

BIG LITTLE LIES

Relay

Written by

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Big Little Lies

Season 2, Episode 1: "Relay"

ACT ONE

EXT. OTTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Glimpses of blurry, dreamlike crowd of children's feet around a child laying on the ground. The child grabs at her throat and struggles. Amid this dreamlike state, kids voices echo.

VOICE 1

What's wrong with her?

VOICE 2

Is she choking? Do the Heimlich maneuver.

VOICE 3

Somebody get a teacher!

VOICE 4

What's wrong with her face?

The feet shuffle. From amid the crowd of running shoes emerges a pair of sparkly red shoes. Widen to reveal CHLOE MACKENZIE (8), who has pushed through to the front. Directly behind her is ZIGGY CHAPMAN (8). Everything is in real time now. Chloe takes one look at the child.

CHLOE

(to Ziggy)

Go get a grown up now! Tell them to bring an Epipen.

Ziggy stands there, horrified.

CHLOE (cont'd)

DO IT NOW ZIGGY!!!

Ziggy bolts to a student MONITOR (12) who is across the schoolyard. We see them in the distance. There is a hesitation- no Epipen. The monitor bolts to the office. The child on the ground is struggling mightily. Her face is swollen beyond recognition.

CHLOE (cont'd)  
It's ok, someone's coming. Someone  
will be here in a second. Does  
anybody know her?

ALICE ALBRIGHT (4), timidly raises her hand.

ALICE  
I do. She's my best friend.

CHLOE  
What's her name?

ALICE  
Ivy. Will she be OK?

INT. OTTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The Monitor comes crashing into the office. Mrs. Ponder (70'S) greets her with a stern but loving tone.

MRS. PONDER  
Dear, you know there's no running-

MONITOR  
I need-

MRS. PONDER  
Slow down.

MONITOR  
No! I need an Epipen!

MRS. PONDER  
Take a breath. What's going on? I  
can't just-

MONITOR  
Give me an Epipen right fucking  
now!

Mrs. Ponder freezes in shock.

MONITOR (cont'd)  
Mrs. Ponder. Somebody is going to  
die! One of the little kids!

Mrs. Ponder frantically opens a drawer with a key.

MRS. PONDER  
Oh dear. Does it matter which one?  
They're labeled.

MONITOR  
I don't know!

More fumbling.

MRS. PONDER  
There never used to be all these  
allergies.

MONITOR  
Just give me one!

MRS. PONDER  
You've got to wonder.

MONITOR  
Mrs. Ponder!

MS. BARNES (20'S) enters just Mrs. Ponder hands over the  
Epipen.

MS. BARNES  
What's going on?

MONITOR  
There's a kid? She's... allergic or  
something?

MS. BARNES  
(very alarmed)  
Which? Is it Ivy? Alice?

MONITOR  
I don't know.

MS. BARNES  
Call an ambulance Mrs. Ponder!

Mrs. Ponder stands frozen.

MS. BARNES (cont'd)  
DO IT NOW!!!

Then to the Monitor indicating the Epipen.

MS. BARNES (cont'd)  
She needs two.

She bolts the Monitor runs around the counter grabs another  
Epipen out of the drawer and follows.

EXT. OTTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLYARD - CONTINUOUS

Ivy is turning blue now.

CHLOE  
Ziggy! Where is it?

Ziggy is beside himself. He is about to run in when Ms. Barnes comes crashing out the door with the Monitor.

ZIGGY  
Ms. Barnes! Over here.

She makes a dash and the kids part to let her in. The sight of Ivy turns her blood cold. She fumbles with the pen. Starts looking at the instructions on the outside.

CHLOE  
Blue to the sky, orange to the thigh.

MS. BARNES  
What?

Chloe grabs the pen, pops it out of its casing and expertly stabs Ivy in the thigh. BOBBY YEUN (8) pushes through the crowd.

