

SCENE NINE - June 22nd, Afternoon

SARA ENTERS her office, crossing directly from the lower level. She slips on a white coat, picks up a file folder. LIGHTS RISE.

The SOUND OF A COMMOTION occurs offstage. The door bursts open. WREN ABERNATHY and PAT WEEMS ENTER.

WREN
Oh, it hurts. It hurts.

PAT
Dr. Murphy!

WREN
Please, make it stop hurting.

SARA
What happened?

Sara rushes to help Wren into a chair.

PAT
She came in like this. Don't know how she managed to drive.

WREN
Help me, please. It hurts.

SARA
(to Wren)
Tell me what's wrong.

WREN
I lost the baby...

SARA
You shouldn't be in this much pain.

WREN
Help me, please....

SARA
Did you take any medication? Wren, did you take any drugs?

WREN
No...

SARA

(to Pat)

Get me two CC's of M-S-Oh-four, stat.

PAT EXITS

Wren continues to groan and cry.

SARA (cont)

Wren, listen to me. Let me look at you. Put your hands down. I need to see what's going on.

PAT RE-ENTERS with a syringe and bottle.

WREN

Please, make it stop.

SARA

Hold still. Let me have your arm.

Sara gives her an injection.

WREN

Oh, god. Please, oh, god.

SARA

You should feel better in a few minutes. This stuff works pretty fast.

WREN

Oh, god it hurts.

SARA

Pat, get the wheelchair.

PAT EXITS.

SARA(cont)

Let me have a look. Wren, get your hands out of the way.

Wren manages to drop her hands. Sara looks into her eyes, feels for the pulse in her neck.

WREN

Doctor, it hurts in my abdomen.

SARA

I know. I know. When did it start?

WREN

This morning.

SARA

All of a sudden, or did it get worse little by little?

WREN

All at once.

PAT RE-ENTERS with a wheelchair.

SARA

We've got to move you into the chair.

Wren tries to rise, is wracked with pain.

WREN

Ah! No, that hurts.

SARA

Get her arms. I'll get her legs.

They lift her into the wheelchair.

WREN

Ah! Oh. Oh.

SARA

Easy, easy.

WREN

Please...

Sara steps back. Her hands and clothes are covered in blood.

SARA

Oh, my god. Oh, my god. This is not a spontaneous abortion.

(to Pat)

Call an ambulance. We've got to get her to the ER.

WREN

No! Not the hospital. I can't go to the hospital.

SARA

You have no choice.

WREN

They'll find out.

SARA
Find out what?

WREN
I tried to get rid of it.

SARA
Some doctor butchered you like this?

WREN
I did it myself.

SARA
Sweet Jesus.
(to Pat)
We'll take her down to treatment and do what we can.

PAT
We should call the ambulance.

SARA
Not yet.
(to Wren)
Tell me how you did it.

WREN
I feel a lot better.

SARA
That's the morphine. You're still bleeding.

WREN
Am I gonna die?

SARA
Don't worry. I'll help you.

WREN
Please, doctor. You got to. Don't let anybody know.

SARA
Nobody's going to hurt you. But we have to stop this bleeding.

DR. GRAHAM ENTERS with Chinese take-out.

GRAHAM

You wouldn't believe the line at... oh, shit.

SARA

She came in like this. We have to help her.

GRAHAM

Call an ambulance.

SARA

There's no time. She's bleeding out.

GRAHAM

Right, okay. Pat, get her down to treatment. Don't touch her until you put on a smock.

WREN

Doctor Murphy...

SARA

Go on now.

PAT EXITS pushing WREN in the wheelchair.

GRAHAM

Clean up. I'll prep the patient.

Dr. GRAHAM EXITS

Sara stands covered in blood. She goes behind the curtain and we hear the SOUND OF RUNNING WATER. She returns with a towel, kneels down and starts mopping up the blood.

GRAHAM RE-ENTERS, wearing gloves and a latex surgical smock.

GRAHAM

What are you doing? Leave that. Sterilize yourself. Put on a gloves and a smock.

SARA

She did this to herself...

GRAHAM

And she did a lousy job of it. She has severe lacerations in her uterus. We'll have to dilate her to stop the bleeding.

SARA

Okay.

GRAHAM

She should be at the hospital.

SARA

I know.

GRAHAM

She should never have been here at all.

SARA

Liz, please. This is not the time for "I told you so."

