

# Point Blank

Written by Carl Binder / Directed by James Keach

**TEASER**

**FADE IN:**

**INT. CLINIC DAY ONE (FEBRUARY, EIGHTEEN SEVENTY-THREE)**

It's just another day at the clinic...

**MIKE** finishes examining seven-year-old **BUTCH**, a rambunctious snort of a kid who can't seem to sit still. His battle-weary **MOTHER** watches as Mike listens to Butch's breathing with her stethoscope.

**MIKE**  
His lungs are clear. He seems to be over the catarrh.

As Mike pulls the stethoscope away, Butch grabs the chest piece and playfully yells into it:

**BUTCH**  
**HEY!!**

Mike recoils at the sharp sound, wincing as she pulls the stethoscope from her ears.

**MOTHER**  
(to Butch) Behave yourself.

Mike tries to brush it off with a smile.

**MIKE**  
It's all right. I'm just glad to see his spirits so.... rejuvenated. (ushering them to door) I think it's safe for him to return to school now.

The mother sighs with relief -- not that Butch is well again, but that he'll be out of the

house.

**MOTHER**

Hallelujah. Thanks, Dr. Mike.

And out they go. Mike moves to her desk, her ears still ringing. As she sits to update Butch's chart, **BRIAN** comes in the side door and fetches his school books (which sit on the table by the front door).

**BRIAN**

Katie's down for her nap.

**MIKE**

Thank you, Brian.

**BRIAN**

Ma, after school, can I ride out to help Sully with his survey?

**MIKE**

Oh, Brian, I was hoping you'd help me in the garden this afternoon. You've been so busy with school and the Gazette, I hardly get to spend time with you anymore.

Brian's disappointed he can't go with Sully, but he sees how much this means to Mike.

**BRIAN**

All right.

There's a **KNOCK** at the door, and **DOROTHY** sticks her head in as Brian goes out.

**BRIAN**

(to Mike) See ya later. (as he goes) Hey, Miss Dorothy.

**DOROTHY**

Mornin', Brian. (turns to Mike) join me for lunch today, Michaela?

**MIKE**

That sounds nice. Katie just went down for her nap. When she wakes, we'll come over.

**DOROTHY**

Look forward to it.

**She goes out. Mike turns back to her work, updating the chart in peaceful silence. The only sound heard is the steady ticking of the clock on the wall.**

**After a moment, another KNOCK is heard at the door. Mike looks up to it, expecting whoever it is to come in. But they don't.**

**MIKE**  
**(calling) Come in.**

**The door remains closed. Instead, another KNOCK is heard. Mike reacts -- that's odd -- then stands and moves to the door.**

**She opens it to reveal a MAN standing there, mid-forties, wearing a proper suit and hat. But there's something uneasy about him. He seems nervous.**

**MIKE**  
**Can I help you?**

**The man hesitates, a bit puzzled. He peers into the clinic, then back at Mike, noting her medical smock.**

**MAN**  
**Are *you* the doctor?**

**MIKE**  
**Yes. Dr. Michaela Quinn.**

**She offers a friendly smile, but it quickly vanishes as the man suddenly reaches into his coat and pulls out a revolver.**

**As he aims it directly at Mike:**

**CUT TO:**

**INT. GOLD NUGGET - SAME TIME - DAY ONE**

**HANK is at the bar, when a GUNSHOT is heard from across the street. The BARTENDER and PATRONS hear it as well, but Hank's the first one to the door.**

**EXT. GOLD NUGGET/CLINIC - CONTINUOUS - DAY ONE**

Hank comes out in time to see the man rushing away from the clinic, quickly mounting his horse. TOWNSFOLK scatter as he gallops off, disappearing around the corner.

## AT THE GENERAL STORE

LOREN and CLOUD DANCING come out, also having heard the shot (Cloud Dancing is holding an elaborately woven blanket hoping Loren would sell it in the store). They look over to see:

HANK

as he runs to the open clinic door:

HANK  
Michaela!

## INT. CLINIC CONTINUOUS - DAY ONE

Hank rushes in, freezing for a moment when he sees:

MIKE

lying on the floor, bleeding from a gunshot wound just below her left collar bone. She looks up at Hank, fear blanketing her face as he rushes to her side.

MIKE  
(struggling) Hank...

HANK  
Hang on, Michaela... hang on...

He quickly scoops her up in his arms and barrels out of the clinic.

## EXT. CLINIC - CONTINUOUS - DAY ONE

Loren and Cloud Dancing hurry over and react with shock at the sight of Mike's gunshot wound as Hank urgently looks around for a wagon. This all happens fast and furious:

LOREN  
Dr. Mike!

**HANK**

**We need a wagon! somebody get a wagon!**

Cloud Dancing and Loren hurry off to look for a wagon. Dorothy, having heard the gunshot, is on her way over from the Gazette. She sees the blood staining Mike's shoulder and gasps in horror.

**DOROTHY**

**Oh my God! Michaela!**

**HANK**

**Gotta get her to Andrew's.**

From inside the clinic, we hear **KATIE CRY**.

**DOROTHY**

**I'll get Katie.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**(calling to Hank) Over here!**

Cloud Dancing leads Hank and Loren around the corner, where a wagon is parked beside the Sheriff's Office. Other TOWNSFOLK rush to help the men load Mike into the back.

**LOREN**

**I'll find Sully.**

**HANK**

**And get Daniel. Tell him the guy who shot her rode outta town, headin' south. Bay horse, white stripe on the nose.**

Loren runs off as Hank climbs into the wagon with Mike, cradling her head in his lap. She looks up at him, lapsing into unconsciousness.

**MIKE**

**(barely audible) ... pressure...**

She motions to her wound. Hank quickly applies pressure to the wound with his hand as Cloud Dancing finishes untethering the team and jumps up in the driver's seat.

**HANK**

**Hang on, Michaela. Keep talkin' to me... (to Cloud Dancing) Let's go!**

**Cloud Dancing snaps the reins hard. Stunned townsfolk clear the way as the wagon jolts forward, hurrying out of town as we:**

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. SPRINGS CHATEAU - DAY ONE**

**Cloud Dancing drives the wagon as fast as the team will take them, pulling up to the Chateau.**

**HANK**

**(calling out) Andrew! Andrew!**

**GUESTS react with horror as they see Mike in the back, now unconscious, blood soaking her dress and smock.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**(to the guests) Get Dr. Cook!**

**ANDREW'S already running out of his clinic, hurrying over to Hank. He takes one look at Mike and knows this is very bad.**

**ANDREW**

**Take her inside. Quickly.**

**Hank carries Mike inside, with Andrew and Cloud Dancing trailing close behind.**

**INT. ANDREW'S CLINIC - CONTINUOUS - DAY ONE**

**The door slams open, and Hank carries Mike in, laying her on the examination table as Andrew immediately goes to work, cutting her dress at the shoulder to inspect the wound. Cloud Dancing hovers close by, concerned.**

**ANDREW**

She's losing a lot of blood. The bullet must've hit the subclavian artery.

**HANK**

She gonna die?

Andrew doesn't answer -- he's busy gathering instruments, preparing for emergency surgery. He indicates his medicine cabinet as he looks to Hank.

**ANDREW**

(fast, urgent) Hank, the bottle on the top shelf, on the right. Carbolic acid. I want you to first wipe the blood away with a clean cloth, then spray the wound with the acid. Cloud Dancing, there are fresh linens in that drawer.

The men go to work as Andrew continues gathering instruments. But his frustration builds when he realizes he doesn't have the main item he needs:

**ANDREW**

Damn!

**HANK**

What?

**ANDREW**

I'm going to need very fine suturing thread to sew up the artery.

**CLOUD DANCING**

You do not have any?

**ANDREW**

I asked Preston for some months ago... but he said it wasn't necessary at a "Health Resort."

**HANK**

I seen Michaela use sewin' thread to stitch a wound, once.

Andrew looks down at Mike -- time is of the essence.

**ANDREW**

I guess we don't have much choice.

