

BREAKING EGGS
By Darren J Seeley

FADE IN:

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. ACTIVITY ROOM - DAY

NURSES talk to and help varied PATIENTS ages 20 to 50 in a mental ward facility.

JILL (mid 20s) sits alone. She minds her own business.

She watches the routine activities. Patients versus ORDERLIES in games of checkers.

A small group of emotionless patients in front of the overhead TV set, eyes glued to Animal Planet.

NURSE WERRA (30s) steps in front of Jill's view, takes the seat beside her.

WERRA
One more day.

JILL
I'm fine.

WERRA
Sure?

JILL
Just...

WERRA
Yes?

JILL
I'm wondering what it will be like. Five years later.

WERRA
What's the first thing you'd do, when you get home?

JILL
Visit family, friends, whoever stops by.

WERRA
How do you feel about leaving?

JILL
Any word on who's picking me up tomorrow?

WERRA

Your brother.

JILL

Henley. That'll be interesting.

WERRA

How so?

JILL

Just will feel weird. Last I saw
Henley in person he just turned
eleven.

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. ACTIVITY ROOM - DAY

SANDRA FLORINS (40s) plays checkers with Jill.

Sandra's winning.

SANDRA

Lucky you. I got two more months
to go.

JILL

Something to look forward to.

SANDRA

Sure. Arrive in here full of
pills, leave in two months
taking more pills.

JILL

Only two more months, Sandy.

SANDRA

Forgive me, that didn't come out
right. I made it sound like I'm
bitter, and I'm not. This day
for you was coming, and I just
been avoiding the issue.

JILL

I'll miss you too. But I'll
keep in touch.

SANDRA

Your brother. I envy you. At
least you have some family who
cares about you.

JILL
That's not true.

SANDRA
All that stuff I been telling
you in the past few years?

JILL
Yes.

SANDRA
Most of it was stuff I wanted to
tell myself. Convince myself
that everything will be alright.
Well, the truth is it's not
alright.

JILL
Sandra...

SANDRA
It's not alright.
My own daughter wishes I was
dead. Wants nothing to do with
me. Husband left, lives in Utah
somewhere, remarried. No calls,
no postcard, just silence.

Tears well up.

SANDRA
Who wants a parasite ex-speed
user, soaked up debt
and...everyone leaves.

Jill puts her hand over Sandra's.

JILL
Two months. If nobody shows,
I'll show. I'll take you home.

SANDRA
You will?

JILL
You're my best friend in here.

SANDRA
You promise?

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Escorted by an ORDERLY with the nametag LANCE DURIF (30s), Jill heads to a private room.

LANCE
Anything you need, give me a buzz.

JILL
I could use a soda.

LANCE
Seven-up or orange?

JILL
Last night. How about a Pepsi?

LANCE
I'll see if I can smuggle it to you.

JILL
Cold?

LANCE
Course. No ice though. I'm a saint, not a miracle worker.

JILL
Thanks.

LANCE
How do you really feel about leaving?

JILL
I'm a whole lot better, I'll be better when I leave this sorry place. No offense.

LANCE
Hear that? That's my breaking heart. Five years, known you for three. I don't blame you.

JILL
Well, Lance, you're all right.

LANCE
No I'm not. I work here.

Winks.

JILL
Lance?

LANCE
Yeah?

JILL
Stay married.

LANCE
Will do. Stay clean.

He lets her in the room, she steps in. He closes the door, locks it, leaves.

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. ROOM - NIGHT

Jill gets a layout of her surroundings.

Small. One window, bars over it.

The walls: painted pink.

One table stand made of metal. Bolted down to the floor.
One bunk, white sheets and pillow.

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Overhead lights click out. Only a few remain alive for the night.

Alone, Lance pushes a cart into the darkness.

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. ROOM - NIGHT

Jill asleep on the bunk; a small plastic bottle of Pepsi rests on the bolted table.

Slippers on the floor.

STAFF BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

Lance puts in small change into the vending machine. The cup drops down.

An unknown FEMALE PATIENT plunges a full syringe into the back of Lance's neck. Pumps the contents into him.

