

INT. OPERATING ROOM - THREE YEARS AGO

FOUR FIGURES in surgical scrubs and masks huddle over a PREGNANT WOMAN on an operating table. Her face is unseen as her WAILS fill the sterile room.

PREGNANT WOMAN
(screaming)
Stop! Please! Why are you doing
this?

A steady drip of BLOOD trickles from the table and pools around their feet. A drop lands on the foot of one of the figures: DR. JULIET ABBAS (late 40s), stately and refined.

DR. ABBAS
Scalpel.

The BEEPING of an EKG increases in pace.

DR. JONAS (late 30s), wearing WIRE FRAME GLASSES, pleads in a thick accent.

DR. JONAS
We need to slow the hemorrhaging.

DR. ABBAS
Focus on the delivery.

DR. JONAS
We can still save the mother.

DR. ABBAS
Scalpel.

Dr. Jonas places a scalpel into Dr. Abbas's hand. For a split second, the light catches a TINY JADE TURTLE CHARM on her wrist.

Dr. Abbas cuts open a flap on the woman's distended belly. She SHRIEKS in agony. The EKG spikes.

The woman's screams stop.

Dr. Abbas lifts back the flap of skin to reveal the womb.

DR. JONAS
Oh my God.

Dr. Abbas's eyes are wild with excitement. She drops the scalpel which hits the floor with a CLANG.

The others step back in horror.

The EKG FLATLINES.

EXT. ROOFTOP GARDEN - PRESENT DAY

A woman's hands dig in the dirt and yank out a cluster of BRIGHT RED BEETS.

RONNIE VAN DAM (33), a Hitchcock blonde who can never quite manage to get all of the dirt out from under her nails, tosses the beets into a basket and cleans the soil off her WEDDING RING.

She stands and looks across the abundant garden toward a ROOFTOP GREENHOUSE. Past the Brooklyn rooftops, the Manhattan skyline looms in the distance.

INT. CONDO ELEVATOR - SAME

Ronnie holds the basket with both hands. Next to her is a FEMALE NEIGHBOR (28), visibly pregnant. She notices Ronnie looking at her belly. Caught, Ronnie gives a sheepish smile. The door opens and Ronnie walks out with her basket.

INT. CONDO HALLWAY - DAY

Ronnie struggles to carry the overflowing basket to her apartment door. She balances the basket on her hip as she fumbles to open it.

INT. RONNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is sleek and modern. But the enormous kitchen is warm and homey despite its slick, professional grade appliances.

Ronnie plops the basket onto the kitchen counter. A carrot tumbles out and lands on a copy of NEW YORK MAGAZINE. Ronnie is on the cover with the headline "THE QUEEN OF GREEN."

INT. RONNIE'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - LATER

Ronnie has several pots in play on the stove, a conductor at the symphony.

A TV in the kitchen BROADCASTS the PAULA CRUZ SHOW, a syndicated talk show. A very pregnant PAULA CRUZ (early 30s), an earnest former beauty queen, hosts.

PAULA CRUZ (O.S.)
 Today we're joined by Dr. Juliet
 Abbas from the Wellness Group.

The audience APPLAUDS. Dr. Abbas enters and shares an awkward
 hug with Paula. Dr. Abbas seems too dignified for the show.

PAULA CRUZ (CONT'D)
 Welcome back, doctor. We always
 love having you here and you know
 why? Because we love babies!

More APPLAUSE.

DR. ABBAS
 Thank you. I'm pleased to be here.

PAULA CRUZ
 So, you all know all I have to do
 is look at my husband this way--
 (Paula mugs for the
 audience)
 --and the next thing I know, I'm
 pregnant.

Audience laughs.

The mention of pregnancy gets Ronnie's attention.

PAULA CRUZ (CONT'D)
 But you've been helping women who
 have the opposite problem.

DR. ABBAS
 Yes. In my work at the Wellness
 Group, we specialize in treating
 women who have been told it's
 impossible for them to conceive.

Paula shakes her head in exaggerated sympathy.

PAULA CRUZ
 I can't imagine what it must be
 like for those women.

DR. ABBAS
 No matter what else they may have
 in their lives, it's as if there's
 always something missing.

PAULA CRUZ
 That's so sad.

Ronnie hears the front door open.