

NIKOLA
"Baby Blues" By
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(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
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ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (TEASER)

NIKOLA AND KATHI ARE OOHING AND AWWING AS THEY PAGE THROUGH A PILE OF CATALOGUES FOR BABY WEAR, TOYS, AND OTHER INFANT PARAPHERNALIA.

KATHI

Look at this squeaky bear.

BOTH

Awww...

NIKOLA

And the Peter Rabbit bib.

BOTH

Awww...

KATHI

And these tiny little knit booties.

NIKOLA

There's probably nothing in this catalogue that doesn't make you say "awww".

KATHI

I'm having so much fun with these -

(SHUFFLING CATALOGUES) this one's for toys, this one's changing tables, this one's stretchies and nappies.

Everything for the baby.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
Now all you need is the baby.

KATHI
We're trying... (PICKING UP MANUAL)
This booklet's on ovulation cycles -
how to get my husband ready at the
same time my body is.

NIKOLA FLIPS THROUGH THE MANUAL AND
REACTS.

NIKOLA
(EYEBROWS RAISING) This might keep him
ready through several cycles.

KATHI
I know it's silly to collect these
things when I'm not even pregnant.
But we really want a baby so much.

NIKOLA
It'll happen, Kathi. Just keep
doing... (REFERRING TO MANUAL) page
48.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT ONESCENE TWOINT. HOSPITAL - DAY

DR. SCHMIDT EMERGES FROM A PATIENT'S ROOM, DR. BORSTEL AND BRUMMEL TAGGING BEHIND.

SCHMIDT
He's healing beautifully.

BRUMMEL
Yes, Herr Doctor. Sometimes I wonder why you don't photo-exhibit your sutures.

SCHMIDT
Make a note. (AS THEY WALK) Borstel, have you relayed my orders to Nurse Nikola about working on the weekend?

BORSTEL
Yes, Herr Doctor. I told her.

SCHMIDT
And she said...?

BORSTEL
"I'll be there".

SCHMIDT
(DISAPPOINTED) No protest? No argument? No muttering my name in vain?

BORSTEL
Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

BRUMMEL
 With all due respect, Doctor, since
 Nurse Nikola didn't get married, she's
 been different around you.

BORSTEL
 Yes - civil, courteous, even-tempered.

SCHMIDT
 Disgusting, isn't it?

SCHMIDT APPROACHES NIKOLA, HIS MINIONS
 A RAPT AUDIENCE.

SCHMIDT (cont'd)
 Good morning, Nurse. Thank you for
 giving up your time this weekend.

NIKOLA
 I don't mind.

SCHMIDT
 (PROVOKING) All weekend. Forty-eight
 hours.

NIKOLA
 They usually are.

SCHMIDT
 While the rest of us are relaxing,
 playing, having a life.

NIKOLA
 (UNFLAPPABLE) Doctor - I'm a
 professional nurse. We work whenever
 we're called.

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT SPOTS HER COFFEE CUP AND PICKS IT UP.

NIKOLA
That's my coffee.

SCHMIDT
If you don't mind... (HE TAKES A SIP).

NIKOLA
Not at all. It's from yesterday - I
had to clean out the mug anyway.

SCHMIDT REACTS, SPITTING OUT COFFEE.
DR. PFUND ENTERS THE SCENE AND HURRIES TO SCHMIDT.

PFUND
Excuse me, Herr Doctor. You have a
phone message... (HE LOOKS AT NIKOLA,
THEN WHISPERS SOMETHING INTO SCHMIDT'S
EAR).

SCHMIDT
That's all right, Pfund. You can say
it's from (WITH EMPHASIS) Erik Berg -
the man Nurse Nikola left at the
altar. I'm sure she doesn't mind
knowing that Erik called me about our
trip this weekend - fishing, camping,
bragging about the women in our lives -
while she's busy being professional.
It doesn't bother you to hear about
Erik, does it, Nurse?

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
Not at all. But I appreciate your
sensitivity.

SCHMIDT
(TESTING) Doesn't stir pent-up
feelings of any kind?

NIKOLA
Dr. Schmidt, I chose not to marry
Erik. It was the right decision.

SCHMIDT
Is that why you've been acting
abnormal?

NIKOLA
By "abnormal" you must mean "content,
untroubled, and balanced".

SCHMIDT
And actually pleasant. What happened
to your tart tongue, your acerbic
sarcasm, your...

NIKOLA
Bitchy insolence?

SCHMIDT
(SAVORING) Ah, bitchy insolence...
whatever happened to that?

NIKOLA
After the events of my wedding...

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT
(CORRECTING) Non-wedding.

NIKOLA
I realize it's best if our
relationship remains non-personal and
non-emotional. Two respectful
colleagues who happen to work for the
same organization. Good day, Dr.
Schmidt.

SCHMIDT
Nurse Nikola, wait...

SCHMIDT POPS A BON-BON INTO HIS MOUTH,
THEN STICKS THE WRAPPER INTO NIKOLA'S
JACKET POCKET - A SURE-FIRE IRRITANT
BEFORE.

NIKOLA
(UNFAZED) Will that be all, Dr.
Schmidt?

SCHMIDT
Yes.

HE WALKS OFF.

SCHMIDT (cont'd)
She's driving me crazy.

BORSTEL
(RUNNING UP TO HIM) Dr. Schmidt, you
can stick something in my pocket
anytime you like.