**Cloud Dancing takes this cue and hurries out of the clinic.**

**EXT. CHATEAU CONTINUOUS - DAY ONE**

**Guests react -- some nervous, some visibly frightened -- as Cloud Dancing runs out and moves among them with urgency:**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Does anyone have sewing thread? (to a woman) Dr. Cook needs sewing thread.**

**The woman's husband quickly leads the frightened woman away. AN OLD WOMAN nearby calls to Cloud Dancing:**

**OLD WOMAN**

**I have some.**

**Cloud Dancing rushes to her. She opens her handbag and begins slowly sifting through it.**

**OLD WOMAN**

**Let me see... I know I have some black thread in here somewhere...**

**Cloud Dancing tries to be patient, but the woman is taking her time. Finally he can wait no more and snatches the bag from her, dumping out the contents. He finds the thread and picks it up, calling apologetically over his shoulder to the woman as he runs back to the clinic:**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Thank you.**

**INT. ANDREW'S CLINIC - MOMENTS LATER - DAY ONE**

**A chloroform cloth is draped over Mike's face as Andrew operates on her. He's very nervous -- it's all he can do to keep his hands steady. Hank and Cloud Dancing are beside him, assisting.**

**ANDREW**

**There's the artery, just beneath the clavicle. The bullet creased it. A fraction of an inch further and the laceration would've been irreparable.**

**Hank casts a glance at Andrew, who's trying not to buckle under the intense pressure.**

**HANK**  
You all right?

Andrew manages a nod, but then quietly reveals:

**ANDREW**  
I've never done this kind of procedure before.

The room falls silent as Andrew picks up the suturing needle and thread and goes to work.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. CHATEAU LATER - DAY ONE**

A few of the townsfolk are now gathered in front of the Chateau, waiting for word on Mike.

Brian stands beside Dorothy, who holds KATIE. Brian is silent, fighting to keep his emotions in check. His eyes are glued to the door of Andrew's clinic, refusing to look away.

JAKE is also here. He leans close to Dorothy, lowering his voice so Brian won't hear:

**JAKE**  
Anybody seen who shot her?

**DOROTHY**  
Hank did. Loren found Daniel, gave him a description. He rode out after the guy.

Loren rides up on his horse. As he dismounts:

**LOREN**  
Any word?

**JAKE**  
Nothin' yet.

**LOREN**  
I found Matthew. He said Sully's up in the hills, on a survey. He's ridin' out to get him.

**Loren steps over to Brian, putting a comforting hand on his shoulder. The moment is broken by Cloud Dancing, who comes out of Andrew's clinic. Everyone waits anxiously as he steps over to them.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**She has survived the operation. But she has lost a lot of blood.**

**JAKE**

**She gonna live?**

**Cloud Dancing hesitates, casting a troubled look at Brian... then:**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Andrew says it is still too early to know.**

**BRIAN**

**Can I see her?**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Yes. They are moving her into one of the rooms.**

**Brian goes into Andrew's clinic as Dorothy turns to Loren.**

**DOROTHY**

**Will you have Horace wire Colleen? She needs to know about this.**

**LOREN**

**Course.**

**Loren and Jake move off, as Dorothy follows Cloud Dancing back into the clinic.**

**EXT. VALLEY IN HILLS - DAY ONE**

**SULLY, with WOLF nearby, surveys a valley, jotting notes on a pad as he works.**

**MATTHEW (O.S.)**

**(calling) Sully!**

**Sully turns to see MATTHEW riding toward him at breakneck speed. As he rides up, Sully sees the worried look on his face.**

**SULLY**

**What's wrong?**

**MATTHEW**

**It's Dr. Mike... (beat, difficult) She's been shot.**

**This hits Sully hard. He stands there absorbing the impact, imagining the worst.**

**MATTHEW**

**They took her out to Andrew --**

**Sully doesn't wait to hear more. He drops his pad and leaves his surveying equipment behind as he mounts his horse and gallops off. Matthew rides after him.**

**INT. CHATEAU - MIKE'S ROOM - DAY ONE**

**Mike in bed, unconscious, as Andrew listens to her heart with his stethoscope.**

**Brian sits beside her bed, watching her, struggling hard to keep his sorrow from overwhelming him. Dorothy sits across the room with Katie.**

**Andrew finishes, tries not to show his deep concern. But Brian picks up on it. Andrew puts a hand on his shoulder before going out. Dorothy sees Brian struggling and knows he needs some time alone with Mike. She stands, picks up Katie.**

**DOROTHY**

**I'll be just outside if you need me.**

**Brian nods, and Dorothy goes out. Brian looks down at Mike, then reaches over, taking her hand.**

**BRIAN**

**(softly) Ma... it's me, Brian... I'm here... (beat, tears welling) Don't leave us, Ma... please don't leave us...**

**He can no longer hold back the tears. He lowers his head and cries, clutching Mike's hand in his.**

**EXT. WOODS - LATE AFTERNOON - DAY ONE**

**Cloud Dancing sits alone on the ground, circled by several small cloth bundles**

containing tobacco. He gazes skyward, deep in prayer, his eyes searching, pleading...

**EXT. CHATEAU - NIGHT ONE (STOCK)**

**INT. CHATEAU - MIKE'S ROOM - NIGHT ONE**

**CLOSE ON MIKE**, still lying unconscious. But now her eyes flutter a bit... and then slowly open. Disoriented, she startles, frightened, until a **HAND** reaches out to her, gently stroking her hair.

**SULLY (O.S.)**

Shhh...

Mike turns to see:

**SULLY**

now sitting beside her bed. Behind him are **COLLEEN**, Matthew and Brian, all looking greatly relieved to see Mike awake.

Colleen's holding Katie, although Mike doesn't see her at first.

**MIKE**

(barely a whisper) Sully...

**SULLY**

It's all right. Don't try to talk, just rest --

**MIKE**

(fear returning) Katie...

Colleen steps forward, showing Katie to Mike.

**COLLEEN**

She's right here, Ma.

Mike looks up at Katie and settles.

**SULLY**

Everyone's safe, Michaela...

Mike looks back at Sully, who continues to stroke her hair and face. He came very close to losing her, and the relief of seeing her finally awake brings his emotions to the surface. Tears well in his eyes as he gives her a comforting smile.

**SULLY**

It's gonna be all right.

Mike manages a weak nod, then drifts back to sleep under Sully's gentle touch.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. CHATEAU - MIKE'S ROOM - DAY TWO**

It's two days later. Mike is awake now, still weak, but looking much better. As Andrew examines her wound and stitches for signs of bleeding and infection, Mike talks with Sully, who hasn't left her side.

**MIKE**

(slowly, still a bit labored) I'd never seen him before... He was well dressed, as if he'd just stepped off the train... (beat, difficult) He asked if I was the doctor. That was when he...

She stops short for a moment, unable to continue. Sully takes her hand in his, consoling her. After a beat:

**MIKE**

I remember Hank coming in... carrying me out of the clinic. Then... nothing.

Mike falls silent again as Andrew finishes taking her pulse.

**ANDREW**

Your pulse is strengthening. There's no indication of further bleeding or infection. (smiles) I think it's safe for you to go home now.

Mike smiles, relieved.

**ANDREW**

But you still need rest. Two weeks, at least, to give the artery plenty of time to heal.

**SULLY**

She will. I'll make sure of it.

**ANDREW**  
Good.

**SULLY**  
I'll get the wagon ready.

Sully goes out. Andrew's about to follow him, when Mike's voice stops him:

**MIKE**  
Andrew... (he stops, looks back) Thank you.

Andrew smiles and nods, feeling a mixture of relief and great pride, before going out.

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY TWO**

Cloud Dancing waits in front of the homestead with Wolf as the family wagon pulls up, with Sully driving. Brian is in the back with Mike, who reclines on a pad of several blankets. Matthew rides his horse alongside.

Following behind the wagon is Andrew's surrey, with Andrew driving and Colleen beside him, holding Katie (Mike's still too weak to hold her in the wagon).

The wagons stop, and Cloud Dancing, Sully, Matthew and Brian all hurry to help Mike down. She moves gingerly, still in a lot of pain, but thrilled to be home.

**CLOUD DANCING**  
Ha-ho.

**MIKE**  
Cloud Dancing.

She hugs him.

**CLOUD DANCING**  
How are you feeling?

She looks up, her pain washing away at the sight of her house.