Lance staggers, spins, falls down to the floor.

The coffee pours into the cup.

ROOM - NIGHT

Jill wakes up.

Her eyes focus.

The door to the room: open a crack.

Curious, Jill gets to her feet.

Slippers are gone.

HALLWAY - NIGHT

The majority of overhead hall lights remain off.

Jill reaches out to the open door, Her fingers touch the edges with caution.

A light push.

She stays in the room.

A slow peek out, to the right.

A long tunnel of black with patches of illumination.

She opens the door wider, steps out slowly.

Looks over to her left.

Not a soul in sight.

A look of confusion.

JILL
Anyone there?

Silence back.

JILL

Lance?

No response.

She hears a noise towards the right. At the end of the hallway: a hard to make out silhouette of NURSE ELIDES.

JILL

Hello? Nurse?

The shadow stares back, no answer.

JILL

I'll go back in the room, I
wasn't trying to get out.

Jill pivots, heads back to the room.

NURSE ELIDES black, blank figure proceeds down a connecting hallway, east to Jill's west.

Jill notices.

She stops.

Moves back into the hallway.

Looks around.

Once more.

Alone again.

Jill takes a breath.

Remains calm.

Waits.

Nothing.

Bites her lower lip.

Walks forward, now nervous.

Baby steps.

Glances over her shoulder.

Nobody behind her.

Quiet.

She continues on.

Careful.

Her bare feet...

Bumps into something below.

She looks down, discovers
the missing slippers.

She puts them on.

JILL

Nurse?

Onward...

Uses Caution.

She enters darkness.

Peers behind her.

The distance between her and her room increases.

JILL

Lance? Anyone?

INTERSECTING HALLWAY

Just as dimly lit as the one she exits. Jill glances
towards the direction Nurse Elides headed. There's no
sign of her.

Jill looks the other way.

Attracted to the light of the Staff Break Room.

Goes down the new path.

Not too far. Comes to...

STAFF BREAK ROOM

Lance. On the floor.

Closer inspection.

Jagged tear across the throat. Blood around him.

Jill covers her mouth.

Can't speak.

Faints.

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. PADDED ISOLATED ROOM - NIGHT

Jill screams as she wakes up.

Bright in the room. Lit well.

Her revelation: strapped down to a bed.

No windows. No way of knowing of it is still night or day.

JILL

He's dead, he's dead, Lance is
dead! Blood!

Nurse Elides rushes in. An imposing woman, tall, mid 20's. Very fit.

NURSE ELIDES

Calm down, everything's alright.

JILL

Oh God he's dead!

NURSE ELIDES

Jill!

Jill focuses on Nurse Elides, who jacks her up with a sedative.

NURSE ELIDES

There now. That should help you
a little.

JILL

You! Who are you! Where's Lance!

NURSE ELIDES

Lance?

JILL

Lance! Lance Durif! He's one of the nurses. Graveyard shift. Something's happened.

NURSE ELIDES

Lance Durif?

JILL

You found him? Listen. I didn't do it. I found him like that.

She drifts. The drugs kick in.

JILL

It...wasn't...me.

NURSE ELIDES

Jill. There is no Lance Durif that works here.

JILL

What?

NURSE ELIDES

You had an episode.

JILL

An episode? What are you talking about, an episode?

NURSE ELIDES

I gave you a small dose. Calm down right now or I'll put you out.

JILL

It wasn't me. The door was open. Maybe I shouldn't have walked out into the hall, but I did.

NURSE ELIDES

When was that?

JILL

Tonight.

NURSE ELIDES

Tonight. Jill, it's in the middle of the afternoon. There is no Lance Durif that works here.

JILL
How long was I out? Who are you?

NURSE ELIDES
Calm down, Jill. I'm not going
to ask you again.

JILL
Listen. I'm not delusional. I'm
better. In fact, I'm supposed to
be released this afternoon. And
I just saw a dead man.

NURSE ELIDES
What you saw. It seems real. It
feels real. But it's not. You
say you were going to be
released today? This afternoon?

JILL
Yes.