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT
That wouldn't be any fun. You enjoy
it.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT ONESCENE THREEINT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

THE NURSES' STATION IS VERY BUSY - PHONES BUZZING, I.V. DISPENSERS TO FILL, LOTS OF TRAFFIC - AND NIKOLA IS BY HERSELF TRYING TO HANDLE IT ALL. SHE IS HARRIED AND GETTING VEXED.

NIKOLA

(INTO PHONE) Nurses' station, hold please... (ANOTHER LINE) One moment... (TO AN ORDERLY) Where's that gurney? They can't drag the patient by his feet... (ANOTHER LINE) Yes Doctor, I have that number for you right here...

SHE HURRIEDLY SEARCHES FOR HER MESSAGE PAD, WHICH IS BURIED UNDER KATHI'S STACK OF BABY CATALOGUES.

NIKOLA (cont'd)

(TO SELF) It's got to be somewhere between "Lactation Quarterly" and "Picking Potty Seats"...

NIKOLA TRIES TO EXTRICATE IT WHILE DEALING WITH THE PHONE AND A PEN, AND THE STACK COLLAPSES ONTO THE FLOOR.

NIKOLA (cont'd)

Damn! (THEN, AWARE OF PHONE) I mean "oops". Doctor, may I call you back? Thank you...

KATHI ENTERS FROM LUNCH WITH A SHOPPING BAG AND A VERY PREGNANT PAL.

(CONTINUED)

KATHI
 (GIDDY) Thanks for the lunch, Greta,
 and all the shopping advice
 (INDICATING BAG). If all goes well,
 your Thomas (GESTURING TO GRETA'S
 BELLY) will have a playmate.

NIKOLA
 (IMPATIENTLY) Kathi, I need you here.

KATHI
 Sorry I'm late. (TO HER FRIEND) 'Bye
 Greta. (RUBBING GRETA'S BELLY) For
 luck. See you both soon.

GRETA WAVES AND LEAVES.

NIKOLA
 (SIMMERING) If you're done chatting
 with fetuses, you have to relieve me.

KATHI
 Of course, but first I have to relieve
 myself... (POINTING) Restroom...

SHE GRABS A BABY CATALOGUE AND HEADS
 FOR THE RESTROOM. NIKOLA STOPS KATHI
 IN MID-STRIDE AND HOLDS OUT HER HAND.

NIKOLA
 Hand it over.

KATHI GIVES HER THE CATALOGUE.

NIKOLA (cont'd)
 From now on, reading and ovulating are
 both on your own time. Hurry.

(CONTINUED)

KATHI DISAPPEARS THROUGH THE LADIES' ROOM DOOR. NIKOLA RESUMES DEALING WITH THE FRENZY - TRYING TO FILE SOMETHING, ANSWERING THE BUSY PHONE, ETC.

TIM, MUNCHING ON A BAG OF CHOCOLATES, SNEAKS UP ON HER.

TIM
(STICKING BAG IN HER FACE) Gooley
caramel or crunchy nuts?

NIKOLA
(SNAPS) Do I look like I have time for
gooey crunchy anything?

TIM
(REACTING) Ouch!

NIKOLA
Sorry - it's just that I'm swamped
here, Kathi got back late from lunch,
and all she can think about are ways
to make a baby.

TIM
There are more than one? (OFFERS
CHOCOLATES) Here, these will soothe
your spirits.

NIKOLA
Which are the good ones?

TIM
All of them.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA MUNCHES IMPULSIVELY FROM THE BAG THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING. SHE OPENS KATHI'S SHOPPING BAG.

NIKOLA
Look at these things - thermometers, calendars, timers, ovulation sticks, pregnancy tests... (RE. KATHI'S MANUAL) A book on arousing your man while he's doing the bills...

TIM
Any pictures?

NIKOLA
It's getting to be too much!

TIM
My, we're cranky, cranky today.

NIKOLA
(SNAPPING) I'm not cranky!

TIM
And look how you're going after my chocolates! PMS maybe?

NIKOLA
I do not get PMS.

TIM
Take it from me, honey, you get PMS.

NIKOLA
Can't I just be upset about something without a gynecological motive?

(CONTINUED)

TIM
(CONVINCED) PMS. I know your cycle as
if it were my own. (FIGURING IN HIS
HEAD) Let's see, your last period
started on the twentieth...

NIKOLA
Tim, sometimes people can know each
other too well.

TIM
...That's 25 days ago. Now we head
into what I like to call the three day
"Reign of Terror"...

NIKOLA
You're wrong. It started on the
fifteenth.

TIM
Well, if it's not PMS, there is
another possibility...

NIKOLA
That I have the right to be pissed off
once in awhile?

TIM
No. That you're pregnant.

NIKOLA
Pregnant? That's impossible.

(CONTINUED)

TIM
For me, not for you. Let's figure
this out... When was the last time you
saw Erik?

NIKOLA
The day I called off the wedding.

TIM
Five weeks ago...

NIKOLA
Six.

TIM
And you probably made love - what?
The night before? The day before?
The morning of?

NIKOLA
Yes.

TIM
Which one?

NIKOLA
All of them.

TIM
And you let him go?

NIKOLA
Tim, I am not pregnant.

TIM OPENS KATHI'S SHOPPING BAG.

(CONTINUED)

TIM
 Here are two dozen pregnancy tests -
 Kathi will never miss one. In sixty
 seconds you'll know for sure.

NIKOLA
 That's ridiculous. There is no way
 I'm going to dignify your absurd
 notion.

