

MEDUSA JONES

by
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EXT. SPEEDWAY AT VENICE BEACH - AFTERNOON

Tesla Roadster zips along Venice Beach Speedway. Stereo blares a tune like Katy Perry's CALIFORNIA GURLS.

SHANA, (20's, Indian-American, indolent, charming), not watching road, removes flip-flops, blows a stop sign. CAR weaves through traffic. PEDESTRIANS jump out of harm's way. Shana grabs T-shirt, pulls it on.

KAITLYN (20's, flashy, shallow), bedecked in bikinis/flip-flops, takes duck-lip selfies.

Homeless WOMAN (50's, dirty sun-bleached dreads) pushes a cart in road ahead. Shana, struggling, doesn't see her.

The woman is MEDUSA JONES.

Shana slams on brakes, stops inches from Medusa. Stunned pause. We survey the looks on their faces: Medusa surly; Shana shocked, shifts to annoyed; Kaitlyn irritated.

Kaitlyn, grumbles, collects phones, purses from floor.

SHANA

What the heck lady?!

MEDUSA

Watch where you're going! Crazy driver!

They are deadlocked. Medusa refuses to move.

MEDUSA

I know you. Running over people's dogs. Killer! Need to be stopped. Police! Killer!

Cars honk, drive around; DRIVERS yell. Shana reverses, tries to go around; Medusa follows, blocks her, continues yelling. Shana goes around. Success. Resume driving.

EXT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATE AFTERNOON

POOL SIDE

Infinity pool surrounded by flawless landscape. A killer view. Look/feel of upscale resort.

Shana lounges taking "duck lips" selfies, texting. Her phone rings Facetime call, she answers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

That homeless woman totally ruined my week. I mean, who does that? I've been nursing a chai latte for the last hour to calm my nerves.

INTERCUT:

KAITLYN

What was up with that killer stuff? You didn't actually run over her dog, did you?

SHANA

She's obviously crazy. They all are. My grandmother called them Untouchable.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - AFTERNOON

SHANA'S BEDROOM

Large modern bedroom, upscale decor; ensuite, full walk-in closet.

Shana, Kaitlyn lounge watching reality TV.

SHANA

I can't believe she hasn't been kicked off yet!

KAITLYN

I know right?

Shana's cell phone rings, she answers it.

SHANA

Oh. You're calling from the internet?

Kaitlyn perks up, looks at SHANA.

SHANA

Umm-hmm. I see.

Shana mutes TV.

SHANA

Are you sure it's *my* computer?

Pauses to listen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Oh. Okay. That makes sense. Umm-hmm.

Shana turns on speakerphone.

SHANA

Okay. So, how do I fix it? Do I just, bring it to you?

SCAMMER

(VO: Indian accent)
No, Miss, I can fix it from where I am.

SHANA

You can do that?

Scammer, muffled, speaks to his colleagues in Tamil. Laughing in background.

SCAMMER

(VO: in Tamil)
She's so stupid. Let's see how much she'll pay to have her computer *fixed*.

Surprised, Shana looks at phone, her mouth open. Scowls, plays dumb.

KAITLYN

(mouths)
What's he saying?

SCAMMER

(VO: Indian accent)
Please ensure your computer is on, and the internet browser is open.

SHANA

So I turn it on? That's the little button with the lollipop right?

Kaitlyn looks at Shana confused. Muffled laughter.

SCAMMER

(VO: in Tamil)
She's so stupid, she doesn't even know the power button!

Scammer laughs with colleagues. Shana glares. Continues to play along.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCAMMER

(VO: in Tamil)
I'm telling you, she'll pay \$800
to *fix* her computer.

Shana's had enough.

SHANA

(in Tamil)
800 dollars? I don't think so. And
no one calls from the "internet".
It's not a real place. Clearly,
I'm not as much of an idiot as you
are!

Scammer disconnects. Kaitlyn looks bewildered. Shana
looks at her, raises an eyebrow, nods, smirks.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - EVENING

DINING ROOM

Modest dining room, India design influence.

Shana eats traditional Indian dinner of rice/curry; with
parents JANU and RAVI (both late 50's, Indian). All eat
with fingers.

JANU

(in Tamil)
In India, girls your age are
studying MBA, not going out late
to clubs and parties.

Shana rolls her eyes. She's heard this lecture countless
times and isn't anxious to hear it again.

SHANA

(American accent)
And this isn't India.

RAVI

(in Tamil)
Geo, don't speak to your mother in
this tone.

Shana pinches the bridge of her nose as if trying to not
to say something she'll regret.

Shana is apologetic, sullen, picks at her food.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I'm American. I was born here.

JANU

You're Indian first because your parents are Indian.

SHANA

All I'm saying, is that I'm not really Indian. I've only been there once and I didn't fit in. Now you hold up this impossible ideal of me being the perfect Indian daughter, but I'm not.

JANU

(in Tamil)

Why can't you stay home and spend time with your parents? Your role to is care for your parents until you marry.

RAVI

You have no respect for the hard work that goes into paying for the things you use and throw away like it was nothing. These things don't grow on trees.

Shana, confused, glances at wooden table-top.

SHANA

It's not like we can't afford it.

Ravi scowls at her; Shana, instantly regretting the remark, lowers her gaze.

RAVI

Abhijeet tells me you did not attend the meeting I set for you.

SHANA

I don't want to work in tech.

RAVI

Not everything in tech is coding. I can get you into IT of a lawyer's office. Judge Thornson owes me a favor.

JANU

You graduated one years back. Til now, you don't take a job.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JANU (CONT'D)

When you will make something with
your life?

Shana picks at food. Long silence.

JANU

(in Tamil)

You won't study. You won't marry.
People will start to talk and say
that you are barren.

SHANA

Mom! No one in US is going to say
I'm barren!

RAVI

I never had this kind of chance
when I was young. I had to study
from age five years, just to be
able to take JEE exam for IIT. My
mother would sell water bottles,
pouches and glasses, and my father
was a chai waale.

INT. GLAMOROUS NIGHTCLUB, BEVERLY HILLS - NIGHT

Loud music playing, PEOPLE dancing, mingling.

Shana, Kaitlyn, sit behind velvet rope text, take duck-
lip selfies together. Several bottles of Champagne,
empty/half full glasses strewn on table.

Drunk WOMAN (50's), staggers in front of them, dances
alone like at a rock concert. Kaitlyn leans to Shana.

KAITLYN

Oh my God! Do you see what she's
wearing?

SHANA

I can't believe anyone would wear
that dress in here. It's so
atrocious! It's like, off the rack
and everything!

KAITLYN

(as if Target was
French)

It's so Target!

The woman clears her throat, spits out a large gob of
phlegm. Shana, grossed out, gags, averts eyes, shrieks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Ewww! Gross! Let's get outta here
and dance, while they clean that
up.

Shana, Kaitlyn fight sea of people to dance floor; dance
to several songs. Shana yanks Kaitlyn towards their
seats. Mid-way, Kaitlyn lets go and is lost.

Shana leans to unhook velvet rope. Tall fake BLONDE
(30's) stops her.

BLONDE

You can't go there.

Shana tries to go around, but she blocks Shana's path.

BLONDE

You can't go in there, it's
reserved.

SHANA

Yeah, for me.

BLONDE

Show me your ticket.

SHANA

I don't need to show you anything.

Shana again tries to by-pass. Woman continues to block.
Another PATRON, steps in to support Blonde, challenges
Shana. OTHERS watch.

PATRON

She said you can't be in there.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Shana orders at counter. Medusa enters, starts towards
bathroom, dragging tattered black suitcase. CLERK looks
at her in disdain.

CLERK

Bathrooms are for paying customers
only. You can't be in here.

Medusa lowers her eyes, turns, exits. Shana watches,
bites her lip, but says nothing.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - LATER

Medusa sits on curb; her suitcase, cart next to her. Shana exits restaurant, arms full of food. Their eyes meet. Awkward silence.

Shana gets into Tesla, starts it, begins to reverse.

SUDDENLY, another CAR zips past. Shana slams on brakes. She looks out, sees Car reverse alongside Medusa.

We survey hand reaching into a console, grabbing handful of loose change.

Shana sees shine of coins being thrown at Medusa. Coins rain down on Medusa.

Shana watches Car drive off in rearview mirror, Medusa humiliated, collects coins.

Shana begins backing up again, pauses, parks car, gets out, strolls over to Medusa, holds out money.

ANGLE ON: \$100 BILL. Medusa hesitates, stares first at money, then Shana, before slowly reaching to take money.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD - LATE NIGHT

Top is up on Tesla Roadster, speeding, weaves up Santa Monica Boulevard, moving between lanes, swerving. Car nearly misses other cars.

INT. SHANA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

One hand on a steering wheel, the other texting on cell phone. Blue phone-glow illuminates car interior.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD - MOMENTS LATER

Car races past parked COP CAR, nearly misses side mirror.

COP hits lights/siren, gives chase. Tesla continues, neither slows/speeds up.

INT. SHANA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Red/blue lights in the rearview mirror. Shana drops phone, pulls over. Dons lipstick, fixes hair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cop Car stops behind Tesla. Shana lowers window, pulls out wallet, adjusts cleavage, looks up to greet cop while batting her eyelashes.

Cop (40's, athletic, female) approaches, leans down, shines light/peers in. Shana's face falls.

COP

License and registration, please.

Shana recovers, tries to look innocent, smiles.

SHANA

Is there a problem officer?

Cop is unphased.

COP

Do you have any idea how fast you were going?

SHANA

Um - The speed limit, I guess.

Shana oblivious, flirts.

COP

You were going about 20 over the speed limit.

Shana looks around, at Cop, hands over licence.

COP

Sit tight.

SHANA

Honestly, Officer, this is all a misunderstanding. Why don't we discuss it over a chai tea?

Cop scoffs, goes to car, runs DL/plate, returns to TESLA.

COP

Step out of the car.

SHANA

What's the problem, Officer?

COP

I'm giving you a field sobriety test.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANA
You think I'm drunk?

Cop rolls eyes.

COP
(sarcastic)
Well, you were weaving all over
the road.

SHANA
Give me the breathalyzer-thingy.

COP
It's broken.

Shana walks like runway model.

COP
Nice try.

Shana, in stilettos, struggles to walk heel-to-toe. Sways
side-to-side, ankles buckle.

SHANA
I can't get arrested. I don't look
good in orange. The only thing
worse than orange is...

INT. LA COUNTY JAIL - NIGHT

Shana, dishevelled; fingerprinted. Shana poses like a
model for mugshots; escorted to dimly lit, beige cell.
Door closes.

SHANA
Beige. Noooo!

EXT. LA COUNTY JAIL - EARLY MORNING

Shana exits barefooted, clutching belongings/stilettos.
She descends steps. Mewing sound. She looks around,
follows sound to parked car.

Shana drops stuff, gets on hands/knees, searches under
car. Dirty kitten mews under car. Shana crawls half-
under, grabs kitten, pulls it out, examines it.

SHANA
Aww! Where's your mummy? Why are
you all alone? You come with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana puts kitten in her shirt, collects shoes/stuff, leaves.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATER

FRONT FOYER

Grand entrance. Shana's purse, summons on a table next to mail.

ANGLE ON: VOGUE INDIA BEARING COVER STORY "10 WAYS TO LIGHTEN YOUR SKIN", TIMES OF INDIA BEARING FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF RAVI, HEADLINE "RAVI JAY INVESTS MILLIONS IN BENGALURU"

Janu walks through, spies summons, investigates.

ANGLE ON: SUMMONS WITH CHECK-MARKS AT "NOTICE TO APPEAR", "DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED", "USE OF A MOBILE DEVICE WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE - TEXTING", "EXCEEDING THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT - +20 MPH"

SHANA'S BEDROOM

Janu enters without knocking. Shana, sleeps sprawled across bed, clean kitten curled up near her face.

JANU

Geo?

(pauses)

Geo?

Shana rouses.

SHANA

Amma, I'm tired. I had a rough night.

JANU

I see that. Geo, what is this?