NURSE ELIDES
No, Jill. You have been with us
for a long time. Every few days
you relapse, thinking you are
going home. On that alleged
day, you try to run, sometimes
we put you back in groups,
where you play board games with
some of the other patients.
Sometimes, when you fight, you
are here.

JILL
My brother...

NURSE ELIDES
Your brother?

JILL
Henley.

NURSE ELIDES
Let me see.

Checks a chart, reports. Scribbles and signatures.

NURSE ELIDES

That's part of it, yes. The reason why you're here.

JILL

What?

NURSE ELIDES

Your brother, Henley. You killed him. Stabbed him several times with a knife. Slit his throat. You were sent here as part of your guilty plea. Don't you remember?

JILL

You. You were in the hallway. It was you, wasn't it?

NURSE ELIDES

I couldn't tell you. You can tell me.

JILL

You killed him, didn't you?

NURSE ELIDES

Henley, your brother?

JILL

Lance!

NURSE ELIDES

I told you. There is nobody by that name.

JILL

Call Nurse Werra.

NURSE ELIDES

Who?

JILL

Call her.

NURSE ELIDES

I been taking care of you for three years, Jill. I'm Alexis Elides, your nurse.

JILL

So you are saying she doesn't exist either, right?

NURSE ELIDES

No, she does. She works the next wing though.

JILL

Next wing?

NURSE ELIDES

Recovering drug addicts, people who suffered with depression...you have met her.

JILL

Get her. I want to talk to her.

NURSE ELIDES

You ask for her every other week, ever since she covered my shift earlier this year. She just repeats pretty much everything I just told you.

JILL

Lady, I don't know who you are. I never met you before today, this evening, whatever time it is. Yes. Go get her.

NURSE ELIDES

Jill.

JILL

Nurse whatever your name is, open that mouth one more time and all the junk you pump in me won't stop me from biting your ear off.

NURSE ELIDES

And that's exactly what I'm talking about. You are delusional and a danger to yourself and others.

Out of her pocket, Nurse Elides produces another syringe.

JILL

No. Wait.

NURSE ELIDES

That's come and gone, Jill.

JILL
What is in that?

NURSE ELIDES
I'm going to put you under. Deal
with you later. But if you must
know...

Puts the tip of the needle near Jill's nose. Jill turns
her head away. Nurse Elides frowns.

NURSE ELIDES
Smell it, Jill? Smell that?

JILL
Bleach.

NURSE ELIDES
No, you only think it's bleach.
It's really morphine. You are
insane, paranoid. You never
liked me, think I'm out to
poison you, kill you.

She opens Jill's right eyelid by force. Puts the needle
close to her face.

NURSE ELIDES
Smell it. See it. I am so sick
of you. Day in, day out.

Jill zones out. Nurse Elides puts the syringe away back
in her pocket.

NURSE ELIDES
Thinking I'm out to kill you,
abuse you. How sad. We are, I
am, trying to help you. Can't
help anyone if you can't help
yourself.

Nurse Elides leaves the room.

Jill's VISION disorients :

The walls shrink, distort.

Close in, angle down.

A blood soaked HENLEY (18) appears ghost-like, his shirt
tattered with cuts and tears. A small laugh that echoes.

HENLEY
 (distorted)
 Love you Sister.

The vision fades away.

Nurse Elides bursts through the door, with a person in a wheelchair. She turns Lance around to face the doped up Jill.

Lance is dead, just as Jill found him earlier.

NURSE ELIDES
 Lance doesn't exist. I didn't
 just wheel him in. He's not
 here. I'm not here.

Nurse Elides gives Jill a curious look. Makes a stabbing motion behind Lance's back "Psycho" style.

NURSE ELIDES
 Just like that. Then.

She kisses Lance full on the mouth.

NURSE ELIDES
 Of course, all he ever was good
 for was fetching tea, getting
 coffee, and all I wanted was -

She bites into his already cut up throat, sucks a bit of blood, rips out a little bit of flesh with her teeth.

Glances to doped Jill.

NURSE ELIDES
 A little love. But you think
 he'd pay attention to me? Think
 he would leave his wife? What I
 always wanted to do to that
 witch. Open her up like a
 sardine can, right in front of
 her bastard son. I won't share
 your delusional Lance with her,
 why share him with you?

