

NOTORIOUS

Pilot

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NETWORK DRAFT

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TEASER

EXT. MEAT PACKING DISTRICT - NEW YORK - NIGHT

VIVIAN LAWSON (32) walks out of a building. She's dressed for an occasion, a pretty coat over a cocktail dress and high heels. She walks down the street, turning a corner. Sensing someone is following her, she turns: nothing. She picks up her pace, almost running. She reaches her car and gets in.

SUDDENLY A MAN APPEARS AT THE WINDOW, scaring the shit out of her. After a second, she laughs. (Note: We never see this person's face.)

VIVIAN

Jesus! You scared me! Hi.
(unlocks the door)
Get in. Where are we going?

INT. SEEDY HOTEL - MORNING - EIGHT HOURS LATER

CLOSE ON: Vivian's face, her lifeless eyes staring at the ceiling. Her body is sprawled out on the bed. A male EMT loads her body onto a gurney. He's about to pull the cover over her face when a male CRIME SCENE TECH, 30s, comes up.

CRIME SCENE TECH

Hey. Wait a second.

The Crime Scene Tech snaps a picture with his iPhone.

EMT

Really?

CRIME SCENE TECH

It's Vivian Lawson. Reporters are already sniffing around outside. I can get five grand for this from TMZ.

(looking at Vivian)

Still hot. Is it wrong to say I'd hit that?

EMT

Jesus Christ.

The EMT pulls the cover over Vivian's face and wheels her away. The Crime Scene Tech looks around to see if anyone's paying attention before sending his photo to TMZ...

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Are you ready to let the light in?

INT. LAWSON PHARMACEUTICALS CONFERENCE ROOM - NEW YORK - DAY

CLOSE ON: A BIG SCREEN TV. Upbeat music plays over happy, aspirational images.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE (V.O.)
Depression doesn't have to hold you
back. There is an answer.

-- A good-looking COUPLE poses for their wedding pictures.

-- A WOMAN TWIRLS her toddler on a lawn.

-- A MAN opens a window and feels the sun on his face.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE (V.O.)
Zylatrex. Live the life you
deserve.

REVEAL: We are in the office of ROBERT LAWSON, late 60s, handsome and commanding. He watches the commercial with some MARKETING GUYS.

ROBERT
Is that really what happy people
do? Spin children around on lawns?

MARKETING GUY
It's testing really well.

ROBERT
It's like a fucking parody. I
don't know if you guys understand
the stakes here --

Robert's assistant, HANNAH MCCAFFREY, 30s, hot, comes in with a shell-shocked look on her face.

HANNAH
Robert. You have a phone call --

ROBERT
Not now, Hannah.

HANNAH
It's the police. It's about your
daughter. It's about Vivian.

Off Robert's look...

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

SOFIA LAWSON, 40s, beautiful: don't fuck with her. She is naked from the waist up, submitting to a humiliating breast exam from DR. JEREMY LAWRENCE, 38, a plastic surgeon.

DR. LAWRENCE

You've lost a lot of fullness in your breasts.

SOFIA

No shit.

DR. LAWRENCE

Many women your age find that a small implant in conjunction with a breast lift can give a nice result.

SOFIA

My age? How old do you think I look?

DR. LAWRENCE

Forty-seven.

Sofia's eyes narrow. Her phone rings. She picks it up.

SOFIA

(to the doctor)

Can you get your hand off my tit?

(into the phone)

Hello, darling.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE - DAY - SAME TIME

Robert's tie is loosened. He sits on the floor behind his desk. He is CRYING, a complete mess.

ROBERT

Vivian... She's dead... They found her body this morning... They want me to identify the body. I can't. I just can't --

Sofia calmly takes this in, as she begins to soothe him.

SOFIA

Shhh. It's alright. I'll take care of everything. Don't move. I'll be right there.

Sofia hangs up and dials her phone again.

DR. LAWRENCE
Everything alright?

SOFIA
No.
(as it rings)
I'm forty-four, you little prick.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JULIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY - SAME TIME

JULIAN LAWSON, 37, is asleep in his bed with a random naked chick passed out next to him. This is a fantastic apartment, in spite of the cocaine on the nightstand and a couple of empty booze bottles. Julian wakes up and looks at the clock: 11 AM. He answers the phone.

JULIAN
What it is, Sofia?

SOFIA
It's your sister. She's had an accident and this time it's for real. I need you to go to the morgue and identify her body.

Julian struggles to take this in...

INT. NEW YORK CITY MORGUE - DAY

A police officer holds back the sheet covering the body for Julian to look. He nods: that's her. The police officer leaves, giving Julian a moment alone with the body. Julian stares at his sister for a beat.

JULIAN
I guess we both got what we deserve.

He kisses her on the forehead and walks out.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. CVS PHARMACY - MISSION DISTRICT - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Broken glass on the floor. A body on the ground. A bunch of knocked-over displays. MARCY, late 30s, a painfully thin drug addict with dark circles around her eyes, smokes and looks terrified and hateful at the same time. DETECTIVE JOANNA LOCASTO, 32, tomboy pretty, hands her a coffee and sits down next to her, looking sympathetic.

JOANNA

Marcy. You should talk to me. You gotta. The surveillance camera caught the whole thing.

(nodding to the body on the ground)

That guy there? He's dead. The other guy's in the hospital. And you did that for a hundred and twenty Oxycontin pills. Do I have that right? Because now's the time to tell me if I don't. You know your boyfriend Ray says he had no idea what you were doing. He says he was just minding his own business in the car outside. That true?

Marcy looks scared. Joanna softens her voice even more.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

What happened to you, Marcy?

MARCY

I started taking my kid's Ritalin. I'd break the capsule, take the drugs and then put it back together and feed my kid an empty pill.

JOANNA

You have a disease.

MARCY

I know. I do. My husband found out, told me I couldn't see my kids. Then I started taking Dexedrine. I was managing all kinds of doctors. Getting prescriptions from this one and that one.

JOANNA

That sounds like a full-time job.