Janu holds up summons.

SHANA

It's nothing.

Shana buries face.

JANU

This is not "nothing", Geo --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Amma, please can we talk later?

JANU

What will your father's clients think?

Janu turns, walks to door, pauses.

JANU

Where is the car?
(scolding)
What will society think?

Shana gives her nothing.

JANU

(in Tamil)
I will discuss this with Appa.

EXT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATER

POOL SIDE

Shana relaxes under canopy, listens to music, cuddles kitten. Ravi approaches.

RAVI

Geo.

Shana doesn't hear him. Ravi tugs out her earbuds. Shana opens eyes, looks up.

SHANA

That's my favorite song!

RAVI

You can listen to music later.
Geo, Amma tells me you must go to court for a driving offence, is this true?

Shana, embarrassed, plays with kitten, avoids eye contact.

RAVI

Are you listening to me, Geo?
(pauses)
Where did this kitten come from?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I found her. It's no big deal,
Appa.

RAVI

No big deal? You were using the
car irresponsibly. This is not the
right way to treat such things. As
if everything is disposable.

SHANA

It wasn't my fault. Can't you just
talk to that judge and fix it?

RAVI

Absolutely not! Where is the car?

Shana gives him nothing. He clues in.

RAVI

The police have taken it? Is that
right?

(pauses)

How are you going to take care of
this animal if you can't take care
of yourself?

Shana looks down. Angry, Ravi leaves.

EXT. SANTA MONICA POLICE IMPOUND LOT - DAY

Shana in line at cash window. CLERK takes payments
through slot.

SHANA

Eleven-hundred dollars?

CLERK

Eleven-hundred and forty-four
dollars.

SHANA

But it's *my* car.

Clerk gives her nothing. Shana, annoyed, pays with
credit. Clerk shoves keys into slot

SHANA

It's theft. Outright theft!

INT. LA COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY

An average modern court room.

JUDGE on bench, BAILIFF nearby. COP, several DEFENDANTS in gallery. COURT RECORDER takes notes.

Shana at witness podium, dressed prim/proper.

SHANA

I wasn't drunk, your worship-ness.

Judge rolls eyes.

JUDGE

You sure?

SHANA

I was in stilettos.

Judge, unamused, gives her nothing.

SHANA

She didn't give me a chance to explain --

JUDGE

-- Guess you weren't speeding OR using your phone while you were driving, either, huh?

SHANA

Well, I was driving along... and... felt something crawling on my leg.

Hushed whisper/snickering. COP rolls eyes, groans.

DEFENDANT

(audible whisper)
Damn foreigners can't drive.

Shana offended, looks down briefly.

JUDGE

Quiet!

(addressing SHANA)
Oh, this has gotta be good. You felt something crawling on your leg, did you?

Shana regains composure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Yes Ma'am. And I --

JUDGE

-- Let me guess - And, I'm just gonna take a stab at this. You used your phone as a light to try and find it?

SHANA

(excited)
Exactly!

JUDGE groans, rolls eyes.

JUDGE

Fine. You may take your seat. I'll hear from the police officer next. Sargent, will you please take the stand?

Shana goes to gallery, Cop takes podium.

Cop retrieves notebook, flips through, stops, reads.

COP

The car was speeding and weaving all over the road. In fact, it nearly took off my driver side mirror as it passed.

JUDGE

I see. Do you have any video footage of this encounter from your dash-cam or body-cam?

Cop nods to court recorder who turns on TV. Everyone watches. Shana checks cell phone. VIDEO replays chase from POV of inside cop car, stop from POV of body cam. Shana is oblivious.

JUDGE

Well, that looks open and shut. Miss, would you step forward?

Shana is texting, not paying attention. JUDGE loudly clears throat, slams gavel. Shana startled, looks up, slips phone away.

JUDGE

Would you mind joining us?

Shana looks around, returns to podium.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JUDGE

I find you guilty of the
misdemeanor traffic violations.
But I think, based on your
performance here today, that I'm
going to waive the fines on the
condition that you serve community
service.

Shana, relieved, smiles.

SHANA

Sweet! No fine!

Judge, incredulous, nods.

JUDGE

Yes... But it means you now work
full-time for the State of
California.

Shana's jaw drops.

SHANA

Wait, what? But I --

JUDGE

-- I can easily impose both. Or I
could simply throw you in jail. If
this won't teach you something,
then that certainly will!

Shana closes mouth, purses her lips.

JUDGE

So ordered. 600 hours of community
service at UCLA Medical Center.
And God help them!

SHANA

600?! *Hours*?! But my father is
friends with Judge Thorstein.

JUDGE

And?

Shana looks baffled.

SHANA

(meekly)
And he owes him a favor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JUDGE

Let me make this real simple. I
could make it more.
(signs a paper)
And you'd better do a good job.

Shana leaves. DEFENDANT takes podium.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

SHANA'S ROOM

Shana, Kaitlyn sprawl on bed, playing with kitten.

KAITLYN

Community service? Like a PSA or
something? My cousin had to do a
PSA. He landed a movie deal
because of it.

SHANA

I hope I don't catch anything from
that place. All those sick
people...

Shana shudders.

KAITLYN

Ooh! Maybe you'll meet a nice
Indian doctor and get married.

Shana hurt, winces, pulls kitten in closer, feigns a
smile.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

EMERGENCY ROOM

Busy ER waiting room. Handful of PEOPLE waiting, NURSE at
desk.

Shana enters dressed to kill, carrying Prada handbag,
retrieves, dons mask; approaches, interrupts
Nurse/patient.

The NURSE is RHONDA.

SHANA

(muffled, barely
intelligible)
Excuse me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rhonda looks at her, tries to understand. Shana repeats.

RHONDA

I can't understand you. You're going to have to take that thing off your face or get outta mine.

Shana mumbles, Rhonda returns to work. Shana pulls mask down.

SHANA

I need help.

Rhonda annoyed, points to waiting area.

RHONDA

You'll have to wait over there.

SHANA

Oh no --

Patient doubles over in agony. Rhonda helps.

SHANA

I'm not here to see a doctor, I'm here to --

SUDDENLY, Patient collapses at Shana's feet. Rhonda pushes her away.

RHONDA

-- Not now!
 (yells down the hallway)
 I need a gurney stat!

Rhonda continues to work on Patient. ORDERLY with wheelchair rushes to help.

Shana steps backwards. EMT'S rush in with ACCIDENT VICTIM, push past her, almost knock her over.

Shocked, Shana wanders down the

HALLWAY

after EMT's. Curtains partition area into small exam spaces.

Rhonda, Orderly wheel patient down hallway. Wide-eyed, Shana backs into an exam area. Curtain closes, envelops her. Stunned silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She turns, sees small CHILD on exam table, MOTHER nearby.

CHILD

Are you gonna fix my arm?

Child cradles broken arm. Shana, mortified, retreats.

MAN

Oh God! You gotta help me!

Shana spins around, sees MAN with large infected wound.

MAN

Please! It hurts so bad! Just
gimme somethin', anything!

Horrified, Shana gags, turns, flees, bumps into Rhonda.

RHONDA

What are you doing here?

Shana struggles to speak.

RHONDA

I told you to wait --

SHANA

C-community s-service.

Rhonda rolls her eyes.

RHONDA

(snidely)

Oh. I see. Well, you came in the
wrong entrance, Princess. Go down
this hallway to the front desk.
They'll have a volunteer take you
to where you're supposed to be.

Rhonda watches as Shana leaves.

RHONDA

Just what we need... another
tourist from the Red Carpet
Vacation Club.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

Cramped office with organized desk. Pressed/folded smock
on desk. No pictures. Framed/triangular folded US flag.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRACEY (50's retired military, runs tight ship) at desk, back straight, rigid. Tracey is mid-lecture at Shana.

TRACEY

I don't care what you did, you're here to serve. No one is here to cater to anyone except the patients.

Shana stares in stunned silence.

TRACEY

There is a strict no cell phone rule in place here at this hospital. Is that clear?

Shana, dejected, slumps, nods slowly.

TRACEY

Sit up straight. I can't stand bad posture.

Shana shifts in chair, straightens her back.

TRACEY

I'm not sure what you're used to. Quite frankly, you look like you've never worked a day in your life. But around here we do things a certain way - *my* way. Is that understood?

Shana intimidated, nods.

TRACEY

Good. Now here's your smock.
(slides smock
forward)

You'll wear it every time you come in. No rips, no stains. Cleaned and pressed, *every* day.

Shana picks up/unfolds smock, holds it up. Bland, shapeless, 2 sizes too big. She is disappointed.

TRACEY

What? Not good enough for you?

SHANA

I just thought... what about the colorful uniforms I saw people wearing downstairs?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TRACEY

Uniforms are for staff. People
committed to making a difference
in the lives of others. You're not
staff are you?

Shana, confused, shakes her head.

ALI (late 30's, wearing smock) sticks her head in open
door.

ALI

Oh sorry Tracey, I didn't realize
you were with someone. I'll come
back.

TRACEY

It's alright. Prada was just
leaving.

Shana, dejected, takes cue, collects her stuff, gets up
to leave. Stops in the doorway, eyes widen as if she's
just made a happy realization. She turns back to Tracey.

SHANA

You know Prada?

TRACEY

This is LA. Everybody knows Prada.
And Gucci and Jimmy Choo.

Shana smiles as if she's found a kindred spirit.

SHANA

Can I see yours?

TRACEY

(confused)
My what?

SHANA

Your bag. I just love checking out
other people's stuff, don't you? A
good designer bag is the staple of
every outfit.

Tracey unimpressed, gives Shana a 'yeah right' look,
rolls her eyes.

TRACEY

Get out.

Shana, confused and wounded, studies her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TRACEY

And get rid of those ridiculous shoes!

Shana eyes shoes, exits.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

CAFETERIA

Modern hospital cafeteria. Hospital STAFF, PATIENTS VISITORS mill about, eat, chat.

Shana, alone mumbling, picking at food. She retrieves cell phone, uses it under table.

BRIAN (30's, awkward, easy-going) approaches carrying tray of food.

BRIAN

Don't let Tracey see you using that thing.

Shana, surprised, looks up, puts phone away.

BRIAN

May I?

Brian motions to empty seat. Shana agrees, he joins her. She continues picking at food.

BRIAN

It's not going to get any better.

SHANA

What?

BRIAN

The food. It doesn't actually taste any better if you move it around. Plus, it get's cold. That renders it almost inedible.

Shana smiles.

BRIAN

I'm Brian.

SHANA

Shana.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN

Let me guess? First day?

Shana nods. Brian leans toward her.

BRIAN

It gets easier. I promise.

SHANA

Any advice?

BRIAN

Do everything as quickly and completely as you can. Tracey's ex-military. You'll only make her mad if you don't. They say it's like throwing rocks at a bear.

SHANA

Did you work for her before?

BRIAN

No, I'm a resident doctor. But I have seen her make interns cry.

Ali approaches carrying food tray, interrupts, joins them.

ALI

Oh hi! I wanted to introduce myself to you. I know what it's like to be new and not know anyone.

SHANA

Hi. Ali, right?

Ali nods, exchanges awkward glances with Brian.

ALI

Brian.

BRIAN

Ali.

ALI

So, Shana, right? How's your orientation going?

SHANA

So far, so good, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALI

Have you done the morgue yet?

SHANA

(chokes on her food)

What?

ALI

The morgue. You know, where they keep all the dead bodies.

BRIAN

Ali, be nice!

ALI

I am being nice. Nobody told me where we were going until we showed up. It was awful!

SHANA

But they keep them in - coolers, right?

BRIAN

Yes. Yes, they do.

ALI

Sure. Unless they're working on them. They were working on one when we went. It took me a week to eat again.

Ali looks at Shana's tray.

ALI

Oh. Yeah. Eat the soft stuff. It comes back up easier.

Shana pushes tray away.

ALI

On the bright side, I finally made my goal weight that week.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - EVENING

SHANA'S ROOM

Shana sprawls across bed talking on Facetime with Kaitlyn, snuggling/playing with kitten.

