

THE QUIET HOURS

Outline

by ScriptPipeline Examples

1. INT. ST. BRIGID'S HOSPITAL -- ER SUPPLY ROOM -- NIGHT

Mara restocks a cart, item by item, while a code blue is called over the PA. Her hands never pause. Establishes competence, control, and the moat she's built around herself.

2. INT. ER -- NURSES' STATION -- NIGHT

Shift banter. Iris teases Mara about volunteering for another month of nights. Mara's badge holder falls open; she closes it before we quite see the photo inside. 3 a.m. coffee ritual.

3. INT. ER -- AMBULANCE BAY -- NIGHT

Paramedics roll in an unconscious overdose: male, late 30s, no ID on scene, found in a parked car. Mara takes the handoff. Routine -- until she clocks the medal at his throat.

4. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- NIGHT

Working the intake alone, Mara studies his face. Flash-cut: the traffic-cam still. The jaw. The hairline. She checks his wallet: DANIEL REECE. The name means nothing. The face means everything.

5. INT. ER -- SUPPLY ROOM -- NIGHT

Mara, door shut, phone out: news archive, "TOMÁS VOSS, 9, KILLED IN HIT-AND-RUN -- DRIVER SOUGHT." The unsolved-case sketch beside Daniel's intake photo. She breathes once, twice, and goes back to work.

6. INT. ER -- NURSES' STATION -- NIGHT

Mara volunteers to take Bay 6 so Iris can cover the chest-pain in 2. The lie is one sentence long. Iris, grateful, agrees. First domino.

7. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- NIGHT

Daniel surfaces, half-lucid. He grips Mara's wrist: "Don't fix it. Please." He fades back under. Mara stands very still with the syringe she was about to hang.

8. INT. ER -- MEDICATION ROOM -- NIGHT

Mara stares at the dispensing cabinet. We see, in the smallest gestures, the inventory she is taking: what would be missed, what wouldn't. She logs out without drawing anything. This time.

9. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- LATER

The 3 a.m. talk. Daniel, lucid, asks if she believes people can deserve things. Anonymous in her scrubs, Mara lets him talk. A child. A road. Dusk. A phone. He has never said it out loud before. She receives her son's death as a stranger's secret.

10. INT. ER -- BREAK ROOM -- NIGHT

Iris finds Mara mid-shift, wrong-quiet, and presses gently. Mara almost says it -- then a monitor alarm interrupts. The almost matters.

11. INT. ER -- CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Det. Okafor arrives on an unrelated assault call. He and Mara share the brittle warmth of people bonded by a case that broke them both. He reads her face too well. "You'd call me. If there was ever anything." Not a question.

12. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- NIGHT

Mara changes Daniel's IV. She tells him, evenly, that the hospital will refer his overdose to psych, that there are people who talk to men like him. Daniel: "Talking isn't punishment." Mara, before she can stop herself: "No. It isn't."

13. INT. ER -- MEDICATION ROOM -- NIGHT

The low point. Mara draws the extra vial. We watch her hands do it -- the same competence from scene 1, conscripted. She catches her reflection in the cabinet glass and doesn't recognize her own face. The vial goes back. Her hands shake for the first time in three years.

14. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- PRE-DAWN

Daniel codes. Flatline. Mara alone with the crash cart and thirty unwitnessed seconds. The longest scene of the film, played almost silent.

15. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- CONTINUOUS

She works the code. Compressions, charge, clear. Twice. Pulse. On the intake form, in her precise hand: "Patient identified himself as driver in unsolved 2023 hit-and-run (Voss). Notify SCPD -- Det. S. Okafor."

16. INT. ER -- BAY 6 -- DAWN

Daniel wakes to Mara sitting beside the bed, badge holder open in her hand, the photo of Tomás facing him. "My name is Mara Voss." The terms: he lives, and he says it on the record, today, while she watches.

17. INT. ER -- FAMILY ROOM -- MORNING

Daniel's confession to Okafor. Mara doesn't watch through the glass; she stands inside the room, where Tomás's mother belongs. Okafor's pen keeps moving; his other hand grips the table edge.

18. EXT. ST. BRIGID'S -- STAFF EXIT -- MORNING

Daylight. Iris drives Mara home; neither needs to speak. At the staff board inside, the photo of Tomás now hangs among everyone else's kids. Mara's transfer request, day shift, sits in the charge nurse's inbox. The quiet hours end.