

PATIENT 33

Episode 5:
"Sick as a Dog"

Written by

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INTRO:

Theme music plays.

FISHER

This is Patient 33. Episode 4. Sick
as a Dog.

End music.

PART 1

INT. HOPE'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - COMA WARD - DAY

Door OPENS. Footsteps. Doctor Why walks in...with a DOG.
WHIMPER.

WHY
(baby voice)
Sit down, Love. Good girl!

Love the dog WHIMPERS again. A chair is pulled up. Doctor Why sits down.

WHY (CONT'D)
Hear that, Patient 33? That's the
sound of calm. Of a day without
tragedy.

A beat. Why chuckles.

WHY (CONT'D)
All the higher ups. They say they
don't keep score, but they do. It's
a business, a competition. It's all
about death rates. Per capita.
National Gross Income. Whatever
words those suits use.

Love WHIMPERS.

WHY (CONT'D)
They don't care about life, 33. Not
like you and I, and it's days like
today when I remember just how good
life is. Life without sadness,
without complications and death.

Under Why's talking, a cart is quickly wheeled down the
hallway. From the hallway, we hear:

TERRIER
Move move! Out of the way!

CARTWRIGHT
Homely to 205. We have a code blue.

TERRIER
Start those compressions.

JENNIE
BP is 60 over 120, and dropping.

The voices fade away. The sound of peeing.

WHY

Oh come on, Love.

Love WHINES.

WHY (CONT'D)

You probably haven't noticed, I mean why would you, but, I brought in a therapy dog today. Her name is Love. She's a 10-year-old golden retriever, and she loves comforting our coma patients...and other patients.

Love WHINES again.

WHY (CONT'D)

She...has anxiety.

Love BARKS.

WHY (CONT'D)

Love, this is patient 33. Would you like to say hello?

Growling.

WHY (CONT'D)

Whoa there, Love. Love really doesn't like your ceiling there...for some reason. We should leave. Don't want to get any complaints.

Footsteps. The door opens and closes.

END PART 1

PART 2

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

The door OPENS. Footsteps. Rummaging. Velcro. ZIP. Clinking of glass vials.

FISHER
(under their breath)
What even is this stuff?

Footsteps. Quick ZIP.

JENNIE
Blake. What are you doing?

FISHER
Oh. Um. I'm just...

CLUNK.

FISHER (CONT'D)
...taking...out the trash.

JENNIE
Right.

A beat. Rustling sounds as Fisher pulls the trash bag out of the can and starts to tie it up.

JENNIE (CONT'D)
Hey. Um. I know this is a bit of a stretch, but have you seen Nurse Margie around here recently?

A beat.

FISHER
I--I--I haven't. I--I mean, who is that? I mean, all you nurses are the same to me! Ha.

JENNIE
Ok. Uh, well, bye.

Footsteps. Squelch.

JENNIE (CONT'D)
Ewww. What? Was there an animal in here? Fisher, can you please clean this up? Ugh.

Footsteps as Jennie limps away, trying not to spread the poop around too much. Fisher SIGHS.

FISHER

Sure just leave all the gross stuff to dumb old Janitor Fisher. Take inventory. Go through the trash. Pick up the dog poops. It all gets left to me.

Another patient is quickly wheeled through the hallways.

TERRIER

(from the hallway)

I've got another one! Get out of the way.

Fisher rustles the trash bag.

END PART 2

PART 3

INT. COMA WARD - MIDDAY

From the hallway, we hear:

Love whines.

JENNIE

Why! This dog has been taking poops and peeing everywhere. In what world is this appropriate? Is it even certified?

WHY

First of all, *nurse*, it's a SHE. Second, doesn't the idea of *certification* have certain ableist connotations? Why does a dog need to be trained to bring happiness to some poor soul?

JENNIE

The dog needs to be trained so that the working people of this hospital don't have to worry about slipping on feces the whole day!

Love whimpers.

JENNIE (CONT'D)

Plus--these patients aren't even conscious? How is a dog going to help them?

WHY

Actually there are many studies that show that-

JENNIE

Out. I want the dog out.

WHY

Fine! Fine fine fine.
(under his breath)
Someone's a cat person.

Love whines some more.

JENNIE

I heard that! And just so you know,
I have three lovely pooches at
home. This is about etiquette. Not
preference.

More growling from Love.

END PART 3

PART 4

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

Beeping of medical equipment.

TERRIER

How is he?

JENNIE

About the same. Heart rate a little up from yesterday, but nothing to be concerned about.

TERRIER

Good. Uh, keep a close watch on him. The last thing I need is another patient dying on me.

JENNIE

Of course...have the autopsies given us any more information?

Light unintelligible talking filters in from the hallway.

TERRIER

All we know is that something caused them to go into cardiac arrest. Homely's convinced we've got nothing to worry about. That it's just a coincidence or something, but two in one day. It can't be. They seemed fine just a day or two ago and then all of a sudden they just...

JENNIE

Yeah.

TERRIER

This is not what we needed right now. Especially with Margie still not back.

JENNIE

I just hope things start to get better. And soon.

END PART 4

PART 5

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

A door slowly SQUEAKS open.

HOMELY

What are you waiting for?

Footsteps.

FISHER

Sorry I just almost got caught earlier and didn't want to risk it again.

Beat.

HOMELY

I need an increase of collection.

FISHER

So soon?

HOMELY

What did I say about questions?

FISHER

I know I know. It's just with the...the deaths. There's been like two today.

HOMELY

We're in a hospital. People die.

FISHER

Aren't they connected? To this?

HOMELY

No.

FISHER

Are you sure? Because I overheard Terrier saying something about--

HOMELY

It's just a flu. It's flu season. People die during flu season.

FISHER

Ok...

HOMELY
Is there anything else?

FISHER
Uh. Jennie was asking me about
Nurse Margie earlier. I don't think
she suspected anything yet but--

HOMELY
Don't worry about that. We have
time. I purchased one-way tickets
to Bermuda on her credit card.

FISHER
Oh! Well, I hear Bermuda is nice
this time of year.

A SQUISH sound.

HOMELY
Ugh...

FIHSING
Or not...

HOMELY
No it's not that. There's just some
feces over here that soiled my
shoes. Ugh, and I'm late to my
shift. Clean it up.

Footsteps towards the door.

FISHER
Do you have to track it all over-

HOMELY
Yes. And you're a janitor. So clean
it up.

The door opens and closes. Footsteps away.

FISHER
(imitative voice)
You're just a janitor.
(normal)
Yeah. And you smell like--like what
you just stepped in. So, check
mate!

END PART 5

PART 6

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

JENNIE

We have to do something. It's been more than a week. I've tried calling Margie like twelve times, but she won't pick up.

TERRIER

Fine. You're right. Do you know of anyone who she would be in contact with?

JENNIE

Her husband. Jack. I forgot I have his number.

TERRIER

Good. Call him. If Margie's not back by tomorrow, tell him she's out of here for good.

The phone rings. JACK picks up.

JACK

Hello?

JENNIE

Hi, Jack. Um, this is Jennie. One of the nurses that Margie works with. I was just calling to see--

JACK

Oh, thank goodness. Is Margie there?

JENNIE

No. That's why I'm calling you. You don't know where Margie is?

JACK

Uh, I--I--No. She went to work the late shift last Tuesday, and she hasn't been home since. We got in a fight before she left, so I thought--I thought she's be with one of the nurses, but--she hasn't been showing up for work?

JENNIE

Margie hasn't shown up for work since Valentine's Day. We have no idea where she is.

JACK

(choking up)

Oh god...

JENNIE

We thought she was just ditching or sick or something, but I'm--I'm worried that--I think it's time we call the police.

END PART 6

OUTRO:

Theme music plays.

FISHER

Sick as a Dog was written by Courtney Archerd and Eve Gershon. This episode stars Justin Stirewalt, Courtney Archerd, Nicole Tchounga, Spencer Frankeberger, Kira Goldberg, Riley Thomas Stewart, and Jake Needham. It was directed by Eve Gershon 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. Episode 5 will be released on August 19. Thanks for listening.

End music.

END OF EPISODE