ANGLE ON: PHONE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAITLYN
Have you talked to the
administrator yet?

INTERCUT:

SHANA
No, not yet.

KAITLYN
When are you gonna be done with
this? I miss hanging out with you.

SHANA
I miss you, too.

KAITLYN
Jayne and I went to the beach.
There's a new life guard, and he's
super cute.

Shana looks wistful.

KAITLYN
Gotta go! Jayne's calling.

Call disconnects.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

MORGUE

Sterile morgue.

CORONER gives tour to VOLUNTEERS; Shana listens at back.

Tracey beside Coroner. Coroner opens/pulls out cooler
drawer containing full body bag.

CORONER
As you can see, this person is
only recently deceased. I haven't
started the post-mortem on them
yet because I'm waiting for --

SUDDENLY, loud exhale cuts quiet. Bag rises/falls above
head. Volunteers shriek/faint. Shana flees.

CORONER
Well, that!

Tracey laughs, corrals Volunteers. Coroner closes cooler.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

GIFT STORE

Small gift store. Crying is heard from clothing racks in back.

LINDY (20's, grounded, edgy) parts clothes; Shana sits on floor, knees to chest, arms around knees.

LINDY

You can't hide in here.

Shana pulls clothes back.

LINDY

Seriously. There's a better place in the back.

Shana crawls out. Lindy points to the

STOCK ROOM

Cluttered stock room - a glorified closet.

Lindy, Shana sit on milk crates. Shana wipes away tears.

LINDY

So, what's your deal?

SHANA

My deal?

LINDY

Yeah. You know. Somebody you know in a coma? Paralyzed? Dying?

Shana sobs, her body heaving.

LINDY

Okay. Someone's dying.

Shana sobs uncontrollably, disagrees.

LINDY

Dead? Someone's dead? Wow, this is like playing medical charades.

Shana chokes back tears.

SHANA

I don't belong here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDY

Join the club sister! No one ever wants to find themselves at the hospital losing a loved one.

SHANA

I didn't know him.

LINDY

Do we really ever know anybody?

SHANA

No. I mean, I didn't know him.

LINDY

I don't follow?

SHANA

I'm doing community service and was on my orientation when they took us to the morgue and opened one of the coolers.

LINDY

Oh! You're working with Tracey. She loves that gag.

SHANA

(horrified, shrill
whisper)

But, the body made a sound!

LINDY

Oh that. That's just air escaping after death.

Shana wails again.

LINDY

She's outdone herself today!

SHANA

It was the worst thing I've ever seen and heard!

LINDY

And you'll probably have nightmares over it, too.

Mortified, Shana is wide-eyed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY

Look, Tracey pulls this gag every time she gets a new group of volunteers. She likes to see who can handle it. If you can't, watch out!

SHANA

(choking back tears)
Are you a volunteer?

LINDY

Who me? No. I just work here part time while I go to school.

Shana looks at her hand, cries again.

LINDY

What's wrong now?

SHANA

I broke a nail!

Lindy rummages for cheap nail file, tosses to Shana.

LINDY

Here. Use this.

Shana struggles to use it.

LINDY

You're doing it all wrong.

Shana cries.

SHANA

I don't know how.

LINDY

Oh God, what are you, one of those spoiled rich kids? It's a nail file. Let me do it.

Lindy takes file, files Shana's broken nail. Shana's sobs ease, she dries her tears.

SHANA

What's Lindy short for?

LINDY

Lindbergh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SHANA

What? What kind of a name is that?

LINDY

My dad was an aerospace engineer.

SHANA

And you still have to work your way through college?

LINDY

He was in an accident and had to retire early with no pension. The money they had set aside for my college, went to his medical bills. So why are you here?

SHANA

Court-ordered community service.

LINDY

What d'ya do?

SHANA

Nothing.

LINDY

Sure. So what'd they say ya did?

SHANA

It's a misunderstanding.

LINDY

Oh yeah? I hear prisons are full of those.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

Closed door. Duty roster posted. Ali, Shana, Volunteers cluster around. Shana's smock pinned to form-fitting.

ALI

Yes! I got reading to kids in the children's wing.

Shana struggles to understand assigned duties.

ALI

What'd you get?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We survey duty roster. It reads: "Shana - Patient Escort"

SHANA

Escort? That's, that's not what I think it is, is it?

ALI

(smirks)

What do you think it is?

SHANA

Well, you know... like... like...

Ali crinkles nose, scratches head, grimaces.

ALI

EWWW! No!

SHANA

Oh thank God! Uhhh, what is it then?

ALI

Well, let's just say, I hope you like sick people. And walking. Lots of walking.

Shana doesn't get it.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

NURSE'S STATION

Rhonda works on charts; Shana approaches.

SHANA

Excuse me?

Rhonda looks up.

RHONDA

Oh not you again. Lord, what have I done to deserve this?

SHANA

(insulted)

I'm here to help.

RHONDA

You? Are here to help?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

That's right. I got put on something called "Patient Escort".

RHONDA

(laughs)
Oh, now that is funny!

Shana is baffled.

RHONDA

Come on. I'll show you what to do.

Rhonda drops chart, escorts Shana to closet in the

HALLWAY

She opens closet, shows Shana around, hands her shoe covers. Shana tucks covers into pocket.

RHONDA

Oh, and you're gonna need these.

Rhonda gives her rubber gloves, closes door, grabs nearby wheelchair.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

PATIENT ROOM

Ordinary shared hospital room.

MR. COLLINS lies sleeping. Other bed is empty. Rhonda approaches Collins, parks wheelchair.

RHONDA

Good morning Mr. Collins.

Collins rouses.

RHONDA

This is Shana. She's going to take you downstairs for your CT scan.

Rhonda helps Collins into wheelchair. His robe falls open at back, exposing bare behind.

Shana shocked, averts her eyes. Rhonda rolls eyes, closes his robe. He sits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RHONDA

You need to take Mr. Collins here to the third floor, east wing, to the X-Ray and Imaging department. Wait for him to be done, bring him back here and make sure he gets into bed.

MR. COLLINS

(mumbles)
Someone else.

RHONDA

What was that, Mr. Collins? I didn't hear you.

MR. COLLINS

(looks down nose at Shana)
Someone else. Not *her*. I want someone else to take me.

RHONDA

(realization hits her)
I'm sorry Mr. Collins, but there is no one else. You get who you get.

Shana flushes, uncomfortable, looks lost, tries to hide a tear.

RHONDA

(motions down the hall)
There's signs everywhere. Follow them.

Shana pushes wheelchair. It won't budge.

MR. COLLINS

Take the damn brakes off!

Rhonda unlocks brakes.

RHONDA

(softens)
The brakes are on. Kind of a thing.

Rhonda exits.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

HALLWAY

Shana pushes Collins past open door with sleeping Medusa Jones. Brian talks to DETECTIVE ROD LAKE. She pauses, tries to wave, he doesn't see.

ROD

We won't know anything more about the attack until she wakes up.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

ELEVATOR

Car arrives/opens Shana enters, forgets Collins. DOORS close.

She panics, hits "Open Door" button. Collins unimpressed, waits.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

PATIENT ROOM

PATIENTS in beds separated by curtain. Patient 1 sleeps, PATIENT 2 watches TV. Shana enters, overcome by smell, gags, covers nose/mouth.

PATIENT 2

Nurse?

SHANA

No, I'm a volunteer.

PATIENT 2

Oh.

SHANA

Do you need the nurse?

PATIENT 2

No. You can help me. I need to go to the bathroom.

Patient 2 starts getting out of bed. Shana helps.

SHANA

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Standing, Patient 2 pees on floor at Shana's feet, splatters her shoes, grunts quietly. Shana is horrified.

PATIENT 2

Never mind. Good now.

Patient 2 gets back into bed. Shana steps away, slips/falls in pee, cries.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

HALLWAY

Soaking Shana enters. ORDERLY pushing PATIENT past in wheelchair, covers nose. MAN with them, stares, whispers to Patient, points at Shana.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

GIFT SHOP

Lindy reads/studies at checkout. Shana enters. Lindy sniffs air, looks up, spies Shana.

LINDY

What's that smell?

Shana, dejected, embarrassed.

SHANA

Me.

LINDY

But it --

SHANA

-- Smells like pee? Yup! That's me!

Shana walks to clothing rack. Searches clothes.

SHANA

Don't suppose you have any Chanel in here, huh?

Lindy smirks, shakes her head 'no'.

LINDY

T-shirts, sweatpants and sweatshirts mostly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lindy thinks, remembers something.

LINDY

There might still be a couple of
pairs of tights back there.

Shana takes shirt/tights to checkout.

SHANA

Put it on this.

Shana retrieves credit card.

LINDY

(motions)
You can change in the back.

Lindy rings up purchase.

LINDY

There's some wet naps back there,
too. If you need to wash up or
anything. And prob'ly some scented
hand lotion.

Shana collects clothes, goes to back room.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Single patient room. No cards, flowers. Lonely.

Medusa connected to heart monitor/oxygen. Shaven head,
bandaged face/neck. Exposed face is deeply tanned, etched
by wrinkles and scarred.

Shana enters, checks garbage cans. Empty. She looks
around, closes door. Sits, puts feet up on bed, pulls out
phone, texts/takes selfies.

ANGLE ON: CELL PHONE TEXT EXCHANGE WITH KAITLYN "FOUND
QUIET PLACE TO CHILL. GET SOME ZZZ. LOL", "WHERE?",
"PATIENT ROOM. SLEEPER. NO VISITORS.", "COOL. LOL"

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

MEDUSA'S ROOM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana relaxes, texting; door opens. Shana jumps to feet, pretends to work. Brian enters/approaches, eyes her suspiciously.

SHANA

Who is she?

BRIAN

They call her Medusa Jones. But no one really knows who she is or where she came from. They found her at the beach.

SHANA

That's sad. How can people not know?

BRIAN

Not know what?

SHANA

Who she is or where she came from.

BRIAN

She was brought in critically injured about a week ago and we haven't been able to ask her anything.

SHANA

What happened?

BRIAN

She was attacked. I can't tell you any more than that.

SHANA

Is that why she's asleep?

BRIAN

She's in a medically-induced coma. We're hoping it gives her body the strength to heal itself.

SHANA

What happened to her hair?

BRIAN

She had crazy dreads when she first came in. We had to shave them off because they were full of lice and we needed to operate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Shana puts her hand to her face, thinking; her eyes light up as if she'd just thought of something.

SHANA

I saw a woman with dreads at
Charlie's a couple of weeks ago.
Do you think it's her?

Brian notices, eyes up Shana's outfit.

BRIAN

(whispers)
What are you wearing?

SHANA

Don't ask!

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

Tracey at desk, Shana knocks, pops head in.

TRACEY

What is it?

Shana enters, leans on door frame.

TRACEY

What are you wearing?

Shana looks at clothes.

SHANA

(models)
Oh. There was an incident with one
of the patients.

Tracey tosses a clean smock to Shana.

TRACEY

Put this on. Incidents happen all
the time. Keep my smocks clean.

Shana smiles, nods. She sees an opportunity to get in
Tracey's good graces.

SHANA

I was wondering if you maybe
wanted to grab lunch sometime.

Tracey gives her nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I mean, if you have time.

TRACEY

(gets wise)

If you're trying to shmooze me so
you can get out of your hours,
don't bother.

SHANA

(feigns naiveté)

Oh. Well, that's okay. If you
change your mind --

TRACEY

Do I smell... lilacs?

SHANA

It's hand lotion. I wanted to
cover up the other smell.

TRACEY

No perfumes or scented hand
lotions. All other smells are a
natural part of working in the
hospital.

Shana nods.

SHANA

Got it.

MONTAGE - INT. UCLA HOSPITAL

Various scenes of Shana at UCLA Hospital

- PATIENT ROOM. Shana emptying bed pan and getting
splashed. Rhonda looks at her and laughs.

- GIFT STORE. Shana hiding in storage closet as Lindy
tries to coax her out.