**MIKE**  
Better, now that I'm home.

**SULLY**  
C'mon... easy does it...

Brian quickly goes to open the door as Sully, Cloud Dancing and Matthew help Mike up the stairs. But before they can get inside:

**LOREN (O.S.)**  
(calling) Dr. Mike! Sully!

Everyone turns to see:

**LOREN AND JAKE**

riding up in a buggy (Jake at the reins), brimming with excitement. Loren's waving a telegram as they pull to a stop and climb out, both eager to break the good news:

**LOREN**  
Telegram just come in --

**JAKE**  
It's from Daniel.

**LOREN**  
He was headin' south, see, on the old stage trail, couple hours outta town, when --

**JAKE**  
(cuts to the chase) He caught the guy who shot you.

Loren gives Jake a chiding look.

**MATTHEW**  
(pleased) He got 'im?

**JAKE**  
(nods) And get this -- turns out the guy's wanted for murderin' three doctors in the territory.

**ANDREW**  
Three... ?

Mike reacts, stunned by this.

**LOREN**

His wife died durin' an operation in Denver. He got so mad, he killed the doctor who operated on her --

**JAKE**

Then started takin' revenge on every other doctor in the territory.

**LOREN**

But don't you worry, Dr. Mike. Daniel took him on in to Denver for trial. (big smile) He'll be swingin' from a rope by the end of the week.

Mike absorbs this news in silence. Loren and Jake exchange a look -- they thought she'd be more excited about it. After a beat, Loren looks back to Mike.

**LOREN**

Well... it sure is good seen' you feelin' better, Dr. Mike.

**MIKE**

Thank you, Loren.

**SULLY**

We appreciate you bringin' us the news.

Loren and Jake nod, as Sully, Cloud Dancing and Matthew lead Mike inside.

**INT. MIKE AND SULLY'S BEDROOM - DAY TWO**

Sully leads Mike in, where she sits on the bed, completely exhausted.

**MIKE**

It's so good to be back in my own bed. I feel like I could sleep for days.

She lies across the covers, savoring the comfort of the bed, as Sully pours her a glass of water from the ewer.

**SULLY**

Go right ahead. You need as much rest as you can get.

**MIKE**

Sully...

He turns to her. Mike grows quiet, reaching out to him. He sets the glass down and steps over to her, taking her hand. She pulls him to her, kissing him deeply.

Sully crawls onto the bed beside her, cupping her body in his, carefully wrapping his arms around her. Mike settles in, slowly drifting off to sleep in his protective embrace.

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - PORCH - DAY TWO**

Andrew sits on the porch alone, waiting for Colleen, who finally comes out of the house and moves to him. Her mood is quiet, still disturbed by the events of the last few days.

**COLLEEN**  
Finally got Katie to sleep.

**ANDREW**  
(standing) I suppose I should head back to the Chateau.

Colleen nods. Andrew looks at her.

**ANDREW**  
Are you all right?

Colleen sits, shaking her head.

**COLLEEN**  
Still can't believe this happened...

**ANDREW**  
(sitting beside her) I know. It's terrible.

**COLLEEN**  
And in the clinic... where you're s'posed to be safe...

**ANDREW**  
My uncle used to tell me that doctors were like clergymen, protected from harm against the evils of the world. (quiets a beat) Times are changing.

Colleen considers this in troubled silence. Andrew puts his arm around her, comforting her. Colleen leans into him as we slowly:

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. MIKE AND SULLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT TWO**

It's late -- Mike and Sully lie in bed, asleep. We slowly PUSH IN on Mike, and as we do, we begin moving into her dream... first through sound -- the steady TICKING of a CLOCK... and then a sudden KNOCK on the door jolts us into:

**INT. CLINIC - DAY ONE (MIKE'S DREAM)**

where Mike is once again at her desk, updating charts... but the colors are different now, and the mood is heightened. The KNOCK is heard again, this time louder, more insistent.

Mike looks up at the door. She hesitates in fear -- she knows what's behind it, but is forced to relive the moment.

**MIKE**  
Come in.

But the door remains closed. Mike wants to run, to get away from here, but instead she finds herself standing and walking slowly to the door...

**CLOSE ON THE DOORKNOB**

as the KNOCK is heard again.

**ON MIKE**

wanting to scream for help, but she can't. All she can do is approach the door, step by torturous step. She reaches out, grabs hold of the doorknob.

**MIKE**  
(quietly, knowing what happens next) No... please...

The KNOCK again, this time BANGING hard. Mike turns the knob and swings open the door, but just as we catch a glimpse of the man:

**SMASH CUT BACK TO:**

**INT. MIKE AND SULLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT TWO (AS BEFORE)**

Mike wakes with a start, which also wakes Sully. For a brief moment, Mike is disoriented, frightened...

**SULLY**

Michaela... what is it?

The sound of Sully's voice brings Mike back to the present. She realizes where she is and settles, taking a deep, calming breath.

**MIKE**

A dream... (beat, recalling it) I was back in the clinic, and the...

She quiets, unable to continue. Sully puts his arms around her again.

**SULLY**

It's all right. It's over -- no one's gonna hurt you... (kisses her) You're safe now.

Mike nods, trying to settle into his embrace.

**SULLY**

(gently) Go to sleep.

Sully back and closes his eyes, but Mike's eyes stay open. We can see she's clearly shaken by this -- this trauma is far from over. And it's on her troubled expression that we:

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**FADE IN:**

**INT. HOMESTEAD - MORNING - DAY THREE**

It's two weeks later. Brian and Matthew clear the breakfast dishes as Colleen finishes feeding Katie. Mike is all smiles as she comes downstairs, looking fully recovered and dressed for work. She's looking through her medical bag for something:

**MIKE**

Have any of you seen my stethoscope?

**BRIAN**

I think I saw it on the table by the fireplace. I'll get it.

Brian moves off to get the stethoscope as Matthew turns to Mike.

**MATTHEW**

Sure you're feelin' up to this?

**MIKE**

Andrew says I'm fit to return to work, and I must admit -- after two weeks of being cooped up in bed, I'm looking forward to getting out of the house.

**COLLEEN**

Just remember to take it easy. Don't push yourself too hard.

**MIKE**

I won't.

Brian returns with Mike's stethoscope.

**MIKE**

Thank you, Brian. (back to Colleen) You should think about returning to school as well.

**COLLEEN**

I might wait a few days, just to make sure everythin's all right here.

Mike beams with pride at the three of them.

**MIKE**

Thank you for helping me get through this. I love you all so much.

Sully comes in the front door, turns to Mike.

**SULLY**

Wagon's ready. Don't wanna be late your first day back.

Mike smiles and starts out after Sully.

**EXT. COLORADO SPRINGS - DAY THREE**

Mike and Sully ride down the street in the wagon (from the direction of the Train Station).

Various townsfolk welcome her with smiles and waves as she and Sully ride by.

Jake calls to Mike from the porch of the Barbershop.

**JAKE**  
Welcome back, Dr. Mike.

**MIKE**  
Thank you, Jake.

Loren, stocking vegetables in front of the General Store, gives Mike a smile and a wave:

**LOREN**  
Good to see you back, Dr. Mike.

**MIKE**  
It's good to *be* back.

Mike and Sully share a smile, then turn the corner and head to:

**THE CLINIC**

where Mike's smile suddenly fades as she catches sight of the clinic door. An uneasiness is kindled inside her -- something SULLY notices. As they pull to a stop:

**SULLY**  
You all right?

Mike turns to Sully, trying to shake it off.

**MIKE**  
Yes... I'm fine.

Sully climbs down and moves to help Mike down from the wagon.

**SULLY**  
You want me to stay with you today?

**MIKE**  
No. No, of course not.

**SULLY**  
I'll just see you inside, then --

**MIKE**  
It's all right, Sully. I'll be fine. (looks back at the clinic door) I'm just... a little nervous, I suppose.

**SULLY**  
Only natural your first day back.

Mike nods, then smiles, feeling self-conscious and a little embarrassed about this. She kisses him, then repeats to herself:

**MIKE**  
I'll be fine.

She draws a deep breath, settling herself, and goes into the clinic. Sully watches until the door is closed before climbing back in the wagon and riding off.

**INT. CLINIC - CONTINUOUS - DAY THREE**

Mike stands inside the door a moment, looking around. The place has been cleaned up -- all traces of the shooting have been eliminated.

