

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Scott sleeps on the hospital bed. His face is bruised in several places. Kelly sits beside him, rubbing his head. She cries as Scott slowly opens his eyes.

SCOTT
Kelly?

KELLY
I'm right here, Scott.

She grabs his hand.

SCOTT
What happened?

KELLY
You were in a car accident, but
you're going to be alright.

SCOTT
How's Tom?

Kelly doesn't answer and continues to cry.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
What's the matter, Kel? Why
are you crying?

KELLY
I'm sorry, Scott.

SCOTT
What are you talking about? Where's
Tom?

KELLY
I'm sorry. He passed away.

SCOTT
What? Stop talking like that. I
don't believe you.

Kelly kisses Scott on the forehead and leaves the room. When she is gone, Scott covers his eyes and sobs.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - DAY

Tricia Powers is alone in one of the offices. She wanders around the room and looks at the various certificates and newspaper articles hanging on the wall.

All the articles have one thing in common: studies of the brain.

She walks to the window, where a human brain in a jar gets some sun.

DR. HARRIS enters the room and she turns around to greet him.

DR. HARRIS
Mrs. Powers?

TRICIA
Yes.

DR. HARRIS
My name's Dr. Harris. I'm a
neurosurgeon here at the hospital.
Could you come with me please?

They leave the room.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Tricia steps to the back of the elevator as the doors close.
Dr. Harris slides a key into a slot.

DR. HARRIS
There's a lower research level in
this hospital that people don't
know about.

Tricia seems confused, but doesn't say anything.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL HALLWAY - DAY

Tricia and the doctor walk out of the elevator and into a small circular room with three doors. He opens the middle door.

DR. HARRIS
Mrs. Powers, the room we are about
to enter contains your husband.

TRICIA
Why are you keeping him down
here?

DR. HARRIS
Everything will be explained.

The doctor walks in, while Tricia stays at the doorway, hesitant to look inside.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Tricia slowly looks up to see her husband, Paul, lying on a table in the center of the room. He is hooked up to a machine.

Tricia walks to his side.

TRICIA

How is he? Will he be alright?

DR. HARRIS

Mrs. Powers, your husband had a lot of drugs and alcohol in his system tonight. With those factors in mind, when the bullet lodged in his brain, it virtually exploded. With the brain stem intact, he was still able to breathe, but not for very long. I'm sorry, but your husband is brain dead. The only thing keeping him alive is this machine.

Tricia begins to cry. At that moment, a door in the back of the room swings open and three men in suits and sunglasses file in.

They are AGENT DICKERSON, LAWFORD and WINTER.

DR. HARRIS (CONT'D)

They're going to take over from here. This is Special Agent Dickerson, Agent Lawford, and Agent Winter. They will tell you more about the project.

AGENT DICKERSON

Thank you, doctor. Mrs. Powers, your husband has the chance to participate in a very important project for this country. Agent Lawford?

Agent Lawford reaches underneath the table and pulls out several large, sealed plastic bags containing evidence.

AGENT LAWFORD

A gun. A bottle of whiskey. Various drugs. And a suicide note. Your husband tried to kill himself, Mrs. Powers.

TRICIA

I don't understand. He would never do something like that.

AGENT LAWFORD

He obviously held it all in until now.

Agent Winter steps up to Tricia.

AGENT WINTER

The key word is "tried." Your husband "tried" to kill himself. But, with the help of Dr. Harris and years of research, we're not going to let him do it.

TRICIA

I don't understand.

AGENT WINTER

Your husband is a very important political figure. It's our opinion that a suicide attempt would be an embarrassment to his family and the country.

TRICIA

What does all this mean?

AGENT DICKERSON

It means that in return for your authorization, all the evidence you see here will be destroyed and no one will ever know a thing.

TRICIA

But don't people already know he's here?

AGENT DICKERSON

Everything is taken care of.

Agent Lawford hands her a pen and a clipboard with a document.

AGENT LAWFORD

Just sign on the dotted line.

Tricia hesitates.

TRICIA

Wait. Hold on. I want to know more about what you're doing first.

Agent Dickerson motions to Dr. Harris.

AGENT DICKERSON
Doctor, could you bring in Mr.
McCallum please?

Dr. Harris leaves the room and comes back with a man on a
stretcher covered by a white sheet. He wheels him up against
Paul so they are side by side.

Dr. Harris removes the white sheet, revealing Tom.

AGENT DICKERSON (CONT'D)
Mrs. Powers, this is Tom McCallum.
He was in a very bad car accident
tonight. He suffered internal
injuries and died. We would like to
remove his brain and place it in
your husband.

Tricia looks even more confused.

TRICIA
But why would you do that? He won't
be my husband anymore. He'll have
another man's thoughts and
memories.

AGENT DICKERSON
With the help of a new drug, it
will only seem like he's suffering
from amnesia. He won't remember a
thing.

AGENT LAWFORD
He'll be like a child at first, but
eventually he'll be just the way
you remember him.

TRICIA
And what about this other man's
family? Are they in favor of this?

AGENT LAWFORD
His family will never know.

Tricia looks at the clipboard.

TRICIA
How do you know this will work?

AGENT WINTER
We don't. But what do you have
to lose, Mrs. Powers?

Tricia signs the document and hands the clipboard back to Agent Lawford.

AGENT DICKERSON

You made the right decision. Agent Winter will escort you out of the hospital. We have a lot of work to do and not much time. We must start the operation immediately. Mr. McCallum's funeral services must also be prepared. We'll call you when Paul awakens, which won't be for at least a couple of days.

Agent Winter escorts Tricia out of the room.

INT. HUNTER HOME - COMPUTER ROOM - MORNING

It is two days later. Scott wears a suit and sits at the computer. Kelly walks in wearing a black dress. She puts her hand on his shoulder.

KELLY

What are you doing?

SCOTT

I'm printing out another copy of my book.

KELLY

When do you want to leave? We should get there a little early since you're a pallbearer.

SCOTT

I'll be ready in a few minutes.

Kelly leaves the room as the pages start printing.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - VIEWING - DAY

Scott approaches the front of the room where Tom's casket sits. It is surrounded by flowers and the room is filled with mourners.

As soon as Scott sees Tom's face he turns away. He waits a few moments and regains his composure the best he can.

Scott opens an envelope and removes a stack of papers. He walks slowly toward Tom's casket. Once there, he stares at Tom.

Scott can't fight the tears as he places the pages of his book inside the casket with Tom.