TIM
 (SHRUGS) It's your uterus.

HE GOES OFF, AND NIKOLA USES THE LULL
 TO STRAIGHTEN UP THE STATION. PICKING
 UP THE MAGAZINES AND CATALOGUES THAT
 FELL TO THE FLOOR.

NIKOLA'S POV

THE COVER PHOTOS OF BIG-BELLIED MAMAS-
 TO-BE.

BACK TO SCENE

NIKOLA CONSIDERS FOR A MOMENT, THEN
 GETS THE SHOPPING BAG, RUMMAGING
 THROUGH IT. NIKOLA HUNTS OUT A
 PREGNANCY TAB. CONCEALING IT UNDER
 HER JACKET, SHE HURRIES TO THE
 RESTROOM DOOR.

NIKOLA
 (KNOCKING) Kathi! What's taking you
 so long? We need coverage at the
 desk.

KATHI (O.C.)
 Coming, coming!

KATHI EMERGES FROM THE LADIES' ROOM.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
Out of the way! I've got PMS!

KATHI
Thought so.

NIKOLA WHISKS INTO THE RESTROOM,
BOLTING THE DOOR.

ANOTHER ANGLE

AS KATHI CROSSES TO THE NURSES'
STATION AND RUNS INTO SCHMIDT, WITH
PFUND.

SCHMIDT
Where is Nurse Nikola?

KATHI POINTS TO THE RESTROOM DOOR.
SCHMIDT SMILES SLYLY.

SCHMIDT (cont'd)
(TO PFUND) At last I have her where
she's vulnerable.

HE CROSSES TO THE DOOR.

INT. RESTROOM (CONTINUOUS)

NIKOLA STANDS IN A STALL, HOLDING THE
PREGNANCY TAB AND STARING ANXIOUSLY AT
HER WATCH FOR THE SIXTY SECONDS TO
PASS.

SCHMIDT (O.C.)
Nurse! I need you!

NIKOLA
(DISTRESSED) Now??

SCHMIDT (O.C.)
Now!

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
 Can't you wait another (LOOKING AT
 WATCH)... 47 seconds?... 46
 seconds?... 45 seconds?...

SCHMIDT
 No! It's urgent!

NIKOLA HIDES THE PREGNANCY TEST ON A
 HIGH SHELF AND EXITS THE RESTROOM.

INT. CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)

NIKOLA COMES THROUGH THE DOOR TO FACE
 A SMIRKING SCHMIDT.

NIKOLA
 (TRYING TO KEEP CALM) Yes, Doctor,
 what's so urgent?

SCHMIDT
 I can't find my thermometer.

A THERMOMETER CONSPICUOUSLY PROTRUDES
 FROM SCHMIDT'S TUNIC POCKET. NIKOLA'S
 EYES NARROW AS SHE REALIZES HE'S STILL
 PLAYING HIS LITTLE GAME.

SHE MERELY EXTRACTS THE THERMOMETER
 FROM SCHMIDT'S POCKET. SHE BRANDISHES
 IT FOR A MOMENT, KNOWING WHAT SHE'D
 REALLY LIKE TO DO WITH IT, THEN
 CATCHES HERSELF.

NIKOLA
 (SWEETLY) Here, Dr. Schmidt.

NIKOLA WHEELS AROUND AND HEADS BACK
 INTO THE LADIES' ROOM.

SCHMIDT
 (TO PFUND) I thought I had her, but
 she got away.

(CONTINUED)

PFUND FOLLOWS AS SCHMIDT PASSES THE LADIES' ROOM DOOR.

HOLD ON DOOR

A MOMENT LATER NIKOLA EMERGES HOLDING THE PREGNANCY STICK, A GLAZED LOOK ON HER FACE.

TIM HAPPENS BY, WHEELING A MEDICINE CART. HE SEES THE STICK.

TIM
So you took the test. (SCRUTINIZING STICK) What does "pink" mean?

NIKOLA
It means you were wrong.

TIM
About what?

NIKOLA
The PMS.

TIM'S PUZZLED EXPRESSION METAMORPHOSES INTO DELIGHT.

TIM
You're pregnant? (REALIZING) We're pregnant! I'm going to be an auntie!

HE DANCES A NUMB NIKOLA AROUND THE ROOM. ATTRACTED BY THE COMMOTION, SCHMIDT HEADS OVER TO THEM.

SCHMIDT
Pregnant? Who's pregnant? (TO TIM)
It couldn't be you, unless I slept through something big in medical school.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
(DAZED) Me... I'm pregnant.

SCHMIDT'S JAW DROPS, AS WE

FADE OUT.

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWOSCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. NIKOLA'S APARTMENT - THAT NIGHT

NIKOLA IS FACING THE REALITIES OF HER SITUATION, NOT MADE EASY BY STEPHANIE.

STEPHANIE

How could you get pregnant, mother?

You're over thirty!

NIKOLA

It must have been that time I set down my walker.

STEPHANIE

(INCREDULOUS) My mother pregnant.

That is such a repulsive thought.

Weren't you paying any attention to those little talks we had?

NIKOLA

I believe it was me who was doing the talking.

STEPHANIE

Well you obviously weren't doing any listening. Don't you know anything about birth control?

NIKOLA

If I did, would there have been a Peter?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHANIE

I'm serious, Mother! Have you given one thought to how this is going to affect me?

NIKOLA

Yes, you'll be a middle child - another set of problems for me to deal with.