She sets her medical bag down, then slips off her coat and hat and moves to her desk. She sits, trying to shake off this disturbing feeling that won't seem to go away. Instead, it builds, amplified by the TICKING of the clock on the wall.

Mike forces herself to go to work, turning her attention to the files on her desk. She's about to open one, when:

There's a KNOCK at the door.

Mike freezes, a wave of fear shooting through her body. She turns to the door, and it opens, revealing Hank. Mike quickly tries to cover her fear by opening a file and pretending to read through it -- a move that doesn't go unnoticed by Hank. She looks at him, manages a pleasant smile.

**MIKE**  
Hello Hank.

**HANK**  
Welcome back, Michaela.

**MIKE**  
Thank you.

**HANK**  
Good to see you up an' about again.

**MIKE**  
Yes. It's good to be back at work.

A quiet beat, then Hank turns to leave.

**MIKE**  
Hank...

He stops, looks at her.

**MIKE**  
(heartfelt) I want to thank you... for saving my life.

**HANK**  
That was Andrew's doin', not mine.

**MIKE**  
But you were the one who found me, the one who took me to him. And for that I'm grateful.

Hank's uncomfortable by Mike's sincerity -- he's not quite sure how to respond to it.

**HANK**  
Yeah, well... you're welcome.

He goes out, shutting the door behind him. The sound of the door **CLOSING** brings back the unsettled feeling in Mike. She looks around the room, her senses heightened. She stares up at the clock, whose **TICKING** seems to have gotten louder.

Mike shakes her head, frustrated by this uneasiness, trying to shake herself free of it. She decides to busy herself, carrying some charts to the file cabinet to file them.

But once again, another KNOCK on the door startles her. She spins toward it as the door opens, revealing Dorothy.

**DOROTHY**  
Michaela, you're back! You look wonderful.

**MIKE**  
Thank you, Dorothy.

**DOROTHY**  
You all right? You need anythin'?

**MIKE**  
No... No, I'm... fine. Thankfully it's a slow day.

**DOROTHY**  
Well, I'm right next door. Holler if you need me.

**MIKE**  
I will.

Dorothy goes out, once again plunging the room into silence.

Mike stands there, trying to calm herself. The depth of her fear has surprised her... and clearly unnerved her. And the more she tries to clear her mind of it, the more she finds herself staring at the clinic door... fixated on it... wondering just when another knock will be heard... and whose knock it will be...

After a long, torturous moment, she can stand it no more. She quickly moves to get her coat, hat and medical bag.

She stops at the door, hesitating a moment, the fear returning. She peeks through the curtains on the door's window, then, satisfied, she opens the door and goes out.

**INT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT THREE**

Sully, Mike, Matthew, Colleen, Brian and Katie sit around the table eating dinner. The events of the day have left Mike rattled, but she's trying hard not to let it show. After a quiet moment:

**MATTHEW**

**(to Mike) So... How'd it go? (off her look) Your first day back at work.**

**MIKE**  
**(beat, smiles) It was nice.**

**BRIAN**  
**The whole town was talkin' about it. Everybody was so glad to see you back.**

**MIKE**  
**Yes. They were all very kind.**

**Mike suddenly feels the need to get away from the table. She turns her attention to the fireplace.**

**MIKE**  
**The fire's dying.**

**She stands and moves to the fireplace, poking at the fire. Matthew, picking up on Mike's uneasiness, turns to Sully. Mike pretends not to see the look of concern passing between the two as she continues to poke at the roaring fire.**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - MORNING - DAY FOUR**

**Sully is saddling two horses, preparing to ride into town with Mike. After a moment, Mike comes out of the house, without her coat and hat.**

**SULLY**  
**Almost ready here.**

**MIKE**  
**I, um... I may have rushed myself in going back to work.**

**Sully stops working and turns to her. She looks tired and drawn, as if she didn't get much sleep last night.**

**MIKE**  
**I've been feeling somewhat lightheaded... especially this morning, when I came down for breakfast.**

**SULLY**  
**I'll get Andrew --**

**MIKE**

(quickly) No... (then) I'm sure I'll be fine. Another day's rest should suffice.

Sully studies her a moment, suspecting there may be more to this. But she really does look tired and weak, and so he nods, his voice understanding:

**SULLY**

All right, then. Why don't you go lie down.

Mike nods, then turns and goes back inside.

**INT. HOMESTEAD - LATER - DAY FOUR**

Colleen sits at the table, doing school work. She glances up to see Mike asleep in a chair in front of the fire, covered by a blanket. Pleased to see Mike getting the rest she needs, Colleen goes back to her school work.

**ON MIKE**

sound asleep... but dreaming again... and as we PUSH IN on her, we once again move into her dream... first with the sound of the TICKING CLOCK... and then the sudden, sharp KNOCK:

**SMASH CUT TO:**

**INT. CLINIC - DAY ONE (MIKE'S DREAM)**

The doorknob rattles with the KNOCKING.

Mike slowly makes her way to the door, eyes wide in paralyzing fear.

**CLOSE ON THE DOOR**

and through the curtains, we now see a shadowy figure looming outside.

**ON MIKE**

wanting to scream, but she can't. All she can do is reach out and grab hold of the doorknob.

**MIKE**

(quietly, knowing what happens next) No... please...

The KNOCK again, this time BANGING hard.

Mike turns the knob and swings open the door, revealing the man. But he doesn't look nervous -- in Mike's dream, his eyes are cold and intense, burning into hers.

**MAN**  
Are you the doctor?

Mike hesitates, not wanting to answer.

**MIKE**  
Yes.

The man suddenly reaches into his coat and pulls out a revolver. As he aims it directly at Mike:

**SMASH CUT BACK TO:**

**INT. HOMESTEAD - DAY FOUR (AS BEFORE)**

Mike wakes with a jolt:

**MIKE**  
No!

Colleen startles, seeing the look of terror in Mike's eyes.

**COLLEEN**  
Ma?

She hurries over to Mike's side as Mike looks around, gradually realizing where she is and what just happened.

**COLLEEN**  
Ma, you all right?

**MIKE**  
Colleen... I, uh... I must've... must've been dreaming...

**COLLEEN**

Can I get you anythin'?

Mike sees how distraught this has made Colleen, and tries hard to brush it off.

**MIKE**

No, I'm... (then) Actually, a glass of water would be nice...

Colleen hurries off to get the water as Mike leans back in the chair, trying to settle herself. But clearly this dream has left her more shaken than the first one.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. MIKE AND SULLY'S BEDROOM - MORNING - DAY FIVE**

**CLOSE ON MIKE**, lying in bed, eyes wide open. After a moment the sound of approaching **FOOTSTEPS** gets her attention. She closes her eyes, pretending to be asleep as the door opens, and Sully comes in.

He crouches beside her, gently touching her arm. She pretends to wake, smiling up at him.

**SULLY**

Mornin'.

**MIKE**

Good morning.

**SULLY**

How you feelin'?

**MIKE**

Better.

**SULLY**

Still wanna go to work?

**MIKE**

(beat) Of course...

As Mike slowly sits up:

**SULLY**

Colleen's got breakfast downstairs. I'll get the horses ready.

Mike nods. Sully kisses her on the cheek, then starts out. But as he gets to the door:

**MIKE**

Sully...

Sully stops, looks back at her. Although she's trying very hard to suppress it, her anxiety is becoming increasingly difficult to mask.

**MIKE**

Perhaps... perhaps one more day. I'm still feeling a little tired.

Sully gives her a long look... then crouches beside her again.

**SULLY**

You have another bad dream?

**MIKE**

No...

**SULLY**

Colleen told me about the one you had yesterday --

**MIKE**

Sully, I'm fine. I'm just... I'm still feeling a little lightheaded, that's all --

**SULLY**

I'm bringin' Andrew out here.

**MIKE**

You don't have to --

**SULLY**

(with compassion) I'm worried about you, Michaela. Wanna make sure you're all right.

Mike sees the growing concern in his eyes, then quietly relents with a nod.

**INT. HOMESTEAD - DAY FIVE**

Mike sits in silence as Andrew listens to her heartbeat with his stethoscope. Sully, Matthew, Colleen and Brian watch on, trading looks with Mike, who's feeling very self-conscious about this check-up.

Satisfied with what he hears, Andrew finishes and puts away his stethoscope.

