

ORDERS FOR A DOCTOR

16-DE03-W14

An elderly patient becomes a father-figure to a young doctor and is determined to find him a wife if it's the last thing he does.

FADE IN:

Clouds. White. Fluffy. The clouds open up to reveal...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Texture on the ceiling. JED, 89, in bed. Stares up. Door opens. Noise from outside, the door closes. Silence.

DAVID (O.C.)

Mr.--

DAVID CONRAD 30's, as handsome as an over-worked man who hasn't been touched by sunshine in forever could possibly look. Studies the chart in his hands. Eyes down on the chart.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Jones. You say your heart's beating too slowly?

JED

It's really quiet.

DAVID

Hearts can beat quietly.

JED

I meant in this room.

DAVID

It's a hospital.

JED

But it's really noisy out there.

DAVID

It's a hospital. Your complaint is--

JED

I'm not complaining. My father always said-

David flips the page roughly on the chart. Stops Jed's words.

DAVID

You're tired. Heart palpitations.

JED

Yes. Beating strangely. Very tired.

DAVID

Well, you are eighty-nine.

JED
And a half. What's your point?

DAVID
You should feel tired at your age.

JED
Didn't feel tired yesterday.
And today my heart beats oddly.

David takes his stethoscope. Opens Jed's gown. A GOLD CROSS.

JED (CONT'D)
It was my father's cross.

David gentle moves it. Puts the stethoscope on Jed's chest.

JED (CONT'D)
It's going beat..beat.....beat--

DAVID
Shhhh.

JED
Beat.

David stops. Writes in his chart.

JED (CONT'D)
It looks like heaven.

DAVID
What looks like heaven?

JED
The ceiling.

DAVID
Never looked up. I'll order tests.

JED
You should.

DAVID
I know what test to order.

JED
I meant... look up.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

KIT 30, pretty in scrubs, takes Jed's vitals.

JED
So what's the story on doc?

KIT
He's the finest, most dedicated--

JED
Family man?

KIT
Doctor.

JED
Married?

KIT
To his job. You're in good hands.

JED
Just wanted to know that he was in
good hands.

She pats him on the hand. He looks at her hand. No ring.

JED (CONT'D)
It looks like heaven.

She looks at him puzzled. He points up to the ceiling.

KIT
(looks up)
Why, it does look like heaven.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

David stands in front of Jed's bed. Studies his chart.

JED
You need a wife.

DAVID
Excuse me?

JED
You need a life.

DAVID
This is my life. The tests came
back negative. You're fine.

JED
No! Listen to my heart.

David takes his stethoscope. Gently listens to his heart.

JED (CONT'D)

You have gentle hands. You'd make a good father.

DAVID

Shhh.

JED

So you don't have a family?

DAVID

No. Shhh.

JED

You should have a family.

DAVID

I'll order another test just to make sure.

JED

Make sure the heart still works?

DAVID

Right.

JED

Right

DAVID

Who are we talking about?

JED

So, no sis? Bro? Mom? Pop?

DAVID

No. No. No. And no.

JED

Everyone has a mother and father. Were you a lab experiment?

David laughs, a little.

DAVID

My parents didn't want me. I grew up in the foster system.

JED

And your foster parents?

DAVID

Some wanted me, some didn't. To be fair, I wasn't always a good kid. I never listened. I knew it all.

JED

You're still kind of a know it all.

DAVID

Right. So be quiet. Besides, I don't see anyone here with you. What? No sis? Bro? Son?

JED

Dead. Dead. And God didn't give me the gift of a son.

DAVID

I'm... I'm sorry.

JED

Me too. But look at you, you turned out to be a great doctor.

DAVID

If you say so.

JED

My pretty and single nurse says so.

DAVID

Kit? Are you trying to set me up?

JED

No, I'm trying to get you a wife.

DAVID

I'm perfectly fine the way I am. Good night Mr. Jones.

JED

You can call me Jed.

DAVID

And you can call me... David.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

David stands with his tray, sees Kit. Walks up to her just as two nurses rush up and sit next to her. David keeps walking.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

David reads the chart. Always looks down.

JED

How did it go with Kit? Take a chance on love?

DAVID

That's a song.

JED

Look at that, the boy knows music.

DAVID

I'm fine this way. I love my work.

JED

Have you ever loved something or someone besides your work?

DAVID

That's a little personal.

JED

Every told someone you loved them?

DAVID

And that is really personal.

JED

My father always said-

DAVID

You need to rest.

JED

No, that's not what he would have said. Kit is pretty.

DAVID

Didn't notice.

JED

You need to look up to notice. Ask her out for coffee. If she isn't your type I know the perfect girl.

DAVID

Perfect would be you not telling me what to do. You need to stop--

He looks up from the chart. See's the love in Jed's face.

DAVID (CONT'D)
And I drink enough coffee. Good
night, Jed.

JED
Good night, David.

David opens the door.

JED (CONT'D)
I'm going to find you a wife it's
the last thing I do.