STEPHANIE

I have a life, too. I can't spend my vital years baby-sitting and doing child-servitude. Not to mention the embarrassment of having a mother in maternity clothes!

NIKOLA

Stephanie, I don't want to hear anymore. It was an accident.

STEPHANIE

No, it was a head-on collision.

TIM ENTERS THE APARTMENT.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

(FRUSTRATED, TO TIM) She's impossible!

I tried my best to get through to her.

You talk to her.

SHE STOMPS OFF INTO HER ROOM.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA

(TO TIM) I don't need more advice.

The last thing you told me to do was
take a pregnancy test - and look where
it got me.

TIM

I bet you would have been pregnant
anyway. Have you called Erik? If you
hurry you can still fit into your
wedding dress.

NIKOLA

No, these are decisions I want to make
alone. It's my body, my baby.

TIM

(TAKING HER HAND) Well whatever you
do, you know you have my support.

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR

NIKOLA

(SOFTLY) Thanks. I just need time to
think.

TIM GIVES HER A HUG, THEN OPENS THE
DOOR TO LEAVE, REVEALING SCHMIDT.

TIM

(TO SCHMIDT, RE. NIKOLA) This is what
happens when you fool around with
girls.

TIM EXITS. SCHMIDT STEPS INSIDE.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
(NOT IN THE MOOD) Yes, Doctor Schmidt?

SCHMIDT
Nurse Nikola, I'm here to let you know
I'm not going to raise your rent - now
that you'll be needing it for a little
one.

NIKOLA
Oh - were you going to raise my rent?

SCHMIDT
If it would have irritated you.

NIKOLA
A dog with a bone isn't as persistent
as you.

SCHMIDT
(PRYING) So I imagine the father will
be providing for the child. Of course
I'm assuming Erik knows about this.

NIKOLA
(INDICATING DOOR) Dr. Schmidt, this is
none of your business...

SCHMIDT
And of course he would be very
concerned.

NIKOLA SWINGS THE DOOR BACK AND FORTH
IN AN OBVIOUS GESTURE FOR HIM TO
LEAVE.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
Perhaps you didn't hear me...

SCHMIDT
So I guess he'll be coming back into
your life.

NIKOLA
(EXASPERATED) No he won't.

SCHMIDT
He won't?

NIKOLA
I don't want Erik to know right now.

SCHMIDT
(RELIEVED) Yes! That is, yes you're
right, there's no reason he should.
It's reassuring to see you're doing so
well - totally on your own. Without
Erik. Female strength. You do not
need him. (HIS CELL PHONE RINGS AND
HE PLUCKS IT OUT OF A POCKET) Dr.
Schmidt... Oh, hold on. (TO NIKOLA)
Good night, Nurse.

LOAD-LIGHTENED, SCHMIDT EXITS.

INT. HALLWAY (CONTINUOUS)

AS NIKOLA SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

SCHMIDT
(INTO CELL-PHONE) Erik, thanks for
returning my call.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT(cont'd)

I just wanted to see if you knew something, but I found out that you didn't, so never mind... Look, could I call you back, I'm right outside Nikola's door... Oh, she's fine. Pregnancy is a natural condition...
(REALIZING TOO LATE) Shit...

SCHMIDT BANGS THE CELL-PHONE AGAINST HIS HEAD.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWOSCENE TWOINT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

SCHMIDT APPROACHES NIKOLA AT HER STATION, SNIFFING AROUND FOR THE RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF HIS BLUNDER.

NIKOLA
(PLEASANTLY) Good morning, Doctor.
You're too early for my coffee.

SCHMIDT
I can't seem to reach Erik today to talk about - (GRASPING) our weekend plans. Have you heard from him by any chance for any reason?

NIKOLA
No.

SCHMIDT
Not even... lately?

NIKOLA
Especially not lately. I haven't spoken to Erik in six weeks.

SCHMIDT
Well, what would you say if he called?
I mean, hypothetically.

NIKOLA
I'd say "Hello, how are you?"
Hypothetically.

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT

That's it?

NIKOLA

There's not much more to say, is there?

SCHMIDT

(AGREEING WITH HER) No, nothing.

(FEELING SAFE NOW) A woman in your condition should not be under any stress from old relationships. Look how hard you're working... Relax, stay off your feet, practice deep breathing... .

HE PLACES A PILLOW INDULGENTLY BEHIND HER BACK.

NIKOLA

(REACTING TO HIM) I think morning sickness just kicked in early.

NIKOLA REMOVES THE PILLOW AND RETURNS TO HER WORK. SCHMIDT GOES OFF, PASSING THE ELEVATOR DOOR.

A MOMENT LATER THE DOOR GLIDES OPEN - AND OUT WALKS ERIK! HE CROSSES TO THE NURSES' STATION.

ERIK

(WARMLY) Hi...

NIKOLA IS STUNNED.

NIKOLA

Erik! What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

ERIK
I heard you were pregnant.

NIKOLA
(SHOCKED) You know?! Who told you?

ANGLE ON SCHMIDT

COMING OUT OF PATIENT'S ROOM. HE
GLANCES DOWN THE HALL.

SCHMIDT'S POV

ERIK AND NIKOLA TALKING.

BACK TO SCHMIDT

HE QUICKLY ROUNDS THE CORNER TO GET
AWAY. JUST WHEN HE THINKS HE'S SAFE,
NIKOLA ROUNDS THE OTHER CORNER AND
COLLARS HIM.