MARCY

Then I met Ray. He was robbing stores, keeping some and selling some. He made me come in here.

EXT. CVS PHARMACY - DAY - THIRTY MINUTES LATER

Marcy is handcuffed, being put into a squad car. Joanna and her partner, JOSH, late 20s, watch for a moment before Joanna heads for her car.

JOSH

You believe her? You think he
"made" her do it?

JOANNA

I think they're both drug-addicted
scumbags. What kind of person
takes her son's Ritalin? What a
skank.

JOSH

You're so judgemental.

JOANNA

I know. This job makes me feel so
good about myself. Going home.

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joanna's house is cute but messy. She's changed into sweats
and a T-shirt and walks through, half-assedly picking up
clothes and take-out containers. She's on the phone.

JOANNA

Mom, I know. It's a new place.
And new places are hard to get used
to but it's so bright and sunny and
you have Cashew with you...

The doorbell RINGS. Joanna walks over to answer...

JOANNA (CONT'D)

...If you don't know how to work
the thermostat, just ask the nurse.
That's the great thing about that
place. No, Mom, Jim is dead... He
died ten years ago.

She opens the door to see WILL SACOVITCH, 37, good-looking, a
guy's guy. Joanna is shocked to see him.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I know it's hard to keep straight.

WILL

Hi.

JOANNA

(mouthing)

Hi.

(into the phone)

Mom, call the nurse and ask for
help and then call me later, okay?
I love you, too.

Joanna hangs up and stares at Will. Her look is cold and wary.

WILL

I would have called but you would
have hung up on me. Can I come in?

Joanna gives him a hard look before walking away from the door. But she leaves it open. He takes that as a yes.

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Joanna walks into the kitchen. Will follows. She puts dishes away, not making it easy for him.

WILL

How's your mom?

JOANNA

She's got Alzheimer's. I just
moved her into assisted living.

WILL

I'm sorry.
(off her silence)
Nice place. I miss San Francisco.

JOANNA

NYPD not living up to your
expectations?

WILL

I miss working with you.

JOANNA

That's nice but you didn't come
here to tell me that.

WILL

Vivian Lawson was found dead in a
hotel room early this morning.

Joanna turns. She looks like someone punched her in the stomach. After a second she charges into...

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

...and grabs the remote, clicking ON the TV. Will follows her.

JOANNA

No...

WILL

Joanna.

Joanna quickly flips to the E! channel.

ON THE TV: AN ANCHOR is talking about Vivian.

ANCHOR

...Again, notorious, troubled socialite Vivian Lawson is dead, prompting speculation of a drug overdose...

WILL

I'm sorry. I know she was your friend.

Joanna drops the remote on the floor and walks into...

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

She grabs the sink and takes deep, trying-not-to-cry breaths. She looks up and catches her own reflection in the mirror.

FLASH ON:

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - VIVIAN'S ROOM - 1995 - DAY

CLOSE ON: 15 year-old Joanna's eye. She winces as a pair of tweezers plucks her eyebrows.

JOANNA

Vivian, your smoke is getting in my eyes. Ow.

REVEAL: 15 year-old Vivian Lawson, doing the plucking, a lit cigarette hanging out of her mouth. Teenage Joanna is plain and awkward, eager to please. Teenage Vivian is worldly, hot and fashionable. Still, the two girls share a sardonic sense of humor and are best friends. They love each other.

VIVIAN

Deal with it. This is going to change your whole face.

JOANNA

Please God.

VIVIAN

Shut up. You're so pretty. You look like a J. Crew model. I would give anything to be as tall as you.

JOANNA

Really? Anything? Would you give your arm?

VIVIAN

I would. I would give my arm. And then I'd have many fancy arms made. I'd have a chrome arm and a see-through arm, a suede arm...

JOANNA

A chocolate arm.

Vivian stops plucking and stares at Joanna.

VIVIAN

Oh, my God. That would be so awesome to have a chocolate arm.

JOANNA

What guy's going to be able to resist a hot tall chick with a chocolate arm?

VIVIAN

Like if he got hungry while we were doing it he could just lean over and have a delicious chocolate snack.

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - TEN MINUTES LATER

Joanna pours scotch, calm now. She puts ice in Will's, takes hers neat.

JOANNA

I'm still trying to figure out why you're here.

WILL

It looks like a drug overdose but we haven't ruled out murder. The family's worth over ten billion dollars. And Robert Lawson's got cancer.

JOANNA

You think somebody in the family did it? That's insane. You just hate rich people.

WILL

(smiles)

I do hate rich people. That's true. But her brother Julian was the last person to see her alive. They were fighting.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

Vivian was an embarrassment to her family, in and out of rehab. I thought since you have a relationship with the Lawsons --

JOANNA

Wait. Stop right there --

WILL

-- I told my captain about you. He's willing to sign off on sending you in with a wire for a few days --

JOANNA

You have a lot of balls to --

WILL

-- You go to the funeral. You give Robert Lawson a sob story and see if he invites you to dinner. Maybe you have time to poke around the house? Maybe you stay in touch?

JOANNA

My mom was the housekeeper. We were the help.

WILL

You and Vivian were best friends.

JOANNA

Not at the end. At the end she hated me.

WILL

She's dead. Her family didn't hate you.

JOANNA

You're asking me to go back to a very painful period in my life.
(off his blank look)
They're going to know I'm police.

WILL

That's where your early disastrous marriage comes in handy. They knew you as Joanna Gordon, not Joanna Locasto. They can't Google you.

JOANNA

So I'm supposed to wear a wire while these people grieve? No. I won't. It's gross. No.

Will shrugs, finishes his drink and gets up.

WILL

Nice to see you.

JOANNA

Kind of.

Will walks out, then comes back after a second.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

You still do the leave-and-come-back move.

He ignores her, slaps the autopsy photos on the table.

WILL

She was shot up with enough heroin to kill an elephant.

JOANNA

Maybe she killed herself.

WILL

The security camera at the hotel broke the day before. Nice coincidence. And nobody saw her entering the hotel. This girl is notorious, can't walk out her front door without landing on TMZ, and no one sees her? Come on, you're just as ambitious as I am.