**ANDREW**

Your heart is strong, Michaela, and the incision is completely healed. As far as I can see, you're perfectly healthy.

**SULLY**

But she's been feelin' tired a lot.

**ANDREW**

That's to be expected after a two week convalescence. (to Mike) As you know, in time, your strength will return. (back to Sully) But I see no reason why she can't return to work now.

All eyes turn back to Mike, who forces a smile, trying her best to look thrilled by this news.

**MIKE**

That's a relief.

Andrew returns her smile, but Sully can see the uncertainty beneath it, and knows there are much deeper problems here.

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - MOMENTS LATER - DAY FIVE**

Sully, Matthew and Colleen walk Andrew out to his surrey.

**SULLY**

Thanks for lookin' in on her.

**ANDREW**

My pleasure. I only hope Michaela is reassured by it.

**SULLY**

Yeah, well... sometimes gettin' the body healed is only the beginnin'.

Andrew gives Sully a quizzical look. Colleen fills Andrew in:

**COLLEEN**

She's been havin' nightmares.

**ANDREW**

Nightmares are not uncommon following such a trauma. They should dissipate over time.

**COLLEEN**

But they seem to be gettin' worse.

**MATTHEW**

I been readin' about soldiers from the War, how they have nightmares 'bout the battles. Gets to the point where some can't even set foot in places that look like the battlefield.

**SULLY**

I saw the same thing in the minin' camps, after cave-ins. Men'd just as soon kill themselves than go back in after that.

**ANDREW**

Are you suggesting Michaela's purposefully avoiding going back to the clinic?

Sully, Matthew and Colleen exchange a look -- this is exactly what they've been thinking. Sully turns back to Andrew.

**SULLY**

I think she's scared, but doesn't wanna admit it to anyone... or herself.

Andrew considers this a moment.

**MATTHEW**

Prob'ly thinks that if she doesn't talk about it, it'll go away somehow.

**SULLY**

Problem is, it won't go away 'til she *does* talk about it.

The group falls silent, realizing the painful road ahead for Mike.

**INT. HOMESTEAD - MORNING - DAY SIX**

Mike nibbles at her oatmeal breakfast as she glances over the latest edition of the Gazette. Colleen sits beside her, helping Katie eat her breakfast. Matthew comes

downstairs, kisses Mike before scooping himself a bowl of oatmeal.

**MATTHEW**  
Mornin'.

**MIKE**  
Good morning, Matthew.

**MATTHEW**  
(re: the Gazette) Anythin' interesting?

**MIKE**  
Dorothy's written a wonderful article about Jake and Teresa's wedding. She's really become quite a talented writer.

Mike looks up from the paper, a thought hitting her.

**MIKE**  
I should try my hand at writing. I think I'd enjoy it.

Brian comes in the front door, looks at Mike.

**BRIAN**  
Sully's got the wagon hitched. You ready?

Mike turns to Brian, hesitating. She looks at Colleen and Katie, then down at the breakfast bowls.

**MATTHEW**  
You go on ahead. We'll clean up breakfast.

Mike looks at Matthew, who gives her an encouraging, compassionate smile. Mike forces a smile back, then nods and stands. She puts on her coat and hat, then lifts Katie from her chair.

**MIKE**  
What do you say, Katie? Are you ready to go to work with me?

Mike casts another look at Matthew and Colleen, before following Brian out.

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS - DAY SIX**

**Mike steps outside, and as soon as she hits the porch, the same uneasiness she felt earlier in the clinic hits her again.**

**Sully, standing down by the wagon, watches as she pauses on the steps, trying not to let her increasing anxiety overwhelm her. She continues toward the wagon, each step becoming more arduous.**

**Matthew and Colleen come out and watch from the top of the steps as Mike finally reaches the wagon. Sully kisses her.**

**SULLY**  
Ready?

**Mike nods. Brian jumps up into the back of the wagon and holds his hands out for Katie. Mike starts to hand her up to him, but then suddenly stops, noticing something about Katie. She pulls her back, feeling Katie's cheek and forehead.**

**SULLY**  
What's wrong?

**MIKE**  
Katie feels warm. I think she might be running a fever.

**Sully feels Katie's forehead.**

**SULLY**  
Feels all right to me.

**MIKE**  
(feels Katie again) No, she's definitely warm. Perhaps I should stay home with her --

**SULLY**  
(seeing through this) Michaela...

**MIKE**  
She could be coming down with a catarrh. I wouldn't want it to get any worse --

**SULLY**  
(compassionate) Michaela, you can't go on like this.

**This silences Mike. She suspected Sully might notice her anxiety, but having him call**

her on it suddenly rekindles the paralyzing fear she's been trying to deny.

**SULLY**  
You been through somethin' terrible, and I know you're scared. But you can't keep makin' excuses. You gotta --

**MIKE**  
Excuses? Sully, Katie is feverish. I can't just --

**SULLY**  
You gotta start talkin' about this.

**MIKE**  
There's nothing to talk about. It's over --

**SULLY**  
(insistent) No it isn't.

She quiets again, feeling the weight of Sully and the children's stares. She tries to keep her emotions in check.

**SULLY**  
You been avoidin' goin' back to the clinic --

**MIKE**  
That's nonsense --

**SULLY**  
(continuing) -- And you got every right to be afraid. But it isn't gonna get any better until you --

**MIKE**  
(cutting him off, getting angry now) Katie is sick! How can you stand there and expect me to ignore my daughter's well being

**SULLY**  
There's nothin' wrong with Katie.

**MIKE**  
Are you questioning my judgment?

**SULLY**  
Yes.

Mike silences, insulted and angry.

**SULLY**  
Michaela, look at yourself. You haven't left the house in three days.

The realization of this hits Mike hard.

**SULLY**  
I know you don't wanna talk about it, and I understand why you wouldn't. But you can't keep pretendin' the fear's not there, 'cause it's only gonna get worse.

Mike looks up at him, meeting his steady stare. In his eyes she sees only love and a deep, aching concern for her.

**SULLY**  
It's already gettin' worse.

Mike holds his look a moment longer, then turns to the rest of the family, seeing the same concern in their eyes.

Without a word, she rushes back into the house, leaving Sully and the children frustrated and more helpless than ever, as we:

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**FADE IN:**

**INT. HOMESTEAD - MORNING - DAY SEVEN**

Sully, Matthew, Brian, Colleen and Katie eat breakfast in worried silence. After a moment, Mike comes downstairs. She's dressed for work, and even though she looks increasingly nervous, she's also determined, forcing herself to do what she's about to do.

**MIKE**

**Good morning, everyone.**

**Ad-lib "Good morning's" from the family.**

**MIKE**

**Brian, would you please saddle Flash for me?**

**Everyone reacts, exchanging a quiet, hopeful look. Brian turns back to Mike.**

**BRIAN**

**Sure, Ma.**

**Brian goes out, as Mike turns to Colleen.**

**MIKE**

**Colleen, will you look after Katie for me while I'm at work today?**

**Colleen smiles, encouraged.**

**COLLEEN**

**'Course.**

**Mike turns to Sully.**

**MIKE**

**I was awake most of the night, thinking. (beat) You were right. I've been making excuses... looking for ways to avoid going back to the clinic. (to all of them) But I'm not going to let this... incident... destroy my life. (back to Sully, forcing a smile) It's time I stopped hiding... (determination building) It's time I go back to work.**

**Sully returns her smile, hoping she's turned the corner.**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - MOMENTS LATER - DAY SEVEN**

**Brian's finished saddling FLASH, and leads her out of the corral and up to the front of the homestead, as Mike comes out the front door, followed by Sully, Matthew and Colleen (who holds Katie). Brian smiles up at her.**

**BRIAN**

**All set, Ma.**

**MIKE**

Thank you, Brian.

**SULLY**

You want me to ride with you?

**MIKE**

No, Sully. I can ride alone.

Mike knows all eyes are on her as she stares down at Flash. She starts down the steps... and once again, the paralyzing fear hits her. She fights against it, trying to overpower it, but with each step it only gets worse, slowing her down. Sully and the kids see this, and their hearts break for her.

She finally gets to Flash, takes the reins from Brian, but her heart is pounding, and her hands are trembling. Brian gives her a worried look.

**BRIAN**

Ma... (as she looks at him) You don't have to go.

