

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM OF CLINIC - AFTERNOON

SHEILA IBRAHIM (40) sits on a table in an examination room of a medical clinic. She appears panic-stricken and, though she has a kind face, she is clearly very worked up. She talks a mile a minute as NURSE JENKINS (40s), checks her weight on the scale.

Nurse Jenkins is new at the clinic, but very good at her job.

DR. JOHNSTON (35-40) enters the room. He looks up from his clipboard to see Sheila sitting there and lets out an audible SIGH as if to suggest that she is a patient who comes in often. Dr. John is a good, meticulous Doctor, but he has a terrible bedside manner and lacks empathy.

DR. JOHNSTON

I thought I told you not to come back until you lost some weight.

SHEILA

I have, doctor. I just don't think for the right reasons.

DR. JOHNSTON

Ugh fine, let's get this over with. What can I help you with Sheila?

Dr. Johnston takes the chart away from Nurse Jenkins hand. Nurse Jenkins keeps quiet. He points to the stethoscope around her neck.

DR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

Remember, I'm the doctor. Nurse Jenkins gives them back to him.

NURSE JENKINS

Sorry doctor.

DR. JOHNSTON

Come on, Sheila. I haven't got all day.

SHEILA

I have trouble sleeping, tight back, and I've missed several periods.

He jots down a few notes on his clipboard.

DR. JOHNSTON

Those are side effects from your anxiety meds which clearly aren't working too well.

SHEILA

What about my abdominal pain?

DR. JOHNSTON

What about some light running?
Nurse Jenkins looks very
uncomfortable.

SHEILA

Okay. I guess I can -

DR. JOHNSTON

You're getting older. Your body is
changing. You can't expect to feel
nineteen forever.

He lets out a laugh. Sheila smiles back, uncomfortably.

DR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

Continue taking your prescription
meds until your next refill and in
a few weeks we can change to a
brand with less side effects. Until
then, lets see how we go. Okie
dokey?

SHEILA

But I read an article online that
it -

DR. JOHNSTON

Congratulations, you can read.
Sounds like you got it all figured
out. Why are you wasting my time?

SHEILA

I didn't want to waste your time. I
wanted to see if there were any
natural remedies -

DR. JOHNSTON

You women and your fancy remedies!
If I prescribed essential oils to
all my patients, I'd have no
patients left!

Sheila and Nurse Jenkins look at each other like "isn't that
a good thing?"

DR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)
Because they'd all be dead! I know
all you bored housewives believe
MLMs can save the world but your
patchouli and lavender oil won't
help you. You have to lose that
extra twenty pounds that sits
around your waist.

Sheila is stricken with a singing wave of pain in her abdomen
and she gets into a half fetal position and moans.

SHEILA
Please, doctor, I'd really feel
more comfortable if you ran a few
tests, any tests. I'm really
starting to get worried.

DR. JOHNSTON
If you were in a state of
emergency, you wouldn't be able to
speak in full sentences. Stop being
so dramatic. (to nurse Jenkins) No
need for diagnostic imaging. Get
her some pamphlets on menopause.
She's at that age after all.

He angrily gives her back the chart and quickly leaves the
room.

NURSE JENKINS
I'll be right back, Sheila.

INT. DR. JOHN'S OFFICE - LATER

Dr. John is finishing up for the day, quickly packing up his
things to leave the office. There is a KNOCK on the door and
Nurse Jenkins barges in, not waiting for a response.

NURSE JENKINS
I'd like to speak with you about
Sheila's diagnosis.

DR. JOHN
Excuse me, you can't just barge in
here.

NURSE JENKINS
She's only forty, menopause is not
the only answer here. She has the
exact symptoms my mother had when
she was diagnosed with ovarian
cancer.

(MORE)

NURSE JENKINS (CONT'D)

You should prescribe some tests! At the very least an ultrasound!

DR. JOHNSTON

Do you know the difference between a doctor and a nurse? Mhmm?