JOANNA

Not even.

WILL

Hey, I know we haven't seen each other in a few years, but are you a yoga instructor now? No, you're a cop. You made Detective Second Grade in four years. This is a high-profile case. We solve it, it's good for both of us. We're talking about four days. Do this with me.

He knows which buttons to push. She stares at the pictures of her old friend. After a beat, she says, very quietly:

JOANNA

When's the funeral?

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE PRECINCT - NIGHT

CAPTAIN FRANK HAYES, 50s, walks through the station into...

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE PRECINCT - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

...where Will and GABE, 20s, a junior officer assigned to the Lawson case, are giving Joanna a crash course in All Things Lawson. There's a bulletin board with pictures of the family on it. Judging from the pizza boxes and empty soda cans on the table, they've been here a while. They are looking at a picture of Sofia Lawson.

FRANK

How we doing?

WILL

Talking about Sofia. She was his secretary. They got married a year after Vivian's mom died.

Will slides a picture of a cute, slightly goth-looking girl across the table.

WILL (CONT'D)

They have one daughter, Mia Lawson. Fifteen years old. Good in school. Close to her half-sister Vivian.

JOANNA

What about Edward Lawson?

WILL

The older responsible brother. Married. Two kids. CFO of Lawson Pharmaceuticals. Out of the country at the time of the murder. Julian Lawson...

A picture of JULIAN. Joanna remains expressionless.

WILL (CONT'D)

He graduated medical school, spent some time with Doctors Without Borders. Then went to work for Pfizer doing research --

GABE

Big slap in the face to Dad.

WILL

Yeah, well, apparently whatever the problem was got solved because two years ago, he abruptly left Pfizer and went back to Dad's company.

JOANNA

He never got married? No steady girlfriend?

GABE

Not even close. Why? You interested? Did you have a little crush on the guy?

JOANNA

God no.

Joanna takes a sip of coffee and we...

FLASH ON:

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - 1994 - DAY

Joanna, 14, all knobby knees and awkward, helps her mother, ANNE, 40s, clean up after a party. Joanna watches from a distance as JULIAN LAWSON, 19, gets out of the pool. He is perfect. He is wet. He moves in slow motion. Joanna is in love with him...

BACK TO PRESENT:

Joanna shakes off the memory.

JOANNA

Can we talk about Vivian?

GABE

Yep. Would you like to see a sex tape? We have a whole library. Men, women, the seventeen-year-old son of one of Lawson Pharmaceuticals' main shareholders.

JOANNA

Well, she's dead now, dick. Is that punishment enough?

FRANK

Guys. There's a clock here. We managed to get a warrant for the wire but you only have four days. You ever worked undercover before?

JOANNA

No sir.

FRANK

Let the information come to you.
Don't push. Nothing you get on
tape is admissable in court anyway.
Get some sleep. Big day tomorrow.
Gabe, get me some coffee.

Frank leaves. Gabe makes a face.

WILL

Gotta pay your dues, buddy.

GABE

Fuck my life.

Gabe leaves. Joanna starts to pack up.

WILL

What are you doing?

JOANNA

He said get some sleep!

WILL

No. I want to talk about your
backstory. Have another slice of
pizza.

Joanna sighs, lifts the lid on the pizza box and looks up at
Will with imploring eyes.

JOANNA

We're in the food capital of the
world, we can't go out to eat?

INT. NICE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A WAITER pours wine. Joanna happily eats and drinks.

WILL

Can we go over this one more time,
before you get shitfaced?

JOANNA

(reciting)

I dropped out of college and went
to work to support my husband Brian
and then he started drinking and
then he got violent and then I
finally left and now I'm starting
over from scratch.

WILL

Jesus, can you sell it a little more? Make your eyes sad?

JOANNA

Don't worry about me. I'll sell it. This pork chop is a little piece of heaven. You want some?

WILL

Yeah, okay. You want some fish?

JOANNA

No, I don't want any of your fish. But you have this.

Will watches as she puts a piece of pork chop on his plate.

WILL

You want to talk about the thing that happened?

JOANNA

Not at all.

WILL

I was young and dumb --

JOANNA

-- Don't need to talk about it.

WILL

-- And you were my best friend and I got scared --

JOANNA

-- I happen to be a woman who doesn't need to talk about every --

WILL

I was immature. So I just bailed.

JOANNA

(after a beat)

Not that I asked for it, but that was a pretty shitty explanation.

WILL

I realized that as I was saying it.

JOANNA

The whole thing was a big mistake. We were young, we were celebrating --

WILL

We drank too much in those days.

JOANNA

(as the waiter pours wine)

Nice thing about getting older, you don't make so many stupid mistakes.

SMASH TO:

INT. JOANNA'S HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Will and Joanna make out ferociously in the hallway. She hands him her room key. He tries it.

WILL

That's your Vons card, ding-dong.

Joanna laughs, finds the right card, works on his shirt as he unlocks the door. They fall into the room.

INT. JOANNA'S HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Joanna stands there in a skirt, her blouse unbuttoned. Very pretty, hair down, ready for the funeral. She endures being pawed by Gabe, who is trying to put a mic on her.

JOANNA

Gabe, you're touching my boob.

Will enters. Takes the mic away from Gabe.

WILL

I got this.

Gabe leaves. Will smiles while he tapes the mic to her body.

WILL (CONT'D)

I guess we still drink too much.

JOANNA

Can you not get all weird --

Will surprises her with a kiss.

WILL

You look pretty.

JOANNA

Don't tell me I'm pretty just because we had sex.

Gabe sticks his head in.

GABE

You guys had sex?

WILL

Gabe, out.

(he leaves)

Guess the mic works. You okay?

JOANNA

Yeah. Be a cakewalk.

EXT./INT. CHURCH - DAY

Joanna is about to be thrown out of the church. She talks to a SECURITY GUARD.

SECURITY GUARD

I don't see you on the list, ma'am.

