

# 180 Hours

Written By

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INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

DR. JOHN KITZER operates with two nurses. An alarm goes off.

JOHN  
Oh crap. Shock him!

NURSE 1 shocks the patient. The alarm continues.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Again!

The nurse shocks the patient. A flat line can be seen.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
I'm calling it.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY -- DAY

John, a handsome man in his mid-40s, walks with a slight head strut towards a MAN and WOMAN. They stand. John talks to them. The woman begins sobbing. The man puts his arm around her and nods as John talks. John looks at his watch, smiles assuredly and walks away. He gets on his cell phone.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE -- NIGHT

John backs out of a parking spot in a convertible red Barchetta. A sign in front of the spot has his name on it.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE -- NIGHT

John stops near a hospital entrance. MONIQUE, a 30-ish beauty walks through the doors checking herself in a compact mirror.

INT. RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

John has a cocktail glass half filled with Scotch.

MONIQUE  
You know how much trouble we can get into, don't you?

JOHN  
That's what makes it so much fun.

MONIQUE  
The head of HR in an adulterous affair with *the* Dr. John Kitzer.

John's phone vibrates. He looks at it.

JOHN  
It's her. Shhhh...  
(smiling)  
Hello Amelia.

INT. THE KITZER HOUSE -- NIGHT

AMELIA, John's wife, is on the phone. She is in a large kitchen with a view above the Portland landscape.

AMELIA  
Where are you?

INT. RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

JOHN  
I'm still at the hospital.

AMELIA (V.O.)  
The hell you are. I just called the hospital. They said you left.

JOHN  
I'm alone. Surgery didn't go well.

Monique rolls an ice cube across her chest for John.

AMELIA (V.O.)  
Since when do you break up over a patient's death?

JOHN  
What do you know?

AMELIA (V.O.)  
I know you're with someone.

JOHN  
Whatever. I'll be home in an hour.

He hangs up. Monique frowns.

MONIQUE  
We have to go?

The WAITER arrives with dinner plates. John drains his Scotch.

WAITER  
Is there anything else I can get?

JOHN  
Another one of these.

The waiter nods then leaves. John looks at Monique.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Not until we finish our dinner.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

John is driving looking at Monique. BETHANY, a homeless woman, is crossing the street.

John's car plows into her cart which explodes sending clothes, cans, and cart fragments everywhere. Bethany looks dazed. John screeches to a halt and gets out.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

John runs to Bethany.

JOHN

What the hell you doing?

She stares at him. She wears three layers of dirty clothes.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how much my car is? Are you going to pay for it?

Bethany continues to look at him. John gets closer to her.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you have anything to say? Why don't you go home? Oh, you can't.

John pushes Bethany with two hands and she tumbles backwards. John turns around and kicks a piece of her cart that's left.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

John is dropping Monique off at her car. She gives him a long kiss on the lips.

MONIQUE

See you tomorrow.

EXT. TERWILLIGER CURVES -- NIGHT

John's car drifts into the opposite lane. John is looking at his phone. The lights of an opposing car alert John. He over corrects, takes a sharp right and smashes into a tree.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

John is in a hospital bed. Scratches are visible and his head is in bandages. A NURSE walks in. John opens his eyes.

NURSE 3

Well, hello Dr. Kitzer. Welcome back to life. I'll go get your doctor.

JOHN

What the hell happened?

NURSE 3

You almost killed yourself. Drinking and driving is not a good idea John.

He tries rubbing his head but he is handcuffed to the bed.

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. COURTROOM -- DAY

John sits with his LAWYER. A small bandage is on his head. A JUDGE looks over papers then at John. He and his lawyer rise.

JUDGE

Dr. John Kitzer. You'd think a doctor would know better. Six months probation. Suspended driver's license and 180 hours community service.

The Judge bangs his gavel.

INT. DOWNTOWN SHELTER -- DAY

John is serving soup. There are a few homeless in the room. Suddenly the door opens and a hoard of men and women walk in. One by one they enter. John looks astonished.

He uses a ladle and dishes out soup as each person holds up a bowl. No one talks to him. DENZEL walks by.

DENZEL

Faster. We've got a lot of hungry.

John looks at him and then at the line which is out the door.

INT. DOWNTOWN SHELTER -- DAY

The line is shorter. Homeless are hunched over their soup.

