

"HEALING HEARTS"

by

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EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

Newspaper boy delivers the morning edition of The Daily News to an upper middle-class driveway.

SUPER: "Fall, 2014. The Midwest."

ECU: NEWS ARTICLE reads, "Ebola Outbreak in West Africa."

SUPER: "Inspired by true events."

ANNE, 40s, walks out to retrieve her newspaper. She's a rope-wearing active duty psychologist in the United States Public Health Service.

INT. HOUSE - LATER MORNING

The newspaper rests on the counter as Anne makes pancakes.

Her child PETER, 6, eats pancakes at the kitchen table.

TODD (O.S.)  
Anne, have you seen my new  
blazer?!?

PETER  
Dad does this every morning?

Anne smiles at Peter.

ANNE  
Peter... Eat your pancakes.

Then, Anne sips coffee from her mug.

PETER  
Well, he does.

Anne raises her forefinger and whispers.

ANNE  
Shh. You love the smooth.

PETER  
You love the rough.

ANNE  
That's right.

Enters TODD, Anne's husband, 50s, absent-minded-professor type with anxiety issues.

TODD  
My blazer?

ANNE  
It's in your closet!

Anne uses a spatula and removes a pancake from the griddle.

TODD  
I just checked.

ANNE  
Check again. I hung it up there  
yesterday.

Todd disappears.

Anne heads to her kitchen table and unloads a fresh pancake  
onto Peter's plate.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Eat.

PETER  
Mom?!?

ANNE  
Ellie! Your pancakes are getting  
cold.

Enters ELLIE, 10, bookish girl in glasses.

ELLIE  
Mom, I'm right here.

Anne gives Ellie a kiss.

ANNE  
Of course, you are.

ELLIE  
Why is Daddy in such a fuss?

ANNE  
Because he's borderline OCD.

PETER  
What?

ANNE  
Ohh... Nothing.

Todd from upstairs screams down.

TODD (O.S.)  
Found it!

Anne shakes her head and eyes her daughter who looks exactly like her.

ELLIE  
Boys.

Anne moves closer to her daughter's face.

ANNE  
How's my girl?

Anne brushes a stray curl from Ellie's face.

Ellie hurries by Anne.

ELLIE  
Mom!

As Ellie passes Peter, she pinches him.

PETER  
Hey!

Ellie draws closer to her younger brother.

ELLIE  
What?

PETER  
You're evil.

ELLIE  
Nope... just your older sister.

PETER  
Mom!

ANNE  
Ahh, the certainties of sibling rivalries.

Peter gets up and leaves his plate.

Peter and Ellie move to another room.

Anne sees her reflection in the glass.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Good morning, Sis.

She raises her coffee mug in a mock salute.

Todd reappears.

TODD  
How do I look?

Anne meets Todd at the sink and adjusts the knot in his tie.

ANNE  
Better.

TODD  
What would I do without you?

ANNE  
You're going to be late.

Reappears Peter and Ellie loaded down with large backpacks.

Anne hands out their lunches.

Ellie hugs Anne.

ELLIE  
Thanks, Mom.

Ellie leaves.

Anne is alone with Peter. She bends down to his level.

ANNE  
Here you go, Son. PB on white with  
the edges cut off, as ordered.

PETER  
Thanks, Mom.

Peter hugs Anne.

Todd wanders back in.

TODD  
Bus is leaving. Do we need to pick  
up anyone?

ELLIE  
Nope.

TODD  
Let's do this.

Todd kisses Anne.

The kids rush out.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Have a good day.

ANNE  
You too.

Through a window, Anne sees her family leave.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Make it a great one.

Anne moves to...

THE LIVING ROOM

The TV is on...

ANNE  
Ahh...

She stops.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Where's the remote?

Anne reaches for the remote as the ANCHOR shares.

NEWS ANCHOR  
The World Health Organization said  
Thursday the West Africa Ebola  
outbreak has killed more than  
three-thousand people and infected  
more than sixty-five-hundred.

Anne clicks off the TV.

ANNE  
That's not good.

EXT. MILITARY BASE'S HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - DAY

ECU: car's bumper sticker: "Healing Hearts can make a  
difference."

Anne's legs blocks the sticker as she crosses. The CAMERA  
moves with her.

In uniform, Anne walks from her car to her office. She  
wears her Battle Dress Uniform (BDU).

HAWKE is stenciled over her left breast pocket, with the  
insignia of a Bald Eagle Clenching Arrows shows to everyone

her rank of Captain. She runs into a fellow active duty psychologist in the United States Public Health Service.

CALLIE, in uniform, early 30s, black, highly educated, and a newbie mother emerges from her minivan.

Anne rushes over to help her.

ANNE  
Callie, it looks like you have  
your hands full.

CALLIE  
Anne, tell me it gets easier.

ANNE  
What?

CALLIE  
Raising kids.

ANNE  
I'm afraid it doesn't.

CALLIE  
Lie then.

Callie struggles with her breast pump and briefcase.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
Maybe I should just stay home?

ANNE  
Trust me, Callie. You would miss  
the adult interaction and the  
feeling your part of something  
bigger than yourself.

Callie stops and smiles at her friend.

CALLIE  
Anne, you always know what to say.

ANNE  
Occupational hazard.

CALLIE  
Happy Friday.

ANNE  
You too.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - LATER DAY

Anne in her white coat makes rounds. She enters a room.

SOUND: KNOCK. KNOCK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME

Anne enters and sees Lieutenant WALL, a fit young soldier recovering from losing both of his legs from an IED attack.

All smiles, Wall sits upright in his bed. His covers dip at the middle of the bed where his legs used to be.

WALL

Hey, Doc.

ANNE

How you feeling today, Lieutenant?

WALL

Good, Sir. They're making me some new bionic legs.

ANNE

I heard.

WALL

Yeah. I can't wait to stand up again... and run!

Wall moves his arms in slow motion.

WALL (CONT'D)

Dun-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh.

Anne smiles as she sits on the edge of his hospital bed.

ANNE

Nuh-nuh-nuh.

WALL

Nuh-nuh-nuh. I'm fast, Doc. Woo!

ANNE

I believe it.

WALL

I can't imagine a world without running in it. I would go cra....

ANNE

Z-Y.



Anne looks over each shoulder. Then, she leans in and closer to Wall.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Me too. Two days without running and my family are pushing me out the door.

WALL

Yeah. Well, as soon as I get my new legs, I will challenge you to a race.

Anne pops up from the bed.

ANNE

Okay. The first one down the south corridor wins.

WALL

I will even give you a head start.

ANNE

I'm old. I'm going to need that head start.

Wall smiles back big and bold full of hope.

WALL

Thanks, Doc.

INT. ANNE'S OFFICE - LATER DAY

Anne sits opposite a COLONEL, 50s, a spit-and-polish Academy grad with a white buzz cut ten years her senior.

The Colonel looks out the window, not at Anne.

COLONEL

My wife left me.

ANNE

The two of you have been discussing that option for some time.

The Colonel's eyes meets Anne's as he takes his seat.

COLONEL

True. But I never imagined she would really leave me.

ANNE

Why is that?

The Colonel plays with his Academy ring.

COLONEL  
I'm not a man that these things  
happen to.

ANNE  
Well, there was broken trust.

COLONEL  
True. So?

ANNE  
Do you want to talk about this?

COLONEL  
No.

Anne shakes her head as she changes the current subject.

ANNE  
How's work?

The Colonel brightens and leans back in his chair.

COLONEL  
Never better.

INT. ANNE'S OFFICE - LATER

A Marine CAPTAIN in his mid-30s sits and shares.

CAPTAIN  
Only four of us came back that  
night. Four.

ANNE  
It's been seven years since that  
night. You need to move beyond the  
ambush.

CAPTAIN  
How? They trusted me.

ANNE  
It wasn't your fault. You and your  
team were placed in an unwinnable  
situation. Against a force that  
greatly out numbered you.

The Captain kicks the table.

CAPTAIN  
Shit intel.

ANNE  
You did nothing wrong, but to  
follow your orders.

CAPTAIN  
Tell that to the dead.

ANNE  
What you feel is common,  
especially in war. The  
counterfactual thoughts that you  
could have or should have done  
something differently.

CAPTAIN  
But I should've died too.

Anne looks to a framed portrait of her identical sister.  
The two are embracing near a pond in Central Park.

ANNE  
You survived a life-threatening  
situation... and your sister  
didn't.

CAPTAIN  
Sister?

Anne's iPhone alarm goes off.

SOUND: BEEP 3xs.

ANNE  
Captain, next week, we can deal  
with the demons of outliving those  
we loved.

The Captain looks at the portrait of Anne and her identical  
sister SARAH.

CAPTAIN  
Your Sister?

ANNE  
Yeah. She died in the North Tower  
of the World Trade Center.

CAPTAIN  
Wow. What was her name?

ANNE  
Sarah.

CAPTAIN  
Yeah.

ANNE  
So Captain, I know the shame, the  
anxiety, and the...

CAPTAIN  
Guilt.

The Captain stands.

So does Anne. She gives him a Motherly hug.

ANNE  
We can get through this shit,  
right?

CAPTAIN  
Oorah! to that.

The Captain heads to the door and turns back to Anne.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)  
Thanks, Doc.

ANNE  
See you next week.

The Captain nods his appreciation and passes Callie as he goes.

Callie pokes her head into Anne's office.

CALLIE  
Lunch?

ANNE  
Sure. Ten minutes?

Callie smiles and hosts up her pump.

CALLIE  
Make it, fifteen. Momma still  
needs to pump.

Anne laughs.

ANNE  
I don't miss those days.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Anne and Callie stand before a salad bar.

Anne is loading up her plate with spinach.

ANNE  
Decisions, decisions, decisions.

Callie points at various options in the salad bar.

CALLIE  
Yeah. Presidential Unit Citation.

ECU: Chopped Red Peppers.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
Senior Scientist of the Year.

ECU: Carrots.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
And let's us not forget... the  
Career Achievement Award.