JOANNA

I'm an old friend of the family. I just want to pay my respects --

SECURITY GUARD

This is a private event.

Joanna is a little panicked.

JULIAN

What's going on here?

Joanna looks up to see Julian, so grown up, still perfect. She's a little bowled over but maintains her composure.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Joanna!

He hugs her -- a real hug. He pulls back to look at her.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

How are you? How is your mom?

JOANNA

She's fine. I don't know why I said that. She's not. She has Alzheimer's. She's living in a home.

JULIAN

I'm sorry. Come and sit with us.

Julian leads her over to the front, in a pew right behind his family.

Joanna feels self-conscious, sitting so close to their obvious grief. Julian reaches across and taps his brother EDWARD, 40, on the shoulder, then taps his father.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Dad. It's time.

The three men get up and head to the back of the church.

INT. CHURCH - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Julian, Edward, Robert and another person hoist the coffin up and walk it down the aisle. As it passes Joanna, we...

FLASH ON:

INT. VIVIAN'S ROOM - 1995 - DAY

Joanna and Vivian, 15 years old now, getting ready for a different funeral. Vivian stands in front of her closet in a skirt and her bra, all agitated and scary.

JOANNA

Viv, it doesn't matter!

VIVIAN

It does matter. There's going to be photographers there.

JOANNA

You can't be late for your mom's funeral. Your dad's gonna be mad.

VIVIAN

I don't really give a shit. He's probably fucking his secretary right now.

Vivian bursts into tears, collapses into the pile of clothes next to her closet and cries into the blouse she's holding.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

I can't do it. I don't want to go.

Joanna starts crying too, plops down next to her. The door opens: Julian, 20 and perfect, dressed in a black suit. He takes in the situation, sits down next to them, and kisses Vivian on the top of her head.

JULIAN

Hey, Viv. Let's just do this, okay?

Vivian worships her older brother. She collects herself. The huge crush Joanna has on Julian is all over her face. Vivian grabs a vial of pills she has hidden in her shoe.

JOANNA

What are you doing?

VIVIAN

Eating my dead mother's Xanax.

(beat)

You guys want some?

Another beat, then:

JULIAN

Give it over.

JOANNA

Yeah.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Joanna catches her breath from the force of the memory as TEARS SPRING TO HER EYES...

EXT. GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The Lawson house is huge and looks out over a small bay.

INT. AUDI - DAY

We recognize MIA LAWSON, 15, from her picture. She sits in the passenger seat, her head leaning against the window. Her friend NATHANIEL, 16, dressed impeccably, sits in the driver's seat. They are both HIGH. They're parked across the street from the Lawsons' house, watching people go in.

NATHANIEL

Your sister has the best drugs.
Had. Sorry.

MIA

It's okay. These are actually my mother's. "Back pain". Really takes the edge off a funeral.

NATHANIEL

You know Rush Limbaugh was taking like sixty of these a day?

MIA

Well, he weighs like three thousand pounds. And he's probably trying to forget that he's Rush Limbaugh.

NATHANIEL

Who's this?

Nathaniel nods toward JOANNA, who is walking across the street.

MIA

I have no idea. She looks like a receptionist at a place that sells used tires.

NATHANIEL

She's going into your house.

MIA

Jesus. I guess everybody's invited.

WE STAY ON Joanna as she enters the house...

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY

...where a "casual" gathering is taking place. The Lawson house is straight out of *Elle Decor*. Friends and family eat and drink and sit around in groups, remembering Vivian. Julian has a circle of people around him that he is entertaining. Joanna is unsure where to go or stand. She sees Robert, sitting outside by himself. She walks out to...

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY

...and sits down next to Robert.

JOANNA

I hope I'm not intruding.

ROBERT

Oh, no. I'm touched that you came.
How have you been?

Joanna looks at him. Here we go.

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY

Sofia watches through the window as Joanna talks to Robert. Julian appears at her side.

SOFIA

Who is she again?

JULIAN

Her mother was the housekeeper.
She lived here for like fifteen years. She predates you.

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY

Robert and Joanna continue their talk.

ROBERT

You're out of that relationship now, right?

JOANNA

Yeah. Actually, it's because of something you said to me. In second grade, there was this girl at school who was beating me up. I pretended to be sick for a week. My mom must have mentioned it to you because you summoned me.

ROBERT

Oh, no. What did I say?

JOANNA

No, it was good! You said the only way to deal with a bully is to hit back. Then you showed me how to throw a punch. She needed stitches and she never bothered me again.

ROBERT

So what happened with your husband? You didn't hit him, did you?

JOANNA

I never saw anybody so surprised in my life. He needed stitches, too. Then I got a restraining order.

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - DAY - SAME TIME

Will and Gabe sit, listening to this, impressed.

GABE

She's good. Good story. Invite her over, old man. Come on.

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY - SAME TIME

ROBERT

So what are your plans?

JOANNA

I was thinking about moving back to New York. I thought I'd stay for a few days, look into work.

(beat)

(MORE)

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry about Vivian. I loved her so much. I haven't had a friend like her since.

(losing it a little)

I should have tried harder to stay in touch.

ROBERT

There was nothing anyone could have done to save her. She took her own path.

(after a beat)

Stay with us.

JOANNA

Oh, no --

ROBERT

I insist. You're like family. It would make me happy. Vivian wouldn't have had it any other way.

INT. ROBERT AND SOFIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The room is bright and modern and pretty. Sofia is sitting at her vanity, a glass of wine next to her, looking at the contents of a FILE FOLDER while she talks to Robert, who is in the bathroom taking some medication.

SOFIA

It's insane to let her stay here. We don't even know who she is.

ROBERT

Oh course I know who she is.

We see what Sofia is looking at: pictures of Robert and Hannah, who we met in the Teaser, in several compromising positions.

SOFIA

You feel guilty. And you think if you help this person it will make you feel better but it won't.

ROBERT

Thank you for that analysis but she's my guest.