NURSE JENKINS

Now, I have a lot of exper-

DR. JOHNSTON

You are still a simple nurse. I call the shots. Know your place.

NURSE JENKINS

This has nothing to do with you or me. This is about someone's life. It was too late for my mother but it might not be too late for Sheila.

DR. JOHNSTON

Enough with the theatrics. Sheila is just another hypochondriac. We are NOT wasting resources on her. Understood?

Dr. Johnston leaves shutting off his office light while sarcastically clapping.

Nurse Jenkins stands in utter shock and disappointment.

She turns to look at the one glowing light in the room. His computer. We linger on this shot of debate.

1 WEEK LATER

1

INT. DR. JOHNSTON'S OFFICE - MORNING

Dr. Johnston comes in and hangs up his coat.

There is a loud DING from his computer.

Insert: We see lab results from Sheila Ibrahim's ultrasound showing that she's got a sizeable tumor in her left ovary. This does not look good. But wait, when did he order an ultrasound?

Dr. Johnston looks puzzled..... then shocked... then angry. In the distance, he sees Nurse Jenkins at her station. He pieces 2 and 2 together.

DR. JOHNSTON
JENKINS!

Nurse Jenkins comes in looking very nervous.

NURSE JENKINS
Yes doctor Johnston?

DR. JOHNSTON
You really went out of your way to
prove me wrong.

Nurse Jenkins feigns ignorance. She walks over to his desk
and sees the results. She looks very upset.

NURSE JENKINS
I really wished I was wrong.

DR. JOHNSTON
You had no authority to do this!

NURSE JENKINS
Yet you have the authority to
prescribe numerous female patients
antidepressants instead of doing
any lab work or booking them for
diagnostic imaging.

Beat.

DR. JOHN
I'm still your boss.

NURSE JENKINS
What was I supposed to do? Just sit
there and say to myself it's not my
call?

DR JOHN
Let's be clear, it's YOU who broke
the law here.

NURSE JENKINS
Aren't you glad I did? He thinks
about this.

DR. JOHNSTON
Look Fancy Drew, I have a lot of
loyal patients who would back me up
in a heartbeat. I am a very well
educated doctor—

NURSE JENKINS

Why shouldn't I just go right now
and report you for negligence?

DR. JOHNSTON

We both know the answer to that.
You forged my hand on a lab report.

(MORE)

This could mean the end to your
future in medicine.

Nurse Jenkins stays silent. Something in Dr Johnston shifts.
They are at an impasse but there is an understanding there.

DR. JOHNSTON

But I won't go there. Look, we got
a big day ahead of us and I need my
best nurse on staff.

Dr. Johnston puts out his hand for a shake.

DR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

Let bygones be bygones, shall we?

NURSE JENKINS

Like I said before, this has
nothing to do with us.

Nurse Jenkins dismisses his handshake, but nods, walks to his
door to leave when -

DR. JOHNSTON

Jenkins. You can tell her the news.
I'll prescribe a biopsy.

She closes the door behind her and lets out a big sigh.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM OF CLINIC - SAD MONTAGE

Sheila is sitting next to Nurse Jenkins comforting her as
much as she can with the bad news.

SHEILA

I was really starting to believe it
was all in my head. That I was
crazy after all.

NURSE JENKINS

Well, because you're such a fantastic listener to your own body and were able to tell us everything you were feeling with such detail - Doctor Johnston pokes his head in. They both look up at him.

NURSE JENKINS (CONT'D)

Doctor Johnston decided to go with some lab tests. No matter the results of the biopsy, we believe you can beat it, Sheila.

SHEILA

Is that true doctor?

Sheila looks at him with happiness. Dr Johnston is now acting more honorable, more solemn.

DR. JOHNSTON

Nurse Jenkins is right.

SHEILA

Thank you doctor. Thank you nurse Jenkins.

NURSE JENKINS

We're just doing our job.

Dr. Johnston nods at Nurse Jenkins and leaves.