NIKOLA (CONT'D)
Freeze!

ERIK APPROACHES.

ERIK
Hello, Robert.

SCHMIDT
(FEIGNING SURPRISE) Erik! What are
you doing here?

ERIK
I had to come after you told me Nikola
was pregnant.

SCHMIDT
Pregnant? Oh, right, almost forgot.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
(TO SCHMIDT) Don't give up medicine
for acting.

ERIK
Nikola, I know this is hard for you.
Whenever you're ready, we need to
talk.

NIKOLA
Thank you, Erik. That's very
sensitive of you.

HE SQUEEZES HER HAND AND WALKS OFF.

SCHMIDT
Sensitive?! Just because of a little
compassion and understanding?

NIKOLA
Yes.

SHE WALKS OFF.

SCHMIDT
(TO SELF) Women are so odd.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWOSCENE THREEINT. SCHMIDT'S APARTMENT - LATE THAT NIGHT

SCHMIDT AND ERIK MULL ERIK'S
CIRCUMSTANCES OVER MIDNIGHT COGNACS.

ERIK

Thanks for letting me stay here,
Robert.

SCHMIDT

The least I could do. Stay as long as
you wish. (THEN, QUICKLY) How long do
you think that will be?

ERIK

That's up to Nikola.

SCHMIDT

Well, she probably needs lots and lots
of time for herself.

ERIK

As my friend, tell me if you think I
should just step back and give her
room.

SCHMIDT

Lots and lots of room.

ERIK

We're going to meet tomorrow... I
don't even know what to say.

SCHMIDT

Less is more.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK

Life is strange. I just got used to the idea that Nikola called off our wedding, and now she's carrying our child. Where does that leave me?

SCHMIDT

Nowhere. It's the male irony. In situations like this, we're outcasts. A mere seed that got loose and pollinated.

ERIK

I'm more than that to Nikola.

SCHMIDT

Don't be so sure. What does a woman really need from a man? Shelter... security... a little jewelry once in a while. And... (GESTURING) the one biological feature they've always envied.

ERIK

I've got to put aside my feelings and do what's right.

SCHMIDT

I agree. Be a man and rise above your pride.

ERIK

Do you really think so?

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT

Yes, yes I do.

ERIK

Then it's decided. It's the only appropriate thing to do. Nikola and I must be married.

SCHMIDT DROPS HIS GLASS OF COGNAC.

SCHMIDT

Married? I was only talking about sending the kid a check once a month!

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWOSCENE FOURINT. NIKOLA'S APARTMENT (CONTINUOUS)

NIKOLA AND TIM, IN THEIR NIGHTIES, ARE SHARING A BIG BOWL OF ICE-CREAM.

TIM

(PUSHING BOWL TO HER) Have my share.

You anticipating mummies need your calcium.

NIKOLA

(PUSHING IT BACK) But we don't need to anticipate an elephant butt.

(SIGHING) I wish I could figure out what to do next.

TIM

I'm sure you'll make the right choices.

NIKOLA

There are just so many things to think about - my kids, my career, my stage of life. Bringing a child into a difficult world. Raising one as a single parent.

TIM

I believe that a two parent home is the secret of being well-adjusted.

NIKOLA

You came from a two parent home.

(CONTINUED)

TIM

I guess they didn't let me in on the secret. (THEN) So, what are you going to do about Erik?

NIKOLA

I don't know. I'm seeing everything differently now that there's a baby involved. Before yesterday, I had no regrets about calling off the wedding. But now, I ask myself why I didn't marry him.

TIM

You and me both, sister.

NIKOLA

He's a man of good character, he's reliable, he's generous... he loved me. Isn't that enough?

TIM

If he were gay, I'd take him.

NIKOLA

Am I too demanding? Do I want perfection? Or am I just too scared to make a commitment?

TIM

Yes, yes, and yes!

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA

Or is there something else standing in
the way?

TIM

Enough with the soul-searching!
Sweetie, you're single, you're with
child, you've got a great guy waiting
in the wings - it's not that
complicated.

NIKOLA

You think Erik and I should be
together.

TIM

(TAKES HER HAND) Maybe this pregnancy
is a sign. Maybe it is destiny.

NIKOLA

(CONSIDERING) Maybe it is.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWOSCENE FIVEINT. HOSPITAL - THE NEXT DAY

ERIK HURRIES OVER TO NIKOLA, AT HER
DESK.

ERIK
I need to talk to you.

NIKOLA
I need to talk to you, too...

SCHMIDT SEEMS TO COME FROM OUT OF
NOWHERE AS HE BOUNDS TOWARD THEM.

SCHMIDT
Excuse me Nurse Nikola, there's
something you have to do...

NIKOLA
I'm talking to Erik right now.

SCHMIDT
He'll wait.

NIKOLA
(ANNOYED) What's so important?

SCHMIDT
(THINKING) Could you... roll that EKG
unit to the elevator.

NIKOLA
What happened to a "woman in my
condition"?

SCHMIDT
Exercise benefits delivery.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK
I'll help you.

ERIK AND NIKOLA GO TO THE EKG UNIT AND
WHEEL IT TOGETHER AS THEY RESUME THEIR
DISCUSSION.

ERIK (cont'd)
I've been thinking about our situation
all night.

NIKOLA
Yes, I have also...

SCHMIDT, A NERVOUS WRECK, CAN'T LET
THEM HAVE A MOMENT ALONE.