ECU: Tiny Tomatoes.

ANNE  
All I see is salad.

CALLIE  
Quite a resume, Anne.

ANNE  
I've been lucky.

CALLIE  
Luck. More like good and driven.  
How do you find the time?

Anne uses tongs to grab some strawberries and drops them on  
Callie's plate.

ANNE  
I have a great support system.  
Here. Try these.

CALLIE  
Hmm.

Callie picks one off her plate. She looks over her  
shoulder. Then, she eats it.

As she licks her fingers...

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
I heard the Surgeon General wants  
volunteers for West Africa.

ANNE  
Interested?

CALLIE  
West Africa? Ground zero of an  
Ebola epidemic? No.

ANNE  
The caregivers there need care  
too.

Callie eyes Anne. Then, she raises and waves her  
forefinger.

CALLIE  
No! Don't even think about it,  
Anne.

The two move from the salad bar to pay.

ANNE  
What?

CALLIE  
Overachieving.

Anne's phone rings. She answers it.

Callie steps back.

ANNE  
Sir.

Anne presses her phone to her ear.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Yes, I have seen the news.

Callie eyes Anne as they reach the CASHIER.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I understand. Something needs to  
be done.

Callie shakes her head as she pays and walks away.

Cashier weighs Anne's salad.

CASHIER  
Six dollars.

Anne still listens to the Surgeon General and she hands the  
cashier her debt card.

ANNE  
When does this special task force  
leave?

(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)  
 (heavy pause)  
 Sunday? Okay. I'm in.

INT. ARMY HOSPITAL - WOMEN'S RESTROOM - LATER

Anne enters the restroom. She walks down the stalls to make sure no one else is in there.

ANNE  
 Okay.

Anne walks to the huge mirror that hangs above the sinks.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
 What do you think, Sis?

INTERCUT BETWEEN ANNE AND HER MIRROR IMAGE

MIRROR ANNE  
 About what?

ANNE  
 My mission to Africa.

MIRROR ANNE  
 Oh, that. Really, girl. What are you trying to prove?

ANNE  
 I can help people.

MIRROR ANNE  
 You help people here.

ANNE  
 True, but...

MIRROR ANNE  
 But what?

ANNE  
 I...

MIRROR ANNE  
 You can't hide from my death forever, Sis.

Anne leans closer to her reflection.

ANNE  
 Sarah, you know me too well.

MIRROR ANNE

Let me go.

Anne uses her breathe to fog up the mirror.

ANNE

I can't.

INT. MEGA GROCERY STORE - MEAT COUNTER - LATER DAY

Anne inspects the wide choices of meat for their cookout. Her image reflects off the polished glass of the meat counter's case.

Behind the counter, the BUTCHER asks.

BUTCHER

Anything else?

He hands Anne a wrapped package of brats.

Anne grabs them with both hands.

ANNE

What's good for a cookout?

BUTCHER

I know just the thing.

The butcher use a machine to shred beef into hamburger.

ECU: BEEF SHREDS.

BUTCHER (CONT'D)

It doesn't get fresher than this,  
Miss. Moo.

EXT. BACKYARD — EVENING

Todd's grills brats and burgers as other university PROFESSORS and FAULTY exchange stories.

TODD

I backpacked through Europe and  
met Burton Holmes, at his Austrian  
Abbey.

MIKE, 60s, a retiring professor laughs out.

MIKE

B-u-l-l-s-h-i-t.



TODD  
I'm serious.

Anne arrives.

As Anne enters the party, the guests look as if she is a Martian from another planet.

Todd stands at the grill and waves.

HANK, 30s, a male chauvinist academic with big bushy beard.

Anne carries meat to grill on a big platter plate to Todd.

HANK  
Cute uniform.

ANNE  
Hi, guys. I'm a tad overdressed.  
But I heard you were hungry.

Mike moves closer to Anne.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Congrats, Mike. Where's Sally?

MIKE  
Inside. How are you, Anne?

ANNE  
Good.

Todd wanders over and retrieves the plate.

TODD  
Thanks.

Todd gives Anne a peck on the cheek.

HANK  
Anne, what exactly do you do?

ANNE  
Help people.

HANK  
I know that. What branch? Army?  
Navy?

MIKE  
Anne's a Captain in U.S. Public  
Health Services.

HANK  
The what?

ANNE  
It's a branch overseen by the  
Surgeon General.

TODD  
Focuses on Health.

HANK  
Ahh.

ANNE  
My Captain status goes back to the  
service's Navy roots.

MIKE  
A Captain in the Navy ranks up  
there like a Colonel in the other  
branches.

HANK  
Wow. A Colonel. I didn't know  
women went that high.

TODD  
Hank!

ANNE  
I will be right back.

As she heads back to the house, she whispers to herself.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Poor Hank. Insecure. Narcissistic.  
Inferiority complex possible.

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Anne changes out of her uniform into some comfy clothes.  
She passes the bedroom mirror and sees herself in it.

ANNE  
Not now, Sis.

Anne plops down on the bed and puts on her shoes.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I still haven't thought how I'm  
going to tell Todd about Liberia.

Ellie walks by the bedroom door.

ELLIE  
Mom's talking to herself again!

ANNE  
Ellie! If you love the smooth, you  
must...

Ellie pops into the doorway.

ANNE/ELLIE  
Love the rough.

ELLIE  
Seriously, Mom. I think it's you  
that needs a shrink.

ANNE  
A Psychiatrist.

Anne passes Ellie and lovingly messes up her hair.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
You're probably right.

ELLIE  
Mom!

ANNE  
Who's hungry!?

EXT. HOUSE BACKYARD - FIRE PIT - LATER

Colorful Japanese lanterns hang overhead. As guests talk  
and huddle by the fire pit's ample flames.

KIDS with glow-sticks chase Ellie and Peter in the dark.

Todd sees Anne in a chair away from the fire. He sits as he  
sees shadowy images dance across her face.

Anne smiles back.

ANNE  
I think everyone is having a good  
time.

TODD  
What's on your mind, Anne?

ANNE  
What?

TODD  
You're pondering something.

ANNE  
How did you know?

TODD  
Your body is all tense. So... out  
with it.

ANNE  
The Surgeon General contacted me  
today.

TODD  
Oh no. Not Lipperman.

ANNE  
Yes. He's the acting Surgeon  
General now.

TODD  
Anne, our daughter's birthday is a  
month from now.

ANNE  
I know.

TODD  
You missed her first because of  
Hurricane Charley. Her sixth  
because of Joplin. Now this one  
because of...

ANNE  
Ebola.

TODD  
West Africa? Are you f'n kidding?

ANNE  
No. I'm leaving Sunday. CDC's has  
a week-long Ebola Safety Course in  
Alabama.

TODD  
Alabama?!?

ANNE  
There I will learn how to properly  
suit up. Then, Africa. I will be  
in country until December.

TODD  
In country? Anne, you're a  
psychiatrist. Not a green beret.

ANNE  
The caregivers need, and deserve  
care too, Todd.

TODD

Well. This is great. What about the kids?

ANNE

They know I love them. And I wish to be an example to them. To fight for those in need.

TODD

Fight. Hmm. There must be others willing to go, Anne. You've had your run.

ANNE

Nope. Infectious diseases freaks people out.

TODD

I imagine so. This isn't about your Sis is it?

Todd pops up.

ANNE

No. Why would it be?

TODD

So... your mind's made up?

ANNE

I can make a difference.

Todd heads toward their brightly lit home.

TODD

Well, try making a difference here.

Callie, from the surrounding darkness, plops down in Todd's abandoned chair. She smiles big at Anne.

CALLIE

W-e-l-l? How did it go?

Anne eyes the fire's flames.

ANNE

As expected.

CALLIE

That bad?

ANNE

Yup.

INT. HOUSE — KITCHEN — NEXT MORNING

Todd and Anne sip from their coffees as they watch CNN.

NEWS ANNOUNCER  
 West Africa is experiencing the  
 largest Ebola outbreak in history.  
 Three-thousand confirmed dead. The  
 virus, which doesn't have a cure,  
 has for months been ravaging a  
 region ill-equipped to fight it.  
 The CDC is organizing an  
 Humanitarian mission.

Todd grabs the remote and mutes the TV.

ANNE  
 It's my job.

TODD  
 It's more than that.

ENTERS Peter into the kitchen. His hair is a wreck. With  
 eyes half open he grabs a box of cereal.

ANNE  
 Do you want to deal with the  
 crisis there, or here?

Todd gets up, pulls a carton of milk from the fridge and  
 places it on the table.

TODD  
 But Anne...

ANNE  
 It's three months.

TODD  
 Yes, at ground zero of an  
 outbreak.

Peter pours milk into his bowl.

PETER  
 Why are you fighting?

TODD  
 We're not fighting, Son.

Anne smiles at Peter.

Peter takes a big bite of his cereal.

PETER  
(mouth full)  
Sounds like fighting.

ANNE  
Mommy needs to go away again.

TODD  
To help people in need... outside  
this house.

Peter walks out with his bowl.

PETER  
Okay. Bye.

Peter passes a TV.

Anne grabs the remote and un-mutes it.

ANNE  
I want to hear this.

Todd gets up.

President Obama speaks about the outbreak.

PRESIDENT OBAMA  
Here's the bottom line. Patients  
can beat this disease. And we can  
beat this disease. But we have to  
stay vigilant. We have to work  
together at every level - federal,  
state and local. And we have to  
keep leading the global response,  
because the best way to stop this  
disease, the best way to keep  
Americans safe, is to stop it at  
its source - in West Africa.

TODD  
Five thousand miles away.

Todd walks out of the kitchen.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Good-bye.

EXT. ANNISTON, ALABAMA - OLD ARMY POST - DAY

Establishing: Old abandoned army post with World War Two  
wooden buildings surrounded by tall weeds. Deteriorating  
roads crisscross the area.

SUPER: "Near Anniston, Alabama, 2014."

A couple desert-camouflaged Humvees parked along with cars, SUVs near an old cinderblock building. A sign reads: "CDC Ebola Safety Course."

