

INT. NIGHT - HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM

DR. APRIL KEPNER enters the conference room. She sees DR. RICHARD WEBBER sitting on one side of the table with members of the hospital board of directors. DR. REED ADAMSON sits on the other side of the table. REED gets up from the conference room table and begins to walk out. On her way out she stops APRIL.

REED  
I'm sorry. I am so, so sorry.

DR. WEBBER  
Dr. Kepner.

APRIL  
(to REED)  
What-- What did you tell them? What did you say?

REED doesn't say anything. She looks at APRIL, hangs her head low and exits. APRIL sits at the conference table across from DR. WEBBER and The Board.

DR. WEBBER  
I don't know you. But Dr. Adamson just spent 20 minutes in that chair telling me what an excellent doctor you are. Your school records, your evaluation from Mercy West all say the same thing. And I believe it. I believe you're good.

APRIL  
Dr. Webber, I-I don't know--

DR. WEBBER  
--So you should be able to tell me what would have caused Cathy Becker to bleed out and die from multisystem organ failure.

APRIL  
She had D.I.C. Burns can cause massive tissue injury--

DR. WEBBER  
--But the burn was properly cleaned and dressed.

APRIL  
Well there must have been more damage. I mean, she had a collapsed lung.

(CONTINUED)

DR. WEBBER

That's right. She needed a chest tube. But why would her lungs have failed?

APRIL

She... She went into respiratory distress. They said they criked her. I wasn't there for any of this.

DR. WEBBER

And why would she need a crike? Why not intubate?

APRIL

Well, her airway was too swollen. They couldn't get--

DR. WEBBER

--But what would cause that kind of inflammation in her throat?

APRIL

Uh, soot. Smoke inhalation. But she didn't have--

DR. WEBBER

--How did Mrs. Becker's throat look?

APRIL pauses. Her face drains of its color. Her mouth drops open.

APRIL

N-no, she w-- she w-- she wasn't hoarse. She-- she wasn't coughing--

DR. WEBBER

--How did it look Dr. Kepner?

APRIL

Her breath sounds were good. She-- her respiratory rate was--

DR. WEBBER

--What I'm asking you is what it *looked* like.

APRIL has no words. DR. WEBBER waits for her to speak, but all she can do is try to catch her breath. She begins to realize what she's done and starts to well up with tears.

(CONTINUED)

DR. WEBBER

You never looked. You didn't look in her throat, because if you had you would've seen soot. And you would've intubated immediately and none of this would've ever happened.

APRIL

No, that's-- it's-- I got distracted--

DR. WEBBER

--I know.

APRIL

It was-- it was insane.

DR. WEBBER

I know. It was a simple mistake. In the circumstances you were under, I know--

A member of the board clears his throat. RICHARD looks at the board and sighs.

DR. WEBBER

I'm sorry, Dr. Kepner.

APRIL

No, I'm-- I missed one step.

DR. WEBBER

I know.

APRIL

I...

DR. WEBBER

And look what it's led to. You're fired.