

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

KIRA 24, lays an unconscious prisoner in her hospital bed. Mascara running. Hair dismayed.

MARY 23, stands over her. Syringe in hand. Mary injects the contents of the syringe into Kira's I.V. and walks away.

Kira's eyes open. She looks around. Kira tries to sit up. She's stuck...

She tries to move her hands. Impossible. She fights to sit up. No use. Frantic, she struggles in the bed.

Mary stops in the doorway and yells out down the hall.

MARY

Dr. Wright! 202 is awake.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

DR. WRIGHT 45, walks into the room and sits next to Kira.

She begins to settle down.

DR.WRIGHT

Kira, I'm Dr. Wright. I see this is the fourth time you've...

Kira abruptly turns away, disgusted. Dr. Wright exhales exasperated.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)

Mary, page Frank, please.

MARY (O.S.)

Right away, doctor.

INT. PADDED ROOM - DAY

The door creaks open and Kira stumbles in. She barely manages to stay upright. She hurries to flee back through the door.

A mountain steps into the room blocking her exit. FRANK 30, the orderly postures.

Kira freezes. Frank stands eerily still. His face cold and emotionless. Kira shrinks and retreats into a corner.

The room door claps closed and the heavy locks click into place.

Kira screams. She lashes out at the padded wall as if it had tossed her into the room.

After a moment, she calms down. She leans solemnly into the wall.

Kira stands motionless with her head pressed firmly against the wall.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. KIRA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Kira stands at the bathroom sink and opens the medicine cabinet. Pulls out a pill bottle, pours a handful, and dumps them down her throat.

She plunges her head under the bathroom faucet. Gulping water planting the pills deep in her belly.

Kira collapses into a nearby wall and slides down into her resting place.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PADDED ROOM - NIGHT

Kira wakes up. She surveys her surroundings. Disappointed, she sits up.

Her eyes widen. She leans in. Wider still, her eyes focus on the room door.

It's ajar. Kira mouses closer. She reaches the door and peaks her face into the doorway.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Kira's face pokes through the doorway. An all-white room full of gowned patients opens up to her.

Like clothed statues the patients ignore her as if she doesn't exist.

Kira steps deeper into the room.

She hugs herself and begins to explore.

Through a group of patients, she spots Frank. Overcome with anxiety, she freezes.

Feet planted. She leans forward.

KIRA

Hello...

Frank stands at the far end of the room. His back to Kira. His body jerking slightly and his arm rock back and forth.

Kira starts to approach Frank.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Hello. The door was open and...

Frank's movement slows to a stop. He turns his head to look over his shoulder. The rest of his body slowly follows.

As Frank turns, Kira notices a patient on his knees slumped against Frank.

Frank's and the patient's clothes are covered in blood.

Frank holds a scalpel in his free hand. The scalpel plunged deep into the mans neck.

Kira whimpers. She tries to move, but her feet betray her. Her face is overcome with terror watching the man fade from life.

Frank looks at his victim one last time then looks at Kira.

Frank tosses the lifeless body to the floor.

Kira stifles a scream and peddles backward. Frank matches her step for step.

Frank stabs, slices, and shoves his way through the mass of patients between him and Kira.

Kira trips over her own feet and falls back to the floor. Panic grabs hold of her. She scrambles.

Frank barrels closer. She can feel his footsteps shake the ground. He grabs for Kira's feet struggling to take hold of one of her ankles.

Kira kicks frantically and manages to escape.

She scrambles to her feet and sprints away taking off back through the white door.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Kira bursts into a large locker room. She rummages around frantically. She tries the lockers, Nothing!

She spins, eyes running back and forth. Scans the room, Nothing!

BANG! The door slams open. Frank is blood drunk. His face is stone, but his intentions radiate from him.

Kira shrieks! She tries in vain to flee. Frank raises his blade and rushes her.

Kira runs along the wall trying to avoid Frank.

Frank trips as he swings the scalpel. He barely misses her.

Kira runs past him.

WHAM!

She's flat on her face.

Frank has got a vice-like grip on her ankle. Kira fights to break free.

Frank snatches her toward him as if she were weightless. He's a monster. Strong. Cold.

Kira lay on her back terrified. She braces herself.

Frank raises his hand. The blade stares down at Kira. Frank drives his arm down violently.

Kira blocks Frank's arm with both hands. All her strength flows into her arms. A rage overtakes her. She roars. Her face bears her intent to live.

Barely keeping the scalpel out of her flesh, She fights. She digs her nails into Frank's face. Scratching, pulling, scraping, and poking.

Kira's finger digs into his eye. Frank bellows out in pain.

The scalpel falls. Kira grabs it and shoves it deep into Franks side.

Again, he bellows out falling to the floor.