INT. SERVING LINE -- DAY

John continues serving. He looks up and his eyes widen a bit. Bethany is holding up her bowl and smiling.

BETHANY

Hello.

John nods quickly, serves her and looks at the next person.

INT. SHELTER BREAK ROOM -- DAY

John sits with a Coke. DENZEL sits next to him.

DENZEL

So what did ya think?

JOHN

I can't believe all the homeless.

DENZEL

A lot is wasted youth to drugs but there's a number of veterans and others, well, it's their lot in life.

John sits pondering what was said.

INT. SHELTER DINING HALL - DAY

John is in the dining area. Most have left. He sees Bethany playing cards by herself. John walks to the table.

BETHANY

Well, hello. Would you like to sit?

JOHN

Uh, sure.

BETHANY

Thank you for serving us this morning.

John sits. She goes back to playing cards.

JOHN

You were the only one that said hello.  
Are most of the people not friendly?

BETHANY

Oh no. It's not that we aren't  
friendly. For some it's embarrassment.  
Others are too drugged out but most  
assume you won't talk to them.

John takes in what she said.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

So what did you do?

JOHN

Huh?

BETHANY

Why are you here?

JOHN

How... how did you know?

BETHANY

I've been homeless for a long time  
dear. Handsome, sophisticated men  
like you don't volunteer out of the  
goodness of their hearts.

John looks down at his hands. He looks completely humbled.

JOHN

I, uh, I was drinking and driving.

BETHANY

Oh boy. We get a lot of you. No one  
ever comes back though.

(MORE)

BETHANY (CONT'D)

If it weren't for people like you  
there would be no one to serve us.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER -- DAY

Another day - John is more involved even greeted by others.

JOHN

Hi Bethany.

Bethany is standing in front of John holding her bowl.

BETHANY

A round of cribbage after lunch?

JOHN

Of course.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - DAY

John and Bethany are in the middle of playing cards.

BETHANY

So how much longer do we have you?

JOHN

A few more weeks.

BETHANY

We'll sure miss you.

John stays silent.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

John, have you talked to your wife?

JOHN

No, she still refuses to see me.

BETHANY

Well, you almost killed yourself  
John. She almost lost her husband.

JOHN

I think that would have been better.

BETHANY

Why would you say such a thing?

JOHN

There's something else.

John stays silent.

BETHANY

Oh come now John. Spill it.

JOHN

I was with another woman that night.

BETHANY

Oh Dr. Kitzer. You're such a cliché. The powerful handsome doctor with the beautiful faithful wife and the gorgeous young thing on the side.

John looks embarrassed.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

How do you think I ended up here?

John looks confused.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

My father cheated and my mother kicked him out. He never came back. Ran away with that woman. Mom was never the same. Boyfriend after boyfriend. After the first guy touched me I was out of there. I was only 15.

(pause)

Now how's a 15 year old girl supposed to get along in the world?

John stares at her as they play. She focuses on her cards.

INT. SHELTER OFFICE -- DAY

Denzel sits at a desk. John walks in.

DENZEL

Hello John. Thanks again for all your involvement. The folks seem to really like you. Especially Bethany.

JOHN

Who gives these people check ups? What if someone needs surgery?

DENZEL

No one gets check ups. If there's an emergency that's why you pay taxes.

JOHN

I want to start a clinic.

DENZEL

We are not flush with cash, John.

JOHN

I'll volunteer and tap into my hospital. Is there other funding?



DENZEL

John, I am impressed. I thought for sure you'd be in and out and gone. I'll make some phone calls.

INT. SHELTER STORAGE ROOM -- DAY.

DRAKE sits on a make shift exam table. John examines him.

JOHN

OK Drake. I don't think the rash is much to worry about. I will try and get an ointment for you this week.

DRAKE

OK Doc.

JOHN

And don't itch it.

DRAKE

I won't. I'll come by Tuesday.

John opens the door. Bethany and Denzel are waiting for him.

JOHN

Hi Bethany. Come on in.

DENZEL

John, a moment.

Drake leaves. Bethany walks in. John walks out.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER DINING ROOM -- DAY

DENZEL

John, the clinic costs too much.

JOHN

How can we stay open?

DENZEL

Find a donor. A generous donor. That's how it should be done, anyway.

