

(Fade in)

(SFX) (Door opens, closes)

(First scene speaker is slightly out of breath, masking pain)

Babe? You home? I didn't see the car.

[...]

Yeah, I got everything you asked for from the store. I'll put it in the kitchen.

[...]

No, no, no, no, no, it's fine. I got it. Just need to put a couple things in the fridge, and after that I need to go upstairs and change. You stay there on the couch, and I'll take care of everything. It's not much, just a couple of sacks. Did you find a good movie?

[...]

No baby, I think you're hearing things. I'm completely fine.

[...]

I'm sure, don't worry.

[...]

Yes, I'm sure I'm sure.

No, no, no, no, no, no, no. Stay there, I want you to be comfy. I got this. I'm a big, strong man that can handle a few measly groceries.

[...]

I'm sure babe. Enjoy the movie, cutie. I'll be over there in just a few minutes.

[...]

That's my girl. I'll be back.

(SFX) (Cabinets opening and closing)

(SFX) (Footsteps, then walking up stairs)

Ow...

[...]

Hm? Nah, babe I'm fine. I just need to change. It's raining and I don't want to get you cold and wet.

[...]

Yeah, I'll be there soon. Just let me get my pajamas on, okay?

[...]

Alright. I'll be back sweetie.

(SFX) (Door opens)

Ow, damn it. Next time I get into a fight, I need to make sure the wounds are a lot easier to take care of.

[...]

Ugh... Hate feeling dizzy. It's just...

(SFX) (Speaker passes out)

(Wakes up)

Babe? Wha- No, honey I'm fine! Why don't you go back downstairs?

[...]

Baby, I can handle it. It's just a little cut.

[...]

Hey, hey, hey. It's okay, I got this! I can take care of i- **(screech in pain)**

[...]

My ribs can't be broken. You just have really bony fingers and they hurt when you poke me like that.

[...]

No, it's fine baby! Just let me take care of it. I'll be fi- **(Speaker dizzy)**

[...]

Yeah, a little dizzy, but I'm fine aside from that. Seriously, I'll be fine. Just let me handle it.

[...]

It'll go away soon. No, no, no I'll just sit down for a bit, and rest. Hopefully the dizziness goes away.

[...]

No, we don't need to call Doc. I'll be fine.

[...]

Honey, I can make it to our next appointment tomorrow anyways. It'll be fine.

[...]

Just wrap it up for me? Please? **(Groans in pain)** I can't do it myself.

[...]

Ow... Fuck, it hurts.

[...]

God, it scared me a bit... I thought that something was gonna happen to me, so my biggest focus was just getting home to you.

[...]

I just... didn't want to scare you or anything... I was so scared though... That I wouldn't get back to you... or the twins... I'm such an idiot. I probably should've just let them have my wallet and everything... But i didn't want to let them have it.

[...]

I wanted to have my special night with you... I got a little bit selfish and... well, here we are now... I'm sorry if I made you worry.

[...]

Hey, hey, hey... I'm going to be okay. I'm going to be completely okay. Nothing like this is ever gonna happen again babe. I'm sorry... I love yo-

(Kiss)

Yeah, we are a team, baby. Me and you. I know, I know. I won't hide things like this ever again. Okay? No more. I just... I don't wanna see you worry like that. I don't want to make anything harder.

[Gasp of pain]

Thank you baby. Yeah, actually... Uhm.. Can we please lay down and cuddle? I just... I really just wanna hold you right now. Maybe it'll help me calm down. I mean... Holding you always calms me down.

(Cuddles ensue)

Mmmm... so comfy... [Gasp of pain] watch out for right there though baby... Watch out... Lay right there for me... that's my girl.

[...]

I love you, honey. Thank you, not just for taking care of me, but... For being your amazing and beautiful self. I love it so much.

[...]

You and the twins are the most important thing to me... And I never want to lose you. You're my family.

[...]

Yeah. I think that I need to get some sleep. Sleep well... Goodnight honey. I love you.

(Fade in)

(groan, sheets rustling.)

(Phone dialing)

Doc: Yo, Jack. What's up man?

[...]

Doc: Whoa, whoa, whoa, calm down. Take a second and breathe.

[...]

Doc: Calm down, it's okay.

[...]

Doc: No, it's fine. I was up gaming, you didn't wake me up. What's going on?

[...]

Doc: So what we're gonna do is when you come in for your appointment tomorrow, I'll check him out too. Your appointment is at 8:30, right? Sound good?

[...]

Doc: Okay, I'll see you then. Is there anything else worrying you?

[...]

Doc: Yeah, it sounds like it was a really rough fight. What's worrying you the most?

[...]