- MEDUSA'S ROOM. Shana texting, surfing social media,
posting to Instagram, Facetiming Kaitlyn.

- HALLWAY. Patient walks by with gown open at the back
exposing her saggy, naked bottom. Shana horrified.

- PATIENT ROOM. Shana helping a drooling patient eat.
Tracey looks at her in disappointment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- CAFETERIA. Lindy, Shana pore over computer programming text book; Shana quizzing Lindy.

- MEDUSA'S ROOM. Shana sleeping in a chair, curtain closed around Medusa, window blinds closed.

- PATIENT ROOM. Shana helping a patient with a strong gag reflex eat. Shana also gags between spoonfuls. Rhonda looks on in disappointment.

- GIFT STORE. Distraught Shana hiding in storage closet holding door closed as Lindy tries to wrench open door.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Shana enters.

SHANA

Hello... Medusa.

Awkward silence.

SHANA

It feels strange to call you that.
I wish I knew what your real name
was. I'd call you that instead.

Rhonda enters.

RHONDA

What are you doing in here?

SHANA

I'm just --

RHONDA

-- Just what? She's not a side-
show.

Hesitant pause. Shana turns to leave, stops at door.

SHANA

(not looking)
How do you think she got those
scars?

RHONDA

I don't know. Near as we can tell,
they might be self-inflicted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana returns, stands with Rhonda.

SHANA
Self-inflicted?

Rhonda nods, opens bandage. Shana puts a over her mouth.

RHONDA
They're jagged and uneven. They
have a particular pattern to them.
It looks like she scratched up her
own face with her fingernails.

Shana wipes away tears. Rhonda replaces bandages.

SHANA
Why would anybody do that?

RHONDA
I don't know. I can't tell you
what goes on in people's minds.

SHANA
Can she hear us?

Rhonda shakes her head, looks at Medusa dejected.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BEACH - AFTERNOON

Bright, sunny day. Beach teems with SUN BATHERS,
SWIMMERS, BEACH VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS, FOOD VENDORS.

Shana, Lindy on over-sized beach blanket, watch beach
volleyball.

SHANA
We should go out clubbing
sometime.

LINDY
Not my scene.

SHANA
Have you ever been to a club in
LA?

LINDY
As a rule, I don't go.

SHANA
Who's rule?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDY

Mine.

SHANA

Why?

LINDY

You're just not gonna let this go,
are ya?

Shana grins, shakes head.

LINDY

Look, It's just better for
everyone if I don't. Number one, I
don't have time. And number two,
it's a waste of perfectly good
money.

SHANA

Is that it?

LINDY

What d'ya mean is that it? That's
enough isn't it.

SHANA

You had time to come to the beach.

LINDY

I made time to come, because you
bugged the crap outta me and
wouldn't let it go until I said
yes.

SHANA

(smiles broadly)
And here we are, having a good
time. So... when are we gonna go?

Lindy is exasperated.

LINDY

(mutters)
I can't dance.

SHANA

What was that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY

I can't dance. Okay? No body needs to see me flopping all over the dance floor like I've broken something.

SHANA

(shocked)
Like not at all?

LINDY

Not at all.

Shana jumps to feet.

SHANA

Stand up. I'm gonna teach you to dance.

LINDY

There's no music.

Lindy looks around, refuses. Shana pulls her up.

SHANA

Stand like this with your feet shoulder width apart.

Lindy doesn't move, relents, mimics Shana.

SHANA

Slightly bend your legs at the knees. Okay. Good. Now, put your left arm across your middle and put your hand up like you don't want anyone from the right to bother you.

Lindy chuckles, follows suit.

SHANA

Now put your right arm in the air over your head like so.

(looks at Lindy)
Now just twist your wrists.

Shana shows more Tamil dance moves.

SHANA

See? You dance just fine. You just needed to know how to move.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Rhonda, Brian, Rod at bedside. Medusa's neck bandage remains.

Shana enters, sees them, tries to exit. Brian sees her.

BRIAN

Shana. What are you doing here?

SHANA

I just came in to check her - uh --

Shana's eyes dart around.

SHANA

-- garbage.

RHONDA

I'll walk you out, Detective.

ROD

Sure.

Rhonda, Rod exit.

SHANA

I lied.

BRIAN

Excuse me?

SHANA

About why I'm here.

BRIAN

So, why are you here then?

SHANA

It's quiet in here and I'm hiding from Tracey.

BRIAN

Hmmm. I'd buy that.

Thoughtful silence.

SHANA

Isn't it her own fault?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN
 (taken aback)
 S'cuse me?

SHANA
 She put herself in danger. Being
 out there.

BRIAN
 You really don't get it, do you?
 Y'know, she's someone's daughter,
 too. Mother. Sister. Aunt. Cousin.

Brian starts to exit, pauses.

BRIAN
 You shouldn't be in here.
 (pauses)
 There's more to being homeless
 than not working or being lazy,
 y'know. But I wouldn't expect
 someone like you to get that.

Awkward silence.

SHANA
 I do.

BRIAN
 What?

SHANA
 Get it. I'm judged all the time,
 for the color of my skin, my
 religion, my heritage. So yeah, I
 get it.

BRIAN
 If you get it, why would you
 perpetuate it and keep that going
 by judging others?

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - NOON

CAFETERIA

Shana eats, Brian approaches with tray.

BRIAN
 (motioning to empty
 chair)
 Mind?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Not at all.

BRIAN

So what'd you do to land yourself here?

SHANA

That is a long story, my friend.

BRIAN

Well, I've got at least forty-five before my next rounds.

Shana refuses.

SHANA

How bout, let's not.

BRIAN

What should we talk about then?

SHANA

Why'd you become a doctor?

BRIAN

That - was purely selfish.

She looks confused.

BRIAN

I wanted the pool and the Jag.

SHANA

Did you get'em?

BRIAN

No. No I did not. Realized other things in life matter more.

SHANA

You sound like my parents.

BRIAN

They're right, you know.

SHANA

So what led you to this epiphany?

BRIAN

My kid brother got sick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANA

(sheepishly)
Oh, I'm sorry.

BRIAN

Don't be. He's all right now. But there were a few years of treatments and medical bills piling up before things took a turn for the better.

Pensive pause.

BRIAN

So you're allowed to ask me personal questions, but I can't ask you any?

Awkward pause.

SHANA

It was a stupid decision.

BRIAN

What was?

SHANA

How I ended up here.

BRIAN

I can accept that.

SHANA

(pauses)
Can I ask your opinion about something?

BRIAN

Shoot.

SHANA

Tracey seems pretty stand-offish.

BRIAN

(chuckles)
Told ya. She's ex-military.

SHANA

Sure, but if say, someone wanted to hang out with her --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BRIAN

Look if you're trying to sidle up to her to have your sentence commuted, you're wasting your time.

Shana protests.

SHANA

What? No. I would never --

BRIAN

Well, don't even think about it. She's strictly by the book.

SHANA

You think so little of me.

BRIAN

I've known too many "volunteers", who thought they could sweet-talk or buy their way out of community service.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

HALLWAY

Rhonda changes Medusa's position. Rod watches.

Shana passes carrying a blanket, spies Rhonda, Rod. Stops, eavesdrops.

RHONDA

She's obviously had kids.

ROD

What makes you say that?

RHONDA

Her c-section scars. It looks like at least 2 sections.

ROD

How can you tell?

RHONDA

The scars aren't perfect and don't quite overlap. Not a great surgeon, if you ask me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROD

Anything else, you can tell me?

RHONDA

Nope. She's a mystery.

ROD

Well, I don't really care who she is. Just another indigent as far as I'm concerned. My job is to figure out who did this to her so they don't do it to anybody else.

Rod turns to exit, Shana retreats. Rod walks into

HALLWAY

Passing Shana, who follows few steps.

SHANA

Excuse me.

She catches up.

SHANA

Excuse me, Detective?

Rod stops, looks at Shana.

ROD

Yes?

SHANA

You're the one working on Medusa's case aren't you?

ROD

Yes. Are you a family member?

SHANA

No. I'm a volunteer. I just...

Suspicious, Rod gives her once-over.

SHANA

What happened to her?

ROD

I can't tell you anything.

Thoughtful pause. Rod turns to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANA

I saw her once.

He stops, turns, faces her.

ROD

What? Where?

SHANA

At Charlie's by the beach. A few weeks ago.

ROD

Well, unless you saw who did this, we've got nothing to talk about.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Shana enters, sets book, small paper cup, flower on tray.

SHANA

Good morning.

Cautious, she draws open window curtains.

SHANA

I brought you a flower. I thought you might like it.

She pauses, looks at Medusa.

SHANA

It's a beautiful day outside. But you know what they say, it's always sunny in Southern California.

Shana pauses.

SHANA

They said you can't hear me, but I'm going to talk anyway.

Shana retrieves chair, drags it to bed, sits.

SHANA

I hope you don't mind, I brought some magazines to read.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA (CONT'D)

They won't let me use my cell phone so I can't exactly surf the internet and catch you up on all the news.

Shana looks at sleeping Medusa.

SHANA

No offence, but you don't exactly look like you care what's going on in the world right now anyway.

She grabs magazine, opens/flips pages. Shana closes magazine, looks at Medusa.

SHANA

You know, sometimes my mom and I fight. About the dumbest things, too.

(pauses)

But, I still love her. I'd always want to know where she is and be close to her. No matter what.

Rhonda, in doorway, clears throat. Startled, Shana looks up.

RHONDA

Don't you have somewhere you need to be?

Shana jumps to feet, collects magazines.

SHANA

I was on a break.

RHONDA

Yeah well, break's over.

Rhonda enters, notices flower, Shana walks to door, Rhonda calls after her. Shana pauses.

RHONDA

It was nice of you to think of her. I'm sure she'd appreciate it if she were awake.

EXT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

POOL SIDE

Shana, Kaitlyn lounge beside pool under canopy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAITLYN

Just like the good old days.

SHANA

Good old days? I saw you last weekend.

KAITLYN

Look, all I'm saying, is that you've been so busy, I never get to see you anymore.

SHANA

We still have some weekends.

KAITLYN

(wistful)
I volunteered once.

SHANA

You answered the door for the pizza delivery on the maid's night off.

KAITLYN

Yeah, I *volunteered*.

Shana makes note in phone calendar. ANGLE ON: CALENDAR.

SHANA

Only 200 hours left.

KAITLYN

(shudders)
Ugh! That's like a summer job.

INT. LA COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS

The Judge is sitting at a large wooden desk sipping coffee, surrounded by book shelves and posh leather furniture. At first glance, she appears to be alone in the office.

Shana knocks and enters when invited. The Judge is unimpressed to Shana.

JUDGE

Oh, now what do you want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I was hoping we could talk about my community service hours.

JUDGE

(unsurprised)
Of course, you were.

SHANA

It's just that, I have to look after my parents. I'm the only daughter, and you know what it's like in Indian culture.

JUDGE

Mmm-hmm.

SHANA

Well, my mom is sick and my dad travels a lot with work, so the burden falls on me.

Someone clears their throat behind Shana. She turns to see JUDGE THORSTEIN sitting on a leather couch behind the door. Shana blanches.

JUDGE

Ms. Jay, I believe you already know Judge Thorstein. Since you did say he was a personal friend of your father's.

Judge Thorstein smiles at Shana toasts her with his coffee cup.

JUDGE

Nice try though.

EXT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

PORTICO

Table laden with food/drinks. Loud Tamil music plays.

Janu, Shana, Lindy, Ravi, FRIENDS decorate pathway with beautiful flowers. MAID approaches, carrying drink tray. Everyone dressed in new Tamilian clothing.

POOL SIDE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana, Lindy splash in pool with FRIENDS playing water tag. Loud Tamil music blasts. Informal cricket match on lawn.

LINDY

So this whole thing is to celebrate the return of a king a few hundred years ago?

SHANA

That's right.

LINDY

And you actually have a day to celebrate color?

SHANA

The festival of colors. We throw colored powders at each other. Like a big water fight.