INT. BUILDING - TRAINING ROOM - SAME

Windowless room made of cinderblock.

DOCTOR in a white hood, goggles, and yellow hazmat suit.

DOCTOR  
Good afternoon folks. You have two patients that we need bloods drawn from.

A suited-up Anne stands beside a BIG BLUE BUCKET on the cold concrete floor. The bio-hazard bucket is labeled 'VOMIT.' In the cot is a plastic mannequin child.

Anne adjusts her headgear.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
We're all aware that there is a risk and that we must be extremely careful. However, we also know that if we wear the protective equipment properly and follow the protocols. We'll be okay.

EXT. REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA - AIRPORT - DAY

Anne's white U.N. aircraft lands on the runway, parks near a small terminal building.

SUPER: "Republic of Liberia - Roberts Airport - 30 miles from Monrovia."

Anne departs the plane.

On a tarmac a masked military NURSE #1 shouts.

NURSE #1  
Form two lines. We need to take your temperature.

Anne gets in line and waits.

Nurse #1 finally waves her over.

Anne reaches her.



NURSE #1 (CONT'D)  
You here for business or pleasure?

ANNE  
Funny.

Nurse #1 points a device that looks like Sci-fi laser gun at Anne's head. Then, she reads it.

NURSE #1  
Normal. You're cleared to get on the bus. Next!

Anne, with her gear, walks toward the awaiting U.N. bus.

INT. UNITED NATIONS BUS - LATER DAY

The bus approaches a makeshift Army barracks. As it travels through the main gate, Anne looks to her reflection in the nearby window.

ANNE  
We're here.

MIRROR ANNE  
Splendid.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - SAME

As Anne arrives, she sees a colleague she knows waiting for her in front of the camp.

SUPER: "Camp Eason - Monrovia Medical Unit."

Anne grabs her equipment. Then, she slowly gets off with other MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

TED awaits Anne. He's a Thirty-something doc who looks like a Marvel Superhero. He knows Anne from previous missions.

ANNE  
Hey, Ted. When did you get here?

TED  
Three weeks ago.

Ted helps her with her bags.

ANNE  
Over achiever.

TED  
How was your ride in?

ANNE  
My teeth are still rattling.

TED  
They lack everything here, even  
decent roads.

Ted turns with Anne's gear and walks through the camp.

TED (CONT'D)  
Welcome to M.M.U.

Anne follows.

In the background CREWS of Navy Seabees construct the  
twenty-five bed facility from the ground up.

TED (CONT'D)  
I will show you your tent.

ANNE  
Is it always this hot?

Ted looks back to Anne.

TED  
Today is cooler than most.

ANNE  
Great.

Anne sees a sign that reads, "Camp Eason."

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Camp Eason?

TED  
In honor of Captain John Eason.

ANNE  
The first African American officer  
in the Public Health Service?

TED  
Yup.

ANNE  
Good choice.

They reach Anne's tent.

INT. ANNE'S TENT - SAME

The tent holds four cots with mosquito netting.

TED  
Home sweet home.

Ted lays down Anne's gear.

ANNE  
How many patients?

TED  
Too many.

ANNE  
I want to see them.

TED  
Follow me.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - DAY

Ted gives Anne a tour.

TED  
Here's the entrance to the high  
risk unit.

Anne eyes the red line.

ECU: Red tape barrier.

ANNE  
The red tape?

TED  
Red zone. Restricted to suspected  
Ebola patients.

ANNE  
I see. The team has done a great  
deal in a few weeks' time.

TED  
We need to do more. We're losing  
this battle.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - LATER DAY

Ted and Anne suit up. In their hazmat suit, Ted grabs a sharpie and writes in bold black letters, "Anne" on her helmet.

TED  
There.

Ted hands the helmet to Anne.

TED (CONT'D)  
A name makes us more human.

ANNE  
What about you?

TED  
They all know me now.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - NIGHT

Close-up of Ebola patient's bloody mouth. Teeth are missing and the gums are red and inflamed.

Ted touches the infected caregiver.

TED  
All these people here are nurses  
and caregivers to the first wave  
inflicted with the virus.

Fifteen PATIENTS in various stages of the disease line the ward in hospital beds.

Anne walks down the long line of patients. The victims are in various stages of the disease.

Anne's foot hits a blue five gallon bucket.

She peers into it.

ECU: Bloody body fluid.

ANNE  
Where are the others?

In awe, Anne looks around and sees the horrors of this epidemic firsthand.

Ted inspects the chart of one of the patients. His eyes glance up from the charts and shares.

TED  
Dead.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - NEXT DAY

A suited up Anne carries an Eight-year-old girl with pony-tails, SOE.

Nurse #2 carries a skinny Ten-year old boy with big glasses, SAM.

NURSE #2  
These are Dr. Liala's children.

ANNE  
Where's the Doctor at?

NURSE #2  
He passed this morning.

The four move through the staging area to the restricted Red Zone.

Anne hugs the little girl tighter.

A suited up Ted approaches.

TED  
What do we have here?

ANNE  
They both tested positive for the Ebola virus.

TED  
Where's Dr. Liala?

ANNE  
He's gone.

Ted nods.

Nurse #2 hands Sam over to Ted.

TED  
I gotchu, dude.

The little boy looks terrified.

TED (CONT'D)  
Hi, I'm Doctor Ted. Don't be afraid. We're here to help. Okay? You're going to beat this bug.

The boy coughs hard. Then, he melts into Ted's shoulder.

SAM  
Okay.

Anne looks down at Soe.

ANNE  
What's your name pretty girl?

SOE

Soe.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - NIGHT

Ted and Anne sits in folding cars underneath a canopy of millions of stars.

ANNE

How are Sam and Soe doing?

TED

Time will tell.

Anne looks up to the heavens.

ANNE

Why?

TED

Why, what?

ANNE

This.

TED

We should have been here three months ago.

ANNE

What took us so long?

TED

It takes time to confront an ugly truth.

ANNE

And what's that?

TED

We are all weaker than we think.

Anne examines the starry night and the clarity of Ted's statement.

ANNE

True.

Ted gets up and stretches.

TED

I need to get some rest.

Anne stays seated and watches Ted walk to his tent.

TED (CONT'D)  
 Tomorrow, Anne. I will show you  
 the Board! Our motivation. It's  
 why we are here.

ANNE  
 Board?

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - DAY

ECU: The Survivor's Board.

Ebola Survivor's Board in yellow letters on a blue  
 background reads, "Today I Am Healed. Tomorrow I Return to  
 Heal Another."

Ted taps the Board.

TED  
 This is why we are here. To save  
 lives. To do, good!

Ted grabs Anne's hand and places it over a yellow handprint  
 of a discharged Ebola Survivor.

ANNE  
 Today I am healed.

The sexual tension grows between them as their bodies lean  
 into one another's.

TED  
 Tomorrow I return to heal another.

Ted eyes Anne deeply.

TED (CONT'D)  
 Let's heal those kids.

ANNE  
 That's why we're here.

TED  
 That's one of the reasons.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT RED WARD - DAY

Soe crawls out of her bed. Cautiously, she looks around.  
 Then, she darts to her big brother's bed.

SOE  
 I'm scared.

Sam hugs his little sister as they lie side by side.

SAM  
Shh. I'm here.

SOE  
For how long?

SAM  
Long enough.

SOE  
Where's Mommy and Daddy?

SAM  
Heaven.

SOE  
I want to see them.

SAM  
Not yet.

SOE  
Why?

SAM  
We have each other, right? They're gone now.

SOE  
I miss them.

Sam looks around the strange room full of heavy plastic drapes and bright lights.

SAM  
Me too.

INT. OFF-BASE LIBERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Down a long linoleum corridor is a room where Anne comforts a woman CAREGIVER on the brink of a nervous breakdown.

CAREGIVER  
I watched everyone of them die.  
First the old. Then the young.

ANNE  
How well did you know these people?



CAREGIVER

They were from my village. People  
I grew up with. Now they're all  
gone.

ANNE

You did all you could for them.

CAREGIVER

Did I?

ANNE

It's okay to grieve.

CAREGIVER

I have no tears left.

The woman reaches for a cup of coffee.

CAREGIVER (CONT'D)

Not even for my Sister.

Anne reflects on this.

ANNE

I lost my Sister too.

CAREGIVER

From Ebola?

ANNE

No. From hate.

Anne takes a big sip of her coffee.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Students traverse the Quad on a picture perfect Fall day.

INT. FACULTY ROOM - SAME

Todd pours himself a cup of coffee. Then, he wanders over  
to a chair next to Hank.

TODD

Hank, I failed at what other's  
thought I should be until I found  
teaching.

HANK

Do you think we are really making  
a difference with these kids?

TODD

Sure.

Hank eyes Todd hard.

TODD (CONT'D)

I would say most. But not all.

HANK

I always wanted to teach. But  
anymore I can barely get through  
my lectures.

TODD

Why is that?

HANK

There is no engagement at all.  
It's like I'm not even there.

TODD

Well, the Russian Revolution is  
not for everyone.

HANK

How do you do it? Get them  
talking?

TODD

I treat them like equals. Some  
deserve it. Others don't. But the  
main thing, I never lecture them.  
I begin conversations. And see  
where that goes.

HANK

Any word from Anne?

TODD

No.

INT. TODD'S OFFICE - DAY

Crammed space full of books, papers, and film canisters.  
Todd gazes out a window at colorful trees.

After a moment, he looks down at a photo of Anne.

TODD

I miss you.

Then, Todd returns to grading papers.

One of his students, TABATHA, appears in the doorway.

TABATHA  
Knock. Knock.

Todd looks up.

TODD  
Oh. Hi, Tabatha. Office hours  
aren't until four.

Todd gets up and greets her.

Tabatha comes in.

TABATHA  
I know.

She moves closer into Todd's personal space.

TABATHA (CONT'D)  
Professor, you're so different  
from everyone else.

TODD  
I'm afraid I'm not. So, what's  
this about?