Slaps the dead man across the face.

NURSE ELIDES
 Planned it for weeks. Now you
 won't screw him. That witch
 won't get her claws in him. But
 I can have him, take him

NURSE ELIDES (cont.)
anytime. This life, the past
life, the after life.

A little blood drips down her chin.

NURSE ELIDES
He had it coming, your delusion.

She grabs the body, yanks bloody Lance out of the chair.

Nurse Elides loosens up Jill's restraints.

Once the first hand is free, she toys with it.

Lifts Jill's hand.

Drops it.

Raises Jill's hand. Lets it go limp.

NURSE ELIDES
So! You want to see Nurse Werra!
You really, really want to see
her?

She drags Jill off the bed.

Plops her in the wheelchair.

NURSE ELIDES
Let's go pay her a visit. She'll
just tell you what I been
telling you. You are sick.

HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

Another hallway in the psych ward.

The majority of lights are turned off. Those that remain
on are dim.

Alongside the left wall, a streak of blood.

The lack of light makes the smear appear black.

Noisily, Nurse Elides hustles Jill down one end to the
other.

She halts, lets go.

The wheelchair rolls forward.

Jill unable to control it, much less comprehend.

Bumps into a wall.

Jolts.

Nurse Elides unlocks the door to another room.

Goes in.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Washers and dryers on both sides of the walls spin.

Random spots and streaks of blood.

Nurse Elides flicks on the light.

Blank look. Eyes fall on:

Werra, On her hands and knees on top the farthest dryer.
A partly shattered window with bars near her,

A beat up Werra glances towards Nurse Elides.

WERRA

Alexis. We can talk.

NURSE ELIDES

Quiet, witch.

WERRA

Listen. We can work this out.
They will find out that you're
gone from C wing. They will find
you.

NURSE ELIDES

Yes. I suppose so.

WERRA

There's no need for this. You
can stop now.

NURSE ELIDES

I can stop. I can get more
drugs, get back on the meds.

WERRA

That's right.

HALLWAY #3 - CONTINUOUS

Jill struggles to move.

Control of her left foot.

Strains.

Sees a small object on the wall a short distance ahead.

With all her might, she kicks out and gets the wheelchair away from the wall.

Disoriented.

Forces herself to focus.

HENLEY (V.O.)

You can do it. It's right there.

LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nurse Elides approaches Werra.

Takes her time.

Casually draws out the syringe from her pocket.

NURSE ELIDES

Do you think I'm insane? Can I be cured?

WERRA

Alexis.

NURSE ELIDES

I'm sane enough to know that it's about three thirty in the morning. No one on the grave shift tonight knows I'm out or that you're in here like that.

WERRA

They will. They'll stop you. Find me.

NURSE ELIDES

Yes. You are right. They will stop me. Find you.

Close enough now, Nurse Elides lashes out, Werra kicks the syringe out of the psycho's hand.

Werra scrambles off the dryer, onto the floor in front of Nurse Elides.

Nurse Elides grabs her from behind, pushes her into the nearest washer.

Werra bangs her head against stainless steel.

Nurse Elides forces her to the floor.

Twists her arm.

Beside them: the syringe, broken.

Bleach flows out.

HALLWAY #3 - CONTINUOUS

By effort, Jill's left foot touches the floor.

Her ankle braces down.

Just enough strength to push her forward.

Just enough to get a better look at the object on the wall: Fire alarm.

LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Fury.

In the back shoulder, Nurse Elides stabs Werra with the set of keys.

Repeats.

Werra screams as loud as she can.

NURSE ELIDES
Yes, scream. Scream!

WERRA
Help!

NURSE ELIDES
Louder!

WERRA

Someone!

NURSE ELIDES

I can't hear you! No one will!

Werra bites down on Nurse Elides left hand. Nurse Elides sounds of a grunt of pain, takes it in.

HALLWAY #3 - CONTINUOUS

Inches away from the fire alarm.

Jill labors to get the rest of her body to move. Her neck and head respond.