**MIKE**

Yes I do, Brian. (more to herself than Brian) I have to do this.

She takes a deep breath, then reaches up and grabs hold of the saddle horn. She places her foot in the stirrup...

But she can't pull herself up. Tears well in her eyes as her fear turns to shame. She can't look at Brian... can't look at any of them, as she takes her foot out of the stirrup and just stands there, head lowered, utterly frozen.

Sully comes down the steps, moving toward her.

**SULLY**

Michaela, I'll go with you.

**MIKE**

No.

**SULLY**

We'll take it nice an easy --

**MIKE**  
**(sharp) No!**

And with that, she turns and hurries back up the stairs and into the house.

The kids react, startled by Mike's behavior, and increasingly worried by it.

**BRIAN**  
**(to Sully) what's wrong with her, Pa? Why can't she do it?**

**MATTHEW**  
**She's still scared, Brian.**

**SULLY**  
**Gonna take some time.**

**BRIAN**  
**But they caught the guy who shot her. She doesn't have to be afraid anymore.**

**SULLY**  
**Sometimes it's hard to put things like this behind you.**

Brian nods, trying to understand... but something is still clearly troubling him:

**BRIAN**  
**It's not like Ma to be afraid.**

**SULLY**  
**I know that, Brian... (beat) And she knows that, too.**

The kids fall silent, wondering what they can do to help Mike get through this.

**EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY SEVEN**

Loren, Hank, Jake and Dorothy congregate around the wagon as Sully and Matthew load food supplies into the back.

**DOROTHY**  
**She's still not ready to come back?**

**SULLY**

**I talked to Andrew. He's gonna keep lookin' after her patients for her.**

**JAKE**

**I don't get it. She's already been to the clinic once since the shootin'. Why can't she come back?**

**MATTHEW**

**She doesn't feel safe there anymore.**

**DOROTHY**

**Poor thing. I can only imagine how frightenin' it musta been for her.**

**HANK**

**So what's she gonna do, keep herself locked up in the house the rest of her life?**

**LOREN**

**It ain't gonna come to that. Dr. Mike's a tough lady. Once she realizes that there's nothin' to be afraid of in the clinic, she'll come back.**

**JAKE**

**Hey, I got an idea. S'pose we was to set up some kinda fake accident -- you know, make it look like lots of people got hurt. That might get her to come back.**

**MATTHEW**

**And then what? She comes into town, sees that it was all a trick? Be humiliatin' for her.**

**Jake nods, sees his point.**

**Sully finishes with the supplies, turns to the group.**

**SULLY**

**If Michaela's comin' back to the clinic, it's not gonna be for other people. It's gotta be for herself.**

**Sully and Matthew climb up onto the wagon and ride off, leaving the others to consider this.**

**INT. HOMESTEAD - DAY SEVEN**

**Mike sits near the fire, holding a beautiful spider wheel that Cloud Dancing has made for her. Dorothy is also here, hoping to cheer Mike up. Mike is pleasant throughout the visit,**

but we can see that she's clearly self-conscious and increasingly restless.

**CLOUD DANCING**

The spider wheel will hang above you, protecting you from evil spirits.

**MIKE**

It's beautiful, Cloud Dancing. I think it's even prettier than the one you made for Katie. Thank you.

**DOROTHY**

We got a telegram from Daniel. (beat) They hung the man who shot you last night.

Mike nods in silence, but Dorothy sees that this news isn't very comforting to Mike.

**DOROTHY**

Michaela... You know that the chances of somethin' like this hapenin' again are pretty near impossible.

Mike nods, but again, this doesn't seem to ease her discomfort. Now Dorothy and Cloud Dancing are starting to feel uncomfortable. They exchange a quiet look, before Dorothy turns back to Mike.

**DOROTHY**

I hope you don't mind us comin' out to visit, Michaela.

**MIKE**

Oh, no... of course not.

**DOROTHY**

It's just... well, we're worried about you, and want to help.

**CLOUD DANCING**

Please let us know what we can do.

Which only makes Mike more uncomfortable. This phobia is embarrassing to her, even more so now that people know about it.

**MIKE**

Thank you, Dorothy, Cloud Dancing. (trying to sound like she means it) I'm sure I'll be fine.

**Dorothy and Cloud Dancing nod, very concerned for their friend.**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - LATER - DAY EIGHT**

**Colleen, Brian and Katie work out in the garden. Colleen and Brian are tending to the plants, while Katie pretty much just throws handfuls of dirt around.**

**Brian is distraught, his concern for Mike matched by his frustration at being unable to help her.**

**BRIAN**

**She wouldn't even leave the house to go fetch the eggs this mornin'.**

**Colleen nods, sharing Brian's worry. Brian looks up at her.**

**BRIAN**

**Colleen... (beat) What if she doesn't get better?**

**Colleen has wondered about this as well, but she won't allow herself to dwell on it.**

**COLLEEN**

**That ain't gonna happen, Brian. She's gonna feel better real soon, I know it.**

**Brian manages a nod as he falls silent, returning to work.**

**INT./EXT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS - DAY EIGHT**

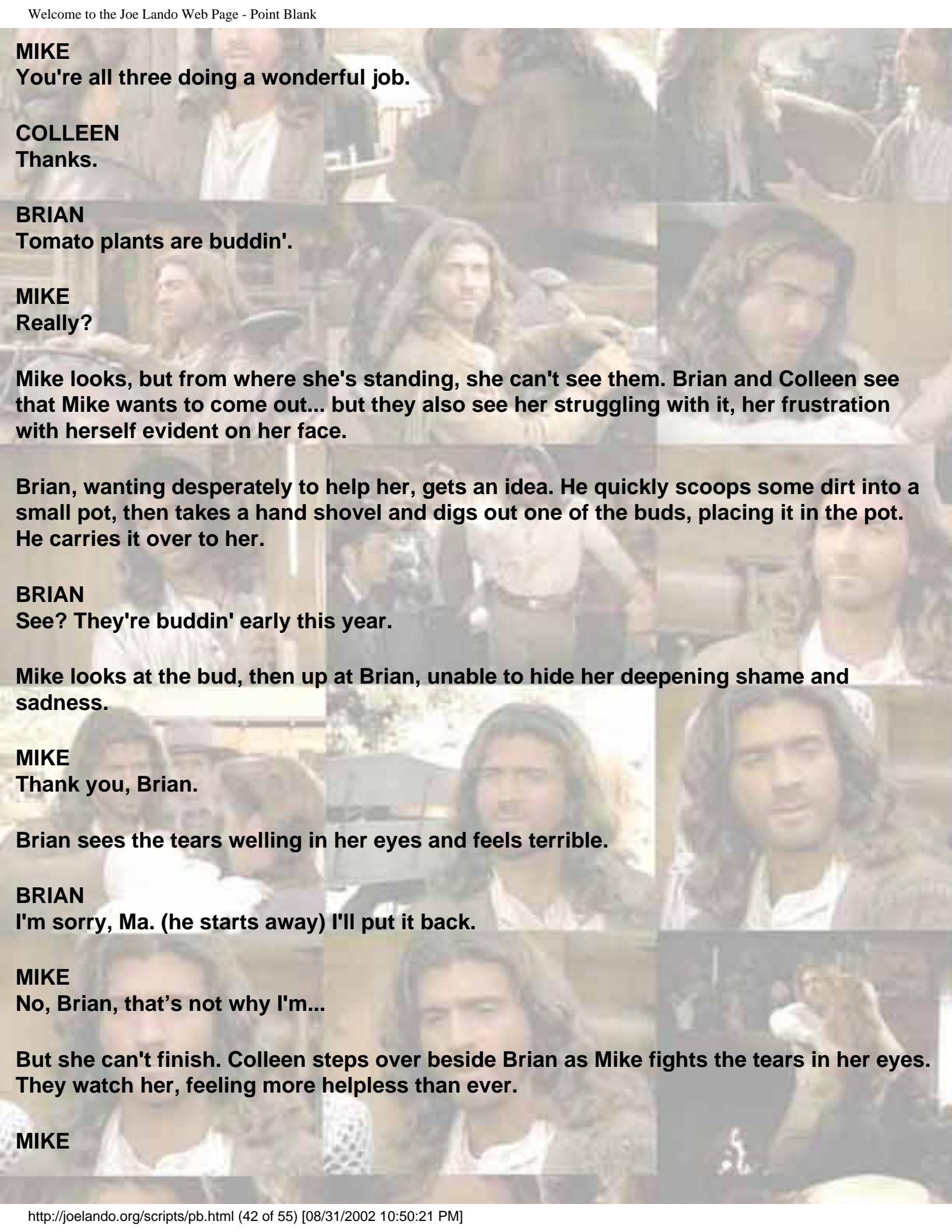
**Mike, looking tired and strained from the effects of yet another sleepless night, stands at the kitchen sink, washing the breakfast dishes. She pauses a moment when she looks out the window and sees:**

