

PATIENT 33

Episode 8:

"From the Hallway"

Written by

Courtney Archerd and Eve Gershon

Intro:

Theme music fades in:

CARTWRIGHT

This is Patient 33. Episode 8: From  
the Hallway.

Theme music fades out.

PART 1

INT. SURGERY ROOM - DAY

Footsteps approach from outside the room. A pair of doors SWING OPEN. Why SHUFFLES quickly into the room.

WHY

Oh my god I've been searching for you everywhere! And they've put you in the surgery room out of all places? Unprofessional. I mean gosh, I know you can't see anything, but they really want you hearing them slicing into people's bodies? Or I guess they're only doing that outside of the room-

The doors to the room BURST OPEN. Homely and Terrier rush in. Alarms BLARE, an oxygen mask pumps in and out.

TERRIER

We've got a bleeder.

HOMELY

Scrub me up.

TERRIER

Doctor Why, get the hell out of here!

WHY

But patient 33-

TERRIER

Him too! Who stole my scalpel?

HOMELY

Why would you need a specific scalpel?

TERRIER

Scalpel. I need my lucky scalpel...

HOMELY

You don't need one at all!

The voices fade away as Why starts to wheel Patient 33 through the doors and into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

WHY

Typical. They move you into the, debatably, worst room in the hospital after you go through some extreme trauma, and then act as if you don't exist when they need to use said room? Unprofessional. Terrible. HR will be hearing from me. You can bet on that.

The sound of passing footsteps. Detective Crunch approaches.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Ah, Doctor Why. I've been meaning to talk to you about Nurse-

WHY

Don't say her name. Don't talk to me. I don't have time. No one does...really.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

(fading away)

Oh I'm truly sorry if I've offended you doctor I just get so into my job sometimes and I just, you know-

Wheeling continues.

WHY

Hopefully the break room's free...

The door to the break room opens. Rolling. Hesitant steps.

WHY (CONT'D)

Why is it so dark in here?

A light switch flips. Shuffling of chairs.

BIG CROWD

Surprise!!!

WHY

What? It's not even my birthday, although I don't mind certainly-

CARTWRIGHT

Wait, that's not Drexler.

BLUE

Damn it, Why! Do you know how long-

CARTWRIGHT  
Jeez, Blue, chill out.

BLUE  
Sorry.

CARTWRIGHT  
Damn it, Why! Do you know how long  
it took to plan this?

NURSE KELLER DREXLER'S footsteps behind Doctor Why.

KELLER  
What's this, then?

Everyone mutters and shuffles.

BIG CROWD  
(less coordinated)  
S-surprise!/Happy  
Birthday/Drexler's here!

KELLER  
(unenthusiastically)  
Wow. You guys did all this for me.  
Thanks.

WHY  
I'm gonna...be on my way.

BLUE  
Yeah and don't come back!

CARTWRIGHT  
That was a bit harsh, Blue.

The voices slowly fade away. Hospital sounds and Patient 33's  
rolling gurney slowly increase in volume.

BLUE  
He ruined the surprise.

KELLER  
It's not a big deal, really.

BLUE  
But it is!

CARTWRIGHT  
Keller! The cake is red velvet!

KELLER

(just as  
unenthusiastically)  
Red velvet. My favorite.

WHY

This is just typical. Celebration  
after a nurse died-DIED. Nurse  
Margie died, and they don't give a  
damn.

More carting.

WHY (CONT'D)

What are they celebrating, even? I  
didn't get a party for MY birthday.  
Which was last week, for your  
information. And that doesn't even  
matter. They are celebrating a DAY  
after our co-worker our-our friend,  
DIED. I should be consoling them.  
Hell, I should be consoling myself.  
I might even...no. Cartwright can't  
help this...this deep rooted  
feeling.

The carting stops. A door opens. More wheeling. Stop. The  
door closes.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

WHY

(breaking down)

I just miss her so much, you know.  
(sniff)

I-I have no one to talk to. Except  
you, I guess. I didn't even know  
her that well, Margie. But here I  
am. Crying about her to no one,  
because no one cares that she's  
gone. What's happened to empathy?  
This isn't a hospital. This is a  
prison. A prison with like, fake  
emotions, and fake people and fake  
walls and-

CARTWRIGHT

(suddenly)

Awww how touching. You can talk to  
me about it...and maybe more...

Why clears his throat.

WHY

Cartwright? How did you get in here? You were just-

CARTWRIGHT

You haven't come to me in a while. I miss you. I want to help you get back to being yourself.

WHY

You used our confidential meetings for a research project! So, uh, no thanks.

CARTWRIGHT

Ah, c'est la vie.

