

MICHAEL

"TRU CALLING"

PATRICIA
Elizabeth has acute viral
cardiomyopathy. She had an
echovirus that just came out of the
blue last year.

TRU
What's the course of treatment?

PATRICIA
The doctor has her on a daily
antiarrhythmic. But the medicine's
only a band-aid. Ultimately she'll
need a heart transplant.

TRU
Is she on the list?

PATRICIA
Yes, but pretty far down. And with
O-Neg patients like Elizabeth, the
chances of a suitable heart
becoming available are --

TRU
Slim to none.

PATRICIA
Exactly. And Mr. Mancuso lost his
job six months ago. His insurance
is on its last legs, so --

At that moment, just as he did on all previous days, Michael
Mancuso BOLTS into the office. He's in a panic.

MICHAEL
(to Patricia)
I need to talk to you.

PATRICIA
Michael, we were just discussing
your daughter's case. This is
Stephanie Brandis, she's a new case
worker.

TRU
Nice to meet you.

He nods to Tru, but has more pressing matters.

MICHAEL
(to Patricia)
Look, I need more Amiodarone.
(MORE)

(4 pages)

START

(CONTINUED)

1/4

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
We ran out, and Elizabeth's
breathing is really heavy today. I
went to the pharmacy but the
insurance denied me.

Patricia trades a look with Tru as she gets up to CLOSE THE
DOOR. Michael's voice is booming down the hallway.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
They were going to charge me five
hundred dollars for two pills!
I don't have five hundred dollars.

PATRICIA
I'm aware of your --

MICHAEL
I need you to get that medicine. I
promise I'll pay you back.

PATRICIA
Mr. Mancuso, calm down. We'll --

MICHAEL
She's in pain.

He's sweating, nervous, shaking --

PATRICIA
I'm not a pharmacist. And I'm
certainly not authorized to give
away medicine.

-- not to mention irrational and desperate.

MICHAEL
You're supposed to help me!

TRU
Give us some time. We'll see what
we can do.

MICHAEL
I don't have any.

He bolts out the door. Tru ~~sees~~ exactly where he's headed.

~~PATRICIA
(calling after him)
Mr. Mancuso! Mr. Mancuso! Wait!~~

But he's off down the hallway. Patricia turns to Tru.


(CONT.)

(CONTINUED)

2/4

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

I can't imagine it getting much worse for him.

TRU

I can.

Tru takes off --

38 INT. FREE CLINIC -- SAME (3RD REDO DAY)

38

The real Stephanie Brandis is now getting the wrath of the Front Desk Nurse, who won't let her through the door.

STEPHANIE

I swear to you, I'm Stephanie Brandis and I have a meeting.

FRONT DESK NURSE

(fed up)

Don't make me call security!

(CONT.)

39 EXT. FREE CLINIC/STREETS -- SAME (3RD REDO DAY)

39

Michael walks with speed and purpose.

TRU

Michael. Michael!

He doesn't turn, keeps walking. Tru (as Stephanie) falls into step with him. She has about two blocks to talk him down.

TRU (CONT'D)

Look, Mr. Mancuso. I understand your daughter is in trouble. But Patricia can help you. Why don't you wait for her call?

MICHAEL

My daughter needs the medicine now.

They cross the street.

TRU

She's not gonna get it if you do something stupid.

He looks at Tru like she's crazy but keeps walking.

MICHAEL

What the hell are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

3/4

TRU

Tell me you're not looking for some
quick way to get some cash.

Glances over at her. She's right.

TRU (CONT'D)

Which might even include holding up
the nearest store you can find.

She's really right.

MICHAEL

Leave me alone.

They turn right onto --

40 EXT. STOP-N-SHOP BLOCK -- CONTINUOUS (3RD REDO DAY)

40

TRU

Michael. It's not worth it.

He finally blows.

MICHAEL

You got another option?

His eyes flick up and see the Stop-N-Shop. He turns to Tru.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Do you know what everybody else her
age is doing right now? Deciding
what frosting they want on their
next birthday cake. You know what
Elizabeth is doing? Wondering if
she'll even get to her next
birthday.

(softens)

The one thing she needs is the
thing I can't give her. My god, I
watch her friends and wonder why
their hearts work and hers doesn't.
Why she got sick and they didn't.

(then)

I can't fix her...but I can make
her feel better. She needs her
medicine.

END

He turns away from her and pushes through the front door of
the Stop-N-Shop.

~~TRU~~

~~I'll get it for you.~~

(CONTINUED)

4/4