LINDY

That actually sounds fun. Like a lot!

SHANA

It is. You should come next time.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

ER WAITING ROOM

Busy ER waiting room.

YOUNG MAN rushes in.

YOUNG MAN

Please, you have to help me.

NURSE

What's going on, Sir?

YOUNG MAN

My wife, she's in labor.

NURSE

Where is she?

Nurse looks up, around, spies YOUNG WOMAN shuffling in, holding belly. She stops, bends over/groans. Young Man runs to help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG MAN

Sorry, Honey! I just had to talk
to the nurse. You should have
waited in the car.

YOUNG WOMAN

This baby ain't waitin'!

Nurse grabs wheelchair, gets Young Woman to sit in it.
Shana approaches nurse's station. Young Woman has another
contraction.

NURSE

Shana, Take this couple to L&D
stat. They'll have to admit her up
there.

SHANA

Why me? What about Ali?

NURSE

Ali didn't show up. Tracey's gonna
blow a gasket. And this woman is
goin' to pop any second now, so
get her up there!

Calmly, Shana pushes Young Woman swiftly down the

HALLWAY

To ELEVATOR.

Frantic Young Man follows. Shana pushes elevator button.
They wait. Young Man paces anxiously, Young Woman
continues frequent contractions.

YOUNG MAN

What's taking so long?

He presses button again, elevator opens.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ELEVATOR CAR

Young Man enters followed by Shana, pushing wheelchair,
hits button, doors glide closed. Elevator bounces, jumps
to a start but quickly stops.

Young Man panics.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG MAN

Oh God! What's that? Is that normal?

Shana, anxious, tries to keep cool, calm him down.

SHANA

No, that's never happened before.

Shana pushes button. Nothing happens. Young Man is frantic.

YOUNG MAN

This can't be happening!

SHANA

Hang on, let me push the call button.

Shana pushes call button. Between contractions, Young Woman panics.

YOUNG WOMAN

(mid-contraction)

This baby can't wait!

Voice comes over intercom.

VOICE

Hello, are you stuck in the elevator?

YOUNG MAN

Yes!

SHANA

(to the Young Man)

Please, let me handle this.

(to the intercom)

Yes. The elevator's not moving.

VOICE

Okay, there's no need to panic --

YOUNG MAN

-- No need to panic?! Is he kidding?

VOICE

Relax, sir. I just meant that the elevator car is stable and won't go anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANA

There's a lady in labor in here.

VOICE

Okay. Let me get a doctor while I find someone to fix the elevator.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ELEVATOR

Young Man sits beside wheelchair holding wife's hand, talking her through contractions.

Voice cuts through elevator.

VOICE

Are you still with me?

SHANA

Where were we gonna go?

VOICE

I'm sorry I wasn't able to find a doctor available, but I have a Nurse Rhonda here.

RHONDA

Hello, this is Rhonda. Who do we have in the car.

SHANA

It's me Rhonda. I'm trapped in here with this lady who's in labor.

RHONDA

(panic)
Shana?

SHANA

Yes, it's Shana.

RHONDA

Okay, I don't want you to worry, I've delivered babies before so this is easy.

SHANA

Wait, what? I can't do that. I'll just pry open these doors...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana looks around. Tries to pry open elevator doors.

YOUNG MAN

Good idea.

He tries to help but gets in way. Frustrated, Shana looks around, spies small door in ceiling, tries to jump to it. Elevator car bounces. She freezes.

RHONDA

I hear a lot of noise comin' from that car. Are you still with me?

Shana stands on wheelchair, young woman on floor.

SHANA

There's a small door in the ceiling. If I can open it.

RHONDA

Are you crazy? I need you to deliver this baby. Help ain't gonna make it in time.

Shana, wide-eyed looks down at annoyed young woman.

RHONDA

Listen carefully. I need you to make the mom as comfortable as possible.

SHANA

In a cold elevator with a linoleum floor?

RHONDA

Do you have anything to wrap the baby in once it's delivered?

SHANA

I'm not delivering no baby!

RHONDA

You may not have a choice here. We're working on getting the elevator back as quickly as possible but it may still be a while before the tech can get down here.

Shana turns to couple.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANA

Do you have anything to wrap the baby in?

Young Man is dressed in T-shirt/jeans, Young Woman a summer dress. He shakes his head.

YOUNG WOMAN

Where's the bag?

Empty-handed Young Man looks around. Young Woman upset, still contracting.

YOUNG WOMAN

You forgot the bag?

Shana calms both down.

SHANA

It's okay, we can use my smock.

Shana removes smock, sets it on wheelchair.

RHONDA

Okay, Now you need to lean the mother back so you've got plenty of room to work.

SHANA

Okay, she's leaning back. Now what?

RHONDA

Now, I need you to put your fingers into her vagina and tell me if you feel the head of the baby.

SHANA

Oh *hell* no!

RHONDA

Shana, you have to do it.

Shana puts hand up Young Woman's skirt, face twisted in disgust. Pulls out hand covered in slime/blood. Holds soiled hand far away, barely looks at it. Dry heaves.

Young Man sees hand coming at him, collapses.

SHANA

The dad just passed out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RHONDA

I don't have time to worry about that now. What did you feel?

SHANA

Lots of goop.

RHONDA

And?

SHANA

Something big and round.

RHONDA

That's the head. Okay, you're going to have to get her to push. And be ready to catch that baby so it doesn't hit the floor.

Shana helps woman deliver baby. She catches, wraps it in smock. Gives baby to Young Woman. Young Man stirs, elevator doors open. Rhonda, ORDERLY rush in.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

Shana sits with Tracey.

TRACEY

So, it seems Ali got herself arrested.

Shana looks incredulous.

TRACEY

Turns out, she was secretly breaking into my office and forging the number of completed hours.

Tracey studies Shana suspiciously. Awkward silence.

TRACEY

That's a felony.

SHANA

Ali? Like our Ali?

TRACEY

Don't get any bright ideas about pulling that kind of crap.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Shana at bedside. Flower in paper cup is wilted. Shana pulls over, sits in chair.

SHANA

I don't know why I said that about my mom and me fighting, last time. It's just, if she were in your shoes, I'd miss her... I'd want to know.

Wistful silence.

SHANA

She's a good mom.

Pensive pause.

SHANA

It's just, she has all these really high expectations, you know?

Shana sighs.

SHANA

I just feel like, I'm so busy meeting those, I can't be true to myself and who I want to be.

Shana pauses, lightly touches Medusa's hand. Shana throws away wilted flower.

SHANA

I'll bring you a new flower next time. If I knew what your favorite kind was, I'd bring it.

Shana turns, exits.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

GIFT SHOP

Lindy at checkout, Shana enters.

LINDY

So you're done?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I'll come visit.

LINDY

I heard you delivered that baby.

SHANA

Seriously, is everybody still talking about that?

LINDY

That's all anybody's talking about these days. Just give it another week and some intern will save a guy from choking on a pretzel in the cafeteria. Then they'll talk about that until something else happens.

Pensive silence.

LINDY

Okay. Spill.

SHANA

I was just thinking. Every night my mom watches TV with my grandma back in India. We got the biggest channel line-up for that.

(smiles)

Watched a lot of Bollywood movies on it.

LINDY

Umm. Okay? Ya lost me.

SHANA

(poses hands in front of herself)

If Bollywood's taught me anything, it's that family is everything and sticks together no matter what.

LINDY

(confused)

Okay. This is outta left field.

SHANA

Sorry. It's just, I'm leaving, and I can't help worrying about a patient.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY

A patient? Really? And Bollywood movies made you think of that?

SHANA

(nods)

Kinda. She's all alone.

()

Plus, something Brian said about her really got to me.

INT. SHANA'S HOUSE, BEVERLY HILLS - EVENING

LIVING ROOM

Janu sits on a sofa watching a Bollywood movie.

Shana enters, walks over and snuggles up with her on the sofa. Janu wraps her arm around her daughter, kisses her head.

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Shana, Kaitlyn soak up sun, watching waves.

KAITLYN

I missed this!

A million miles away, Shana doesn't respond.

Shana imagines Medusa begging on boardwalk. Dirty, unkempt. Passed over by most people going by.

KAITLYN

We should go out. It'll give you a chance to get back to your old self.

INT. GLAMOROUS NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Shana, Kaitlyn sit behind velvet rope getting bottle service. Music is loud, club is hopping.

KAITLYN

Let's dance!

SHANA

Not right now. I wanna finish my drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Drunk, Kaitlyn stands/dances in front of Shana.

Server wades across crowded dance floor, passes velvet rope, sets up new round/bottle of pink Champagne. Kaitlyn staggers, bumps into her, knocks tray to floor. Glass and booze spill everywhere.

KAITLYN

What the hell?! Why don't you watch where you're going?

SERVER

I'm sorry --

Server starts cleaning, Shana helps. Taken aback, Server smiles, nods her thanks.

KAITLYN

-- You ruined my dress! It costs more than you make all year! I'm gonna get you fired for this!

Kaitlyn, looking incredulous & betrayed, grabs Shana's hand.

KAITLYN

What are you doing?

SHANA

What does it look like?

KAITLYN

Let her do it! It's *her* job and it's *her* fault!

SHANA

Chill out Kaitlyn! It's your fault. You bumped into her.

KAITLYN

Wow. I can't even believe you right now. I don't even know who you are anymore.

Kaitlyn flops onto sofa, crosses arms defiantly. Shana smiles apologetically to server, continues helping.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - NOON

CAFETERIA

Lindy studies. Shana approaches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

So this is what you do all day
without me?

Lindy looks up.

LINDY

Well look what the cat dragged in.

Shana half-sits across from Lindy. Shana attempts to
shift in chair, but falls to floor.

LINDY

(mocking)
Easy there! I'm gonna have to cut
you off.

Shana, Lindy burst out laughing. Shana stands, picks up
chair & plants it emphatically, sits.

SHANA

How's the studying going?

LINDY

Pretty good. I've got some mid-
terms coming up. How've you been?

SHANA

Meh. All right.

LINDY

Just all right? I thought you'd be
hanging out with your friends at
the beach or having a massage or
getting botox or something. Isn't
that what you rich folks like to
do in your spare time?

SHANA

(sarcastically)
Actually, I'm thinking of getting
a butt lift.

LINDY

Are you kidding?

SHANA

Yeah, I'm just messin' with ya. I
did go to the beach, though. It
was boring. So, can I help you
study?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY

I'm not gonna say no.

Shana pulls close to Lindy. They pore over book.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Medusa lies still, silent. Shana enters carrying a small bud vase/purple iris, card, book. She sets up gifts.

SHANA

Hi Medusa. Sorry it's been so long. I was hoping to come more often but, you know... life just, gets in the way.

Shana sits in empty chair.

SHANA

I told my mom and dad about you. I hope that's okay.

Awkward silence. Shana looks at floor, tugs at shirt.

SHANA

I brought a book. I wasn't really sure what your reading tastes were, so I brought a mystery.

Shana opens, begins reading book aloud.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Shana thoughtfully stares out window. Book closed.

SHANA

I wish you could see what a beautiful day it is outside.

(pauses)

Of course, I know what you're thinking. It's always beautiful in SoCal! And you're right about that. It just seems... different somehow. Kinda like I can see it all for the first time.

Shana looks for way to open window.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I wonder if this window opens. You should have some fresh air.

Shana pauses, looks at Medusa.

SHANA

Never mind. It was a dumb idea anyway.

She sits down again, she is pensive.

SHANA

Can I tell you a secret?

(pauses)

I feel like no one understands me anymore. Not outside these walls, anyway.

Shana looks at Medusa.

SHANA

I know it's stupid to sit here and talk to myself. I'm sure you wouldn't understand either, even if you could hear me. I guess I just needed to say it out loud and at least pretend I was talking to someone.

Shana stands, collects book/purse, starts to leave. Pauses at doorway.

SHANA

Good-bye Medusa.

(puts a hand to her face as she's just had an idea)

What if?

(purses her lips)

What if I bring my cat next time?

