

INT. MRS. DUMKE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Dumke is sleeping, fitfully. Veronica checks her vitals, smooths back her hair and looks down at her tenderly.

SANDS

Hey.

Veronica is startled. Sands walks in and places a hand on her arm.

SANDS (CONT'D)

Hey. I've got your husband's scans here. Wanna come look?

CUT TO:

INT. X-RAY VIEWING ROOM - NIGHT

It's dark in here, and the light from the X-ray viewers is almost romantic. Veronica and Sands look over the results of Mike's CAT scan.

SANDS

Looks fine. No swelling.

VERONICA

He's got a hard head.

Sands reaches out and takes her hand. Neither one of them takes their eyes off the CAT scan. Silence.

SANDS

You have dreams?

VERONICA

Yeah. When I can sleep.

SANDS

Me too. It's weird being back.

VERONICA

Yeah. It's like there's this wall between me and everybody else. There's all this stuff I can't get out of my head. Stuff that didn't even affect me at the time. It's all playing back in my head in slow motion.

(her eyes well up)

All those kids. I wasn't prepared for that. And I feel like I'm about to blow up all the time.

(MORE)

MERCY

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I don't even know if I'm a good nurse anymore, you know?

SANDS

Veronica, you're a great nurse.

VERONICA

Maybe. I don't know anymore.

Veronica turns to him and allows her head to rest against his chest for a second.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

And then there's you. I think I would have gone completely crazy if it hadn't been for you. And I'd be lying if I said I didn't think about you...

(pulling away)

...but I just feel like I have to do the responsible thing.

SANDS

I guess it was pretty stupid of me to come running out here for you. I just thought... you were the one thing that made sense.

Sands looks heartbroken for a second, then recovers.

SANDS (CONT'D)

He seems like an alright guy. Seems like he loves you.

VERONICA

He has his moments.

(a beat)

So what are you gonna do now?

SANDS

There's nothing to do. I signed a two year contract. I'm staying. You can take you husband home anytime you like.

Sands pulls down the scans and walks out. Veronica stares after him: two years?

END OF ACT FOUR