GRAHAM

From now on you're going to listen to everything I say and do everything I tell you.

SARA

Yes, fine. Okay.

GRAHAM

For god's sake, SARA. Put down that towel. We can only hope she hasn't infected you already.

SARA

No, I don't think...

Sara goes behind the screen.

GRAHAM

Once we stop the bleeding we'll call an ambulance and get her over to Mercy. Then we'll have to call our lawyers and the police. Damn!

Sara comes out, still in a daze.

SARA

Liz, I'm sorry.

GRAHAM

Just scrub up!

GRAHAM EXITS. Sara stands dumbfounded.

LIGHTS FADE

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO
SCENE TEN - June 25th, Morning

LIGHTS RISE on SARA in her office.
LOUISE sits across from her.

SARA

After the examination, I did not see her again until she came back.

LOUISE

At that first examination, did you discover that she was pregnant?

SARA

No, I took samples and sent them to the lab.

LOUISE

And you never advised her to have an abortion.

SARA

Of course not. We both told her she would have to have the baby.

LOUISE

So you did know she was pregnant.

SARA

Under the circumstances, the most likely diagnosis...

LOUISE

When did you know for sure that she was pregnant?

SARA

We never did, to a medical certainty.

LOUISE

Okay, that's good. When the police ask you in the interview, say you didn't know. Why would you think otherwise?

SARA

She told me she had missed two periods. A healthy woman not on the pill...

LOUISE

Never say anything like that. Simply say you didn't know. It's the truth, because you didn't have the results back from the lab.

SARA

Okay.

LOUISE

Let's go over it again. She came in without an appointment, had missed two periods, you took samples and sent them to the lab.

SARA

Yes.

LOUISE

They will ask, "Did you think she was pregnant because she missed two periods," and what will you say?

SARA

Amenorrhea can be caused by a number of things. We didn't know anything for sure without results from the lab.

LOUISE

Excellent. By the way, the more you use complex medical terms the better. What happened to the samples?

SARA

The lab had them. We hadn't seen the results.

LOUISE

Great. Have you seen them since?

SARA

With everything in chaos, I never checked.

LOUISE

Perfect. She could have been pregnant or not, you didn't know. The next time you saw her was when she came in sick.

SARA

She came in, in pain. I gave her a painkiller, wheeled her to the treatment room...

LOUISE

The room down the hall.

SARA

Yes.

LOUISE

She was in this room first...

Louise looks through the file on her lap. She continues searching during the following dialogue

SARA

Yes, in here. She came in bleeding and in pain...

LOUISE

I don't have an inventory for this room.

SARA

They closed the whole office for two days. Took pictures of everything, dusted for fingerprints, shined a blue light everywhere...

LOUISE

Luminal. It helps them find traces of blood. I assume they found a lot.

SARA

Probably not. We cleaned it up.

LOUISE

Before the police came?

SARA

This is a clinic, a sterile area.

LOUISE

You destroyed evidence.

SARA

That never crossed my mind.

LOUISE

Did they question you about that?

SARA

They questioned me about everything.

LOUISE

I'm sure they did.

SARA

You told us not to say anything at all.

LOUISE

And you didn't.

SARA

Not a word.

LOUISE

Good.

SARA

It clearly annoyed them, especially the detectives.

Louise stops searching the file.

LOUISE

No, I don't have an evidence list for this room. If they withheld it, that's grounds for dismissal right there. Do you know, did they find any blood?

SARA

No, I don't.

LOUISE

If they did that confirms your story. I'll check. You said they went through everything. Did they open any files?

SARA

Not that I noticed.

LOUISE

The Fourth Amendment still protects medical records. If they looked at anything from your files, other than... what's her name... uh, Wren Abernathy... if they looked at any files but hers, I might be able to get all evidence excluded as part of an illegal search.

SARA

Let me get this straight: medical records are protected, but not a woman's medical condition?

LOUISE

The Supreme Court has a dozen cases pending on that very issue. It takes time for them to work their way through the system. Let's get back to the events here. You said that the patient, Ms. Abernathy, came in bleeding and in pain.

SARA

She told me she tried to self-abort.

LOUISE

You knew nothing about that until she told you. I mean, there's no way she can say she had an abortion here.

SARA

We performed a dilation and curettage when she came in bleeding. That would have aborted any pregnancy, if there was one.