She purrs and whispers into Todd's ear.

TABATHA  
Extra credit.

EXT. HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ellie places her hand in the mailbox and pulls out a  
postcard from her Mother. She runs inside.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Todd catches Ellie as she caroms into him.

TODD  
Hey. What's the hurry?

ELLIE  
A note from Mother!

TODD  
What does it say?!?

Ellie stares at the image of her Mother.

ELLIE  
It's a picture of her room.

TODD  
Read it to me, dear.

Ellie cups the postcard in her hands.

ELLIE  
Okay... Dear Todd, Ellie...

CLOSE-UP: Postcard of Anne in her tent.

ANNE (V.O.)  
And Peter. Here you can see me in  
my room in Liberia. I'm glad I  
have the mosquito bed net because  
there lots and lots of bugs here!  
Once I crawl inside I do not have  
to worry about mosquitoes,  
spiders, or giant beetles! I miss  
you all and cannot wait to see you  
in a few more weeks. I love you!  
Mom. P.S. Met a little Liberian  
girl and boy your ages. They're  
fighting for their lives. I know  
we can help them. Save them.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT — DAY

Team of SCIENTISTS wear yellow hazmat suits. The group  
travels beyond a red line on the floor that marks the  
boundary between the high-risk zone and the low-risk zone.

They move through the...

CHEMICAL SHOWERS then to the...

SECURE ROOM.

Anne removes her headgear and visor.

Ted does the same.

TED  
I think the containment is  
working.

ANNE  
Finally.

Ted washes his hands.

TED  
What are you doing tomorrow?

ANNE  
I'm off. Nothing.

TED  
Let's explore. The beaches here  
are spectacular.

ANNE  
Why not?

EXT. COASTLINE ROAD - DAY

Ted drives an open top Humvee fast along the coastline road high above the Atlantic Ocean. He eyes Anne. Her image reflects off his Ray-Bans.

Anne smiles back.

Then, Ted shifts down to a lower gear, the Humvee's engine ROARS.

Anne HOWLS in delight.

EXT. SHORELINE BEACH - DAY

Vibrant blue water, white capes, and a long pristine sandy shoreline void of people except Ted and Anne. In the distance is their Humvee.

Ted and Anne, in a T shirts, shorts, and shades, walks along the sand.

TED  
Shame we can't swim.

ANNE  
Sharks?

Ted moves closer to Anne.

TED  
More the undertow.

ANNE  
Oh.

Anne turns her head at the last minute.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
We should be getting back. I want  
to see how Sam and Soe are doing.

Ted walks back to the Humvee.

TED  
Okay. Next time.

INT. M.M.U BIO-CONTAINMENT RED WARD - LATER  
A suited up Anne approaches Sam and Soe's beds.  
The small children look so tired and weak.

ANNE  
How's my favorite patients doing  
today?

SOE  
Tired.

SAM  
Hot.

Anne looks at the Nurse #3 covering the ward.

ANNE  
How's their fevers?

Nurse #3 shakes her head.

SAM  
I'm burning up.

Anne grabs a cold rag and towels Sam's face.

ANNE  
Better?

SAM  
Yes. Thank you.

Sam falls asleep.

Anne rubs his back with her gloved hand.

ANNE  
Sleep well. Give the medicine time  
to work.

Anne moves to Soe's bed.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Hi, sweetie.

SOE  
Why does God let good people die?

ANNE  
I don't know.

SOE  
The medicine didn't help my  
parents.

Anne sits on the edge of the bed.

ANNE  
We got to them too late, dear one.  
But your parents saved others...  
didn't they?

SOE  
Yeah, but not themselves. Why is  
that?

ANNE  
Heroes in real life, sometimes  
die.

SOE  
But why?

ANNE  
I wish I knew.

SOE  
Miss Anne.

ANNE  
Yes, Soe.

SOE  
My tummy hurts...

Soe vomits blood all over Anne. She cries and gags on her  
vomit.

Anne takes a moist rag and wipes Soe's face clean.

ANNE  
There, there, baby. Is okay. It's  
going to be okay.

Nurse #3 comes over and helps Anne clean up. She gives Anne  
a worried look through her visor.

SOE  
Promise?

Anne smiles big at Soe.

ANNE  
Yes... I promise.

Nurse #3 uses a towel and wipes Soe's brow.

NURSE #3  
Anne. You better wash up.

ANNE  
I will.

Anne smiles down at Soe.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Get some rest, Soe. I will be back later.

Soe rolls over.

SOE  
Okay.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - NIGHT

Anne sits in a folding chair opposite a NURSE #4 that is struggling to come to terms what she has experienced.

NURSE #4  
They have so little. And this virus strips them of everything. Even their dignity.

ANNE  
We're making a difference. Little Soe and Sam will beat this.

NURSE #4  
I hope so. But there's only three handprints on our Survivor's Board.

ANNE  
That's better than zero.

Nurse #4 starts to cry.

NURSE #4  
There needs to be more.

ANNE  
There will be.



INT. HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Todd and Ellie sits at the kitchen table for lunch. They watch the news on CNN.

NEWS ANNOUNCER

Today, a health care worker from Dallas was transferred to Emory University Hospital in Georgia for treatment after contracting the Ebola virus while helping to treat Thomas Eric Duncan, the first patient to have the disease in the U.S.

Phone RINGS.

The number says, "Mommy."

ELLIE

Mommy!

TODD

Wait. Wait.

Todd holds off his daughter and answers it.

TODD (CONT'D)

Anne?

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - DAY

Anne walks around a tiny circle with her iPhone in hand attempts to get the best coverage.

INTERCUT BETWEEN TODD AND ANNE

ANNE

Hi, everybody!

TODD

Anne, you don't sound good.

ANNE

I'm fine. I just need sleep.

TODD

Well, I'm worried sick.

Anne sees Ted approach with a bottle of wine, holds up her hand, and he backs off.

ANNE  
I don't have much time, Todd. How  
are the kids?

TODD  
Good. I'm not?

ANNE  
What's wrong?

The call drops.

TODD  
I miss you. And there's a student  
that... Anne, you there?

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - NIGHT

Ted approaches Anne.

ANNE  
It cut off.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Todd hangs up.

TODD  
Great talk, Anne.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - SAME

Ted approaches Anne with the wine hoisted high in the air.

TED  
Anne, you need a break.

ANNE  
Okay, but I feel so tired.

Ted reaches into his pocket and withdraws a prescription  
bottle of pills. He shakes the bottle.

TED  
These might help?

Anne grabs the bottle of pills.

ANNE  
Desoxyn?

TED  
Sleep is over-rated. There's work  
to be done.

Anne hands the bottle back to Ted.

ANNE  
Ted?

Ted grabs them back.

TED  
I'm a big boy, Anne.

ANNE  
Be careful.

TED  
I will.

EXT. COASTLINE BEACH - SUNSET

The Humvee parks in the tide as a huge orange sun sets into  
a vast the blue ocean.

Behind the wheel, Ted stares at the murky horizon.

TED  
There it is. Going. Going.

ANNE  
Gone.

TED  
Ready to head back?

ANNE  
I need a swim.

TED  
A swim?!?

Anne heads into the water, takes off her top and pants.

TED (CONT'D)  
What about the undertow.

ANNE  
I will take my chances.

Anne, in her bra and panties, dives in.

Ted hurries into the water to join her.

TED  
Wow! This feels great.

ANNE  
It does.

Ted sheepishly looks around.

TED  
I hope there are no sharks.

ANNE  
Besides you.

Ted swims closer to Anne.

TED  
Duuuunnnn duun... Duuunnnnnnnnn  
dun.

Anne splashes Ted.

ANNE  
Stop that.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A campfire illuminates a still soaking Ted and Anne.

Ted looks beyond the fire, out to the dark ocean.

ANNE  
Survived the undertow.

TED  
I was more worried about the  
sharks.

ANNE  
Yeah.

Anne looks at Ted and smiles.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Ted?

TED  
Yes.

ANNE  
Why did you volunteer for this?

TED  
To drive my folks crazy.

ANNE  
Seriously?

TED  
I am serious. Both my parents are doctors. They work eighty-hours a week, not for the good of it... just for the lifestyle.

ANNE  
No other reason?

TED  
Maybe.  
(clears throat)  
I'm sure your husband loves the idea of you being five thousand miles from home. Why are you here?

ANNE  
Me... I'm here for the beaches.

TED  
Seriously, Anne. You have been acting funny all week.

ANNE  
Yeah, Nine-Eleven. I can never escape it.

TED  
Did you know someone that was killed?

ANNE  
My Sister. My twin.

TED  
Wow. I didn't know?

ANNE  
How could you. She died so young.

TED  
What happen?

ANNE  
Life happens. You go to work one day, and you just don't come back.

TED  
Do you want to talk more about it?

ANNE  
Yes.

EXT. BEACH - LATER NIGHT

Anne rests against Ted as the campfire embers burn low.

ANNE  
Sarah died that morning. I didn't  
even get up to say good-bye.

TED  
Don't.

ANNE  
What?

TED  
It wasn't your fault.

ANNE  
No, I guess not. But... I married  
the man my Sister loved. Hmm, at  
the time, it seemed to be the  
right thing to do.

TED  
Sarah and Todd?

ANNE  
Yes. After she died, we leaned on  
one another to get through our  
days.

TED  
Do you love him?

ANNE  
Yes. As a woman loves the Father  
of her children.

TED  
Anything more than that?

ANNE  
I don't know. There are moments.  
We love our kids.

Anne gets up.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Hmm... Ted, Ted, Ted, Ted.

TED  
What?

ANNE  
Trauma brings out the darnedest  
things.

Ted moves closer.

TED  
Does it.

ANNE  
Let's head back.

TED  
You sure?

Anne gently pushes Ted back. Then, she looks up at the  
star-filled sky.

ANNE  
Perfect setting. Hmm. Now...  
before I do something I will  
enjoy... but regret.

TED  
Okay. We'll go.

Ted chases Anne a bit.

