

JASON KEENE

1 of 4

MERCY

"Pulling the Goalie"

Sides - "Jason Keene"

1 EXT. MERCY HOSPITAL - COURTYARD - DAY 1

Jason's taking in the hazy glory of Jersey City, rocking out to his iPOD. Chloe appears in his sight-line. He shifts his chair. Chloe moves, too. Fine. He just ignores her.

CHLOE

Jason.

Nothing. She pulls his iPod buds out of his ear.

JASON

Hey!

CHLOE

Why did you ask for a different nurse?

Jason phumphers for a beat. Maybe he didn't expect Chloe to wear her bruised newbie nurse-heart right on her sleeve. He reaches.

JASON

Because you're worse than annoying.

CHLOE

Worse than annoying? Really?

JASON

Way worse. Really.

CHLOE

I have done nothing for the last two days but consider your comfort and happiness. I am a good nurse, and while I understand that you've had a terrible thing happen, you are not the easiest patient in the world.

He looks at her face for as long as he ever has.

JASON

I didn't ask for you to spend one pathetic minute of your pathetic day thinking about me.

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1 CONTINUED:

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They both notice Sands conferring with another DOCTOR inside.

JASON (CONT'D)

You're wasting your time drooling over him. It's obvious he doesn't like you.

Ouch. Chloe exits the courtyard without another word.

2 EXT. MERCY HOSPITAL - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

2

The rain is light, almost misting, giving the streetlights halos. Chloe stands at the railing. She can tell Jason's staring at her.

CHLOE

I had a really crappy night.

Jason looks around, hoping there might be someone else on the roof who can tell him what the fuck is going on here. He takes his best shot.

JASON

You smell like strawberries.

CHLOE

(darkly)

I know.

(beat)

You were right. Dr. Sands doesn't like me. He likes someone else. I realized I'm terrible at reading men, and I have no idea how to apply lip gloss. I'm just a total idiot, Jason.

JASON

(softly)

He's an idiot.

Chloe smiles. Now we're getting somewhere. Jason moves next to her, starts to open up.

JASON (CONT'D)

This girl I kind of went out with, you know, before this --

(he gestures at his face)

I think she wore the same stuff on her face. I'm not a thousand percent sure, but...

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CHLOE

Note to self: Purchase age-appropriate make-up.

Jason lets a small laugh escape. Then --

JASON

I just feel like everything good that everyone hopes for is never going to happen for me.

Chloe takes his hands, looks him right in the face as she earnestly makes her point.

CHLOE

That's not true. You will meet someone who will fall in love with you because of --

JASON

Because of who I am under these scars? Do you know how many times I've heard that crap? It doesn't happen. You're hot for Dr. Studly, not some troll with a science fiction face.

CHLOE

Jason --

JASON

My mother can't even look at me without crying. And she gave birth to me. She won't say it, but she thinks I'll be alone for the rest of my life. And she's right.

(finally)

The worst part is I'll never ever have a chance with someone who looks like --

Finally. Chloe grabs his face, turns it toward her and kisses him on the lips.

JASON (CONT'D)

-- you.

CHLOE

She's wrong. And so are you. Someone will find you. And you should tell her that.

Jason smiles for the first time in a long while.

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JASON

Did they teach you that in nursing school?

CHLOE

Yeah. In the class about things not to do unless you want to get fired.

JASON

Don't worry.

CHLOE

I'm not. C'mon. You should be in your room. And I need to go home and get some sleep.

They walk towards the entrance to the stairs.

JASON

There's a crossword puzzle in that book you gave me that's kicking my ass.

He holds the door for Chloe.

CHLOE

I totally knew you were into word games...

They disappear into the stairwell, leaving the rooftop empty and glistening.

END OF SIDES