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

GIFT SHOP

Shana pops her head in, Lindy finishes with customer.

LINDY

Hey! You're still here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Yeah. I just went up to visit someone.

LINDY

You just can't get enough of this place can you?

SHANA

Guess not. What are you doing later? I was wondering if you wanted to catch a movie.

LINDY

Nah. I can't really afford that.

SHANA

You can't afford a movie? It's not exactly a luxury item.

LINDY

Maybe not for you. I have enough trouble trying to save money to get an apartment in this town, right now.

SHANA

You make it sound like it's expensive to live out here.

LINDY

(baffled)
Uh, it actually kinda is.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - EVENING

DINING ROOM

Shana, Janu, Ravi eat dinner. Shana picks at food, anxious to leave.

JANU

Is there something wrong with your food, Geo?

SHANA

I'm just not hungry.

Shana leans back, pushes plate away. Janu stops eating.

SHANA

Can I go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANU

It's not even 7 in the night, club
can wait.

Shana looks away. She wants to be anywhere but here and
it shows.

SHANA

I told you, I'm just not hungry.

JANU

I suppose you have someplace
better to be?

SHANA

(snaps)
Amma, I'm not going out tonight.

RAVI

Geo, don't speak with your Mother
in this way.

Shana, deflated, hangs her head, crosses her arms.

SHANA

Sorry, Amma.

RAVI

(in Tamil)
Honestly, I'm so disappointed in
you, Geo. I thought this community
service would straighten you out,
but clearly I was wrong.

SHANA

(defensively)
What'd I do now?

JANU

(in Tamil)
We know you went out to clubbing
last night. What will society
think when you go out every night?

RAVI

(in Tamil)
You need to straighten up and
figure out what you're going to do
with your life.

Shana, stunned, tries to protest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVI

Not another word. I love you, but I'm tired of your attitude. There are plenty of others out there who could benefit from what I've built. I don't have to leave it to you just because you're my daughter.

Shana gets up, takes her plate.

RAVI

I want your credit cards. You've been spending more than we agreed to. I let it go, but I cannot overlook it any longer.

SHANA

What? Daddy!

Ravi, gives her nothing. Shana sets plate down, exits, returns holding credit cards, leaves, plate in hand.

RAVI

(in Tamil)

Janu, I think it's time we considered something more drastic before it's too late.

JANU

(in Tamil)

Ravi, don't you think that was a bit harsh?

RAVI

(in Tamil)

Janu, I'm telling you, we have to start treating her like a responsible adult, or she'll never learn. How do you think she'll care for us when we're old if we don't start teaching her?

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATER

SHANA'S ROOM

Shana snuggles cat in bed, watches TV. Janu knocks softly, enters, sits on bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANU

(in Tamil)

Geo, your father and I have been talking.

Shana takes a deep breath and braces herself for the fall-out from what she's about to say.

SHANA

I want to move into the rental apartment. It's empty now.

Janu, shocked, turns off TV.

JANU

What will society think?

SHANA

Don't be so dramatic, Amma. I just need some space.

JANU

It doesn't have a hot tub.

SHANA

It's got a pool.

JANU

A *shared* pool! What if you catch something?

SHANA

It's really not that bad.

Janu is anxious to convince Shana to stay.

JANU

What if someone breaks in? How will you protect yourself?

SHANA

(rolls her eyes)

Relax, it's Santa Monica, not Chicago. Who knows, you might like having your own place.

JANU

Rent is \$5400 per month.

Shana is dumbfounded.

SHANA

I have to pay *rent*?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JANU

What will society think if you
move out and abandon your parents?
You don't think of us like a
daughter, so we'll treat you like
a regular tenant.

Janu leaves, closes door. Shana mopes, feeling sorry for herself.

HALLWAY

Outside closed door, Janu pauses, visibly shaken, wipes tears, exits.

INT. SHANA'S APARTMENT - SUNSET

High-rise luxury apartment. Ocean view. Devoid of furniture; a pile of suitcases inside open door.

Shana, cat explore bedroom, empty cupboards, bathroom. Shana, wistful, Facetimes Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn answers.

INTERCUT:

SHANA

Hey, Katy-Cat. How's it going?

KAITLYN

How's it going? Shana, where have you been?

SHANA

I was busy.

KAITLYN

You've changed. Must be all those new friends.

SHANA

(defensive)
It's not like that -

KAITLYN

Whatever, Shan.

Kaitlyn ends the call.

INT. SHANA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Makeshift bed: blankets/pillows, lamp casts dim light.
Cat sleeps. Patio door ajar.

BALCONY

Shana stares down at street/ocean. Fire on the beach.

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

BOARDWALK

Groups of HOMELESS resting. Shana trudges to water's edge, flops into sand. Self-pitying. Plays with sand, finds beach glass. Picks it up, examines/feels it. Keeps it, ambles to boardwalk.

Shana watches Homeless. FIGURE starts following.
Footsteps. Shana glances back, speeds up. Footsteps move faster. Shana jumps.

SHANA

(nervously)

I don't have anything.

LINDY

Relax. It's just me.

SHANA

Oh thank God! You scared me. I
thought you were - were --

LINDY

What?

SHANA

Never mind.

Awkward pause.

LINDY

I tried calling your name before
but I guess you didn't hear me.

SHANA

Yeah... I was um... lost in
thought.

LINDY

What are you doing here?

SHANA

I moved out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDY

Oh? To where?

SHANA

I'm living in the rental suite we have. It's completely empty. There's like, not even any furniture or anything. They expect me to get it myself.

LINDY

(sarcastically)

Wow. An apartment. How're you ever gonna survive?

SHANA

I know right? How am I gonna be able to do anything if I have to get a job and pay rent?

LINDY

(sarcastically)

Oh no. A job... Not a job. What on earth are they thinking? I mean the horror of it.

SHANA

Maybe I should just give up and wear a one-piece bathing suit and start doing my own nails.

Shana examines chipped/dirty manicure, frowns.

SHANA

I'm gonna miss having perfect nails. Mayra always does such a good job.

LINDY

Is that it? Are you done feeling sorry for yourself?

Shana scowls.

SHANA

You don't get it. I have nothing!

LINDY

You're right. I don't. You really are spoiled, you know that? I mean look at what's going on around you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Shana looks around.

LINDY

*These people are homeless, Shana.
Do you even understand what that
means?*

Lindy points at older WOMAN.

LINDY

You see her, Shana? That woman?

Shocked, Shana looks at Woman by fire.

LINDY

*That's Alice. Alice is homeless
and she's been living on this
beach since the 80's. You know
why?*

Awkward silence.

LINDY

Because she has mental health
issues.

SHANA

Can't she just --

LINDY

Just what? Get help?

Shana nods.

LINDY

No. She can't "just get help".

Lindy points at YOUNG MAN.

LINDY

*That's Jimmy. You know why Jimmy's
homeless? Because his mom kicked
him out at 14 for being too much
like his father. You know what
Jimmy has?*

Lindy storms over, picks up tattered garbage bag. JIMMY
grabs it.

LINDY

Whatever is in this bag. That's
all he has in this world. He
doesn't have an empty apartment.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LINDY (CONT'D)

He sleeps here. He eats here. He spends every moment of every day - here. They all do. Because this is the only home they can afford.

Ugly pause.

SHANA

How do you know so much about them?

LINDY

Because I listen to their stories around the fire and spend time with them. Because, they're my friends.

SHANA

Well, aren't I your friend?

Strained pause.

LINDY

(softens)

What do you see when you look at me?

SHANA

What d'you mean?

LINDY

What do you see when you look at me?

SHANA

I see my friend Lindy. Someone who's smart and funny.

LINDY

You know what I see when I look in the mirror?

Shana .

LINDY

I see someone who hasn't eaten properly outside of work in over 6 months.

Lindy pauses, eyes Shana.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LINDY

I see someone who can barely hold her head up during the day because she's so exhausted.

Lindy faces down Shana.

LINDY

Do you know why I'm so tired Shana?

SHANA

Because of school?

Lindy rolls eyes.

LINDY

Because it's really hard to get a good night's sleep in your car. So tell me again, how hard done by you are that you have an empty apartment. Right about now, I'd give almost anything to sleep on the floor of an empty apartment, knowing I can have a shower in the morning... instead of having to move my car every couple of hours so the beach patrol doesn't give me a ticket that I have no money to pay for.

Stunned silence.

SHANA

Why didn't you say anything?

LINDY

(relaxes a bit)
No one knows. I don't tell anybody.

SHANA

Wait a minute. So you can stand there and give me heck for being a bad friend when you never trusted me enough to tell me the truth?

Lindy looks surprised.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SHANA

You're a hypocrite. You talk all big, but then you don't give anyone the chance to actually be a good friend to you.

Lindy tries to speak, Shana interjects, takes charge.

SHANA

Don't even bother. You're coming home with me and that's it. I won't take no for an answer. And tomorrow, we're gonna figure this out together.

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

MEDUSA'S ROOM

NURSE changes Medusa's saline bag. Shana pops head in.

NURSE

(spies Shana)
Who are you?

Shana enters, approaches, carrying a large canvas bag slung over her shoulder.

SHANA

Um, I'm a volunteer. I was just -

A soft meowing is heard. Nurse looks around.

NURSE

Was that...

Shana holds bag tight to her chest. Awkwardly smiles.

SHANA

Nothing. I - I didn't hear anything.

NURSE

You shouldn't be in here. Family only.

INT. SHANA'S APARTMENT -EVENING

BEDROOM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Small pile of books, two make-shift beds, open suitcases. Paper Starbucks cups. Shana, cross-legged on one bed, Lindy on the other.

LINDY

I really don't know anything about her. If I did, I would have told you.

SHANA

But you knew so much about those other people on the beach.

LINDY

That's because they were willing to talk and share their stories. Medusa was never really like that. - She just, always kept to herself and rarely ever came to the fire.

Hesitant pause.

SHANA

What about you? What's your story?

LINDY

Oh you know - spunky college kid wanting to live life on the edge before settling down.

SHANA

Be serious. How'd you end up at the beach?

LINDY

Everybody wants to live at the beach. My Dad's accident took away almost everything we had.

SHANA

Don't your parents know how you're living?

LINDY

Are you kidding? They would've made me go right back home.

SHANA

Wouldn't that be easier?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY

Yeah, but I want this school. It's better for me in the long run to just tough it out.

SHANA

So you're willing to do whatever it takes to succeed, even if that means living in your car?

LINDY

Aren't you?

INT. SHANA'S APARTMENT -EVENING

LIVING ROOM

Make-shift furniture: cardboard box side table, suitcase coffee table. Cat plays in boxes. Pile of empty milk crates, bungie cords, cushions.

SHANA

What's all that?

LINDY

It's a couch.

Shana scrunches nose.

LINDY

It doesn't look like much now, but it's gonna be great.

SHANA

We should wash them first.

Lindy agrees. They wash crates in kitchen sink. Shana accidentally splashes Lindy. Lindy, shocked, retaliates. Doorbell. Drenched, Shana answers. It's Brian, puzzled.

BRIAN

Should I come back at another time?

Shana looks at wet clothes, grins, invites him in.

SHANA

How'd you - What are you doing here?

BRIAN

Lindy gave me the address.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lindy enters, drying herself. Shana shoots her a look.

LINDY

Hi Brian. I'd offer you some coffee, but we don't have cups... Or coffee.

BRIAN

What're you gonna do when your service is up?

SHANA

I think I'll see if I can stay on. I'll need something to do while I go through pre-med.

BRIAN

(stunned)

Why would you want to? I mean, I'm not sure you were cut out for this.

SHANA

(playfully shoves him)

Wow! Glad I made such a good impression.

BRIAN

You know what I mean. You could go off and live your life again.

SHANA

This is the first place where I actually felt like I was doing something important. Like I belong.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - EVENING

PATIENT ROOM

PATIENTS in beds separated by curtain. PATIENT 1 watches TV. Shana enters, greets patients cheerily.

PATIENT 1

Can you go to the bathroom.