TED (CONT'D)  
Duuuunnnn duun... Duuunnnnnnnnn  
dun.

ANNE  
Grown man that acts like a child.  
Possible Peter Pan Syndrome.

Anne uses her towel to strike him.

TED  
Hey!

ANNE  
Sorry, occupational hazard.

TED  
You must be a lot of fun at  
cocktail parties.

ANNE  
Ted... we're all broken.

Anne eyes Ted.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Just some of us are better at  
hiding it.

TED  
Yeah.

ANNE  
To stay alert. You need to switch  
to coffee.

TED  
I know.

EXT. COASTLINE ROAD - LATER

Ted drives the Humvee in silence with the high beams on.  
Anne is by his side. She tears up.

TED  
Anne? You okay?

ANNE  
Am I a terrible person?

TED  
No.

ANNE  
You sure?

TED  
Yes!

Anne leans on Ted.

ANNE  
Thanks. Sometimes I worry...

TED  
You running away from something,  
Anne?

ANNE  
Yes... Myself.

INT. ANNE'S TENT - LATER

Anne calls home with Ted's satellite phone.

ANNE  
Be home. Please, be home.



SOUND: RING 2xs.

INT. HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Todd's phone RINGS on the kitchen table as he cooks dinner.

TODD

Anne?

INTERCUT BETWEEN TODD AND ANNE

ANNE

Todd.

STATIC starts.

TODD

Whose phone is this?

STATIC gets louder.

ANNE

Ted's. He has a satellite phone.

The call drops on Anne's end.

TODD

Ted's?!? I didn't know he was there.

The call drops on Todd's end.

TODD (CONT'D)

Great.

Peter comes into the kitchen. He wears soccer gear.

PETER

Hey Dad. I'm late for soccer.

TODD

Tonight?

Ellie strolls in.

ELLIE

Dad, can I go to Megan's house?

TODD

Tonight, we are having dinner together.

PETER

Dad, practice.

TODD  
Just a second.

Todd searches for his car keys in the other room.

ELLIE  
Dad! Dinner!

Food burns on the stove top, in the case iron skillet.

Todd re-enters the kitchen.

TODD  
Wonderful.

Todd grabs the hot skillet bare-handed and SCREAMS.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Hot! Damn it, Anne!

Todd tosses the skillet in the sink. BANG!

Peter and Ellie turn and look at another in silence.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Ted.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - DAY

In the Red Zone, a suited up Anne visits Soe and Sam.

Soe's bed is empty. It is made up with fresh clean sheets.

Sam stands like a salute before it. He looks at the emptiness of it, not at Anne.

ANNE  
Soe!?!

SAM  
Gone.

Anne rushes to Sam.

ANNE  
Gone?!?

No nurses are around for Anne to speak to.

Sam stares at the other patients, all fighting off death.

SAM  
We're next.

ANNE  
Did her fever break?

SAM  
No.

Nurse #3 enters the Red Zone. Sees Anne in a panic near Sam. She guides Anne away.

NURSE #3  
Anne, I'm sorry. Soe...

Beyond her visor, tears run down Anne's cheeks.

ANNE  
She was so young.

Nurse #3 nods.

NURSE #3  
She passed this morning.

Anne's knees buckle.

ANNE  
I promised...

NURSE #3  
We did all we could.

SAM  
They tired. But Soe wanted to see Mommy and Daddy more.

ANNE  
Where is she now?

SAM  
They took her away.

NURSE #3  
Anne, you know the protocol.

Sam collapses a bit.

Nurse #3 returns him to his bed.

In a daze, Anne wanders off.

ANNE  
I need to breathe.

Ted appears. He escorts Anne to safety.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Little Soe is...

TED  
Okay. I have you.

ANNE  
I need air.

Anne reaches for her head gear.

TED  
No! You need to decontaminate,  
first.

ANNE  
Can't breathe.

Ted escorts her to the exit.

INT. M.M.U CHEMICAL SHOWER - LATER

Anne stands still as the chlorine shower strays down over  
her. This is when she weeps.

Ted stands beside her.

TED  
Let it all out.

Anne nods.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. TODD'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Todd, in a dark room, stands before his students. White  
lights illuminate his face.

TODD  
Class. Today, is Nine-Eleven.

Todd writes, "9/11/01" on the whiteboard.

TODD (CONT'D)  
A time when most of your were only  
toddlers.

Todd steps closer to his class.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Therefore, today's lecture shall  
come from you.

TABATHA

What?

Todd looks at Tabatha.

TODD

Explain the importance of this date to me as if I'm an alien from outer space. Some one with no emotional attachment. To get you in the proper frame of thought, I crafted a brief montage of that day. Lights! Action!

EXT. TWIN TOWERS - PRISTINE MORNING - 9/11 MONTAGE

Defiant and undamaged, the towers encompasses the sky.

Begins footage of videos from News Agencies and New Yorkers on the streets.

Then, the first plane strikes the North Tower.

EXT. STREET LEVEL - SAME

Amateur video: smoke pours out of the North Tower.

CAMERA WOMAN

Oh, my god. Oh, my god. Oh, my god.

BYSTANDERS scream "No, no, no."

SOUND: SIRENS.

EXT. STREET LEVEL - SAME

Races the first RESPONDERS: police cars, ambulances, fire trucks to The World Trade Center with their SIRENS on.

INT. BREAKING NEWS STUDIO - SAME

Appears a frazzled NEWS ANCHOR behind his desk. Live footage appears over his shoulder. News streams at the Bottom: "A plane has crashed into the World Trade Center."

NEWS ANCHOR

A plane has...

Over his shoulder, a plane flies into the South Tower.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)  
Impossible.

EXT. STREET LEVEL - SAME

Amateur video: flame bellows out of the South Tower. Then, each tower collapses.

WALLA  
No.

New Yorkers' shocked reactions. Disbelief covers the crowd's faces.

Then, a cloud of white smoke rushes down the street like an avalanche of ash.

WALLA (CONT'D)  
Run!

The masses seeks shelter as they run towards the CAMERA.

A white clouds WHOOSH.

Recorded cellphone message starts as the entire screen is a gritty white ash.

FEMALE HOSTAGE (V.O)  
Listen, honey. You've to listen.  
I'm on a plane that has been  
hi-jacked. I don't have much time.  
Tell the girls I love them.  
(tears)  
Tell them, Mommy loves them.

EXT. SOMERSET COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA FIELD - DAY

Flight Ninety-Three crash site.

SOUND: WIPING WIND.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - NEWS FOOTAGE

President Bush addresses the nation.

PRESIDENT BUSH  
Good evening. Today, our fellow  
citizens, our way of life, our  
very freedom came under attack in  
a series of deliberate and deadly  
terrorist acts.  
(MORE)

PRESIDENT BUSH (CONT'D)  
The victims were in airplanes or  
in their offices: secretaries,  
business men and women, military  
and federal workers, moms and  
dads, friends and neighbors.

EXT. 9/11 AFTERMATH - SAME

A twisted metal beam of the remains of the North Tower  
sticks up and out into the sky. At its base, is a memorial  
of sorts, with flowers, cards, and mementos of those who  
perished on that autumn day.

CUT TO CLASSROOM:

INT. TODD'S CLASSROOM - SAME

Todd's montage ends with a photo of Sarah with white text,  
"For Sarah."

His classroom is in utter silence, they have been moved.  
Todd flips on the lights.

DAVID, another student, sits next to Tabatha.

TODD  
David, let's start with you. What  
can we learn from that?

Tabatha stands up and moves to the image of Sarah. She  
touches Sarah's face.

DAVID  
Dr. H. Isn't this your wife?

TODD  
Nope. Her Sister.

Tabatha turns.

TABATHA  
Twins.

TODD  
Identical.

PETER  
Did Sarah die that day?

TODD  
Yes. She did. When the North Tower  
collapsed.

Todd turns.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Her remains like so many others  
that day, were never discovered.

Tabatha tears up.

TABATHA  
Bastards.

TODD  
David... share your thoughts with  
the class.

David sits in silence.

EXT. COLLEGE BAR PATIO - NIGHT

Todd sits alone at a outdoor table. A string of lights  
dangles in the background. As he stares up at the stars, he  
hears.

TABATHA  
Is this seat taken?

TODD  
Be my guest.

TABATHA  
Your montage moved me.

TODD  
Yeah. In a tribute to some one I  
cared about.

TABATHA  
Sarah?

TODD  
Yes.

TABATHA  
What was Sarah like?

TODD  
Very much like you.

TABATHA  
You shouldn't compare people.

TODD  
Why?



TABATHA  
Nothing kills joy quicker than  
comparison.

TODD  
Twain?

TABATHA  
Yup, when you start comparing  
yourself to others. You think you  
are better or worse.

TODD  
Hah. And both of those are ego  
issues.

Tabatha leans closer to Todd's face.

TABATHA  
The reality is everyone has their  
strengths.

TODD  
And weaknesses.

TABATHA  
Walk me home.

Todd struggles for a moment.

TODD  
Not tonight.

Todd laughs.

TODD (CONT'D)  
You find your own way home.

She flirts.

TABATHA  
Too bad.

TODD  
Good night, Tabatha.

TABATHA  
Good night, Dr. H.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - EARLY MORNING

Anne returns from a night shift at a local hospital.

The bus is half full of other medical PERSONNEL. Most are asleep. Not Anne. She stares out as daybreak comes.

Images: Rubble and Ruins.

Fellow Liberian PASSENGER leans over to Anne.

PASSENGER  
Remainders of our civil war.

ANNE  
Wow.

PASSENGER  
Yes. Wow. It battles claimed over  
two-hundred-thousand lives.

Anne watches small children playing in the rumble. Then,  
she see a few carrying blue buckets on their head.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)  
Water. Each day we need to walk  
miles to wells to fill them.

ANNE  
I can't relate.

PASSENGER  
I know.

ANNE  
You have so little.

PASSENGER  
Yes. It's hard to comprehend. But  
things will get better.

The passenger leans back and closes her eyes.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)  
They always do.