Sofia snaps the folder shut and sticks it in a drawer.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dinner. Julian, Mia, Sofia, Robert and Joanna, along with Edward, 42, the oldest brother, and his wife SAMANTHA, 40, put-together, pretty and boring.

SAMANTHA

Kaitlen has to be up at five because she's in Accelerated Learning...

SOFIA

(so over fucking Kaitlen)
Yes, she's very advanced, Samantha.

EDWARD

I cancelled the board meeting tomorrow, Dad.

ROBERT

Why?

EDWARD

Well, we had a death in the family --

ROBERT

(pointed)
Those aren't your decisions to make. We're putting a new product on the market.

Silence. Edward is humiliated.

JULIAN

Okay, Dad. Not a big deal.

MIA

Are we going to talk about Vivian? A lot of people think she was murdered.

SOFIA

Really, Mia? Now?

ROBERT

Finish your dinner.

MIA

(gets up, stomps upstairs)
She wanted to be cremated!

SOFIA

(after a beat)
Who has room for dessert?

Julian rolls his eyes and follows his half-sister upstairs.

INT. MIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mia sits on her bed and angrily flips through TV channels. Julian opens the door. He sits down next to her and takes the remote out of her hand. Angry tears come to her eyes. Julian puts his arm around his little sister as she sobs.

INT. DEN - NIGHT - LATER

Joanna walks in to find Sofia pouring herself a drink. The TV is ON: a cable news "Business Hour" kind of show.

NEWS ANCHOR (O.S.)

Lawson Pharmaceuticals is rolling out their new antidepressant. Shares of the struggling company have rebounded...

JOANNA

Hi. I was just getting a book...

SOFIA

I was having a little cognac.
(please say no)
Would you like some?

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Will and Gabe are listening to this.

WILL

Please don't get drunk. Say no thank you...

INT. DEN - NIGHT - AN HOUR LATER

The TV is off. The bottle is almost empty. Joanna is having trouble keeping up with Sofia.

SOFIA

Knowing the Spanish word for water does not make your child bilingual. Do you know that she still breastfeeds her four-year-old? What do you think of that?

Without hesitation, Joanna aligns herself with Sofia.

JOANNA

It's disgusting.

SOFIA

Four years old! I mean, at this point it's sexual, right?

JOANNA

Obviously.

SOFIA

And she does it everywhere. I was thankful she didn't whip out a boob at the funeral. There's something hostile about it, don't you think?

JOANNA

Definitely.

SOFIA

Do you think those girls will be lesbians?

The cognac's gone. Joanna's feeling wobbly.

JOANNA

I should go to bed. Thank you for having me during such a sad time.

SOFIA

Well, maybe now we can have some peace.

(off Joanna's look)

I'm certainly not sorry to stop getting phone calls from the emergency room or jail at four in the morning. Who do you think cleaned up those messes? Robert? No. It was me.

JOANNA

I'm sorry. That sounds hard.

SOFIA

Not anymore. I arranged a beautiful funeral and now I'm done.

(back in hostess mode)

You sure you have enough blankets?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Joanna walks down the hall, weaving a little. Julian is coming out of Mia's room. He smiles and stops to chat.

JULIAN

Hey, you.

JOANNA

Hello. Is uh, Mia alright?

JULIAN

Oh, yeah. She's just sad.
(looking at her closely)
Did Sofia make you drink cognac?
(Joanna nods)
Don't drink with her. It's like
starting a game of peek-a-boo with
a one-year-old on an airplane.
There's no end to it.

JOANNA

I was trying to be nice.

JULIAN

Water. Advil. Bed. I'm a doctor
so you should listen to me.

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - NIGHT - SAME TIME

GABE

He's really very charming.

Will smacks him on the back of the head.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - SAME TIME

JOANNA

Are you staying here?

JULIAN

Yeah. In the boathouse. G'night.

Nice smile, all white straight teeth and good genes, then
he's off. Joanna watches him walk down the stairs...

FLASH ON:

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - JOANNA'S ROOM - 1996 - NIGHT

Joanna, 16, sits on her twin bed in her humble room, watching
Letterman on her secondhand TV. Headlights SHINE into the
room. Joanna peeks out the window, ditches her sweatshirt,
revealing a tank top, and RUNS OUT OF HER ROOM INTO...

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

She opens the door to the refrigerator and arranges herself
in a bored posture. The door opens and Julian, 21 and home
from college, stumbles in. Joanna does not turn around.

JOANNA

How was your date?

Julian walks over, turns Joanna around. They start to kiss. Julian's calling all the shots here but Joanna doesn't care.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Joanna shakes off the memory and walks into...

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

...which is huge and pretty. Joanna goes to the bathroom, fills a glass with water and finds Advil in the cabinet. She looks at the huge, inviting tub and turns it on, adding bubble bath, then calls Will. He picks up on the first ring.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - NIGHT - SAME TIME

JOANNA

Never try to out-drink an unhappy WASP.

WILL

You're not supposed to drink, okay? She put herself on the suspect list, didn't she? What about the rest of the family?

Joanna gets undressed, wincing while she untapes the mic.

JOANNA

They seem sad. You hear Robert rapping Edward on the knuckles at dinner? Everybody's scared of that guy, I'll tell you that.

She gets in the tub, making a splash.

WILL

Are you in the bathtub?

JOANNA

You should see this bathroom. If I can, I'll search the house tomorrow, okay?

WILL

Great. Enjoy your bath.

JOANNA

You too.

WILL

I'm not taking a bath, dummy.

They both hang up. Joanna tosses her phone on the floor.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Joanna ignores her hangover as she sips coffee. Robert prepares to leave. Julian, dressed for a run, reads his iPad. Sofia walks in. Joanna tries a friendly smile.

JOANNA

I'm feeling that cognac.

Sofia just gives Joanna a cold blank stare.

ROBERT

Okay, goodbye people. Joanna, good luck with the job hunt.

(to Sofia)

Hannah is coming for dinner tonight. See you guys later.

Robert leaves. Sofia looks after him, then hollers.

SOFIA

MIA! We have to leave for school!