Doc: He's not... Okay, nevermind. I'm on my way. If he isn't breathing like normal while asleep, I want to check on him. Give me 10 minutes.

[...]

Doc: I promise it will be alright. I'll see you soon.

(Phone hangs up.)

(Door opens)

Doc: Hey, how is he?

[...]

Doc: Damn... Okay then. Let's see what we're dealing with.

[Door]

Doc: You wanna turn on the light for me?

[...]

Doc: Hey, Jack? Can you wake up for me man?

[...]

Doc: Jack! Wake up!

J: Mmmph...

[...]

Doc: Where is that cut you were talking about?

[...]

J: Doc? Wha- [Pain]

Doc: She called me. Said she was worried about you because your breathing was wrong. Where are you injured?

J: I told her I'm alright. Just a little pain in my side, and a couple of cuts. And the black eye because one guy had a pretty impressive left hook.

Doc: Okay we're gonna start with the ribs then. Which side?

[...]

Doc: Let me know if it makes it harder to breathe or anything. I can already hear a little bit of a difference from normal, but it's mostly because you aren't breathing as deep as normal.

J: Yeah, it hurts- **(yelp pain)**

Doc: Sorry man. I think tomorrow we should get you in for an X-ray just to make sure those ribs aren't situated in a bad spot. I think that you should be fine until then though. Now, where is this cut you mentioned, because it seems to have scared your girlfriend a lot, dude.

J: It's just a little scratch. Look, right here on my arm. It's nothing.

Doc: It would be nothing if it wasn't still kind of bleeding and you didn't look like you were going to pass out.

[...]

J: Babe, I promise I'm okay. I think I need to just try to rest, you know?

Doc: I beg to differ. You need to drink some water dude. At the very least. I have a feeling you lost a fair amount of blood, mostly because she said you changed the bandage right before bed a few hours ago and look- it's soaked through already. I'm glad it's slowed but you're gonna need to take it very easy for the next few days minimum. I'll see you tomorrow, and I think that I want to try to get you some fluids to build up your volume tomorrow too. Take it easy, okay? I'm gonna have to close this up too. Should only take a couple of minutes. Then I have to go home and go to bed.

[...] **[Listener falls]**

Doc: Whoa-

J: Babe!

Doc: You alright?

[...]

Doc: Sit down for a minute and try to catch your breath. You look pretty pale. Deep breaths.

[...]

J: Babe, I'm so sorry I worried you like this. If I had known it would worry you this badly I would've gone to the hospital right when I got back.

[...]

J: I promise, it'll be okay. Right Doc?

Doc: Can confirm he'll be okay. He just needs to take it easy.

[...]

Doc: Yeah, just try to calm down a little bit. You really need to get some rest. Stress like this isn't good for the babies. Mostly because they can feel your stress and it'll affect them.

[...]

J: Babe? Would you like to hold my hand for a bit while Doc finishes up?

[...]

J: Oh yeah... this is nice... You feel close and that is what I need right now.

[...]

Doc: All done. Be careful with it. You don't want to tear it open again. I will see you both in the morning.

J: But-

Doc: Nope, you don't get to argue on this one. It's what's best for her, to put her at ease and make sure that she is taken care of properly.

J: Fine. No arguments. Can you do something before you leave though?

Doc: I suppose. What do you need?

J: Can you check her blood pressure? She's been getting dizzy and thinking I haven't noticed.

[...]

Doc: How long has that been going on?

[...]

Doc: Hmm... Let me check really quickly?

[...]

[Blood pressure cuff]

Doc: It's not concerningly low, just on the low side of normal. Is it all the time or just when you try to get up or something?

[...]

Doc: Okay, we'll check the iron levels again tomorrow then, just to make sure that they're still normal. If you need more iron then we can add in a supplement.

[...]

Doc: Nah, sometimes it happens. Anything else?

[...]

J: Not on my end either. Thanks Doc.

Doc: No problem. See you tomorrow.

[Footsteps fade out]

Babe? Are you really okay?

[...]

Hmmm... No, I get it. Can I ask why you called him?

[...]

Nightmare... Oh, / was having a nightmare. And then my breathing changed and you couldn't wake me up? Yeah, I can see how that would be scary.

[...]

Uhm... I know this probably is awkward timing but I wanted to talk to you about something.

[...]

Well, when I was in that fight, I just kept thinking about you and the twins and how I want to keep you close. I don't ever want to leave either of you.

[...]

No, babe I want you to always have that safe feeling. The security of me always being there for you. I've been thinking about something for a while and... Well... I've been trying to find the right time for it but it always seems awkward. Either you don't feel the best, or someone is over or work is crazy and I'm exhausted, so... I'm not stalling any longer. Babe, I want us to be a family. A close and very real family. So I wanted to ask... Would you marry me?