Anne leans closer to the window, and sees her own  
reflection.

ANNE  
Why am I here?

Her Sister does not appear. She rests her head against the  
glass window and falls asleep.

BEGINNING OF DREAM  
SEQUENCE:

EXT. WORLD TRADE CENTER - DAY - STOCK FOOTAGE

Against a clear blue sky, American Airlines Flight Eleven from Boston heads to its final destination, infamy.

The plane accelerates as it closes in on the North Tower of The World Trade Center.

SOUND: THE WHINE OF A JET ENGINE.

INT. AIRPLANE - AMERICAN FLIGHT ELEVEN - SAME

Tearful and sicked TRAVELERS hold their heads down as HIJACKERS walk the aisle.

EXT. WORLD TRADE CENTER - SAME

Closer and closer, the jet comes to the structures shiny sun reflecting windows.

SUPER: "September 11th, 2001. 8:44 a.m."

INT. WORLD TRADE CENTER - 95TH FLOOR - SAME

Anne, in business attire, walks down a long line of office cubes. She stops at the last one near the windows that reads, "Sarah Wagner."

ANNE

Sarah?!?

Appears a COWORKER #1.

COWORKER #1

Hi, Sarah!

Coworker #1 disappears into his cube.

Enters COWORKER #2.

COWORKER #2

Sarah?

Anne looks around for her Sister.

ANNE

Where?

COWORKER #2

How about lunch today? My treat. I finally closed the Anderson deal.

Anne looks out the window and sees an airplane approaching the tower. She grabs her coworker.

ANNE

Run!

COWORKER #2

What?!?

The plane draws closer.

ANNE

I said, run!!!

Anne does and races across the floor.

The coworker watches Anne then she turns to the window and sees the nose of an airplane where the sky is suppose to be. She looks puzzled.

COWORKER #2

What the f...

At high speed, it collides into the North Tower.

SOUND: CRASH OF BROKEN GLASS.

IMPACT!

INT. WORLD TRADE CENTER - 95TH FLOOR - SAME

The craft's fuselage plows through the North Tower intact. Then, the hull slows as it grinds to a halt.

Overhead, within it's wreckage, strobes fluorescent tubes, on and off. Each snapshot captures a horrific image of twisted metal, blown out furniture, knocked over file cabinets, and bodies. Lots and lots of bodies.

Here, among them, a single coffee mug lays on its side. Its steamy contents circle the cup.

The cup reads, "I Love N.Y."

Beyond the cup, a pair of black designer stilettos stick out from an avalanche of white fallen ceiling tiles. The woman attached to the shoes appears dead.

Insert a steady AIR SUCKING SOUND, as if the tall building inhales a deep dying breathe.

Instantly, from the far corners of the room a storm cloud of white fine dust begins to obstruct our view as jet fuel GURGLES out from the destroyed plane's tanks.

SOUND: GLUG. GLUG. GLUG. GLUG.

Slowly, Anne stirs. She struggles as she pushes aside the ceiling tiles.

ANNE  
What happened?

Ominously, across the wide floor, an exposed wire BUZZES and SPARKS. Anne sees it.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
No. No. No.

She backs away from it.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
This can't be happening.

The long electric wire dances before her as the aviation fuel ripples closer and closer.

Anne tears up as she watches the wire.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
S-a-r-a-h.

KA-BOOM!

END OF DREAM  
SEQUENCE:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Anne awakes as the bus stops. She stares at her own reflection.

ANNE  
Why am I here, Sis?

MIRROR ANNE  
Only you know the answer to that.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - RED ZONE - NIGHT

Anne checks in on Sam. She sees a Nurse #3 approach.

Sam looks terrible.

ANNE  
How is he doing?

Nurse #3 shakes her head.

NURSE #3  
His vitals are bad. And he's still  
burning up.

ANNE  
How's his blood pressure?

NURSE #3  
Stable.

ANNE  
That's good.

NURSE #3  
It's a bad bug.

Anne sits and grabs a wet sponge to cool Sam.

ANNE  
Yes, it is.

Anne wipes at Sam's face.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I hate that I can't touch him.

NURSE #3  
He's highly contagious.

ANNE  
I know. Still.

Anne sponges Sam's face more.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Keep fighting, Sam. Keep fighting.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL — DAY

Late fall leaves are down and their colorful remains litter the trail. Together Todd and his children enjoy a Sunday afternoon hike.

Peter carries two toy bows across his shoulders and large plastic dagger in one hand. He runs ahead of the others.

PETER  
For Gondor!

TODD  
Go get him Legolas.

ELLIE  
More like Frodo.

Todd laughs and looks down at his child that reminds him so much of his wife, Anne.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Dad.

TODD

Yes, cutie.

ELLIE

Why does Mom always have to leave?

TODD

Work, honey.

ELLIE

I know. But it was my birthday.

TODD

She bought you gifts.

ELLIE

Yes. Like last time. But I just want her here. That's the present I wanted.

TODD

I understand dear. But she is helping others.

ELLIE

I know. But she's never around when I want her to be.

Todd looks down at her and pats her on the head.

TODD

She will be back before you know it.

ELLIE

You think she misses us?

TODD

I hope so.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - RED ZONE - DAY

A suited up Ted watches over Sam. His body fights the disease.

Sam opens up his eyes.

ANNE  
Ted! He's awake.

Ted rushes over.

TED  
Hi, Sam.

Sam stares up at the intravenous.

TED (CONT'D)  
Medicine.

Sam nods and drifts back asleep.

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - RED ZONE - LATER DAY

Anne enters the Red Zone. She passes patients at various stages of the disease. Then, she reaches Sam's bed. It is unoccupied.

ECU: Sam's bed empty with crisp clean sheets.

Anne rushes to it.

ANNE  
No. No. No!

Anne sees no nurses around. She stares at the other patients, all near death.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Not Sam too? Why, God? Why?

Anne weeps and she rests her head against Sam's bed.

Nurse #3 enters the Red Zone. She goes to Anne and gently touches her shoulder.

NURSE #3  
Anne...

Anne looks up.

NURSE #3 (CONT'D)  
We are going to have one more hand print for the Board!

ANNE  
Sam?

Nurse #3 nods.

Anne SHRIEKS! as she pops up.



NURSE #3  
His fever broke this afternoon.

ANNE  
And the Ebola?

NURSE #3  
Gone. The meds worked.

ANNE  
Where is he?

INT. M.M.U. EBOLA FREE WARD - NIGHT

Sam looks much better.

Anne is by his side as his eyes open.

ANNE  
Ted. He's awake.

Ted hurries over.

TED  
Hi, there.

SAM  
Where am I?

TED  
With friends. Do you remember  
getting sick?

Sam looks away.

SAM  
They're all dead aren't they?

Anne fights back tears.

SAM (CONT'D)  
My Mother. My Father. Soe.

ANNE  
Yes.. but you beat it.

EXT. M.M.U. HOSPITAL TENT - DAY

An exhausted Anne emerges from the hospital tent.

Ted approaches her.

TED  
Off duty?

ANNE  
Just now.

TED  
Tired?

ANNE  
I'm beyond that.

Ted smiles hard as he reaches into his pocket.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I don't want...

Ted pulls out his keys and dangles them before Anne.

TED  
One last trip to the beach?

ANNE  
Why not?

EXT. COASTLINE BEACH - DAY

In a S-shape fashion, Ted drives at high speed his Humvee down a pristine beach. As sand kicks up, Anne sticks her head out and HOWLS.

MUSIC like Blind Pilot's We are the Tide plays.

A Ray-Ban wearing Ted looks up at Anne.

TED  
Three-hundred and fifty miles of lush, white shoreline.

ANNE  
This makes me feel alive!

Anne looks down.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
(more to herself)  
Surrounded by so much death, we tend to forget.

TED  
What?!?

ANNE  
About hope! The power of it.

TED  
We saved Sam!

ANNE  
Drive faster!!!

Ted does.

EXT. BEACH - TWILIGHT

The Humvee parks in the tide as a huge orange sun sets into a vast the blue ocean.

Behind the wheel, Ted stares at the horizon.

TED  
There it is. Going. Going.

ANNE  
Gone.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A campfire illuminates a still soaking Ted and Anne.

Ted looks beyond the fire, out to the dark ocean.

ANNE  
Ted.

TED  
Yeah.

ANNE  
Is it odd that I still have conversations with my Sister?

TED  
What do you mean?

ANNE  
I mean. Sarah and I are... were, identical.

TED  
Yes.

ANNE  
So, more often they I would like to confess... I stand in front of a mirror and act like she's still alive.

TED  
What does she tell you?

ANNE  
To let her go.

TED  
Hmm.

Ted grabs a blanket and covers Anne.

TED (CONT'D)  
Maybe that's a good idea.

ANNE  
I know. I just can't imagine my  
life without her in it.

TED  
Anne...

ANNE  
I know... she's already gone.

Ted gets up.

TED  
Time to get you home.

Ted puts his arm around her in a non-sexual way.

TED (CONT'D)  
You okay?

ANNE  
Thank you for listening to me.

TED  
Anne, you listen, and care for  
everyone you meet. Relax... A wise  
woman once told me... Caregivers  
deserve good care too.

Anne perks up.

INT. TENT BARRACKS — DAY

Anne and Ted eats cold MREs.

SUPER: "Thanksgiving, 2014."

TED  
Meals Ready to Eat. Yum.

Ted smacks his lips, reads the label.

TED (CONT'D)  
Diced Turkey Breast with gravy?

ANNE  
Well, the Army really outdid  
themselves with this meal.

Ted grabs a bottle of wine from a table. Then, he pours  
some into two cups.

TED  
Here. Something to wash down the  
roast beast.

Anne laughs, grabs her cup and raises it up high.

ANNE  
Happy Thanksgiving. Cheers.

TED  
So why did you come?

ANNE  
I wanted to make a difference.

Ted eyes Anne.

TED  
Really?

ANNE  
Well, guilt was part of it.

TED  
Guilt? Why?

ANNE  
I don't know. I just is.