SCHMIDT
(INTERRUPTING) Erik - I may not be
home tonight, I'll give you the keys.

SCHMIDT FEELS AROUND IN HIS POCKETS.

SCHMIDT (cont'd)
They must be in my office. (TO
NIKOLA) He'll be right back. After
lunch.

NIKOLA
Doctor, Erik and I have to talk right
now.

ERIK
If you don't mind, Robert, I'll come
in a few minutes.

SCHMIDT
I'll wait.

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT DOESN'T MOVE. NIKOLA AND ERIK
EDGE DOWN THE HALL FOR PRIVACY, BUT
SCHMIDT JUST EDGES ALONG WITH THEM.

NIKOLA
Doctor, don't you have somewhere more
important to be?

SCHMIDT
Just surgery.

NIKOLA
This way, Erik.

NIKOLA TAKES ERIK'S ARM AND ESCORTS
HIM INTO THE SUPPLY CLOSET.

SCHMIDT PACES OUTSIDE, STRAINING AT
THE DOOR TO HEAR THE MUMBLED
CONVERSATION INSIDE.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET (CONTINUOUS)

ERIK
Robert seems so concerned about your
welfare.

NIKOLA
Some might call it "snooping". (THEN
SINCERELY) Erik, I appreciate your
wanting to come here...

ERIK
It wasn't a matter of choice.

NIKOLA
After how things ended between us... I
know it took a lot for you to swallow
your pride.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK
It's my child, too.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)

SCHMIDT'S EAR IS PRACTICALLY PRESSED
TO THE DOOR. HE'S STARTLED BY TIM'S
VOICE.

TIM
Doctor...

SCHMIDT
(JUMPING) Yes!?

TIM
Have you seen the EKG unit?
Maintenance is coming to fix it.

SCHMIDT STRAIGHTENS UP, TRYING TO ACT
CASUAL, AND POINTS TO THE EKG BY THE
ELEVATOR. HE CONTINUES TO TRY TO
EAVESDROP INTO THE CLOSET.

TIM (cont'd)
How did it get down there?

SCHMIDT
Shhhhh...

TIM SIZES UP THE SITUATION.

TIM
Excuse me, Doctor, but are you
eavesdropping?

SCHMIDT
Of course not. I happen to be working
out the details of an intricate
operation.

(CONTINUED)

TIM
Of course. May I listen in on the
procedure?

TIM CURIOSLY PUTS HIS EAR TO THE
CLOSET DOOR. SCHMIDT SHOOTS HIM A
LOOK, AND HE JUMPS AWAY.

TIM (cont'd)
I'll catch the post-op.

ANGLE ON ELEVATOR

THE ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS AND KATHI
COMES OFF, LOOKING REFRESHED. SHE
APPROACHES TIM.

TIM
Hi, Kathi, how was your day off?

KATHI
Wonderful. We baby-made our brains
out.

THEY CHAT AS TIM PUSHES THE EKG UNIT
BACK TOWARDS WHERE SCHMIDT IS
STANDING.

TIM
Well, there's been some news around
here! You won't believe it - Nikola
is pregnant!

KATHI
(AMAZED) No!

TIM
(ELATED) Yes!

SCHMIDT
(PEEVED) Quiet!

(CONTINUED)

HE PRESSES AGAINST THE CLOSET DOOR.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET (CONTINUOUS)

ERIK AND NIKOLA ARE IN MID-
CONVERSATION.

ERIK
... I've been up all night thinking...

NIKOLA
Me, too. You should have come
downstairs for ice-cream.

ERIK
You could have come upstairs for
cognac.

NIKOLA
Or poured the cognac over the ice-
cream. That way baby and mother would
have been happy.

THEY LAUGH.

NIKOLA (cont'd)
I thought leaving you was the hardest
decision I've ever made. But this one
is harder.

ERIK
It doesn't have to be. I know what we
should do.

NIKOLA
So do I.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)

SCHMIDT STRUGGLES TO LISTEN AT THE DOOR, AS KATHI TALKS TO TIM.

KATHI
This is so exciting! When did she
find out?

TIM
Tuesday morning.

SCHMIDT
Will you please keep it down?!

TIM
(LOWERING HIS VOICE) She borrowed one
of your pregnancy tests.

KATHI
(THINKING) That is a coincidence. I
took a test on Tuesday morning, too.
Mine was negative.

SCHMIDT SHOOTS HER A LOOK.

KATHI (cont'd)
(PRACTICALLY WHISPERING) I was taking
the test in that restroom and Nikola
hustled me out, so I left it on a
shelf and came back later for the
results.

SCHMIDT
Shut up, dammit!

(CONTINUED)

TIM
 (WHISPERING) Another coincidence -
 Nikola said she put her test on a
 shelf because Mr. Snoop-Ears over
 there ordered her to stop.

SUDDENLY SCHMIDT HAS BECOME INTERESTED
 IN THIS STORY.

SCHMIDT
 What did you say?! Speak up!

TIM
 (QUAKING) I didn't mean you!

SCHMIDT
 (TO KATHI) No, you! What about that
 coincidence?

KATHI
 Just that Nikola and I took our
 pregnancy tests in the same restroom
 about the same time...

SCHMIDT
 (INTERRUPTING) Yes, yes... Could they
 have been crossed?

KATHI
 Crossed?

TIM
 Crossed?

SCHMIDT
 Crossed!!!