**HER POV - THROUGH WINDOW**

**of the kids out in the garden.**

**BACK TO MIKE**

**as a sad smile forms on her face. She steps around to the side door and opens it... and although she'd like nothing better than to go out and join them, she stays in the doorway and calls to them:**



**MIKE**  
You're all three doing a wonderful job.

**COLLEEN**  
Thanks.

**BRIAN**  
Tomato plants are buddin'.

**MIKE**  
Really?

Mike looks, but from where she's standing, she can't see them. Brian and Colleen see that Mike wants to come out... but they also see her struggling with it, her frustration with herself evident on her face.

Brian, wanting desperately to help her, gets an idea. He quickly scoops some dirt into a small pot, then takes a hand shovel and digs out one of the buds, placing it in the pot. He carries it over to her.

**BRIAN**  
See? They're buddin' early this year.

Mike looks at the bud, then up at Brian, unable to hide her deepening shame and sadness.

**MIKE**  
Thank you, Brian.

Brian sees the tears welling in her eyes and feels terrible.

**BRIAN**  
I'm sorry, Ma. (he starts away) I'll put it back.

**MIKE**  
No, Brian, that's not why I'm...

But she can't finish. Colleen steps over beside Brian as Mike fights the tears in her eyes. They watch her, feeling more helpless than ever.

**MIKE**

**(quietly) I'm sorry...**

**Brian and Colleen share a quiet look before Brian turns Back to Mike, trying his best to encourage her.**

**BRIAN**

**It's gonna be all right, Ma. You're gonna feel better real soon, I know it.**

**But Mike sees doubt and worry in his eyes, which only heightens her sadness. After a beat, she forces a nod and a weak smile.**

**MIKE**

**Thank you, Brian.**

**Mike steps back inside. She closes the door and leans against it, taking a deep breath, fighting to suppress her swelling emotions.**

**She manages to regain her composure, her expression settling into an inexorable weariness... until a sudden POUNDING ON THE DOOR shatters the silence, jolting us into:**

**INT. CLINIC - DAY ONE (MIKE'S DREAM)**

**as the doorknob RATTLES under the intense POUNDING.**

**Mike turns the knob and swings open the door, revealing the man, his eyes cold and intense.**

**MAN**

**Are you the doctor?**

**Mike hesitates, not wanting to answer.**

**MIKE**

**(quietly pleading) ... Don't shoot... please don't shoot...**

**But the man reaches into his coat and pulls out the revolver. He aims it directly at Mike, whose eyes widen in terror.**

**CLOSE ON THE GUN**

The man pulls the trigger. The GUNSHOT EXPLODES as we:

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOMESTEAD - DAY EIGHT

Mike, who was napping in the chair by the fireplace, leaps up with a scream, throwing the blanket off her.

MIKE  
NO!!

Sully hurries over from the kitchen and quickly grabs hold of her as she struggles against him.

SULLY  
Michaela! Michaela, it's all right...

Mike looks around, realizing she's had another dream. She's breathing hard, scared half to death, as Sully wraps his arms around her, holding her close.

MIKE  
Sully...

SULLY  
Shhh... it's just a dream... just a dream...

Mike looks up at him, the tears welling in her eyes. Her voice is weak -- she's nearing the end of her rope.

MIKE  
I can't do it, Sully... I can't go back there...

SULLY  
It's gonna take some time --

MIKE  
(trying to think through it) I should just... I should just quit my practice...

SULLY  
What?

**MIKE**

**(fast)** I can start writing. I've always wanted to. I'll be able to stay home with Katie. She needs me --

**SULLY**

Michaela --

**MIKE**

Especially now, with your new job, and Colleen away at --

**SULLY**

**(firm)** Michaela, look at me.

Mike quiets, looking at him.

**SULLY**

What is it you're afraid of? Are you scared somethin' like this is gonna happen again?

**MIKE**

No. Yes. I don't know. **(crumbling)** I don't want to feel this way, Sully, but I can't help it. Every time I look out a window, or open a door, I feel this... this...

**SULLY**

What? What is it?

Mike's searching, trying to put her finger on it.

**MIKE**

This... *fear*... This paralyzing feeling that something terrible is about to happen at any moment. And the more I try to control it -- the more I try to talk myself into not feeling it -- the more it's there.

Mike turns away in shame, unable to hold his look. Sully takes her face in his hands, gently turning her to look at him.

**SULLY**

Michaela, listen to me. I know you're afraid. And I know you wanna be safe. But I also know you're strong.

**MIKE**

No...

**SULLY**

Yes. You're the same woman who stood in front of a chargin' army, who jumped off a cliff with me... (looking her in the eye) Who left her home to come out to the middle of nowhere and become a doctor.

**MIKE**

I'm not that woman anymore.

**SULLY**

Yes you are. And you always will be.

The moment is suddenly broken as Brian runs in the front door --

**BRIAN**

Sully, wind's pickin' up --

-- and swings the door shut behind him. The SLAM of the door jolts Mike, sending her diving to the floor, screaming in terror:

**MIKE**

Don't shoot!

Brian freezes, stunned, as Mike writhes on the floor, hiding her face in shame, the pent-up emotions finally surging to the surface. Sully crouches beside her, taking her in his arms and rocking her gently as she sobs.

**MIKE**

(barely audible) What's happening to me?

Sully just holds her, exchanging a deeply troubled look with Brian as we:

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

**FADE IN:**

**INT. MIKE AND SULLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT EIGHT**

A storm is building outside. **LIGHTNING FLASHES** as Mike splashes water on her face. She dries her face with a towel and then stands there a moment, physically and emotionally spent.

Colleen tentatively steps into the room and speaks softly to her.

**COLLEEN**  
Ma... ?

Mike tries to collect herself and turns to face Colleen.

**MIKE**  
Yes, Colleen?

**COLLEEN**  
Katie's all set for her bath. You want me to go ahead and get her started?

**MIKE**  
(after a beat) No... no, I'll do it.

Mike goes past her out the door.

**INT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT EIGHT**

The storm outside is intensifying, but inside the house is warm and dry. A gentle fire burns in the fireplace as Mike gives Katie a bath in a basin at the kitchen sink. Colleen assists her. Mike talks soothingly to Katie as she washes her.

**MIKE**  
There you are, sweetheart... soft, warm water...

**THUNDER RUMBLES** outside. Katie turns to it. Mike gives her a smile, caressing her back with the wash cloth.

**MIKE**  
Don't worry about that thunder. It's miles away from here.

Brian comes in the front door, careful not to slam it.