Kira dashes off.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Kira flies back into the white room.

She stops.

Her face frozen in disbelief.

The mangled bodies of Frank's victims cover the floor.

Kira looks around, sobbing behind her hands as she walks through the carnage. Her face grows sad.

Then, a look of terror grows across her face.

The bodies begin to move. They struggle to their feet and stand there motionless.

Simultaneously, they all turn to look at her.

Her heart begins to pounds in her chest. Her breathing becomes difficult. She tries to clear her throat. She can't swallow the frog resting on her windpipe.

Kira gasps for air. Her heartbeat grows even louder. It pounds in her ears. Kira covers her ears, trying to silence the sound of her own heart.

The room begins to spin.

She's flat on her back staring at the ceiling.

Kira blacks out.

CUT TO BLACK:

DR.WRIGHT (O.S.)

Wait a while before you come in. We don't know how she'll react to seeing you.

FRANK (O.S.)

I'll play it by ear.

INT. PADDED ROOM - DAY

Kira wakes up incoherent. The cold padded floor against her face.

DR.WRIGHT (O.S.)

Let's see how she's doing. Shall we?

FRANK (O.S.)
Better than last night, I'm sure.

The room door comes to life and grinds open.

Dr. Wright steps into the room.

DR.WRIGHT
Kira...

Kira scurries into the near corner and cowers. His footsteps slowly move toward her.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)
Kira it's OK. It's Dr. Wright.

She sits balled up in the corner. He touches her shoulder.

She begins to flail. "NO... no..."

Dr. Wright shakes her violently.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)
KIRA! Calm Down!

Kira stops fighting, but continues to cower.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)
It's OK.

She looks up at Dr. Wright. Her continence changes and she reaches out to him.

Just then, Frank steps into the room.

Kira notices the second person and looks over past Dr. Wright. She SCREAMS fighting her way back to her corner.

KIRA
No, no, no, no, no, no. Why is he here? Get him out of here!

Dr. Wright turns to see what has riled up Kira.

DR.WRIGHT
Frank, stay back a moment. Kira, stay calm. Frank is here to help.

KIRA
He's a killer. He slit that man's throat.

DR.WRIGHT

Kira, try to stay calm. Let me explain.

KIRA

Oh, my God! All those people.

Kira charges for Frank. Dr. Wright manages to tackle her and restrain her.

DR.WRIGHT

Kira! We're not here to hurt you. Frank, would never hurt anyone. It was all staged. It's all a part of your treatment.

KIRA

Treatment! What kind of treatment is this? That ASSHOLE tried to kill me.

SERIES OF SHOTS - TREATMENT Q&A

KIRA (CONT'D)

I saw him slit that man's throat.

-- KIRA SEES FRANK WITH THE BODY -

KIRA (V.O.)

Then, he came after me.

-- KIRA RUNS FROM FRANK IN THE WHITE ROOM -

DR.WRIGHT (V.O.)

It was all staged. We had to shock your system, but we needed an insult that would trigger your fight or flight response. It allowed us to determine if you truly had no desire to live.

-- KIRA FIGHTS FRANK IN THE LOCKER ROOM -

KIRA (V.O.)

This was a test?

DR.WRIGHT (V.O.)

It's a trial. Theoretical treatment for special suicidal cases.

-- BODIES RESURRECT -

-- KIRA PASSES OUT -

BACK TO SCENE

Dr. Wright begins to release Kira. They slowly separate and sit across from one another.

DR.WRIGHT

It was all a bit much for you to take in, given your mental state.

Kira drops her head, doing her best to avoid eye contact.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)

You showed that you wanted to live. Now, we know. You're not a danger to yourself or anyone else. You want to live. It's just been hard for you since...

She looks up.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)

...Since that horrible incident. No one blames you, Kira.

Kira nods reluctantly. Fighting back tears.

DR.WRIGHT (CONT'D)

Sometimes, things happen that are out of our control. We just have to learn to accept it.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

RESTROOM

Kira stands partially naked. Just her panties and bra cover her as she stares in the mirror.

KIRA (V.O.)

So, what... I'm cured now?

DR.WRIGHT (V.O.)

It doesn't quite work that way. But, it does help us develop a more effective treatment plan going forward.

KIRA

What does that mean for me?

DR.WRIGHT (V.O.)

I don't think you'll need any more
drug therapies in your ongoing
treatment. But, I am going to refer
you to a colleague for some follow-
up therapy sessions.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - DAY

Kira stands in the hospital exit facing the bright day sky.

KIRA (V.O.)

I hope you're not expecting a thank
you.

DR.WRIGHT (V.O.)

Seeing you walk out of here intent
on living your best life is enough.

Kira takes a step outside and the doors close behind her.

FADE TO BLACK