(CONTINUED)

HE FLINGS OPEN THE SUPPLY CLOSET DOOR,
EXPOSING NIKOLA AND ERIK IN WHAT IS
OBVIOUSLY A POIGNANT MOMENT.

SCHMIDT (cont'd)
Nurse Nikola, I need you to pee!

NIKOLA
Doctor, you are going a little far
with your demands.

SCHMIDT
(INDICATING KATHI) This nurse took a
pregnancy test the same time you did.
There might have been a mix-up.

NIKOLA
(PUTTING TWO-AND-TWO TOGETHER) Kathi,
you took a pregnancy test on Tuesday?

KATHI
Yes, after my lunch with Greta. But
then when you came and...

SCHMIDT
(INTERRUPTING) Just pee!

NIKOLA DOESN'T WASTE A SECOND, RUSHING
WITH KATHI TO THE NURSES' STATION,
FOLLOWED ANXIOUSLY BY SCHMIDT, ERIK,
AND TIM. NIKOLA IS SURPRISED TO FIND
HER DESK NEAT AND CLEAN - NO
CATALOGUES, NO BAG OF PREGNANCY
DEVICES.

NIKOLA
Where are they? You had two dozen
pregnancy tests!

(CONTINUED)

KATHI
I left them in a shopping bag.

NIKOLA
I've been tripping over this stuff for
a week, and now it's gone!

KATHI
You were complaining, so I told an
orderly to straighten up.

SCHMIDT
(JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS) He threw them
out?! What a time for an employee to
be competent!

HE STARTS DIGGING THROUGH THE TRASH
PAILS.

ERIK
This is a hospital. There have to be
pregnancy tests somewhere.

NIKOLA URGENTLY LOOKS THROUGH DRAWERS,
ERIK AND TIM RACE AROUND THE AREA
HUNTING THROUGH CLOSETS, ETC., KATHI
GRABS THE PHONE, AND SCHMIDT IS
FLINGING THINGS OUT OF THE PAILS.

KATHI
(INTO PHONE) Obstetrics? This is
Orthopedics. We need...

TIM
(FINDING KATHI'S BAG) Here it is!

(CONTINUED)

KATHI
 (INTO PHONE) Never mind! (SLAMS IT
 DOWN)

TIM
 Stored neatly in a cabi... oof!

HE'S PRACTICALLY MOWED DOWN AS NIKOLA
 AND KATHI DASH OVER TO THE CABINET AND
 GRAB TWO TESTS FROM THE BAG.

SCHMIDT
 Go! Go!

THEY SPRINT TO THE LADIES' ROOM,
 SCHMIDT, ERIK, AND TIM SPRINTING
 BEHIND THEM.

THE TWO NURSES LOCK THEMSELVES INSIDE,
 AS SCHMIDT AND ERIK PACE BACK AND
 FORTH OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

SCHMIDT (cont'd)
 (CALLING INSIDE) Hurry up! Hurry up!

NIKOLA (O.C.)
 Quiet! You're constricting our
 bladders!

SCHMIDT
 How long does that test take?

TIM
 Sixty seconds.

HE EXTENDS HIS ARM TO CHECK HIS WATCH.
 TIM AND ERIK CRANE OVER TO LOOK AT IT,
 TOO.

TIM (cont'd)
 Which one's the second-hand?

(CONTINUED)

SCHMIDT
 Next to the depth-gauge. (EYEING
 WATCH) 37... 36... 35...

ALL THREE MEN ARE NOW PACING.

ERIK
 It's still possible she's pregnant.

SCHMIDT
 Or not. 23... 22...

TIM
 The suspense is giving me hives!

THEY CHECK THE TIME AND FINISH THE
 COUNTDOWN ALOUD...

ALL THREE
 ...Nine... eight... seven... six...
 five... four... three... two... one!

THEY LOOK EXPECTANTLY AT THE RESTROOM
 DOOR. WHICH REMAINS SHUT.

TIM
 (CALLING THROUGH DOOR) Well...?

ERIK
 (CALLING THROUGH DOOR) What's the
 result?

SCHMIDT
 (CALLING THROUGH DOOR) Get out here!

FINALLY THE BATHROOM DOOR SWINGS OPEN.
 NIKOLA AND KATHI MARCH OUT,
 BRANDISHING THEIR COLORED STICKS.

KATHI
 Pink!

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
Blue!

SCHMIDT
Translation!

KATHI
(THRILLED) Positive!

NIKOLA
(JUBILANT) Negative!

JOY AND RELIEF FOR EVERYONE! THEY
DANCE AROUND, SCHMIDT EVEN HUGS KATHI.
THEN REALIZING, HE PULLS BACK.

TIM
(NEAR TEARS) I'm so happy for you
both.

KATHI
(TO TIM) I promise you can still be an
auntie.

NIKOLA DRAWS ERIK AWAY FROM THE
OTHERS.

NIKOLA
Erik...

ERIK
Are you disappointed?

NIKOLA
A small part of me is. The rest is
incredibly relieved.

(CONTINUED)

ERIK
Me, too. I'm glad we weren't forced
into a decision. (THEN) Nikola, what
would yours have been?

NIKOLA
(WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY) The same
whether I was or wasn't pregnant.

ERIK UNDERSTANDS.

NIKOLA (cont'd)
I just had to find the strength to
admit it.

ERIK
You're a stronger person than I am.

NIKOLA
But you're an honorable person to have
come back. Many men would have
offered to send a check once a month.

ERIK
(SMILING) I can vouch for one.

