

CHATTY CATHY

Written by

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INT. ISREAL FAMILY HOME - DAYTIME

WIDE ON A MT.AIRY LIVING ROOM:

A Black woman, GRACE ISREAL, early 30's, sits on the living room couch. It is a sturdy but soft looking couch with a bright mustard blanket thrown over it. It has the pillows that belong on the couch, as well as one soft squishy bed pillow.

The camera pushes tighter on the bottom half of GRACES face and chest. We can see the medical tubing that connects from her chest to the beeping i.v. machine. We see that the glass medicine bottle is empty and needs to be changed.

CATHY, a White woman in her early 50's, enters and hits some buttons on the IV Machine. The beeping stops.

She is the 'at home nurse'.

She carries the new bottle of fluids.

GRACE

(as Cathy switches out the
medicine bottles)

Ok Cathy, I'm gonna get some rest.
I feel my Benadryl about to kick
in.

Grace starts to adjust the blanket that was casually thrown over her lap.

CATHY

Oh sure huny. Let me just grab a
pressure before you get comfy.

Cathy bustles back to her bags that are at the dining room table to grab her blood pressure cuff. Grace is in the seated position as she waits. Cathy crosses in front of Grace and places the cuff on her wrist. She then stands to the side and looks down at Grace. Grace looks at Cathy and politely smiles.

It's a long awkward polite stare off

until-

Cathy's expression shifts. She turns melancholy. She puts her hand on lips to try and stifle the wave of emotion that has come over her. She looks to be in agony.

This is all quite sudden.

CATHY
 (shakily)
 Grace?

GRACE
 (with a twisted cautious
 brow and wary tone)
 ...yeeess?

CATHY
 (she has placed her hand
 over her stomach to
 convey how much stress
 she is suffering from.)
 Before you go to sleep I just
 wanted to ask how I, a older White
 woman, can make can make things
 better for you - a young, Black,
 woman.

Grace looks at Cathy incredulously. She then turns and looks
 at the camera like - is this bitch serious?

GRACE
 Ummm

Back to Cathy who is low key dry heaving-

CATHY
 What can I do? I've already fought
 so hard to leave my horribly racist
 family. It was one of the hardest
 things ive had to do

Grace looks down at her chest. We see things from her pov and
 look "down" at the bulky/ painful looking iv jutting out of
 her chest. We then pan over to the iv dripping her meds.

Back to Cathy

CATHY (CONT'D)
 It was hard but I escaped. I got
 away from my hateful family. I moved
 to Philadelphia - against the
 wishes of my family members! (
 mocking her families advice) " you
 move to Philly and those ... N-
 words will rape and kill you!" Well
 I showed them!
 (she pauses as a wave of
 emotion hits her like a
 tidal wave.)
 (MORE)

CATHY (CONT'D)

Now I just feel like there is soooo
much HATE surrounding people. From
all sides!

Cathy has now worked herself up in a little tizzy and needs to sit down. She walks over to the armchair nearest to Graces couch and flops down.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Oh Gurl I needed to take a seat!

Back to Grace with a face full of badly concealed shock. Again she looks at the camera - How had things escalated so quickly?

CATHY (CONT'D)

I just get so emotional over this.
Ive been crying nonstop (her voice
begins to quiver again) It's
MADNESS. RIOTS! LOOTING! I really
can't understand any of it. What
can I do?

GRACE

(clears her throat)

Well-

CATHY

(interrupts)

I just feel like there is so much
hate nowadays. When I was a new
nurse starting out I worked in the
poorest of neighborhoods. There was
so much GRATITUDE. You know?

Cut to Grace.

She is completely incredulous. She tries to figure out how Cathy had masterfully trapped her in a dreaded "conversation" about race.

GRACE

Yes well often when people are
impoverished and their backs are
against the wall they are-

CATHY

(interrupts Grace again)

-they're super grateful for genuine
help! Exactly. It was so nice...

(MORE)

CATHY (CONT'D)

but then this one hospital I worked at- again a underserved facility- , well, so -this hospital was less of a hospital and more of a nut house... well crazy house... you know what I mean. It was back in the day so we just called them the nut houses.

Back to Grace. Her eyes are high key wild and dart around looking for an escape.

This White woman is taking her on a redemption tour and Grace cant - CAN'T. LEAVE.

There are three hours left in her treatment.

CATHY (CONT'D)

(she has not stopped)

...and I was the only White nurse. And all the Black women were just so mean to me. Just nasty. I would say to myself " I guess this how they are to all White people." I thought that just didn't like White people

Cut to Grace.

She looks back at Cathy. STUCK.

CATHY (CONT'D)

(in the middle of a story)

So it's me and the Black women all in this room together and there is a patient on the table. She's been acting up and we had to ... we had to like put her down. So- they were going to hold her down and I was going to stick her with the sedative. - then out of nowhere she lunged up from the table and swung at one of the Black ladies. (she pauses for effect) Before I could even think about - like my instinct just kicked in- I swiftly grabbed her hand and jabbed her in the thigh at the same time.

Grace is caught in the middle of a horrific train wreck. Where was Cathy going with this?