WHY

Yeah, well sucer ma bite.

CARTWRIGHT

Gladly.

Why HUFFS. The door opens. Wheeling. The door closes. Hospital noises resume.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

WHY

Sorry about that. I...should talk to someone, but not him. Never him. Maybe about him.

Why takes a deep breath.

WHY (CONT'D)

Well here we are, back at your room.

Why takes some steps, opens the door, and gasps.

WHY (CONT'D)

Oh god they- they haven't m-moved the body. Hooooo I, you know what I'll just keep you out here. I'm gonna...go. I'm going to let Jennie know where you are and...yeah. Sorry, 33. I'll catch you later.

Footsteps and the sounds of the hospital fade away.

**END PART 1**

PART 2

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

The general murmur of passing doctors and nurses. A pair of crutches swing by. The door to Patient 33's room opens.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Dr. Terrier. I'm ready for you.

TERRIER  
Understood.

Footsteps. The door closes. The two's voices are now muffled.

TERRIER (CONT'D)  
Detective, I don't understand why you have to question me in here.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
I find that it humanizes the victim.

TERRIER  
We could have just as easily gone into the break room.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Like I said. Humanizes the victim, intimidates the suspects.

TERRIER  
So I'm a suspect?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
No. Also, it's some nurse named Drexler's birthday, and I couldn't get the room emptied out.

TERRIER  
That's today? Damn.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
The cake was red velvet.

Pause. Crunch clears her throat.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH (CONT'D)  
So tell me again, what happened before Margie, God rest her soul, fell through the ceiling.

TERRIER

What, like you don't already know?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

I just want to get all angles.

TERRIER

I'm a busy man. I don't have time for this.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

You got something to hide?

TERRIER

What? No I have patients-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

That's right. You do have patients. And *I* don't have *patience* for your shenanigans.

TERRIER

Maybe I don't have the patience, or, my patience is, my patie--bu--pa--

(mini stroke)

What does this have to do with Margie?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

I'm asking the questions here, doctor. Remind me again. How many of your coma ward, and surrounding...ward patients have died under your watch?

TERRIER

Uh-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

You'll find the answer to be twelve.

TERRIER

Patients dead? It's ten.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Twelve today, doctor. Smith and Williams passed just hours ago, don't you remember?

TERRIER

I've...had things on my mind.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

That sounds like negligent behavior to me, *doctor*.

TERRIER

I don't understand why I'm being questioned. A body fell from the ceiling in front of me. I should be...consoled. Not accused!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

And just how did it get into that very ceiling...doctor?

TERRIER

Stop calling me that!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Aha! So you're not a doctor? What is it? Fake credentials? Botched resume?

TERRIER

None of that, I can assure you. You've just ended a lot of your questions with my title, and it feels very patronizing if I do say so myself.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

It's probably also patronizing to be killed, stuffed into the ceiling, and then to succumb to the effects of deterioration and gravity and end up on the live corpse of a patient.

TERRIER

Well it kind of seems like you already know what happened there, *detective*. I don't have much more to add. Fisher came in to take out the trash or something, and then I heard a creaking, and next thing I knew, the body of our missing nurse was there on 33.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

First name basis on the comatose patient, I see.

TERRIER

33 isn't a name. It's a designation.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Spoken as if it's an identity.

TERRIER  
What kind of detective are you,  
again?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
In training. They weren't expecting  
a murder out of this one. How am I  
doing so far? Actually, I have a  
comment card for you to fill out.  
Here ya go:

An exchange of the comment card.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH (CONT'D)  
Well, that's all for me, Doctor  
Terrier. Anything you want to know  
on my end?

The door opens. The voices are now more clear.

TERRIER  
Uh...you very well know that I have  
been losing many of my patients.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
I'll tell you what I told Jennie.  
Not my department, not my-

TERRIER  
Wait Jennie told you? Why'd she-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Problem. Maybe you should do a  
better job at your, well, job.

TERRIER  
Then why did you just ask me about  
my patients?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Your *patience*?

TERRIER  
No- wha- I-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
I'm kidding. And I don't know, sir,  
I just kind of thought I could get  
to you, you know? That way. It's an  
uh- it's an in-ter-o-ga-tion  
technique.

TERRIER

Do you think it could be connected?  
Because I'm doing my job, and, well  
I guess Jennie's doing her job.  
Although that is probably due to  
the fact that I gave her a  
babysitter-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

I'm busy. Doctor. So unless you  
have any other big revelations  
about the killer, then you can just  
leave.

TERRIER

Ok. When can I move 33 back into  
this room? Because the hallway is  
just-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Active crime scene, doctor. Now  
leave, please.

She starts ushering Terrier out.

TERRIER

But-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Out you go.

Shuffling steps. Door opens and closes.

**END PART 2**

PART 3

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Footsteps. Nurse Jennie and Nurse Drexler are walking down the hallway.

KELLER  
Hi-yah, Jennie!

JENNIE  
Hi. Happy Birthday.

KELLER  
That's personal. Don't talk to me about that. Why would you say that?

JENNIE  
Sorry, Keller. I just thought that since I was at the party that--

KELLER  
Well you thought wrong. I was your friend then, but I am your supervisor now. Also, it's Nurse Drexler to you. Keeps the professional distance.

JENNIE  
Okay.

KELLER  
How are you doing this morning?

JENNIE  
Um. Not great.

KELLER  
Oh yeah. I'm so sorry to hear about Margie, but remember, we can't let that affect our work, can we?

A beat.

KELLER (CONT'D)  
Ok. Where to first?

JENNIE  
I think I can just handle this on my own.

(MORE)

JENNIE (CONT'D)

I'm sure you have a ton of work to do over in the foot department or something, so no need for you to actually follow me around.

KELLER

But Dr. Terrier specifically instructed me to follow you around. I wouldn't want to have to tell him that along with poor practices, you also have difficulty following instructions.

JENNIE

What? I do not have poor practice. Dr. Terrier is just looking for--

Footsteps.

JENNIE (CONT'D)

Good morning, Dr. Terrier.

TERRIER

No, please. Continue. I'm dying to know what I'm looking for.

Jennie takes in a DEEP BREATH.

JENNIE

Alright, Drexler. Let's go.

**END PART 3**

PART 4

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Make it quick, boys. The good  
doctor wants him back in his  
room...stat.

CSI 1  
Good use of medical dialect, Sir!

CSI 2  
(nasally)  
Yes sir, very good you sound like  
quite the professional de-tec-tive!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
(chuckles)  
Why, thank you.

CSI 1  
My fellow CSI! Would you please  
hand me the scalpel!

CLINK.

CSI 2  
Right away my other fellow CSI  
agent! I am in fact very excited to  
hand you this very scalpel right  
here.

A scalpel exchange.

CSI 1  
Ooooh I'm so excited to hear that  
you are excited, sir! My fellow CSI  
agent, sir!

CSI 2  
Ohh yes sssir-ee! Let's dig in,  
shall we!

Ooooooh-

CSI 1

CSI 2 (CONT'D)  
Oooooooh boy!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Whoa now hey now, why are we  
digging in to a live patient?  
(MORE)

DETECTIVE CRUNCH (CONT'D)

I asked you guys here to get like,  
evidence...evidence stuff off of  
him.

CSI 2

He's alive?

CSI 1

Ooh boy I've never worked on a live  
one Detective Crunchity Crunch,  
sir. I usually just get bomb bits  
off of dead guys.

CSI 2

And gals.

CSI 1

And non-binary pals!

They high five.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

My gosh. You two have quite the  
camaraderie going, don't you.

CSI 1

Friends by chance.

CSI 2

Arsonists by choice.

CSI 1

Kidding, sir. We are not arsonists,  
we are friends.

CSI 2

We are the fullest of  
professionals, sir.

CSI 1

Professionals working in a  
professional capacity, sir.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Right right. Whatever. Just, get  
the...the fingerprints and stuff  
off of 'em.

The CSI people chuckle.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH (CONT'D)

What? What's so funny?

CSI 1

Oh I don't know oh holy Detective.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Oh you can just call me detective.

CSI 1

Detective detective. What exactly are you expecting to conclude based off of this so-called evidence we take off of him?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Well I dunno the body fell on him. I guess I just thought-

CSI 2

It's not like we're going to find damning evidence on him. Nothing more than we found on the little lady over there.

CSI 1

Seems kind of like a...oh I don't know, a waste of precinct resources, and perhaps intentionally bureaucratic, don't you think beloved CSI Special Agent partner of mine?

CSI 2

Ooh you're damn right, fellow friend.

CSI 1

But you didn't hear this from us.

CSI 2 (CONT'D)

But you didn't hear this from us.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

That's kinda freaky.

Footsteps approach.

WHY

What the hell are you guys doing with my patient?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Ope, sorry doctor. I thought that this was Dr. Terrier's patient.

WHY

Well he is. But he's also mine. And he's my friend.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

You know him? You didn't say that before.

WHY

No no no I don't know him, but I know him. I've been spending time with him, you know?

CSI 1

That's freaky.

CSI 2

Boy, I'd say so too.

WHY

What? I don't- ugh never mind. Back to the question. Why is he still in the hallway? And why are they examining him like he's a damn science experiment? You know he's human, too. He- he has feelings, and emotions, and goals and motivations and-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Kind of like our killer, wouldn't you say, son?

WHY

Don't call me that-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

No I didn't like it either.

CSI 1

He is our specimen.

CSI 2

Ooh yes! We're looking for evidence that does not exist!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Now hey now-

CSI 2

My bad, Detective Detective. I meant evidence.

A beat.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Oh I guess that was it.

WHY

I don't give a damn about the evidence or what have you. Just get him back into his room. It can't be healthy out here, breathing in all of that negativity.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Perfectly reasonable, Dr. Why. He'll be brought back in shortly.

WHY

Thank you.

Pager beeps.

WHY (CONT'D)

Damn, late again.

Why shuffles away.

CSI 1

What a curious man.

CSI 2

Yes yes yes. Curious indeed. Very curious.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Oh would you two shut the hell up?

CSI 1

Sorry detective.

The CSI's voices fade out. The sounds of the hospital fade away.

**END PART 4**

PART 5

INT. COMA WARD - LATER

The door opens. Sounds of mop splashing in and out.  
BRRRRINNNNGGGG! BRRRRINNNNGGGG!

FISHER

Hello?--Oh, hi Gram Grams! It's so good to hear from you--Look, I've been meaning to tell you--You got WHAT? No. Gram Grams there's no such thing as a nice young woman, especially a nice young woman who wants to deliver you a package! NO. NO. You must absolutely not, under NO circumstances accept that package. Do you hear me Gram Grams? DO YOU HEAR ME? In fact, I need you to move. Now. Get out of that place. It's unsafe for you there. Get out. In fact, I'm thinking of getting out of here too--No, Gram Grams you're not listening to me--  
...Yes, I did get my birthday gift, thank you. No no. It fit just fine. No it was perfect yeah it felt good--  
-No but--Bye, Gram Grams. I love you, too. I--Bye.

Fisher SIGHS. Footsteps. Footsteps suddenly halt.

HOMELY

Going somewhere?

FISHER

Uh--I--

HOMELY

How's Gram Grams?

FISHER

Homely, I swear if you touch one head, I mean, hair on her head--

HOMELY

You'll what? Never take out the trash again? Come on, Fisher. We know who's really in the position to be giving out threats here, and it sure as hell isn't you.

(MORE)

HOMELY (CONT'D)

Now, why haven't you gotten your round of medicines for the day?

FISHER

You have to call off that package. You hurt her, I--

HOMELY

Gram Grams has nothing to worry about as long as you get me those medicines.

FISHER

You don't think we should lie low for a couple of days? I mean didn't you lie to that detective about where Margie was?

HOMELY

That *detective* is somehow worse at her job than you are. I wouldn't worry about it. Now, are we clear?

FISHER

Yeah. No, yeah. We're clear. I'm going now.

HOMELY

Good...Oh and Fisher?

FISHER

Yeah?

HOMELY

Don't even bother moving Gram Grams, okay? Because that will just...that will just make me mad.

Homely walks away.

FISHER

(quietly)  
She's the WORST.

**END PART 5**

PART 6

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

KELLER

Now, with that last patient, Jennie, I noticed that you were calling the patient by her first name. But what does the handbook say about calling people by their first names?

JENNIE

She's ten years old! What am I going to do? Call her Ms. Frederickson?

KELLER

Yes. That's exactly what you should do.

JENNIE

Geez, Keller. None of this even matters. It's not like that--

KELLER

Buh. Buh. Buh. What did I say about calling me Keller? Jennie, I am very disappointed in you. You need to learn how to keep a more respectful distance from your superiors.

JENNIE

Nurse. Drexler. I'm sorry to disrespect you, but I think we can both agree that disrespect is not causing the mysterious deaths of the people in this hospital. In fact, I do believe there have been more deaths today than there were yesterday, so if anything, you're making things worse. So if you could please--

KELLER

Ugh. Jennie I'm so sad to see you this way. I really am. Letting your emotions get the best of you. I hate to say it, but I think you should refrain from seeing patients until you can calm yourself down.

JENNIE

What?

KELLER

I know losing Margie is getting to you, but I can't have you endangering the lives of even more patients. Maybe you should just watch me for the rest of the day. I think it would be good for you to see what being a nurse should truly look like.

JENNIE

Nurse Drexler, I--

KELLER

Ah- you look like you're going to argue with me. But what's the point if I've already decided? Come along. I have a lot of work to attend to.

Footsteps as they walk away.

