

INT. CHASTAIN - ER - MORNING

A small group of interns wait for instructions. JANICE (20s, southern, brown-noser) extends her hand to Trevor.

JANICE
Janice Rivera. Surgery.

FYI

TREVOR
Trevor. Anesthesia.

FYI

JANICE
250k starting salary. Nice. Though I didn't peg you as the "out of sight, out of mind" kind of guy.

TREVOR
I pegged you exactly right. Passive aggressive overachiever.

JANICE
That's the best you can come up with? That I care too much? I would think being an unabashed underachiever just to maintain this "cool guy" image is worse. But hey, at least you're someone they'll want to get a beer with. A great measure of success.

TREVOR
You don't like me cause I'm likable?

JANICE
Oh honey, I don't dislike you. I just know you'll never finish this residency. You won't get the validation you desperately need. Probably take a big payday from some tech startup selling another version of an apple watch and never practice medicine again.
(then)
So if I'm the overachiever, I'm okay with that.

Trevor is about to bite back when another intern, GEMMA NGUYEN (20s, long-winded) appears suddenly.

FYI

GEMMA
No one asked but I'm Gemma. I'm I.M. Not I'm I am. I mean I, Gemma, am I.M.

FYI

THE RESIDENT

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

TREVOR
Internal medicine. We got it.

GEMMA
Critical care if you want to get
specific.

Janice looks to the last intern, ZACH BROOKS (20s, skittish).

Start →

JANICE
What about you?

ZACH
Who me? Oh. I'm Zach. Primary care.


JANICE
Yikes. Hope you qualify for student
loan forgiveness.

Trevor shakes his head. Wow.

ZACH
Yeah blood and guts make me a bit
squeamish. My heart is pounding
just being in the emergency room.
And no one really wants to hand you
a scalpel when your palms are
chronically sweaty.

GEMMA
We all have our weaknesses.

ZACH
That's why I like the idea of
general medicine. It's more about
helping patients stay healthy than
trying to save their lives. No one
dies because I froze.

GEMMA
I'm terrified of death. 

And I know you're like "*Gemma, why
on earth would you go into critical
care if you're scared of dying?*"
And that's a great question.

GEMMA

(keeps going)

If I had to take a guess it would probably have something to do with seeing my grandma in an open casket when I was nine. It can't be proven but I swear I saw her finger twitch. ~~I've been tormented with the thought that we buried granny alive ever since.~~

ZACH

I just got chills.

GEMMA

There's always a way to keep someone alive. I think that's why I want to work in the ICU. No one has to die.

JANICE

Which is exactly why I'll be signing a DNR.

They're interrupted by Devon who joins them.

DEVON

Let's get started, shall we?

/END