NIKOLA
I'm sorry, Erik. It wasn't meant to
be.

ERIK
I know that now.

HE KISSES HER ON THE CHEEK.

ERIK (cont'd)
But we had a hell of a year.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
(THINKING BACK) We did.

NIKOLA WATCHES AS ERIK WALKS AWAY.

HER REVERIE IS BROKEN BY THE INTRUSION
OF SCHMIDT'S VOICE.

SCHMIDT
What's going on? Is he out of your
life?

NIKOLA TURNS, FUMING - THE DAM FINALLY
BREAKS.

NIKOLA
Yes he's out of my life! Now if you
value your nose, keep it out of my
business!

SCHMIDT
(STERN) Nurse Nikola, do I discern an
insolent tone in your voice?

NIKOLA
Bitchy insolence.

SCHMIDT
That's what I thought.

HE MOVES ON, BARELY HIDING HIS SMILE -
ALL'S RIGHT AGAIN WITH THE WORLD.

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWOSCENE SIX

INT. NIKOLA'S APARTMENT - EVENING (TAG)

NIKOLA ENTERS WITH A PREPARED DINNER
SHE'S PICKED UP. SHE SETS IT DOWN ON
A TABLE AND REMOVES HER COAT.

NIKOLA
(CALLING) Stephanie! I've got Chinese
for dinner!

STEPHANIE ENTERS WEARING A BIKINI TOP,
AND A FLIMSY MINI-SLIP.

STEPHANIE
Sorry, Mom. There's a new club
opening. I'm meeting Jessica
downstairs in a few minutes.

NIKOLA
(DISAPPOINTED) Well, more lo mein for
me. (THEN) You better hurry and get
dressed.

STEPHANIE
I am dressed.

NIKOLA
(REACTING TO HER OUTFIT) In your
underwear?

STEPHANIE
No, Mom - my underwear's under this
underwear.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLA
Go in your room and change into
something legal.

STEPHANIE HURRIES BACK TO HER ROOM.
SUDDENLY LOUD ROCK MUSIC BOOM-BOOMS
FROM THE FLOOR ABOVE. NIKOLA GRABS A
BROOM AND BANGS THE CEILING WITH THE
HANDLE.

NIKOLA (cont'd)
(SHOUTING) Peter! Turn down that
stereo!!

THE MUSIC SUBSIDES. NIKOLA LOOKS AT
THE FOOD, THEN GOES TO THE PHONE AND
PUNCHES IN A NUMBER.

NIKOLA (cont'd)
(INTO PHONE) Peter - how would you
like to share some Chinese food
tonight?... You've got Karla over for
a mellow dinner. I should have known
from the mellow music.

AS SHE HANGS UP, TIM ENTERS WEARING A
HALTER-TOP WITH CALF-LENGTH PANTS AND
PLATFORM SHOES.

TIM
Hi. (SPOTTING FOOD) Eggrolls!

NIKOLA
Want to stay for dinner?

TIM
Love to, but I have a date. I just
came over to borrow earrings.

HE TAKES THEM OFF NIKOLA.

(CONTINUED)

TIM (cont'd)
 These are perfect. Thanks, 'bye!

AS HE HEADS FOR THE DOOR HE MEETS
 STEPHANIE EMERGING FROM HER ROOM IN A
 HALTER-TOP, CALF-LENGTH PANTS,
 PLATFORM SHOES - ALMOST THE SAME
OUTFIT AS TIM'S. THEY STOP AND STARE
 AT EACH OTHER.

TIM
 For some reason it looks better on
 you. I'm going to change my shoes.

THEY BOTH EXIT. NIKOLA IS ALONE WITH
 THE DOG IN THE NOW QUIET APARTMENT.
 SHE PUTS ON SOME CLASSICAL MUSIC,
 LIGHTS A CANDLE, SETS OUT THE CHINESE
 FOOD AND POURS HERSELF A GLASS OF
 WINE.

NIKOLA
 (TOASTING) To dining alone.
 Different... but peaceful and nice...

A MOMENT LATER TIM ENTERS HOLDING UP
 TWO OUTRAGEOUS PAIRS OF SHOES.

TIM
 Tell me the truth, which one says
 "me"?

BEFORE NIKOLA CAN ANSWER, THE DOOR
 OPENS AGAIN AND STEPHANIE COMES
 CHARGING BACK IN.

STEPHANIE
 (FURIOUS) Jessica and I had a fight.
 I'm not going.

SHE PLOPS DOWN AND DIGS INTO THE LO
 MEIN, CONTINUING TO RANT AS TIM WAVES
 THE SHOES IN NIKOLA'S FACE, MUNCHING
 ON EGGROLLS.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

She told Michael to meet us at the club, and she knows I like Michael and if anybody should tell him to meet us it should be me. I'll never trust Jessica again. Just because I flirted with William - I only did it after she was through liking him...

TIM

(SIMULTANEOUSLY) Heels or pumps - it's the eternal question. These go with the outfit, but these go with my eyes. Or I could wear one of these and one of these...

AS THEY GO ON, THE LOUD MUSIC FROM UPSTAIRS RESUMES, DROWNING OUT THE CLASSICAL. THE PHONE STARTS RINGING, AND OSKAR BARKS AT THE CHAOS. NIKOLA SMILES, HAPPY WITH THE TUMULT SHE'S USED TO.

NIKOLA

(TOASTING) Who needs peace and quiet?

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO