

PATIENT 33

Episode 5:

"Patient 34"

Written by

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INTRO:

Theme music plays.

CARTWRIGHT

This is Patient 33. Episode 5:
Patient 34.

End music.

Visit <https://patient33.com/episode-5/> for the transcript for the promo featured at the end of this episode!

PART ONE

INT. COMA WARD - MORNING

The door opens.

WHY

Patient 33, today is your lucky day. You know why?

Silence.

WHY (CONT'D)

You know what, it'll be a surprise. Now let me just-

The door opens to a crack. The door closes. Footsteps. Clicks of wheels unlocking.

WHY (CONT'D)

All clear.

Patient 33 starts getting wheeled -- through the door, down a hall, past a door where we hear-

TERRIER

Something's happening. It's not natural for this many deaths to be occurring-

His voice fades away. More wheeling. Past another door-

JENNIE

Explain to me again how you got the broccoli stuck in your-

Her voice fades away. Why clicks a button. Elevator doors open. He wheels Patient 33 into the elevator. Another button click.

FISHER

Hold the door!

WHY

We're full, sorry.

FISHER

Wait no you aren't-

Rapid clicking. The door closes. Elevator music plays.

WHY

Gosh. People are so rude these days.

A moment of silence. A ding. Elevator doors open. Wheeling. Wind. Sounds of the city.

WHY (CONT'D)

Woowee it's a bit chilly.

A beat. More soundscape.

WHY (CONT'D)

The city's so beautiful from this high up. You know, I come up here ever so often. Just to be alone. It's nice to be alone. To just take a moment and not hear anyone talking...especially when you can't stand the people talking...although in my case that's most people. Ironic, isn't it? A therapist who hates talking to people. I mean we all hate talking to people at some point in time. Talk about a stressor. It's like an external force is directing a narrative surrounding your life...that's poetic--I-I should write it down.

City soundscape. Wind. Scribbles on a notebook.

WHY (CONT'D)

(reading)

The city lights, how they shine so bright, if just for one night, to be free from control. They peer into my soul, to find their goal. Makes my brain hurt, like a girthy...a girthy-

A pager goes off.

WHY (CONT'D)

Ah. Looks like they've finally noticed. Well that's our time, 33. Back down you go.

The wheels unlock again. Why starts wheeling Patient 33 towards the elevator.

END PART 1

PART 2

INT. COMA WARD - MOMENTS LATER

The door opens. Why wheels Patient 33 into the room.

WHY

Ahh home sweet home! Man, it was so cold up there, I can barely feel my hands! Honestly, I don't know how you manage it- oh! Hello!

CHARLIE

Hi there! You are...

WHY

Dr. Why. I'm the therapist.

CHARLIE

Oooh I do love me some therapy. You know,

(hushed)

I heard that everyone needs therapy? Some people are just better at acting normal than others.

Charlie laughs.

WHY

(politely)

Hahaha. Right you are, my dear. Well, 33, it looks like you have a roommate!

Beat.

CHARLIE

Is he...going to say anything?

WHY

Oh! My apologies. 33 here is in a coma.

CHARLIE

A coma? That's awesome! You know I had a cousin once that was in a coma. Now what was his name...

WHY

Well then, 33. I'll leave you two to get acquainted.

(MORE)

WHY (CONT'D)

33, don't tell any one about our little trip.

(under his breath)

Terrier would castrate me.

Why leaves.

CHARLIE

Hi, 33! It's kind of weird that your name is a number, but, who am I to judge, really. We're all numbers in the system in a way. Have you ever read A Clockwork Orange? It's kind of like that. Not that I'm nuts like that guy. Maybe I should go by a number too, you know? Better to conform than to suffer the consequences? Better to listen to the music than to do crime? Like if you're Patient 33, then I'll be Patient 34, and we can be the best of friends, or something. Wingman, maybe? I'll be the Kirk to your Spock. The fox to your hound. The Scully to your Mulder. Not in a weird way tho. I don't want you to like, be obsessed with me. Not that you could. But if you did, I'll have you know that I have a boyfriend. Well actually, not anymore. Lemme explain-

Patient 33's heart monitor starts to increase in speed.