Patient 1, shaky, starts getting up.

SHANA

Sir, let's just use the bedpan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Patient 1 returns to bed.

PATIENT 1

Okay.

Shana retrieves bedpan, helps him pee, pours it in toilet, flushes/washes hands, returns.

SHANA

I'm gonna read to you. Is that okay?

Patient 1 agrees, mutes TV.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Shana enters with large flower bouquet/vase, card, stuffed animal. She is in jovial spirits.

SHANA

Good morning Medusa! Oh no, don't get up. I'll just set these over here by the window.

Shana sets down gifts, arranges them.

SHANA

It's Mother's Day today. I brought you some things because I know somewhere out there you have a kid or two wishing they could be with you.

Shana sits down, retrieves book, winces. Digs in pocket, extracts beach glass. Examines/feels, holds it up to light.

SHANA

You're like this piece of glass aren't you? Maybe we all are, in our own way. The glass was perfect when it was made. But it broke. Then, it was jagged and dangerous.

(pause)

Now look at it. Softened by time, sand and water. On the surface, it's scratched up, but it's actually better now, because it has a new purpose. It's prettier, really.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Thoughtful pause. Shana puts away glass; opens book/flips to bookmark, reads aloud.

Conversation in hallway. Shana goes to close door, pauses, listens.

MALE VOICE

Turns out I'm fifteen percent Italian.

FEMALE VOICE

Oh that's cool.

MALE VOICE

Yeah, I still have relatives over there and everything. I've already spoken to a fourth cousin I met through the matching service.

Shana perks up.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

GIFT SHOP

Lindy helps Customer select gift. Shana waves/tries to interrupt. Lindy scowls.

LINDY

(mouthing)

Not now.

SHANA

This is important. He won't mind.

Shana cuts between Lindy/Customer.

SHANA

I think I know how we can find out who she is.

CUSTOMER

(annoyed)

Do you mind? I'm trying to pick out a gift for my wife.

Shana grabs ceramic angel holding a sign reading "Get Well", shoves it at Customer.

SHANA

Here. What about this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Horrified, man glares.

CUSTOMER

(hisses)
She's *dying*!

Awkward silence. Shana purses her lips, backs away.

LINDY

(to Customer)
Would you please excuse me for one second?

Lindy grabs Shana, leads her away.

LINDY

I'll be right with you. Just - stay here.

Lindy rejoins crying Customer. Shana paces. Lindy finishes. Customer pays. Customer turns to leave, Shana rushes over/apologizes. He exits.

SHANA

What about one of those ancestry DNA things?

LINDY

'Scuse me?

SHANA

What if we did one of those DNA kit things for Medusa?

LINDY

How would we get her DNA, exactly? She can't just spit in a tube.

SHANA

Some of the newer ones just need a cheek swab.

LINDY

Okay, but that takes a few weeks. And only works if her family has also done it.

SHANA

Do you have a better idea?

Lindy declines.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY

How'd we --

SHANA

We order the kit and set up an account on one of the sites.

LINDY

You've really thought this through.

Shana agrees.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - EVENING

DINING ROOM

Shana, Janu, Ravi, Lindy eat traditional Indian dinner. Large glass/pitcher of water, fork in front of Lindy.

JANU

Have you ever had curry before?

Lindy nodded.

LINDY

Not as good as this.

Lindy takes bite, swallows/coughs, tries to hide burn.

RAVI

It's not too hot for you is it?

Lindy inhales deeply, disagrees, coughs, sips water.

JANU

Geo tells us you work with her at the hospital. What do you do?

Lindy takes small bites, sips water.

LINDY

(swallows)

I work at the gift store.

RAVI

Do you go to school?

SHANA

You don't have to grill her.

Lindy holds last sip of water in her mouth, swallows.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDY
 (swallows, inhales)
 I'm studying computer science.

RAVI
 (pleased)
 Oh, that's very good! Your parents
 must be proud.

Lindy nods. Janu, Ravi give approval.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATER

DINING ROOM

Empty table. Shana, Lindy, Janu, Ravi chat. Shana pushes
 away.

SHANA
 Amma, if you don't mind, we wanted
 to work on the computer upstairs.

JANU
 What is it for?

SHANA
 Uh --

LINDY
 -- I have some homework, and the
 library closes too early.

Janu, Ravi smile.

JANU
 Of course.

RAVI
 Why don't you girls just stay the
 night? I see you brought the cat,
 so it will be much easier.

Shana, Lindy exchange glances, agree.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATER

SHANA'S ROOM

LINDY
 I can't believe this is your room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Was. It was my room. It's not anymore.

LINDY

Still. I could never have dreamed of anything so big when I was growing up.

Shana looks around uncomfortable.

SHANA

It's not that great.

WALK-IN CLOSET

Shana hands Lindy old, stained t-shirt/shorts.

SHANA

Don't mind the stains. I wore them to Holi this past year.

Shana, Lindy change clothes as they talk.

LINDY

That's the color thing, right?

Shana chuckles, agrees.

LINDY

You've a lot of clothes.

SHANA

A lot of it is hand-me downs.

LINDY

Really? I wouldn't have figure you for a second-hand kinda gal.

SHANA

I inherited a lot from my Grandmother and my Aunt.

LINDY

You *inherit* clothes?

SHANA

(, nods)
You should see my marriage suitcase.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LINDY
(confused)
Your *marriage suitcase*?

SHANA
My mom says it's tradition. In
case, when I get married, things
don't work out.

Shana pulls heavy suitcase from closet, opens it.

SHANA
Saris.

Lindy looks in amazement.

LINDY
Wow! Those are beautiful.

Shana picks one up, hands it to Lindy.

LINDY
And heavy!

SHANA
It's the beading. You should try
wearing one sometime. It's a work-
out.

LINDY
Why do your parents call you Geo?

SHANA
It's short for Geothshana.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

SHANA'S BEDROOM

Shana, Lindy work at desk.

LINDY
Geez. There's a bunch of them
these days. Which one do we pick?

ANGLE ON: SEARCH RESULTS SHOWING NUMEROUS DNA WEBSITES.

SHANA
I think I read that you can
transfer the raw data from site to
site.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA (CONT'D)

So, we just have to pick one and then set up accounts on a bunch once we get the results.

Set up account/ordering DNA kit online.

LINDY

Who's name should we put it under?

SHANA

Let's put it under M Jones, and have it sent to our apartment.

Lindy agrees. Shana clicks "Complete Order" button.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

SHANA'S ROOM

Shana/Lindy search Venice Beach stories online, scroll results.

LINDY

Wait! What's that?

Shana stops.

ANGLE ON: SEARCH RESULTS INCLUDING "LOCAL WOMAN SAVED FROM DROWNING AT VENICE BEACH"

LINDY

Open it and see if there are any pictures.

Shana opens link, scrolls article.

SHANA

No, just that one at the top.

Shana returns to results, continues scrolling. Pauses.

ANGLE ON: SEARCH RESULTS INCLUDING "VENICE BEACH HOSTS ANNUAL BODY BUILDERS COMPETITION"

Shana opens link, scrolls story, finds PHOTO with Medusa in background watching. Large yellow dog beside her.

LINDY

It's her! In the background there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Is that - a dog? Did she have a dog?

LINDY

I don't know. Never had one when I saw her.

SHANA

Well, the picture is a few years old.

LINDY

We should save it to a folder, just in case we need it later.

Soft knock breaks silence, Shana opens door. It's Janu.

JANU

(in Tamil)

I'm very proud of you Geo.

SHANA

Thanks Amma!

JANU

(Indian accent)

I thought you should have this back.

Janu retrieves a credit card, hands it to Shana. Shana hugs her; Janu leaves. Shana closes door, rejoins Lindy.

SHANA

We're not really getting anywhere. What if we search hashtag Venice Beach?

LINDY

Good idea! Maybe someone's posted pictures of her.

Shana searches #VeniceBeach, produces lists of tourist photos, scroll photos, periodically find one including Medusa in the background. Shana saves each photo.

LINDY

We could just - go to the beach.

SHANA

Tomorrow. Let's take a break.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Lindy agrees. They move to watch TV. Shana tosses remote to Lindy. Lindy, baffled, examines it. ANGLE ON: TV REMOTE ENCASED IN SARAN WRAP.

SHANA

Have you ever watched a Bollywood movie before?

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - LATER

SHANA'S ROOM

Exhausted, Shana searches online. Lindy sleeps.

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

MONTAGE - SHANA & LINDY

SANDY BEACH

- PEOPLE sunbathe, swim, build sand castles.
- Shana trudges across sand asking PEOPLE about Medusa, showing her picture.
- Shana questions FRUIT VENDOR, shows photo. Vendor tells her Medusa shows contempt to men.
- Various shots of Shana Lindy questioning beach-goers.
- HOMELESS ARTIST squats among other ARTISTS, draws on boardwalk, talks to Shana. Artist tells Shana about Medusa's stray dog; how it found her one day, stuck by her for years, then got hit by a car and died.
- Shana talks to HAT VENDOR who folds scarves. Hat relates how Medusa sold him a dirty flip phone and broken laptop.

INT. SHANA'S HOME, BEVERLY HILLS - EVENING

SHANA'S BEDROOM

Shana searches online; Lindy studies.

SHANA

This is so frustrating.

LINDY

So do it tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

I'm not giving up.

LINDY

It's late. You're tired.

(mutters)

Cranky.

Exasperated, Shana puts her head on desk.

SHANA

Why can't I find you?

LINDY

Try searching Medusa Jones and Venice Beach.

Shana pauses, resumes typing.

SHANA

Ugh! I keep getting stuff on Greek Mythology.

(pauses)

The man hating part's right.

LINDY

What d'you mean?

SHANA

You remember. Medusa. She had all those snakes her head. Would turn people to stone.

Shana stretches, falls asleep at desk.

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Shana dreams of boardwalk at night. Abandoned except Homeless. Sleeping in tents, under cardboard/tattered blankets. Shana walks among them. Shuffling noises. Shana squints into darkness.

SUDDENLY something big, black comes at her, FAST.

She tries to run, sand swallows her feet. Shape nears, comes into focus. Mythical Hydra monster. It lunges, dissolves. MEDUSA stands in its place, snakes writhing from her head, hissing, snapping at Shana.

INT. VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK - DAY

MONTAGE - SHANA & LINDY

- Shana with T-SHIRT VENDOR outside his stall as vendor stops a would-be thief. T-Shirt tells her he's glad she's gone; rambles on about nuisance homeless people ruining his business.

- Various shots of Lindy, Shana talking to homeless people on the beach.

- Shana talks to disheveled TEEN in cape. He carries large torn canvas bag. The Teen is PERCY. Percy is jumpy, paranoid. He prattles on about mythical Medusa.

His bag falls, spills contents onto sand. Large silver tray gleams in sunlight, blinds Shana, who shields her eyes. Percy drops into sand to collect his things.

- ROCKIN' RB GUY. He wears makeshift turban, plays an electric guitar, roller-blades into Shana, knocks her over. He helps her. She questions him about Medusa. He is unhelpful.

- Lindy, Shana, watch people work-out, share what they learned about Medusa.

INT. SHANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Shana sits amid papers strewn on floor. Doorbell rings, she answers it. It's Rod. She invites him in.

SHANA

I think I know who attacked
Medusa.

ROD

You said that on the phone. Do you
have something concrete to show
me?

Shana scoops up pile of papers, offers it to him. He sifts through, unimpressed.

ROD

Look lady, I don't have time for
Scooby Doo and the Mystery
Machine.

He turns to leave. Shana blocks him. Pensive silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

You haven't even --

ROD

-- You're wasting my time.

SHANA

You aren't even gonna listen to what I have to say?

ROD

Look, Lady. I get a few dozen calls a day with "tips" from well-meaning people hoping there's some kind of reward --

SHANA

-- You think this about a reward? I don't need a reward! I did all this research and talked to all these people --

ROD

-- What people? You need to just leave it alone and let me do my job.

SHANA

Then do it! It's been months and you still don't have anything.