INT. SHELTER STORAGE ROOM - DAY

John walks in and greets Bethany.

JOHN

Bethany, what brings you in?

BETHANY

John, I just don't feel well lately. I keep getting stomach cramps.

JOHN  
OK, lie back on the table. I'll palpate your stomach.

BETHANY  
You'll what?

JOHN  
(laughing)  
I'm going to check your stomach.

John lifts her shirt and his hand is seen pressing on Bethany's stomach. Her skin has a yellow tinge.

BETHANY  
Ouch. That's tender.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE -- DAY

John is in the office of DR. MALCOLM REES, hospital president.

MALCOLM  
Believe me, I am impassioned just seeing the very welcome change in you. But we can't afford to pay for every homeless person in Portland.

JOHN  
Just blood work Malcolm. This lady. Bethany. She has become my world.

MALCOLM  
Ok John. This is it. We'll pay...I'll pay for it myself. Get her in here and we'll do the blood tests.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Bethany is lying in bed. John enters and sits next to her.

JOHN  
It's not good Bethany. Your blood work... X-rays found something too.

BETHANY  
Just be straight with me John.

JOHN  
You have cancer and need surgery.

BETHANY  
Well, how is that going to happen?

JOHN  
I'll do it and I'll pay for it.

She looks at him lovingly. She touches his face.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

John is operating and suddenly stops.

NURSE 1

What's going on doctor?

JOHN

I'm closing her up. We're done here.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Bethany is awake but looks tired and not well. John enters. He says nothing. Bethany looks at him with pleading eyes.

JOHN

I didn't do anything. The cancer has spread. There's nothing else...

BETHANY

(smiling)

It's OK John. Dr. Kitzer.

JOHN

I don't know how much time you have left. I'll do everything....

The two sit in silence.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It was me.

BETHANY

What was you?

JOHN

I hit your cart. I pushed you. I pushed you on the ground Bethany.

BETHANY

I know.

John sits sobbing. He suddenly realizes what he heard.

JOHN

You knew?

BETHANY

From the moment you filled my bowl.

JOHN

But you never said anything.

BETHANY

I forgave my father for a lot more and a long time ago. You were a stranger. I forgave you that night.

JOHN

I destroyed everything you had. I almost hit you. I pushed you!

BETHANY

John, have you seen your wife?

JOHN

No. No I haven't.

BETHANY

Go to her. Tell her what you've done. Ask for her hand back.

JOHN

OK, ok, I will.

BETHANY

Now John. Stop hiding. Go now.

EXT. GRAVE SITE -- DAY

A small crowd of homeless stand in the rain. John, Amelia, and Malcolm are under a canopy. ALEX is there as well.

PASTOR

He who hides his transgressions will not prosper. He who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

EXT. GRAVE SITE -- DAY

PASTOR

...in Your name we pray. Amen.

The rain has stopped. John stares at Bethany's coffin. Amelia tugs him and the two turn around. Malcolm walks with them.

MALCOLM

She was a special woman, John.

AMELIA

In more ways than one.

John sheepishly smiles.

MALCOLM

I am really proud of what you were able to accomplish. I'm sorry there's no funding and we can't do more.

Malcolm turns and walks away. John looks at Amelia.

ALEX (O.S.)

Dr. John Kitzer?

John turns. Alex does a slow trot extending his hand.

ALEX

I'm Alex Cranston. Bethany's power of attorney. I've known her for years. I'm guessing you didn't know everything about Bethany.

JOHN

I know some.

ALEX

She was actually quite well off.

JOHN

Huh?

ALEX

Bethany's father willed her a large sum of money. She never used it.

JOHN

What? Really? What are you saying?

ALEX

Bethany came by my office a week or so ago. That's when I first learned she didn't think she had much time. She has willed all of her money to you on condition it goes towards a medical clinic for the homeless.

JOHN

I, I don't know what to say.

ALEX

There's more than \$5 million.

John's mouth opens. His eyes fill with tears.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Here's my card. Call me or come by this week. We'll go over the details.

John reaches out for the card. Still saying nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You made quite an impression on her.

JOHN

She made quite an impression on me.

ALEX

So I hear.

Alex leaves. John turns once last time at Bethany's casket. The handful of homeless can be seen.

DRIFTING AWAY SHOT OF SCENE