**END PART 6**

PART 7

INT. COMA WARD - NIGHT

We're back in 33's room. The door creaks open. Light footsteps jump towards Patient 33. The opening of velcro. Jingle of medical equipment. A syringe is filled and then drained.

FISHER

Ah I'm so sorry, dude...t-thirty three I-

The clink of glass. Squirting out liquid.

FISHER (CONT'D)

I just, hate that it's you. You know? I feel like we've built this-this bond or something. Kind of weird to say that.

More squirting. JINGLE of medical equipment.

FISHER (CONT'D)

I really hope you don't end up like those...those other guys. It's just that, Homely's upped demand, and I c-can't say no. I can't say no otherwise...oh you wouldn't understand.

A syringe drains. The monitor starts to increase in beep rate.

FISHER (CONT'D)

No no no don't do that. Don't do that. Is it my voice? Does that...stress you out? I mean I guess that makes sense-- ope nope that was probably just the leak I caused. Oh and the IV dislodged why am I so shaky oh God-

A prick sound. The heart monitor returns to complete normal, rather than the not so normal from right before.

FISHER (CONT'D)

I- I can't do this I-

The door opens. Shuffling of medical equipment.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Hello? Who's in there?

FISHER  
Ah sorry! Just me, the janitor. J-  
janitor Fisher you know? I'm just  
changing the trash bag.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Why would the trash need to be  
changed? Not like the coma  
patient's using it?

Crunch chuckles. Fisher joins.

FISHER  
I can explain-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Ahhh I'm just messing with you.  
It's for medical waste from the  
doctors, right?

A beat.

FISHER  
Uh, yeah! Yeah that's it. That's  
me. Dealing with the doctor's t-  
trash.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Talk about baggage, am I right?  
(imitative)  
Do this or your fired. Clean up my  
mess. I don't respect you.

She laughs. Fisher kind of joins in again.

FISHER  
Yeah. I guess like that.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Us working class folks gotta stick  
together.

FISHER  
Oh, they pay detectives minimum  
wage?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH  
Oh no. Pretty hefty salary  
actually, probably from the funding  
we got. But I respect the  
sentiment, you know?

FISHER

I see.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

You seem stressed.

FISHER

What? No. Not me. I'm never stressed.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

You sure? Your legs are locked pretty tight there. Might staunch blood flow to the brain.

FISHER

They aren't- they aren't locked. My knees are...my grams says my knees are just very skinny.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Your grams? Like grandma?

FISHER

Uh yes?

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Why would you mention your grandma?

FISHER

No reason. Why wouldn't I mention my grandma? I only answered that way because of my legs and-

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Whoa there. Calm down, kid. You just seem kind of defensive.

FISHER

I'm not defensive! I just love my grandma, is all. What are you, some kind of grandma hater? Do you hate g-grandmas? I don't hate grandmas. Why is that a bad thing? Do you- I don't hate grandmas. I sure don't hate grandmas!

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

You seem to be fixating on your grandma. Did something happen to her? If I may ask?

FISHER

What? No. I'm not- nothing's wrong with

(chokes up)

Gram grams. She's just, also, under a lot of s-stress right now, and I don't think it's any of your b-business, Detective.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Mm. We never did get around to that questioning, you know, for Nurse Margie's body. I had the most peculiar conversation with Homely about that the other day too, and I- I know you're close with her. If it isn't a problem, I would love to get your thoughts on these events around now.

FISHER

Thoughts? Like, thoughts of what? Murder? You think I did it? Why would I-

Fisher is gasping for breath now.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

Whoa whoa whoa you're not in any trouble, kid. Just, take some deep breaths. Oh jeez. You're so pale. Why don't you sit down.

Shuffling.

FISHER

M-my grams, sits down. On her couch. Sometimes. To- watch tv.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH

I'm sure she does. Let me get ya some water. Oh, careful ope-

Fisher collapses onto the ground.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH (CONT'D)

Oh jeez. I told them not to lock their legs.

Footsteps. The door opens.

DETECTIVE CRUNCH (CONT'D)

Hey! I need some help in here!

Outro:

Theme music fades in.

CARTWRIGHT

From the Hallway was written by Courtney Archerd and Eve Gershon. This episode stars Justin Stirewalt, Spencer Frankeberger, Kira Goldberg, Eve Gershon, Jake Needham, Nathan Zingg, Nanci Kelham, Nicole Tchounga, and Courtney Archerd, was directed by Kira Goldberg, with original music by Ryan Lew, Sound Design by Jake Needham, Abby Little, and Courtney Archerd, 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.

Music fades out.

Visit <https://patient33.com/episode-8/> for the promo transcript that follows!