TED  
Maybe you should talk to someone.

Anne tosses her rolled-up napkin at Ted.

ANNE  
Not ready yet.

TED  
Hey... I forgot to tell you. They  
found Sam's Uncle.

Anne pops up and gives him a hug.

ANNE  
He still has family!

Ted holds her closer.

TED  
Yeah.

Anne gently pushes him back.

ANNE  
Ted. I know how you feel. But some day you will meet someone who can reciprocate your love.

Ted backs away, grim faced.

TED  
Is that suppose to make me feel better?

ANNE  
No.

Ted turns, EXITS.

TED  
Thanks, Doc. I think.

INT. HOUSE — DINING ROOM — DAY

Glazed turkey on a platter. White table cloth, the works.

Todd sits at the table with two children. He looks hard at Anne's empty chair.

TODD  
Hmm. Ellie. If you want. You can give thanks this year.

ELLIE  
Okay Daddy. I'm thankful for my parents. I'm thankful for having a nice house to live in. I'm thankful for the wonderful backyard we get to play in.

Todd smiles.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
I'm thankful we have food. Because lots of kids don't have as many things as we have.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - DAY

Nurse #3 runs up to Anne.

NURSE #3  
Anne. You have to see it.

EXT. M.M.U. EBOLA SURVIVOR'S BOARD - SAME

Sam places his hand in yellow paint and smacks it against the Board. A new Survivor has been added.

Anne smiles down at Sam.

Approaches Sam's UNCLE.

UNCLE  
Sam would not be here today if it wasn't for all of you. Last month he had Ebola. Today, he does not. God Bless you all.

Anne hugs Sam, who hugs her back.

SAM  
Thank you.

ANNE  
No.

Anne picks him up.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

EXT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT - NIGHT

Anne with her iPhone in hand calls her family. For once the line appears clear.

ANNE  
Hi everyone!

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Todd sees the call comes in from Anne.

TODD  
Hey guys! It's Mom on the line.

He answers it.

INTERCUT BETWEEN TODD AND ANNE

TODD (CONT'D)

Anne?

ANNE

The second team arrives tomorrow.

TODD

That's fantastic.

ANNE

Yes, and finally Sam was released today.

TODD

You saved him. Well done... Now, get your ass on a plane home.

ANNE

Miss me?

TODD

Yes. The rough and the smooth of you.

ANNE

Good.

EXT. M.M.U. - TENT BARRACKS - DAY

NURSE #5 from Team Two unpacks her belongings, as Anne packs up.

Anne holds up a family photo taken before her deployment.

CLOSE-UP: family photograph in their backyard.

Anne places the picture in her sack and leaves. As she does, she nods to the Nurse #5.

ANNE

Good luck.

NURSE #5

Thanks.

Anne walks to the...

SURVIVOR'S BOARD

Anne sets down her bag.



ANNE  
Today I am healed, tomorrow I  
return to heal another.

Anne places her hand over Sam's yellow handprint.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Bye, Sam.

INT. AIRPLANE HANGAR - DAY

Anne waits patiently in a long line of medical professions  
being screened.

Nurse #1 uses the ray-gun-like gun to take Anne's  
temperature.

She looks at the reading.

NURSE #1  
Captain, thank you for your  
service. You're clear to go.

Nurse #1 waves to the next person in line to step forward.

INT. U.N. PLANE - DAY

Anne boards and makes her way to her seat. When she reaches  
it, she looks out one last time at the foreign landscape.

INT. AIRPORT HANGAR - NIGHT

Massive, white lit hangar. Huge American flag drapes down  
from the rafters on the far wall overhead of Todd, Peter,  
and Ellie.

Other FAMILIES gather with 'Welcome Home' signs and await  
their loved ones.

A military band starts up, plays "My Country 'Tis Of Thee."

Peter holds up a, "Welcome Home Mom" sign.

APPEARS a GROUP of doctors, nurses, and one psychiatrist.

ELLIE  
Mommy!

Anne EMERGES from the group and races toward her family.

Peter and Ellie run to Anne.

Anne scoops up her kids.

ANNE  
I have missed you two, so much.

Tears roll down Anne's cheeks.

ELLIE  
Don't cry, Mommy. Today is a happy day.

ANNE  
It is.

She kisses Ellie.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Thanks.

ELLIE  
I love you, Mommy.

PETER  
Hey. What am I?

Anne places her hands on the sides of Peter's cheeks and stares into him.

ANNE  
When was the last time you cut your hair?

Peter stands a little taller.

PETER  
I was growing it long for you.

ANNE  
My little surfer dude.

PETER  
I missed you, Mommy.

Todd watches a few steps back.

ANNE  
I missed you too, Peter.

Approaches Todd.

TODD  
Group hug.

The four huddle together.

ANNE  
Thank you, Todd.

TODD  
You were right to go.

PETER  
Momma's home.

ANNE  
Yes. Momma is.

EXT. MEGA GROCERY STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY  
Anne walks with Peter and Ellie by her side.  
Todd pushes the grocery cart behind them.

PETER  
Can I get more Sugar Snaps?

ANNE  
No.

PETER  
But Dad let me.

Todd looks away.

ANNE  
I'm sure he did. But Mommy is not.

TODD  
Mom's back.

INT. MEGA GROCERY STORE - ENTRANCE - SAME  
The scale of the store's offerings are tremendous.  
Anne acts intimidated by it.

TODD  
Anne, you okay?

ANNE  
Yeah... Wow. I forgot how big this store was.

ELLIE  
Let's divide and conquer!

ANNE  
Great, idea. You two fetch the the  
yogurt and milk.

PETER  
Sugar Snaps?

ANNE  
No.

PETER  
Okay.

TODD  
I'll grab the steaks.

ANNE  
I will get the cake.

They split up.

Peter yells back to his Mom across the store.

PETER  
We need more peanut butter!

ANNE  
Okay! I will grab some.

INT. MEGA GROCERY STORE - PEANUT BUTTER AISLE - SAME

Anne stares at the fifty different options of peanut butter  
all in various sizing.

ANNE  
Let's see. What brand does he  
like?

The magnitude of options combines with her recent trip to  
Africa where there were never any options. This causes an  
anxiety attack in Anne. She has trouble breathing. So, she  
looks around as her heart BEATS faster and faster.

SOUND: BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

ANNE (CONT'D)  
There's so many.

Anne falls to her knees and begins to cry. Everything she  
has held in during her trip to Africa, comes out now.

Todd passes the aisle.

TODD  
Anne! You okay?

ANNE  
We have so much.

TODD  
What's going on?

ANNE  
I don't know.

INT. HOME - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Anne lies on the floor in the darkness.

Todd comes down the stairs and flips on a light.

TODD  
Anne?

Todd sees Anne in the middle of the floor.

Anne doesn't respond.

Todd rushes to her.

TODD (CONT'D)  
You okay?

Todd plays with her hair.

ANNE  
Todd, I feel broken.

Todd helps her up.

TODD  
Come on. Let's have some tea.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A boiling pot on the kitchen stove BLOWS!

Todd removes the pot and pours Anne some green tea.

SOUND: GULG. GULG.

TODD  
What happened?

Anne holds the warm cup in both hands.

ANNE  
I'm scared.

TODD  
You really haven't told me what  
your deployment was like.

ANNE  
I.... I'm not ready too, yet. This  
mission was so different.

TODD  
Okay. Do you think you should talk  
to someone?

Anne laughs.

ANNE  
A psychiatrist?

Anne takes a sip of her tea.

TODD  
What about Callie?

Anne thinks for a long moment as the steam from the tea  
hits her face.

ANNE  
Yeah, Callie. She would  
understand.

TODD  
I will call her in the morning.

ANNE  
Okay.

Todd gives his wife a soft kiss on the forehead.

TODD  
Let me run you a bath.

ANNE  
Thank you.

Todd heads to start the bath. Then, he stops and turns  
back.

TODD  
It's good to have you home, Anne.

ANNE  
It's good to be home.

INT. HOME - ELLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Anne enters her daughter's room.

Ellie reads in bed, under the covers.

Anne tucks her in. Then, she sits on the edge of the bed.

ANNE  
I missed this.

Anne plays with Ellie's hair.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Hmm. You have my Sister's eyes.

ELLIE  
I have your eyes.

ANNE  
Yes. That's what I meant. Good  
night, dear.

ELLIE  
Good night, Mommy.

Anne switches off the light.

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME

Anne, in a night gown, exits the bathroom.

NOTE: huge king-sized bed.

Todd with glasses on reads in bed.

TODD  
How are you feeling?

ANNE  
Better.

Anne slides into bed. She stays on her side.

Todd puts his book down and rolls to her.

TODD  
You sure?

ANNE  
Yes.

Anne kisses Todd on the cheek in the middle of the bed.

TODD

Good.

Todd rolls back to turn off his light.

TODD (CONT'D)

Luv 'ya.

Anne turns off her light.

ANNE

Love you too.

IMAGE: Todd and Anne's vast separation in bed.

BEGINS DREAM  
SEQUENCE:

INT. M.M.U. BIO-CONTAINMENT UNIT — WESTERN AFRICA — DAY

Anne in a yellow hazmat suit travels beyond a red line on the floor. She breaths in and out, heavy and laborious, like Darth Vader.

SOUND: HEAVY BREATHING 3xs.

Anne enters the high-risk zone. She wanders further down the corridor of blinding white. At its end, she finds a patient in a hospital bed. It is Sarah, her twin sister.

Anne hurries to her.

Sarah looks up. She appears infected with Ebola. Her eyes are puffy and red. Her skin is blotchy.

SARAH

Hell of a bug.

Anne removes her headgear and visor. Then, her gloves.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Anne gently touches her Sister's cheeks, as tears roll down her own.

ANNE

Missed ya.

SARAH

Same.



ANNE  
I don't know who I am in the world  
without you.

SARAH  
How's Todd?

ANNE  
He misses you too, but never shows  
it.

SARAH  
Good. And your kiddos?