END PART 2

PART 3

INT. COMA WARD - LATER IN THE DAY

The BEEEP of a patient coding. A cart being wheeled down the hallway.

TERRIER
He's coding! More compressions!

JENNIE
I'm already compressing.

TERRIER
Well do some more dammit!

The voices fade down the hallway. The door creaks open.

FISHER
(hushed)
Viper 1, are you there?

Light, slow footsteps approach.

FISHER (CONT'D)
Red panda is soon to approach.

The door opens. Fisher YELPS. Pepper spray. Homely screams.

HOMELY
My eyes! Jesus my eyes! What did
you do?

FISHER
You didn't respond to the code! Why
didn't you respond?

HOMELY
You maced me!

FISHER
You didn't respond!

HOMELY
There is no code!

FISHER

Last time I said "we should have a code" and then you said "whatever" which you also said means yes and so I said that you'd be viper and I'd be the red panda and that we'd only respond to these names-

HOMELY

Shut up!

A beat.

FISHER

Uh- Ah jeez I'm so sorry doc. What can I do?

HOMELY

Ahh just get me to a bathroom.

Two pairs of footsteps shuffle through the room.

FISHER

Stay strong, Viper. It'll be over soon.

HOMELY

Don't call me that. Why did you have mace anyway? Afraid a trash can was going to identify you?

FISHER

No it's just that...

A door opens. The voices are now more echoey as they are now in a bathroom.

FISHER (CONT'D)

...there have been a lot of unexplained deaths, and you said it wasn't us, so I'm afraid I might be next.

HOMELY

You don't need to worry about it.

FISHER

There's a serial killer on the loose, my dear Theodosia-

Thump. Fisher yelps.

FISHER (CONT'D)

-doctor. And I don't want to fall victim to things out of my control.

HOMELY

Take my word for it. Things are not out of control. And you don't have to worry about falling victim to anything except your own carelessness.

FISHER

That sounds needlessly ominous.

HOMELY

I need a change of scrubs. Let's hope I don't botch a surgery thanks to you.

Water starts running.

FISHER

Thanks to me...thanks to us...it's us...

The water stops.

FISHER (CONT'D)

It's been bothering me, you know? In the back of my head. I know what we're doing is wrong.

HOMELY

Fisher-

FISHER

Don't play- don't play dumb with me. It's no coincidence that we're siphoning their meds and then they mysteriously die?

HOMELY

You need to stop talking. Right now.

FISHER

You said no one was getting hurt! You lied to me!

HOMELY

You didn't need to know. It would have made you...less efficient.

FISHER

We're murdering people, and you
didn't have the decency to tell me!

HOMELY

And you were stupid enough to
believe it!

FISHER

(hurt)

I'm not...I'm not...

(more composed)

I don't want to do this anymore.

HOMELY

Let's talk about this later I'm
busy-

FISHER

No. I'm done. I'm not taking part
in this. From now on, I'm just a
janitor.

HOMELY

Fine.

FISHER

...Fine?

HOMELY

As long as you're fine with
the...consequences...

END OF PART 3

PART 4

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.

TERRIER

Jennie, what's going on?

JENNIE

It's Patient 33. He's--I don't know what's wrong. His heart rate is way to high. Bp's off the charts.

TERRIER

Weird. Well, get him stabilized before it gets worse.

Jennie

I know, Terrier. I'm trying.

TERRIER

Well, try harder. We don't want this turning into something worse.

JENNIE

I AM trying. Just- just give me some space.

Terrier grunts. Sound of an injection.

JENNIE (CONT'D)

None of this is my fault, you know that?

More medical noises that do not sound good at all.

