

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I want to talk to you about your son.

MRS. WASHINGTON

Are you forgetting that I heard every word you said?

VERONICA

Look, I was wrong. I'm not saying you shouldn't hire a lawyer. You should. I would. But they're going to look at the probable outcome and the probable outcome is that your boy still would have died. Dr. Trovinger did the best he could. I was upset. I take these things too personally. I get mad, I want somebody to blame.

Mrs. Washington listens to this, holding her head in her hand.

MRS. WASHINGTON

At least somebody gets mad. At least somebody cares.

CHLOE

Mrs. Washington, we all do.

Mrs. Washington looks at Chloe and believes her. This is meaningful to her.

VERONICA

But Teddy would have died anyway. And there's another child you can save. Teddy's death doesn't have to be a waste. Christina Lucas can live with Teddy's lungs. Can you think about that? Can you please just think about that?

Off Mrs. Washington, moved...

EXT. MRS. WASHINGTON'S BUILDING - LATER

Veronica and Chloe walk out. Chloe looks at Veronica like she's a saint.

CHLOE

That was amazing. You're amazing.

VERONICA

That's just our job. Hey.

Chloe stops.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
Everybody makes mistakes at first.
If you don't know something, ask.
And slow down. Don't let anybody
rush you. You're gonna be great.
Don't worry about it, okay?

CHLOE
Okay.

ENO

INT. MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY

Mrs. Dumke lies in bed. Veronica taps on the door.

VERONICA
Time for you medicine.

Veronica comes in and gives Mrs. Dumke her pills.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
You okay? You haven't called me a
bitch in a while.

MRS. DUMKE
What's with you and the sexy
surgeon? The one who squeezed your
arm last night.

VERONICA
You looked like you were asleep.

MRS. DUMKE
I can't believe this. My
daughter's online dating and you
with two men after you.

VERONICA
Believe me, this is a first.

MRS. DUMKE
Well, whatever you do, you'll wish
you had done the other thing. I
was married for thirty-nine years.
I know.

VERONICA
You know, you old married people
don't sell it too well, I notice.

Mrs. Dumke shrugs, rearranges herself against the pillows in
a manner almost regal.