Unable to mobilize her arms, she hesitates a moment.

Breathes.

Sweat off her forehead.

Summons every ounce of energy.

Nods her head, bangs against the red switch.

Stretches her chin out.

Slips over the handle.

LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Without further adieu, Nurse Elides snatches up a piece of bed linen from a hamper bin. Wraps one end around her wounded hand.

Stops Werra's cries.

Drapes the linen around Werra's face, cuts off oxygen.

Werra squirms in protest.

NURSE ELIDES

I hate you. I hate you. I hate you!

HALLWAY #3 - CONTINUOUS

Jill's chin rests on the handle. It's an awkward position.

Calm.

The red emergency fire handle.

Goes down with her chin.

LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The fire alarm sounds off.

Nurse Elides eases her grip on Werra. Slugs her in the back of the head.

Leaves her down.

Steps over the woman.

HALLWAY #3 - CONTINUOUS

Nurse Elides bolts into the hallway. Eagle eyes Jill down a short way at the fire alarm.

NURSE ELIDES
Wicked sick girl.

Checks her pockets.

Frustrated.

Ducks back in the laundry room.

NURSE ELIDES (O.S.)
Dirty, wicked witch!

Jill cranes her neck to look back.

She looks ahead. In pain, she pushes herself forward. Once again, she manages to move the wheelchair with her body.

Out of control, she drifts from one side of the hall to the other.

Nurse Elides returns. Straightjacket in her hands.

Storms up to Jill.

Before she can put the jacket around Jill's head, Jill lunges forward.

Jill falls out of the chair. The chair backs into Nurse Elides.

NURSE ELIDES
Sneaky little...

Enraged, Nurse Elides shoves the chair away.

Right back to Jill.

Swipes her with the jacket. The hard fabric slaps against Jill's face and arms.

Nurse Elides wraps the jacket around Jill's head.

NURSE ELIDES
Stupid sick little pup.

Squeezes tight.

Werra comes out of nowhere, tackles Nurse Elides.

The two women struggle.

Nurse Elides gets her hands around Werra's throat. Chokes. Screams.

Werra breaks the hold, wrestles one of Elides' arms away, pins it.

Nurse Elides slaps Werra with the free arm.

Kicks.

Screams.

Pulls hair.

Spits blood and saliva in her face.

NURSE ELIDES
I'll kill you, kill you, I'll
kill you!

Werra pins down the other arm.

Nurse Elides continues to fight. She gets an arm free, and goes for Werra's eyes.

Jill rolls over on Nurse Elides' free arm.

Werra smacks Nurse Elides, knocks her out. Werra takes a breath, looks over to Jill.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jill wakes up, no restraints.

The room: bright. Sunlight peers through a window. Henley waits in the room.

HENLEY

How are you doing, sis?

JILL

Henley?

HENLEY

Who else would it be?

Kisses her on the head.

Holds her hand.

JILL

Where am I?

HENLEY

Saint Vincent's Hospital. You been here for three days.

JILL

Three days. Nurse Werra. She alright?

HENLEY

Yeah. Spoke to her. She seems like a nice lady.

JILL

She saved my life.

HENLEY

You saved hers. Maybe others.

JILL

Who was she, the crazy nurse. You know?

HENLEY

Alexis Elides. And she wasn't a nurse. She just snatched a uniform and got out. I'm seriously thinking about seeing a lawyer. The guy who that psycho killed? His wife's already got one. Find out who turned a blind eye, I want someone's head, same as her.

JILL

Smithsgrove is a good place. They help people. They helped me.

HENLEY

And what if instead of roaming the hallways the next crazy bird walks the street? No thank you.

Jill reaches for him, holds him close.

JILL

It'll be alright.

INT. SMITHSGROVE SANITARIUM. PADDED ISOLATED ROOM - DAY

On a steel, bolted down bench: Alexis Elides, blank stare.

A slot in the door opens.

A male ORDERLY (30s) peers through.

ORDERLY

Miss Elides, I'm Aaron. I'll be doing the rounds on the dayshift. I brought you some lunch.

FADE TO
BLACK.