END PART 4

PART 5

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

CHARLIE

So me and this guy, Ralph, were dating, and like, I don't even know why because he looks like a sack of rotten, mashed, sweet potatoes, which is ironic because he was the opposite of sweet. I'm a little petty not gonna lie because he told me it was because I talk too much during sex, which, I don't know, I think adds to the mystery and fun of it! But listen, after me and sweet potato broke up, I swore off all men. Forever. And ever since I got to the hospital... I started noticing the women... and not like noticing them, but like, noticing them, you feel? And now I'm like damn! Everything would make sense if I was just into women!

Footsteps. The door opens.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Especially with all of these nurses and doctors to choose fr--oh, hi, Jennie!

JENNIE

Hi, Charlie.

CHARLIE

What's going on?

JENNIE

I--

CHARLIE

Is Patient 33 doing any better? Do you know what's wrong with him?

Patient 33's alarms start going off. The heart monitor increases in speed.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Does this have anything to do with all the other patients that are dying? When--

JENNIE

(tersely)

We don't know what's--

CHARLIE

Aw. That's a shame because he seems like a really great guy. Such a good listener. Did they say if he has a girlfriend? Or a boyfriend? Or any S.O.? I mean, I'm fine with whatever although I'm just saying if he doesn't have a girlfriend--No Charlie! You swore off all men, remember!?

JENNIE

PLEASE! Can you please just give me one moment of quiet, so I can look into Patient 33's vitals? Please.

CHARLIE

Oh! Of course. I'm so sorry. Sometimes I just start talking and then I forget to stop, but now I'll be quiet for sure. I'm so sorry. I had no idea I was bothering you. I--

Jennie sighs. Charlie's voice fades away.

END PART 5

PART 6

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

Charlie's voice fades back in.

CHARLIE

And that's why I think that Jean-Bédél Bokassa wasn't as bad as everyone thinks he is. I mean, sure, the cannibalism's not great but--

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Ahem.

JENNIE

Oh! Detective Crunch! Thank goodness! Thank you so much for coming.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

That's the job, ma'am. It'd be pretty weird if someone reported a missing person, and I just decided not to come.

JENNIE

Yeah...I suppose that's true.

CHARLIE

Who's missing? Is it someone who worked here? Oh that's just so sad I--

JENNIE

Charlie! I think it's time for your physical therapy!

CHARLIE

Really? Because Dr. Terrier sent me there only a few hours ago, so--

JENNIE

(fake smiling)

Really? How interesting! Anyway, time for PT. Now!

Footsteps to the door.

CHARLIE

Ok! Bye! I really hope--

The door SLAMS. Jennie sighs a deep sigh of relief.

JENNIE

Sorry about that, Crunch. Now how can we get this investigation started. I'm really worried about Margie. No one's heard from her or seen her in days.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Well, first things first I'm going to interview everyone at the hospital. And you said she has a husband, right? I'll need to talk to him.

JENNIE

Do you really think someone at this hospital could have hurt Margie?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Ohh no. It was probably the husband. It's always the husband.

JENNIE

It?! What do you mean it?! I--I mean you think she's probably ok, right?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Ma'am, I am feeling as though that was a trick question, so I am going to refrain from answering at the moment.

JENNIE

Well that's not comforting at all!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

I'm sorry, I didn't realize that I had signed up to be a therapist as well as a detective.

JENNIE

What?! Excuse me, I--

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Sorry. That was rude. If I'm being honest, this is my first solo detective case, and I'm kind of nervous.

JENNIE

Great. Just great.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Alright. I guess I'll interview you first, and then we'll just move through the rest of the employees here. And please let me know if you see anything suspicious at all.

The door opens.

CHARLIE

I went to the physical therapist, but she said that I didn't need to go to physical therapy anymore, and that instead I should talk to a Dr. Cartwright. Do you know who Dr. Cartwright is? He sounds dreamy.

Patient 33's electronics start to beep out of control.

JENNIE

Oh no. He's getting worse. Hang on, 33.

A defibrillator charges up.

END PART 6

PART 7

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

Footsteps. The door opens. A light knocking.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Excuse me, ma'am. Are you a doctor here?