Mia, in sunglasses, barrels through the kitchen, grabs a banana and walks out. Sofia follows. Joanna is left alone in the kitchen with Julian.

JOANNA

She's a lot like Vivian, huh?

JULIAN

Don't tell that to Sofia. She's not fond of the comparison. Well, going running.

Joanna watches through the window as he runs off. After a beat, she hurries upstairs.

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - VARIOUS ROOMS - DAY

QUICK POPS OF JOANNA doing a search of the house:

-- She looks through bathrooms -- lots of prescription drugs.

-- She goes through Mia's room -- her closet could clothe a small country. She finds birth control pills, a bottle of Sofia's prescription sleeping pills.

-- She goes through Robert and Sofia's room. She opens the drawer to Sofia's vanity and finds the pictures of Robert and Hannah. She puts them back where she found them.

-- In a closet she comes across Vivian's yearbooks. Tucked into one of the pages is a snapshot of a cute little dark-haired girl. Joanna turns it over. Someone has written, "Mia, twenty-eight months". Joanna puts it back and flips through the yearbook to her own picture: an earnest-looking good-girl looks back at her.

JOANNA

Dork.

She turns to Vivian's picture, but it's been BLACKED OUT WITH SHARPIE. Joanna looks at the year: 1996. Frowning, she puts the yearbook back where she found it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Julian runs along a road next to a pond, past a crew in orange vests picking up garbage. One of them, a TATTED-UP GIRL, early 20s, rough around the edges but not without appeal, catches his eye. Julian runs past her. In a second he comes back with a piece of trash, smiling.

JULIAN

Hey, you missed this.

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY

Joanna walks down the lawn and enters the BOATHOUSE.

FLASH ON:

A memory of 16-year-old Joanna and Vivian, hiding their weed under a loose board in the boathouse closet.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Joanna lifts up the floorboard. Sure enough, she finds a USB flash drive. She grabs it and is about to leave when...

INT. BOATHOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Julian and Orange Vest Girl tumble in and land on the bed...

INT. BOATHOUSE - CLOSET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Joanna hides, heart pounding. We hear the sounds of Julian and Orange Vest Girl having sex.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BOATHOUSE - DAY

Julian rolls off Orange Vest Girl. They lie there panting, both a little grossed out by themselves. Awkward silence, then:

ORANGE VEST GIRL

I should go. I gotta check in with my parole officer.

JULIAN

Yeah. You should totally do that. I'll walk you out.

INT. GUEST ROOM - DAY

Joanna hurries into her room and shuts the door. She puts the flash drive into her computer and waits.

CLOSE ON: The computer screen. We see Vivian engaged in VERY RAUNCHY SEX with a man whose face is obscured. Joanna hits "pause", unable to watch anymore.

JOANNA

Vivian, come on. What happened to you?

Joanna hears Mia downstairs. She is loudly arguing with a man.

MIA (O.S.)

Can you just back off! I said I don't know anything!

Joanna goes downstairs to investigate.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - A SECOND LATER

Joanna walks downstairs to see Mia and a sketchy-looking, schlubby GUY in his early 30s standing there.

JOANNA

Everything okay in here?

MIA

We're having a disagreement, houseguest. Is that alright?

JOANNA

Heard shouting. Got concerned.

SKETCHY GUY

Well. I'll, uh, call you later.

Sketchy Guy leaves. The door shuts, then:

MIA
Thanks a lot.

Mia walks past Joanna into the kitchen, leaving Joanna standing there. After a beat, she follows...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

...and walks into the kitchen just as Mia is taking a pill from a vial in her purse.

JOANNA
What's that pill you're eating?

Mia looks annoyed to be caught and questioned.

MIA
It's my dead sister's Xanax.

Joanna is taken aback, she sounds so much like Vivian. She stares at her for a beat.

MIA (CONT'D)
What? Are you going to have a big problem with this? Because if you say anything, I'll tell my mom that I caught you stealing.

JOANNA
(recovering)
No -- I'm not gonna say anything. You just... you remind me so much of your sister. Who was that guy?

Mia starts assembling a GIGANTIC snack of cereal and bananas and chocolate syrup.

MIA
He's my study partner.

JOANNA
Seems kinda old to be in high school.

MIA
He was held back ten years.

Mia sprays whipped cream on her cereal. Joanna is fascinated.

JOANNA
What do you call that?

MIA

Dog food.

JOANNA

You must really miss Vivian.

MIA

Are you some kind of genius
psychologist? Of course I miss
her.

(Joanna waits)

She was getting better. She was
going to meetings and everything.

JOANNA

Like, AA meetings?

MIA

No, like meetings at the Pentagon.
Yes, AA meetings. She took me to
one once.

JOANNA

(after a beat)

Where were the meetings?

INT. AA MEETING - DAY - THIRTY MINUTES LATER

Joanna stands in front of a group of about a dozen or so
people, mostly women.

JOANNA

It was only three years ago that I
was stealing my kid's Ritalin and
giving him an empty capsule to
take. Now I can only see him on
supervised visits. My friend
Vivian died and I came for the
funeral. And I'm shaken up. I'm
really scared.

Everyone listens sympathetically...

INT. AA MEETING - DAY - THIRTY MINUTES LATER

Joanna gets herself a cup of coffee. A WOMAN in her 30s,
BRIDGET, comes up.

BRIDGET

Hey. You knew Vivian?

JOANNA

Yeah. I hadn't seen her in years.
I'm staying at her parents' house.

BRIDGET

Get out now while you still can.
Vivian hated those people.

JOANNA

Really? What do you mean?

INT. ROBERT AND SOFIA'S ROOM - DAY

Mia comes in, looking for something in her mom's jewelry box. She rummages around and finds the pictures of Robert and Hannah. She looks stunned as she flips through them.

INT. JOANNA'S CAR - DAY

Joanna sits in her car. Will yells at her on the phone.

WILL (O.S.)

What are you doing going to an AA meeting? You don't follow up on leads.

JOANNA

Why are you getting so pissed off?

The door to the car opens. Will gets in, startling Joanna.