David smiles, a little, closes the door.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

David stands with a tray. Spots Kit. Walks to her table.

DAVID
Hi. I, uh, wanted to--

NURSE (O.S.)
Kit! I can't believe it!

Three nurses rush up to Kit.

SECOND NURSE
Let's see it!

Kit holds out her hand. A ring shines. David stands there
tray in hand. Kit becomes aware of him.

KIT
What is it you wanted?

Kit and the other nurses look at him. Silence.

DAVID
I...I heard you got engaged. I
wanted to say congratulations.

EXT. HOSPITAL GARDEN - SUNSET

Jed sits on a bench watching the sky.

DAVID (O.S.)
Getting some fresh air?

JED
It's nice to feel the sun.

David sits down next to him.

JED (CONT'D)
Something you could use a little
of. Every heard of a tan?

DAVID
I like the hue fluorescent lights
give my face. You have to stop
telling me what to do.

JED
So it didn't go that well with Kit?

DAVID
How did you know?

JED
Your face.

DAVID
It's sunlight. My face is in shock.

JED
I know this girl. Agnes--

DAVID
Agnes? Really? Is she like eighty?

JED
Agnes Grace. The grace part is
good. Don't resent me for wanting
to help you. My father always said-

DAVID
You look tired.

JED
Once again not what he said.

David looks at his watch, gets up.

DAVID
Time to check on-

JED
Some broken hearts? Thanks for the
visit. This is our first unofficial
visit. It was nice. No charge?

DAVID
No charge. And yes, it was nice.

JED
Make me a promise?

DAVID
I charge when it's official.

JED
No. It's my ninetieth on the first.
Have a toast with me. Noon.

DAVID
I don't drink.

JED
Coffee? You might even have fun.

DAVID
I... I think I'd like that. I'll
give you a call. We can meet up.
Unless you're still here then I
won't have to drive far.

JED
I won't be here.

Something in his tone catches David by surprise.

DAVID
Then you will be home.

JED
Yes, I will be home

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

David at his desk. A knock. He looks up, Kit stands there.

KIT
Jed... Mr. Jones... he asked for
you.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Jed lays in bed, eyes closed. David sits by him. Studies the
old man's face. David looks up to the ceiling. Smiles.

JED (O.C.)
It's time for me to go.

DAVID
Shhh.

JED
You shush a lot.

Jed takes a struggled breath. David gets up hurriedly.

JED (CONT'D)
You've read my chart a hundred times, you know I'm DNR. Sit down.

DAVID
(he sits)
I need to help you. I'm a doctor-

JED
I don't need a doctor. I need you.
I need you to stay with me. Please,
David. It's time for me to go.

DAVID
You can't go, you haven't found me
a wife yet. It's the last thing you
have to do, remember? Jed, let me-

JED
Just be here with me.

DAVID
I'm sorry.

JED
You have nothing to be sorry about.

DAVID
No, I'm sorry God never gave you a
son.

JED
Sometimes God just takes a little
longer to give you his gifts.

DAVID
Are you... are you afraid?

JED
No. Not at all. David, listen to
me, don't be alone. Don't let your
heart be filled with resentment. Be
brave enough to love. To listen.

DAVID
All those foster fathers, a few,
really tried to help me, but...

JED
You just wouldn't listen.

DAVID
I will now. Don't go. I finally
found someone that I...

JED
It's okay, David, you can say it.

DAVID
I love.

JED
You, my son, are a delight.

David smiles, takes Jed's hand.

DAVID
I never thought I'd hear that.

JED
You are a delight?

DAVID
No. My son.

David leans in and kisses the old man on the forehead.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Tell me, Jed, tell me what your
father always said.

Jed gives a weak smile.

JED
Don't be afraid my son. You will be
a good father.

David lays his face against Jed's chest. Hears his heartbeat.

DAVID
And so you are. And I am here.

David's arms wrap around Jed. We hear two heartbeats. Then
slowly, one fades away.

EXT. CEMATERY - DAY

David stands at a grave. Looks down at his watch. Noon.

DAVID
Happy Birthday, Jed.

WOMAN (O.C.)
Was he a friend of yours?

David looks up to see a WOMAN, 30, a smile that stops time.

DAVID
He was like a father to me.

WOMAN
I'm so sorry. I used to work for him. He sent me a note with an address and told me to be here today at noon to celebrate his ninetieth. I didn't know what this place was till I got here. It's odd, how could he have known? Oh, and I'm to give you this.

She opens her hand to reveal the GOLDEN CROSS.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
He said it was, and is, to be passed from father to son.

David takes it. Smiles. Puts it in his pocket

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Did you ever notice, how the ceiling in his room looked like-

DAVID
Heaven.

He puts out his hand.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm David.

She takes his hand. They hold hands.

WOMAN
I'm Agnes Grace.

DAVID
Agnes Grace. That's a beautiful name. Agnes Grace, would you like to get a cup of coffee with me?

AGNES GRACE
Yes. I think I would like that.

FADE OUT