HOMELY

Yes. Why?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Well, ma'am, I'm sure you've heard by now, but I am the detective assigned to the missing Nurse Margie's case, and I've just been asking everyone some questions. Now, what's your name?

HOMELY

Dr. Homely. Nice to meet you, but I have to say, I don't understand why everyone's so concerned about Margie.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

She's missing. Just like poof! Gone. That's not typically a great sign. Why aren't you concerned?

HOMELY

Well, I know everyone misses her, but it is Margie's right to transfer hospitals if that's what she thinks is best for her career and to get rid of that abusive husband, if you know what I mean.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

What? What are you talking about? Margie didn't transfer, did she? Abusive husband you said?

HOMELY

(fake shocked)

Detective. I thought you would have known. I guess Margie just tells me things that she would never tell anybody else.

(MORE)

HOMELY (CONT'D)

People around here don't realize that we're close, but she's confided in me a lot, and I assure you that she's safer now than ever before.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

But...but how do I know I can trust you, hmm?

HOMELY

You don't have to trust me. Let's just call her.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Ooh good idea.

Dialing sound as Homely calls Margie.

HOMELY

Margiiiiiee, heeeeey.

FISHER

(faintly)
What? Homely!

HOMELY

No, it's good to hear from you too. Look I'm going to put you on speaker, okay? There's a detective who wants to speak with you.

FISHER

(faintly)
No- wait, what the hell?!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Hi. Margie? This is Detective Crunch. I don't mean to intrude, but there's a lot of people here who are worried about you. Where are you now? Are you safe?

A long, painful beat. Then...

FISHER

(high-pitched voice,
terrible southern accent)
Oh. Yes. Hi, Detective Crunch. Thank you for the concern, but I--um--I transferred to Memorial--uhhh Hope's Hospital, so I am safe and sound.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

If you don't mind my asking, why'd you leave without telling anyone?

FISHER

Well--I--uh--I

HOMELY

It's okay, Margie. I know it's hard for you to talk about your *abusive husband*.

FISHER

Oh yes! Yes! My abusive husband. He-

Fisher starts to tear up.

FISHER (CONT'D)

He's just so, so abusive. I--I had to get out of there. You understand, don't you, Detective?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Of course. I- I'm so sorry I-

FISHER

Please don't tell him where I've gone. Please!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Oh no no. I--I'll just tell everyone that you're safe. I hope you enjoy your new job! I've never heard of a Memorial Hope's Hospital, but I'm sure you'll love it there. You know, a lot of women would never have been brave enough to--

FISHER

Ok! I've got to go! Bye!

BEEP. Dial tone.

END PART 7

PART 8

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

CHARLIE

Hmmm, 33, you look a little blue. Perhaps my crystals could cheer you up! Ok don't tell anyone, but I don't even know what this crystal means. The store owner just told me to choose whatever crystal called to me, and I picked up this one, and it reminded me of this one date that I had with my ex, Brad, who, conveniently had the same name as my car. 2006 Saturn, by the way. They don't make those bad boys anymore. Either of the Brads, really.

Patient 33's heart monitor picks up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I know. I'm sorry! No more boy talk. We could do girl talk? I do girls!

Warning beeps.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Aw, do you care that much about me? It's okay. Brad and I are quits. Through and through. I swore off the men, and I meant it. Again, if you wanted me to make an exception-

Door bursts open. Lots of footsteps.

TERRIER

I don't understand. Nothing's wrong with him. It's like he just, gave up.

JENNIE

Well whatever it is, we need to help him.

TERRIER

10 milligrams Atenolol.

Exchange of hands. Medical tinkering. Syringe.

TERRIER (CONT'D)

I can't treat him without knowing what happened.

JENNIE

Well how would we-

TERRIER

Get Why in here.

Beeps of a pager. Rapid footsteps. Door opens and closes. Rolling sound as Patient 33 is wheeled down the hallway.

TERRIER (CONT'D)

Stay with me, 33. No no no no shoot.