**BRIAN**  
Sully and Matthew are takin' the horses in the barn. (looks out window) Wind's really

**pickin' up. I better close the shutters.**

**MIKE**  
**Be careful.**

**Brian goes out. Mike finishes washing Katie and wraps a towel around her.**

**MIKE**  
**All done, Katie. Nice and clean.**

**She carries her over by the fireplace.**

**MIKE**  
**Let's come over to the fire, where it's warm.**

**Mike sits, and Colleen helps her dress Katie. Mike never lets Katie out of her arms during the process.**

**Sully comes in the front door, soaking wet.**

**SULLY**  
**Barn's closed up. Matthew's helpin' Brian with the shutters.**

**Mike nods. Sully steps over to her.**

**SULLY**  
**You all right?**

**MIKE**  
**We're fine. (hugs Katie) Katie just had a nice --**

**Mike's suddenly cut short as a loud CRASH is heard. Sully puts a protective arm around Mike and Katie as they turn to see:**

**A HUGE TREE BRANCH**

**slamming through the kitchen window, smashing the basin by the sink. Broken glass is everywhere, and rain and wind pour in through the open window.**

**Mike leaps to her feet in fear, clinging to Katie as Sully moves in to investigate the damage. Colleen stays by Mike's side.**

**Matthew and Brian rush in the front door. They have to raise their voices above the sound of the storm.**

**MATTHEW**

**Lightning struck the oak tree! Branch splintered off!**

**SULLY**

**Are the rest of the windows shuttered?**

**MATTHEW**

**Yeah.**

**SULLY**

**Brian, get started cleanin' up the broken glass. (to Matthew, leading him out) C'mon. We need to clear out that branch and board up the window.**

**As Sully and Matthew hurry out, Brian and Colleen look over at Mike, who stands motionless, eyes fixated on the smashed window and wash basin.**

**COLLEEN**

**You all right, Ma?**

**Mike manages a nod, and Brian and Colleen go to work. We PUSH IN on Mike as she continues to stare at the window and the shattered basin. She then looks down at Katie in her arms, the impact of what just happened greatly affecting her as we:**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - MORNING - DAY NINE**

**The storm has cleared -- the sun is shining. Brian and Matthew move from window to window, opening the shutters.**

**INT. MIKE AND SULLY'S BEDROOM - DAY NINE**

**Mike lies in bed, eyes wide open, deep in thought. After a moment she slowly sits up and pulls back the covers. But she doesn't get out of bed... she just sits there, still thinking about the events of last night.**

**She glances over at Katie's sleeping form in the crib and smiles softly. She then catches her reflection in the mirror. She looks tired and weak... but there's something different**

**about her this morning.**

**The anxiety and fear seem to have ebbed, replaced now by the beginnings of a calmness she hasn't felt in weeks. It's as if the final missing piece of the puzzle is slowly falling into place.**

**After a moment she makes a decision. She stands and begins dressing for work.**

**INT. HOMESTEAD - DAY NINE**

**Sully and Matthew can be seen outside, pulling down the boards that were covering the shattered kitchen window, as Brian and Colleen eat breakfast.**

**The whole family stops what they're doing, surprised to see Mike coming down the stairs, ready for work.**

**MIKE**  
**Good morning, everyone.**

**COLLEEN**  
**Mornin', Ma.**

**MIKE**  
**Brian, will you please saddle Flash for me?**

**The room falls silent a moment as everyone reacts to this, exchanging looks with each other.**

**BRIAN**  
**Sure, Ma.**

**Brian goes out, not before exchanging a look with Sully. Sully turns back to Mike, puzzled.**

**Mike pauses a moment... and although she's still somewhat anxious about going back to work, her determination is growing. She tries to explain her revelation:**

**MIKE**  
**What happened last night... the storm... this window... I finally realized something very important...**

**She steps over to the kitchen sink.**

**MIKE**

**I was standing right here, washing Katie in the basin... feeling safe in the comfort of my own home. (beat) If we had remained here a few minutes longer, that branch would've...**

**She quiets a moment... then forces herself to continue:**

**MIKE**

**It would've crashed through the window and possibly killed us both.**

**She turns back to the family, her anxiousness continuing to ebb.**

**MIKE**

**And now I realize -- it doesn't matter where I am, or what I'm doing. Whether I'm at home, in town... (beat) Or even at the clinic... (another beat) There are things in this world we can't control. We just have to live our lives and hope for the best.**

**Sully steps over to her, giving her a warm smile and a kiss.**

**SULLY**

**Sounds like good advice to me.**

**Mike smiles back at him as he puts his arms around her, hugging her tightly.**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY NINE**

**Brian steadies Flash as Mike walks down the steps. Sully, Matthew and Colleen (holding Katie) watch with cautious optimism as Mike reaches Flash and takes the reins from Brian.**

**She takes a deep breath -- this still isn't easy for her, but the fear is no longer paralyzing. Brian looks up at her.**

**BRIAN**

**You want me to ride with you, Ma?**

**MIKE**

**No thank you, Brian... I'll be fine.**

**BRIAN**

**(after a beat) Maybe when you come home, we can work in the garden together.**

**Mike looks down at him, the depth of his love for her giving her more strength.**

**MIKE**  
**I'd like that very much.**

**Mike puts her foot in the stirrup and pulls herself up onto the saddle. She casts a look down at Sully and the family.**

**MIKE**  
**I'll see you later.**

**Sully nods, and Mike urges Flash forward. As she rides away from the homestead, she looks back, waving to the family.**

**EXT. STREET - DAY NINE**

**Dorothy is on her way to the bank when something she sees up the street stops her:**

**ANGLE ON MIKE**

**riding into town (from the direction of the Train Station).**

**BACK TO DOROTHY**

**as she gives Mike a proud smile.**

**DOROTHY**  
**Mornin', Michaela.**

**MIKE**  
**Good morning, Dorothy.**

**Dorothy watches as Mike rides on, turning the corner and heading toward:**

**THE CLINIC**

**where the "CLOSED" sign still hangs on the door. Mike rides up and stops, staring down at the door. She takes a deep breath, calming herself, then dismounts. She looks across the street to see:**

**HANK**

watching her from the porch of the Gold Nugget. He can't help it -- he too is proud of Mike for making it back. He gives her a nod and a smile and heads back into the Nugget.

**MIKE**

turns back to the clinic. She takes down the "CLOSED" sign, then opens the door.

**INT. CLINIC - CONTINUOUS - DAY NINE**

Mike stands in the doorway a moment, staring into the empty clinic, as if studying it with a new-found clarity.

She then steps inside and shuts the door. She takes off her coat and hat, moves to her desk and sits. She casts a glance over at the clock on the wall. The TICKING is nowhere near as loud as it was before...

But the uneasiness is still there. This time, however, Mike is able to calm herself. She begins consulting her patient schedule, gradually starting to relax... when suddenly:

An urgent KNOCK at the door breaks the silence.

Mike stiffens, fighting off the now familiar wave of fear that rises up inside her. She looks to the door and, with all the determination she can muster, stands and moves toward it.

She reaches out and turns the knob, swinging open the door to reveal:

**LOREN**

standing there, face fully lathered in shaving cream, clutching his bleeding shoulder. Jake stands beside him. Loren breathes a huge sigh of relief when he sees Mike.

**LOREN**

Oh, Dr. Mike, you *are* back. How ya feelin'?

**MIKE**

I'm fine... (re: his bleeding shoulder) But what happened to you?

**Loren casts an irritated glance at Jake as he comes in, climbing up on the examination table.**

**LOREN**  
He cut me with his razor is what happened to me.

**JAKE**  
How was I supposed to know you were gonna sneeze? You gotta let me know these things.

**LOREN**  
Oh, so I'm supposed to make an announcement every time I sneeze?

**JAKE**  
You're lucky I wasn't shavin' your neck at the time.

The sight of Loren, fully lathered up, bickering with Jake washes away any fear in Mike. She can't help but smile as she begins examining Loren's shoulder.

**MIKE**  
This will need a few stitches.

**LOREN**  
(to Jake, as Mike works) You can forget about the tip I was gonna give ya.

**JAKE**  
A whole penny. How will I live without it?

Mike tries not to laugh but can't help herself. Loren turns to her, his irritation at Jake sliding away at the sight of her smile. Loren smiles back at her.

**LOREN**  
The town sure missed you, Dr. Mike.

**JAKE**  
It's good to have you back.

Mike pauses a moment, a look of immense relief on her face.

**MIKE**  
Thank you. (truly meaning it now) It's good to be back.

**Mike goes to work, cleaning Loren's wound before she begins stitching it up. We slowly PULL BACK as Mike works, full of confidence and finally at peace.**

**It's just another day at the clinic...**

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**CBS ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS**

**in association with  
THE SULLIVAN COMPANY**

**© MCIMXCVII**

**1997 CBS Inc.**

**All Rights Reserved**

**Prod. 42244-0616**

**PRODUCTION DRAFT**

**November 13, 1997**

[Articles](#) | [Interviews](#) | | [Joe's Movies](#) | [Scripts](#) | [Pix](#) | [Biography](#) | [Cooking with Joe](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Tribute to Sully](#)

[Message Board](#) | [Joe Poll](#) | [Sully's Story](#) | [HG](#) | [Misc](#) | [Chatroom](#) | [Landograms](#) | [Thanks & Links](#)



[Home](#)