WILL

Because I get worried when I don't know where you are. You go out of range and I can't hear you anymore on that thing. And why's this door unlocked?

JOANNA

I'm fine. Jesus. Don't you want to know what I found out?

(off his silence)

She just got accepted to Brown. That's what my new friend Bridget tells me. Vivian told her AA people that she hated her family. She was trying to get away. She was getting her life together.

It's starting to rain. Joanna stares out of the window. Will looks at her.

WILL

You never told me why you and Vivian stopped being friends.

JOANNA

I was a dork. She lost interest in me.

WILL

You said hate. You used that word.

Joanna looks out the window.

FLASH ON:

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - GARAGE - 1997 - NIGHT

Vivian, 17, is crying hysterically, throwing some bags into her car. She is rail thin. Her mascara is running. She's a mess. The door connecting the garage to the kitchen opens: it's Joanna, wearing pajamas, bewildered.

JOANNA

Viv? Are you going somewhere?

VIVIAN

Don't worry about it.

JOANNA

You smell like booze.

VIVIAN

I'm fine. I'm getting out of here.

JOANNA

You're running away? I don't think you should drive. Please just go to bed and wait until tomorrow.

VIVIAN

Shut up, little bitch. I know everyone thinks you're an angel but I know about you and Julian.

Joanna looks mortified.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

He doesn't care about you. He just fucks you when he's bored. And then he doesn't think about you again until the next time he's drunk and horny.

JOANNA

Shut up.

VIVIAN

You should give my dad a whirl. He might actually marry you.

Vivian stops and is suddenly SICK next to the car. Joanna is really freaked out.

JOANNA

What did you take? I'm gonna tell your dad.

VIVIAN

(urgent, begging)

Joanna, don't. I have to get out of here. You don't understand --

Joanna turns and runs into the house...

JOANNA

Mr. Lawson!

BACK TO PRESENT:

Joanna tries to shake off the memory.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Oh, you know high school girls. Everything's very dramatic.

WILL

You okay?

JOANNA

This whole thing is stirring up a lot of stuff, is all. I'm fine.

WILL

Call me later okay?

JOANNA

Yep.

As Joanna watches him run to his car in the rain...

Joanna sits there for a beat before starting the car...

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - EVENING

Dinner time. Joanna, Robert, Sofia, Julian, Mia and Hannah.

HANNAH

Sofia, the house looks beautiful.

SOFIA

Thank you, Hannah.

Mia watches this friendly exchange with disgust.

HANNAH

Could I have more salad, please?

Mia grabs the salad bowl and DUMPS it on Hannah's head. Everyone reacts, shocked, except Julian, who starts laughing.

ROBERT

Oh my God! Mia!

SOFIA

What is wrong with you?

MIA

She knows! And so do you, Mom!

SOFIA

Go to your room. Now!

MIA

Me?

SOFIA

Now!

Mia looks stunned but stalks off.

INT. STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Joanna walks upstairs. Robert and Sofia argue loudly in their room.

SOFIA (O.S.)

You are hideous. Hideous. You don't even make a pretense of discretion.

ROBERT (O.S.)

Oh, please. You're going to cast yourself as the victim? I gave you everything.

Joanna tiptoes to her room, passing Mia's room on the way. The door opens. Mia's listening to the argument. Joanna hesitates, then sticks her head in.

JOANNA

Hey. You alright?

MIA

He's having an affair with her.

JOANNA

I gathered it was something of that nature. People are so disappointing.

MIA

Yeah. Hey, you and my sister were best friends in high school?

JOANNA

For a while.

MIA

What was she like?

JOANNA

Coolest girl in the world.

MIA

(smiles)

That's what I thought.

JOANNA

Good night.

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Joanna goes into her room, looks at her computer. She never watched the rest of Vivian's sex tape. She pulls up the video, watching through her fingers. She fast-forwards, trying to get this moving. We play it on Joanna's face until the sex is over, then we see the image on the computer.

ON THE COMPUTER:

Vivian grabs the camera, training it on the GUY -- early 30s, wholesome. He seems shy. He buries his face in a pillow.

GUY

I just don't see the appeal.

VIVIAN

So when we're old and grey we can look back at ourselves and remember how hot we were.

Vivian is girlish and sweet. The guy seems nice. He gets up and grabs the camera, focusing it on Vivian.

GUY (O.S.)

You're beautiful.

VIVIAN

So are you.

The whole scene is so romantic and sweet that it gets to Joanna. She brushes a tear from her eye. But then this:

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Did you notice my boobs are totally bigger already?

GUY (O.S.)

Really? Yeah, okay, I noticed.

Joanna's eyes widen in shock. Vivian looks into the camera, her face framed in a close-up, looking tousled and beautiful.

VIVIAN

Do you want a boy or a girl?

GUY (O.S.)

I don't care as long as it looks like you.

Vivian looks sad for a minute.

GUY (CONT'D)

Hey. It's going to be different this time. It'll be on your terms.

VIVIAN

I love you.

The tape stops there. Joanna looks shocked. She REWINDS.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Do you want a boy or a girl?

GUY (O.S.)

I don't care as long as it looks like you. Hey. It's going to be different this time. It'll be on your terms.

Off Joanna, floored. She stares at the screen for a second, takes out her phone, and leaves...

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

...Joanna walks out the door, away from the house. She dials Will. One ring, then:

WILL'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hey. It's Will. Leave me a message.

JOANNA

(angry)

Hey, asshole. Call me back.

She hangs up and hears a GRUNT from around the corner. Cop instincts kicking in, she follows the sound around the house to see a GUY trying to climb a tree next to Mia's room.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Hey!

She picks up a rock and THROWS it at the guy.

GUY

Ow! Stoppit!

JOANNA

(throwing another rock)

What are you doing? Get down!

The guy FALLS out of the tree and we get a good look at him. It's the SKETCHY GUY Mia was arguing with earlier.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Hey! What are you doing here?