BOBBY  
That's my sister! Ivy? What happened?!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAYS LATER

STU (30's) SAMANTHA (20's) THEA CUNNINGHAM (30's) RENATA KLEIN (40's) HARPER STIMSON (30's) AND OREN (LATE 20's) are being questioned in turn.

STU  
I don't know what's wrong with these people. You'd think they learned their lesson when all that stuff happened with the Chapman kid. You know what I heard?

CUT TO:

SAMANTHA  
I heard one of them came to school with a peanut butter ball-

CUT TO:

THEA  
WRAPPED in peanuts!

CUT TO:

RENATA  
Who would do that?

CUT TO:

HARPER  
That's ridiculous. Who said that?  
Was it that bitch? Was it Renata?

CUT TO:

RENATA  
It wasn't me, obviously, I don't  
even have a child in grade 1.  
Besides, I picked Amabella up early  
because we had a hair appointment.

OREN  
Does anybody know how the little  
girl's doing?

EXT. OTTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL YARD - THE DAY OF THE ALLERGY

Bobby and the other children watch in horror as the doors to  
the ambulance shut before them.

EXT. MONTEREY STREET - THE DAY OF THE ALLERGY

Ambulance speeding to hospital. Lights and sirens blaring.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

Two PARAMEDICS work on Ivy.

PARAMEDIC 1  
How long's it been?

PARAMEDIC 2  
Solid 10. Hard to say. Was a kid  
that gave it to her.

PARAMEDIC 1  
I'm going with number two.

He pops the top of the Epipen. This happens in slow motion.

INT. OTTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

In slow motion Mrs. Ponder's shaky hand picks up the office phone and begins to dial.

INT. JACKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

In slow motion a phone sitting on the counter lights up with an incoming call. A pair of hands dry themselves on a tea towel. And pick up the phone. JACKIE (late 20'S) receives the news. The phone floats down the floor and smashes.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

The casing for the Epipen falls to the floor in slow motion and bounces. And then in real time the blue top is pulled up and the orange tip of the Epipen is stabbed into Ivy's leg.

INT. JACKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

This is also in real time now.

JACKIE  
Omygod, omygod, omygod, omygod.

She picks up her phone which now has a smashed screen and attempts to gather herself, a purse and keys to get out the door.

INT. OTTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Ponder hangs up the phone. This day has clearly shaken her. She appears unwell. She rubs at her stomach. She is sweating and red. She grasps harder at her stomach and then her chest. She drops behind the office counter where she remains. PRINCIPAL NIPPAL (40'S) enters and heads straight past the counter to his office.

PRINCIPAL NIPPAL  
Sorry to leave you in a lurch Mrs. Ponder but I've got great news. We got the green light. Playground reno is on. And they agreed to shared funding so our costs are going to be very reasonable. Not bad, huh? Mrs. Ponder?

He comes out of his office and peaks behind the counter.

PRINCIPAL NIPPAL (cont'd)  
Shit! Patty! Patty are you alright?

He looks around. Nobody to help. *Where the hell is everyone?* He picks up the phone and dials 911 while attempting to check her.

PRINCIPAL NIPPAL (cont'd)  
I need an ambulance to Otter Bay  
Public school immediately. What do  
you mean? That's impossible. It  
can't be. I'm here with her right  
now. NO! my office administrator-  
she's had a heart attack! Send an  
ambulance right now! I don't know.  
I don't know! Well then send  
another one!

EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

The ambulance carrying Ivy pulls in. They begin to unload her. They are working quickly. Time is of the essence. Another ambulance pulls out of the bay.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

Jackie runs in and straight to the desk skipping the queue. The NURSE gives her a dirty look.

JACKIE  
I'm looking for my daughter.

NURSE  
Who's your daughter ma'am. You know  
there is a line.

JACKIE  
My daughter. Ivy Yeun. She has  
anaphylaxis. Her school called-

The Nurse stands immediately realizing.

NURSE  
Oh, Mrs. Yeun, they're just  
bringing her into Trauma now.

Jackie starts to move towards the back.