ANNE  
We were too hard on Mother.

SARAH  
I know.

ANNE  
You don't realize it until you  
have your own.

SARAH  
I will take your word for it, Sis.  
How are you?

Anne tears up more.

ANNE  
Good.

Sarah smiles up.

SARAH  
B-u-l-l-s-h-i-t!

ANNE  
I...

SARAH  
Shh. Give me your hand.

Anne gives Sarah her hand.

SARAH (CONT'D)  
Get in.

Anne crawls into bed with Sarah.

ANNE  
I love you.

SARAH  
I know. So, tell me more about  
your boy and girl.

END OF DREAM  
SEQUENCE:

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Two PEDESTRIANS pass an independent coffee shop and stop  
and peer in through the storefront's glass. They SEE Anne  
and Callie in mid-conversation.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - SAME

Anne and Callie both in workout gear sit and enjoy one  
another's company over coffee.

ANNE  
That's how the dream ends.

CALLIE  
Sarah's death created a void in  
you and Todd's life. You both  
attempted to fill it with one  
another.

ANNE  
Yet, we still don't feel whole.

CALLIE  
None of us fully understand the  
effects trauma and loss plays on  
the human psyche.

ANNE  
I'm beginning too.

CALLIE  
Your panic attacks.

ANNE  
Moments of paralyzing fear.

CALLIE  
You maybe suffering from  
short-term PTSD.

ANNE  
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

CALLIE

Yup. When someone dies that you love. You are suppose to deal with the emotion... with the pain. Your mind is attempting to avoid it. But you must confront it.

ANNE

I'm a hypocrite.

CALLIE

Why? Because, you are human.

ANNE

No. Because, I tell patients to do what I cannot do myself.

CALLIE

Then, do it.

ANNE

Yeah. I must try.

CALLIE

Why did you go to Africa?

ANNE

Because I thought I could help.

CALLIE

Anne. Why did you go to Africa?

ANNE

I told you. Its better to fight the outbreak there.

CALLIE

What was the real reason you went?

ANNE

My Sister and I faced life together for Twenty-Two years.

CALLIE

And?

ANNE

We never imagined life without the other.

CALLIE

So...

ANNE

We had an unspoken pact to always  
care for one another.

CALLIE

When she died suddenly on  
Nine-Eleven, you...

ANNE

Questioned who I was in the world  
without her.

CALLIE

You're suffering from a  
catastrophic loss. It's time to  
properly grieve your Sister's  
passing.

ANNE

Survivor's guilt?

Callie offers Anne a hug.

The two embrace.

CALLIE

Survivor's guilt. Time for you to  
focus on the present. Celebrate  
it.

ANNE

Yeah.

EXT. CAMPUS - LATER DAY

Anne runs through campus. As she turns the corner. She sees  
Todd's building in the distance. She increases her pace.

The Campus' Tower chimes the hour.

SOUND: DONG! DONG! DONG!

Anne hurries across campus.

INT. TODD'S CLASSROOM - SAME

Todd hums Ode to Joy as he wanders into his classroom.

TODD

So what did everyone think of your  
assignment?

DAVID  
Who doesn't love Star Wars?

TODD  
George Lucas states it's a B-Movie  
at best, but why do we love  
watching it?

STUDENT #1  
It's good vs. evil.

TODD  
True. What else?

TABATHA  
It's a mishmash of genres.

TODD  
Like what?

TABATHA  
A Fantasy Film. Based on myths and  
legends, a long, long time ago in  
a galaxy...

THE CLASS  
Far, far away.

TODD  
Yes! Exactly.

DAVID  
It's a Faith Film. With the Force.

STUDENT #2  
And the Old Man who leads the  
Chosen out of the desert.

Anne enters the room a little out of breathe.

TODD  
Hi, Anne. Hmmm. Class. This is my  
globetrotting wife. Anne, this is  
my class.

Anne waves to the class.

ANNE  
Hi.

TABATHA  
She's beautiful.

DAVID  
Congratulations, Dr. H.

Anne looks to Todd.

ANNE  
Were we ever this young?

TODD  
No.

Todd walks the room.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Class, here's your shot. Ask  
Captain Hawke, a question. Before  
she runs off again to save the  
world.

Tabatha sits up.

TABATHA  
What was it like?

Anne looks back at Todd.

TODD  
Tabatha.

ANNE  
Tabatha? Hmm. Pretty girl.

Tabatha shrinks down in her chair.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I'm still coming to grips with  
it... we have so much. They so  
little. Yet, there was a little  
boy I met there who taught me to  
appreciate our lives.

Anne turns to Todd.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Do you have the video I sent you?

TODD  
Sure. Just give me a minute.

Todd goes to his computer and finds the video. Then, he  
plays it.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Here you go. Roll it!

IMAGE: SAM.

ANNE  
This is Sam, one of my Ebola  
patients. I thought he was going  
to die like his Sister Soe. But  
the meds worked.

ON THE SCREEN:

Anne interviews Sam.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Sam. What do you like to do?

SAM  
Eat.

Anne laughs.

ANNE  
What else?

SAM  
Play futbol with my Daddy.

Sam grows quiet.

ANNE  
I know, Sam. I know.

Anne signals, "Cut" and the interview ends.

DISSOLVE TO CLASS:

Anne walks closer to the screen.

IMAGE: Sam by the Board.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Sam now stands before our  
Survivor's Board.

DAVID  
Survivor's Board?

ANNE  
When you're battling a virus as  
bad as Ebola, we lose so much of  
the time. When we win, and a  
patient is cured. Ebola free... We  
ask the survivors to leave their  
handprint on this board before  
returning home.

DISSOLVE TO:  
SURVIVOR'S BOARD

Sam places his gloved hand into the paint, and imprints a yellow handprint on M.M.U's Survivor's Board.

DISSOLVE TO: CLASS

Anne's hand rests over the image of the Survivor's Board.

TODD

See class. Life's truth. The camera can reflect it. Exalt it.

ANNE

That Board shows us that we made a difference. We saved lives. We saved his. Just as my husband is attempting to enrich yours.

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BATHROOM - LATER DAY NIGHT

Anne, before the mirror, brushes her teeth. Then, she SPITS into the sink.

Anne stands in silence. She eyes herself hard, no shorter than twenty seconds. Dead air. She makes funny faces, laughs at herself. Then, she tears up.

MIRROR ANNE

Get your shit together, girl.

ANNE

I will.

MIRROR ANNE

It's time.

ANNE

I will always love you.

MIRROR ANNE

I know. Kiss those kiddos for me.

ANNE

I will. Good-bye, Sis.

Anne wipes away her tears.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I gotta go.

Anne walks out of the bathroom.

Her image still appears in the mirror.



MIRROR ANNE  
Bye, Anne.

EXT. HOUSE BACKYARD - LATER SPRING DAY

Peter's Birthday Party in the backyard.

CHILDREN run about and play games.

In the forefront, in Spring wear, Anne speaks with Callie.

CALLIE  
You okay?

ANNE  
Yeah. Thank you for our talks.

CALLIE  
You're welcome. How are you  
feeling?

ANNE  
Better.

CALLIE  
Good. Any Sarah sightings?

Anne makes a grim face.

ANNE  
Sadly, no.

CALLIE  
It's for the best.

ANNE  
I know. I just miss...

Callie sees some KIDS circling the birthday cake.

CALLIE  
Hey!

Callie SHOUTS to them.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
You scavengers! Get away from that  
cake!

Callie gets up and moves to the table with the cake on it.  
Then, she looks back to Anne.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
You good, Anne?

ANNE  
I'm good. Go, protect that cake.

Callie laughs.

CALLIE  
Momma needs her sugar.

ANNE  
Go.

Callie does.

Anne smiles as she looks around at her family and friends.

QUICK SNAPSHOTS: VARIOUS INTERACTIONS AT THE PARTY.

1. Hank impresses Tabatha with a magic trick.
2. Ellie gives Peter a card and a kiss.

PETER  
Yuck.

Ellie runs off.

Peter chases her.

3. CHILDREN blow huge soap bubbles.

4. Other KIDS dip their hands into containers of various colored paints. Then, they press their palms against a big sliding door window.

Colorful handprints covers every inch of the glass.

ECU: THE HANDPRINTS.

RETURN TO ANNE:

Todd approaches Anne from behind.

TODD  
You good?

Anne leans deeply into him.

ANNE  
I am now.

APPEARS a standing Lieutenant Wall and his young WIFE.

Anne rushes to him.

Todd watches her go.

TODD  
There she goes again... to save  
the world.

ANNE  
Lieutenant?!?

Callie walks up with big piece of cake in hand.

CALLIE  
He wanted to show off his new  
legs.

Anne gives him a big hug.

WALL  
Doc...

ANNE  
Anne.

WALL  
This is my girl.

Mrs. Wall playfully shoves her husband. Then, she shows off  
her tiny diamond ring.

MRS. WALL  
His wife!

Mrs. Wall hugs Anne. She tears up as she does.

MRS. WALL (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Anne.

Anne steps out of the hug.

ANNE  
For what?

MRS. WALL  
I got my man back.

ANNE  
Good.

MRS. WALL  
Ohh! How rude of me. I'm Sarah.  
Sarah Wall.

ANNE  
Hi, Sarah. Thank you for coming.

GUESTS gather around.

Kids blow more soap bubbles and play.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Lieutenant?

Wall looks to Anne.

WALL  
Sir!

ANNE  
You're truly are a lucky man.

WALL  
That I know!

ANNE  
But, are you still fast!!!

Wall eyes Anne.

WALL  
Ready.

Anne eyes Wall.

ANNE  
Set.

ANNE/WALL  
Go!

Anne and Lieutenant Wall burst across the lush green yard.

The GUESTS cheer them on.

Children of various ages chase after them.

Soap bubbles float upwards. The bubbles pass a white long banner that reads, "Healing Hearts can make a difference!"

A big bubble that dwarfs the others drifts beyond the sign.

ECU: a single big bubble contrasts a picture perfect sky.

SOUND: POP!

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END