ROD

(angry)

Look little girl. Stay outta my way or I'll throw you in jail for obstructing justice.

Shana flips through papers, shows him.

SHANA

I'm just trying to help, and if you'd bother to look, you might find something useful.

Shana throws papers, storms off. Rod glances at scattered pages, spies page, retrieves it. We survey artistic drawing of Medusa from Greek Mythology.

ROD

What is, some kind of a school project for you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Shana glares at him from across room. Ugly silence; she gives him nothing.

ROD

What is this? Some kind of a joke?
(shows her the image)
Nice depiction of our victim. Real sensitive.

SHANA

In mythology Medusa was attacked and beheaded by a teen named Perseus.

He again, unimpressed.

SHANA

What if... someone thought our Medusa was the one from the story?

He mulls it over, staring at her.

ROD

You're sayin' someone attacked this woman because they thought she was the one from the story?

Shana nods emphatically.

ROD

The Medusa from Greek Mythology?

SHANA

(sarcastic)
Isn't that why they call her Medusa?

Shana groans in frustration that he isn't getting it.

SHANA

I met this kid the other day who kept muttering about her after I showed him her picture.

ROD

You're going around flashing a picture of a crime victim?

Shana stops in her tracks, draws her lips tight.

ROD

Do you have any idea of the damage you could be doing to this case?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SHANA

Case? What case? You haven't got anything. Do you even have a hunch?

ROD

Police work takes time.

SHANA

You don't have time! Any day now, they're gonna wake her up and send her packing back onto the street. What happens then, huh?

Rod gives her nothing.

SHANA

Look... this kid. He had a silver tray.

ROD

So what? He stole his parents' silver before running away.

SHANA

Don't you get it?
(stares him in
disbelief)
You can't look at Medusa or she turns you to stone!

Rod looks at her like she's crazy.

ROD

I'm leaving. You're starting to sound as nuts as those cooks on the beach, baking in the hot sun all day.

He drops page, exits. Page flutters to floor.

Shana leans into

HALLWAY,

Calls after him.

SHANA

In case, you're interested, check out a kid named Percy at Venice Beach.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Without turning, he waves an arm. Shana slams the door, grunts in frustration.

INT. SHANA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Shana sits, relaxing, surfing online on her phone. The cat sleeps on her lap. Excited, Lindy bursts in holding a small package. The box reads: "FAMILY DNA TEST"

LINDY

It came!

SHANA

Wow! That was fast. I thought it would take more than a couple of weeks to get here.

LINDY

Great. Now we just have to get the sample.

SHANA

We're gonna need a distraction.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

NURSING STATION

Lindy arrives overloaded with large gift basket, flower bouquet. Rhonda works at desk.

RHONDA

Can I help you?

LINDY

Umm, yeah. These are for Mrs.

(makes up a name on
the spot)

Lavington.

RHONDA

Lavington? We don't have anyone on this ward by that name.

LINDY

(getting into
character)

Are ya sure? Cuz, the family seemed pretty certain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RHONDA
(exasperated)
Let me look.

Lindy sets down load, blocks view of hallway. Shana slips past.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Shana enters, approaches Medusa's bedside, retrieves small clear vial, removes swab from vial, opens Medusa's mouth. She swabs inside her cheek, returns it to vial, seals it. Shakes it, returns it to pocket.

She goes to door, peeks into hallway, exits.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

NURSE'S STATION

Lindy distracts Rhonda.

LINDY
Okay, so third floor. Left past the elevators.

RHONDA
And around the corner on your right.

Shana slips away.

LINDY
Corner on my right. I think I've got it. Thanks for your help!

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

EMERGENCY ROOM

Busy ER waiting room. PEOPLE wait to be seen, Rhonda is at station. Shana enters.

RHONDA
Oh good. I need you to take the little girl in nine to the cast room after they're done stitching her up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana nods, walks down corridor, enters curtained area. A DOCTOR stitches GIRL's (7/8) hand. Her arm is broken, blood everywhere. MOM's/Girl's faces tear-stained.

Shana greets them.

SHANA
You're being brave.

Girl shoots Shana a big toothless grin.

GIRL
It doesn't hurt anymore.

DOCTOR
We gave her medicine to make sure she doesn't feel anything.

Shana smiles, walks to mom, comforts her.

SHANA
She'll be okay. We'll take good care of her.

EXT. SHANA'S HOME - DAY

POOL SIDE

Shana, Lindy relax in sunshine. Shana's phone dings a notification. Casually, Shana checks it, perks up excitedly.

SHANA
We got a hit!

Lindy looks at her perplexed.

SHANA
The DNA thing. We got a match.

Shana logs into account using phone.

LINDY
Well? What is it?

SHANA
Ninety-five percent certainty of a child.

LINDY
What does that mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

It means, I think we found her daughter.

LINDY

Great! Let's message her.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

NURSING STATION

Brian, Lindy, Shana at Nursing Station. Shana paces.

BRIAN

Stop worrying! You're gonna wear a hole through the floor.

SHANA

I just - can't help it.

Meredith (20), approaches. Shana, seeing her, stops cold.

MEREDITH

I'm looking for --

SHANA

-- Oh my God! You look just like her.

Meredith taken aback, tears up. Brian steps in, introduces everyone.

MEREDITH

Can I - can I see her?

Brian agrees, ushers her to Medusa's room. Shana, Lindy follow, remain outside. Brian/Meredith enter.

Awkward pause. Meredith stares at Medusa, bursts into tears, touches her face, hugs her tightly.

Brian returns, closes door.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

CAFETERIA

Shana, Lindy drink chai tea, talk. Meredith approaches.

MEREDITH

Shana?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shana nods, stands.

MEREDITH
I wanted to thank you.

SHANA
I'm just glad I was able to help.

The women embrace.

MEREDITH
I just can't tell you how much it
means to have my Mother back -
even like this.

SHANA
Please, sit.

Meredith joins them, tells the story of the last time she
saw her mother as a young child.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CAFETERIA

Meredith picks at the rim of an empty paper cup.

SHANA
So the last time you saw your
mother was when you were ten?

MEREDITH
(wipes tears)
She walked through the doors of
Newark Liberty Airport and out of
our lives.

SHANA
Do you have any idea how she ended
up homeless?

Lindy interjects.

MEREDITH
It's okay. It's something I've
played over in my mind a thousand
times. For years, I blamed myself.
Like I wasn't a very good
daughter.

Meredith fidgets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

It's not --

MEREDITH

-- My fault? I know. After my Dad found out how I felt, he sat me and my sister down and told us the truth.

Shana reaches out, touches Meredith. Meredith stops, squeezes Shana's hand with both of hers.

MEREDITH

She'd called from Seattle or somewhere and told my dad she wasn't coming back.

SHANA

What an awful thing to overhear! I can't imagine...

MEREDITH

My dad tried his best to convince her, but she said she couldn't.

Shana touches Meredith's arm, and she responds by grabbing Shana's hand. Lindy wipes tears away and remains quiet in the back ground, listening, hanging on every word.

SHANA

Did she say why?

MEREDITH

I'm not sure. He never said.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY

GIFT SHOP

Shana, Lindy restock shelves. Brian rushes in, panting.

BRIAN

I've been looking all over for you two.

SHANA

What's up?

BRIAN

We're waking her up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Surprised, Shana, Lindy exchange smiles.

SHANA / LINDY
Medusa? Cynthia. Whatever.

Brian nods, catches his breath.

SHANA
 Let's go!

Shana stops, looks at Lindy.

SHANA
 Can you leave for a few minutes?

LINDY
 Hell yeah I can!

Lindy, Shana follow Brian. Lindy pauses, closes/locks up.
 Shana, Brian go on ahead, Lindy follows.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Medusa lies motionless, surrounded by Meredith, Joe (40's), AMY LEE (late teens). Large bouquets of red roses, balloons fill room.

Rhonda checks Medusa's vitals, Brian enters. Rhonda removes Medusa's breathing tube, I.V.

Shana, Lindy watch from doorway.

Long, anxious pause. Medusa stirs, awakens, family cries, embrace.

HALLWAY

Shana, Lindy hug, cry. We survey Meredith, Amy, Joe hugging Medusa.

Rod approaches.

SHANA
 (to Lindy)
 Let's give 'em space.

Shana, Lindy turn to leave. Rod stops them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROD
(begrudgingly)
We found him. You were right.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - LATER

CAFETERIA

Shana, Lindy chatter like schoolgirls; Meredith approaches.

Meredith bursts into tears as she nears. Shana jumps to hug her, Lindy offers her a seat. Meredith accepts

SHANA / LINDY
What's the matter? Didn't she want
to see you?

Meredith shook her head. Shana hugged her as Lindy retrieved a box of tissues from a small table.

MEREDITH
It's not that.

LINDY
(hopeful)
Tears of joy?

MEREDITH
She was assaulted.

SHANA
(drops into nearby
seat)
Oh my God!

MEREDITH
She told me the client ordered her
to get him coffee and she refused.

Shana is incredulous.

MEREDITH
Apparently, that just set him off.
Like he had something to prove.

Shana, Lindy stunned, Meredith talks through tears, sobs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MEREDITH

She was devastated and felt
ashamed. Like she couldn't be with
us anymore.

Shana wipes her eyes.

MEREDITH

She collected her suitcase from
the hotel, got into her rental car
and just drove as far as she
could. Somehow, she landed at
Venice Beach and just - stayed.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - EVENING

MEDUSA'S ROOM

Medusa sleeps. Cup of water/meal tray on table. Shana
enters with large bouquet, Medusa awakens.

SHANA

(whispers)

Sorry. I didn't mean to wake you.

Medusa clears her throat, points to water. Shana grabs
it, helps her sit up, take a sip.

MEDUSA

(scratchy whisper)

Are you - Shana?

Shana nods. Medusa squints at her, recognizes her.

MEDUSA

(scratchy whisper)

I know you.

(catches breath)

They said - you helped to find my
family.

SHANA

(modestly)

I just... it was nothing.

MEDUSA

(strained, scratchy
whisper)

Than --

Medusa loses her voice, takes another sip. Puts hand to
throat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MEDUSA
(scratchy whisper)
-- Thank... you.

Shana takes her hand. Medusa squeezes it, holds it tightly.

SHANA
It was nothing.

MEDUSA
(scratchy whisper)
I heard what you s-s-said.

Shana is puzzled.

MEDUSA
(scratchy whisper)
When I was asleep. I heard what
you said to me.

Shana is pleasantly surprised.

SHANA
Well, I hope the books I read
weren't too boring.

Medusa shakes her head slightly, smiles weakly.

MEDUSA
(scratchy whisper)
You treated me like I was a human
being. No one's done that in
years.

INT. LA COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY

Shana at witness podium. Judge at bench, Court Recorder,
Bailiff nearby.

JUDGE
Miss Jay. How nice of you to grace
my court room today. I understand
that you have completed your court-
ordered community service at UCLA
Hospital, is that correct?

SHANA
Yes, Ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDGE

Well, according to your file and the note I received from your supervisor Tracey, you did an outstanding job.

Shana humbled, smiles shyly.

JUDGE

I understand you even helped to deliver a baby, is that correct?

SHANA

Yes, Ma'am.

JUDGE

And what was that like?

SHANA

Messy, and humbling. But mostly messy.

All laugh.

JUDGE

Well, Miss Jay, having served your time, you are free to go. And I hope I don't see you in here again.

INT. UCLA HOSPITAL - MORNING

HALLWAY

Music playing is something like Katy Perry's WIDE AWAKE.

Shana strides down hallway in crisp new uniform, smiling, greeting patients, staff. Brian, Rhonda give her high-fives as she passes.

Lindy leans against gift shop door frame.

LINDY

Bout time you showed up here. Am I gonna have to set your alarm from now on?

BRIAN

Nice uniform!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANA

Don't get used it. It's only until
I finish med school.

Tracey approaches.

TRACEY

What is this, break-time?

Shana stiffens up. Everyone bursts into laughter.

Everyone breaks into Bollywood-style song and dance.

THE END.