Defibrillator pads charge up. Shock. Button press. Intercom effect:

TERRIER (CONT'D)

Crash team to room 433.

Running footsteps to the door. The door opens.

WHY

What- what's happening to him is he ok?

Defibrillation. Steadier beeps.

TERRIER

Okay he's stable. Wheels up and to the ICU, stat.

JENNIE

Understood. Why, walk with us.

Wheels unlock. The cart is pushed through halls. During this scene, the heart monitor slows down, and by the end is back to normal.

WHY

This is terrible and all, but why am I here?

TERRIER

Intubate.

Sloshing sound.

JENNIE

Because you're around him the most.
You would know if something is
amiss.

TERRIER

Bag?

Bag sound. Now, steady forced breathing.

JENNIE

Done.

WHY

I'm not around him *that* often.

JENNIE

You're the on call therapist. You
should be able to catch things we
can't.

WHY

Well-

JENNIE

Has anything out of the ordinary
happened with him? Any
environmental changes? Any
possibility of contamination-

INT. OR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doors open. Steady humming of the OR machinery.

WHY

Uhhh-

TERRIER

Alright let's get some x-rays going
and-

JENNIE

Wait- doctor.

TERRIER

What is it?

JENNIE

Look at the monitor.

Slow beeps of a regular heart beat.

TERRIER
He's fine.

WHY
Oh thank god.

TERRIER
How...is he fine?

JENNIE
I don't know.

TERRIER
His levels are back to homeostasis,
bp's back to normal, hell his
hair's styled. How does that even
happen?

JENNIE
Another patient needs this room
doctor. Let's bring him...home.

Fade out.

Fade in.

Doors open and Patient 33 is wheeled back into his room.
Wheels lock.

CHARLIE
You're back! Oh my god thank the
lord and all that, you're not dead!
I was so worried I would never see
my cute little friend again! Also,
guess what just went down in here--
I saw a ghost! Of a woman! Maybe a
nurse...have any nurses died in the
hospital before? Because I gotta
admit, I'm feeling some real,
negative energy around these parts.

Heart monitor starts increasing. Warning beeps.

JENNIE
Wait a minute.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(in the background)
Now I know, I know.
Aberrations are often faked
and all that. But I'm telling
the truth! Something's off
and I feel like this negative
chi is really rubbing off on
your health, and might also
have something to do with the
other patients dying? I don't
know. Who would want to
listen to poor old Charlie,
patient 34, anyway?

Wheels unlock. Wheeling. The door closes. Charlie's voice is now muffled. The heart monitor goes down. The door opens and Charlie's voice is clearer, the heart monitor goes back up. The door closes and it goes down.

TERRIER
There's no way.

JENNIE
It's the only explanation.

A beat.

WHY
I'm just glad it's not my fault.

JENNIE
Why would it be your fault?

WHY
Figure of speech.

TERRIER
Doctor Why, take Charlie out of the room. Discharge her, even. She's up and walking, and no longer in a coma. By rights, she should not be here.

WHY
Done.

The door opens and Why walks into the room.

WHY (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Charlie it's your lucky day! You're getting discharged!

CHARLIE

Oh my gosh this is so exciting, you know it's been so long and repetitive and oh man I can't believe it. By the way, that 33, is he taken? He is such a good listener-

WHY

(muffled)

I know right?? I already called dibs, though. Now, let's see about getting you up and outta here.

END OF EPISODE

OUTRO:

Music fades in.

CARTWRIGHT

Patient 34 was written by Courtney Archerd, Eve Gershon, and Kira Goldberg. This episode stars Justin Stirewalt, Rachel Othon, Spencer Frankeberger, Nicole Tchounga, Kira Goldberg, Courtney Archerd, and Eve Gershon. Was directed by Kira Goldberg, with original music by Ryan Lew, Sound Design by Courtney Archerd, Eve Gershon, and Jake Needham, and Graphic Design by Lucille Wright. Enjoying Patient 33? Leave us a rating and review so that more people can as well! Thanks for listening.

End music.