He begins to RUN. Joanna CHASES HIM. The guy's not in particularly good shape and Joanna catches up with him, grabbing the back of his jacket. He turns, slapping her hands away -- it's a little goofy.

SKETCHY GUY

Don't touch me!

Joanna lunges and the two of them TUMBLE down a hill, coming to rest at the bottom, both of them huffing and puffing.

JOANNA

Who are you? What are you doing?

But he's staring at her stomach. Joanna follows his gaze, looking down to her shirt, which is all pulled-up and bunched-up around her bra from the tumble, EXPOSING HER WIRE.

SKETCHY GUY

I'm Remy Colville. I'm a reporter.
And you are a cop.

Off Joanna, cover blown.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Joanna and Remy sit in a booth. Remy is a piece of work, alternately charming and douchey. He eats a Reuben.

JOANNA

What were you doing, trying to get into Mia's room? Who do you work for, TMZ?

REMY

Are you FBI or NYPD?

JOANNA

I could haul you in right now for trespassing.

REMY

Okay, I used to work for TMZ but now I'm freelance. Vivian and I used to know each other. We were pretty good friends.

(making a sex motion)

If you know what I'm saying.

JOANNA

Gross.

REMY

Don't knock it 'til you've tried it, babe. She contacted me a couple of weeks ago. Said she had something big. Who keeps calling you?

Indeed, Joanna's phone keeps ringing: Will. She turns it off.

JOANNA

Nobody. What big thing?

REMY

(leans forward)

Lawson Pharmaceuticals. The new antidepressant they're rolling out? Zylatrex? They tested it in Thailand. Ten people died. Bunch of others got sick. Kids, too.

JOANNA

How does the FDA not know that?

REMY

All this testing is done overseas now. It's impossible to monitor.

JOANNA

Why put it on the market if people are just going to get sick and sue?

REMY

That'll take years. In the meantime they're going to make billions.

JOANNA

Vivian knew about this? You think that's why she was murdered?

REMY

Of course that's why she was murdered. You think it's a coincidence she died a few days before she was going to blow the whistle on her dad's company?

Joanna sits back in the booth, stunned by this development.

REMY (CONT'D)

You know who developed the drug that killed all those people in Thailand? Julian. Sweet, sexy, bad boy, sex-addicted Julian. Everything that guy does is to make Daddy proud of him. It's pathetic. I think the whole family's bat-shit crazy. That older brother Edward looks like he's got a hooker in a cage under the bed to me.

JOANNA

Do you have any proof of this, tabloid reporter? Because I gotta tell you, I'm having a hard time seeing you taking down Big Pharma. You have pastrami on your face.

REMY

She was supposed to give me all her documents but she died. I was hoping to get a look at her computer.

JOANNA

The police have it. There's nothing there. Is that why you're harassing Mia?

REMY

(paying, getting up)
Hey. She called me. She must've found my number in Vivian's stuff.

JOANNA

Are you going to blow my cover?

REMMY

Why would I do that? We can work together. Share information. You get a solve, I get a Pulitzer. You scratch my balls, I'll scratch yours. See you later, lady cop.

JOANNA

Not if you ever mention your balls again.

Joanna watches him go, then turns her phone back on. It RINGS immediately. She picks up.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Cocksucker, what's with not telling me Vivian was pregnant?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE PRECINCT - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Will is getting coffee. He doesn't miss a beat.

WILL

How do you know about that, potty mouth?

JOANNA

Because I found a sex tape yesterday.

WILL

Why didn't you hand it over to me?

JOANNA

Because I didn't feel like giving you jerk-offs more porn. Why didn't you tell me?

WILL

The father is in the sex tape?

JOANNA

Yes. Of course, I had no idea that we were looking for the father of her child because you didn't tell me she was pregnant.

WILL

We were afraid you'd slip. I don't think anybody in the family knows.

JOANNA

Hey, screw you! If you want to keep doing this, I know everything you know. Not negotiable. But here's the thing. The guy said, "It won't be like last time." What do you think that means?

WILL

Well, Joanna, I don't know how to say this, but, probably not the first time Vivian was pregnant. She probably had an abortion. She probably had more than one.

JOANNA

Don't be a dick. He said, "This time it'll be on your terms." It felt like there was a story there.

WILL

I'll look at it. Send it to me. Where have you been for the past hour?

Joanna gets up and puts her sweater on.

JOANNA

Oh, yeah, that's another thing. I just got made.

She walks out of the diner...

EXT. NEAR THE LAWSON ESTATE - NIGHT

Joanna walks, still on the phone with Will.

WILL (O.S.)

Did he seem trustworthy?

JOANNA

I wouldn't trust him to walk my dog, but Will, if what he's saying is true... My God. I used to wish so hard that I was a part of this family, and now look at them.

WILL (O.S.)

Let's just take a breath, alright? Vivian was a drug addict. Drug addicts lie. It's what they do --

JOANNA

Hey, I'm a narco detective. Don't tell me about drug addicts.

WILL (O.S.)

All I'm saying is just because Vivian said something doesn't mean it happened. She wasn't the brightest person in the world.

JOANNA

Can you stop with the Vivian digs? It's not helping.

WILL (O.S.)

Why are you getting upset?

JOANNA

Because now I think she was murdered and someone has to stand up for her. And I'm cold and I just walked two miles and you don't seem to think this thing on the tape means anything.

WILL (O.S.)

I said I'd look at it.

JOANNA

Okay. Great. See you later.

Joanna hangs up. Julian appears out of nowhere. Joanna JUMPS.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Hey. What are you doing?

JULIAN

I was in the boathouse. I heard you talking on the phone.

JOANNA

(alarmed)

You heard me?

JULIAN

Well, no. I just wondered what was going on. It's three-thirty in the morning.

(re: her dirty clothes)

Were you wrestling bears?

JOANNA

I'm... My ex called and I went outside to talk because it was getting kind of heated and then I fell and I don't have keys.

JULIAN

(smiles)

Come on. I'll let you in...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

They let themselves in the side door.

JULIAN

You want to have a drink?

JOANNA

Oh, I should really just... Sure.

Julian grabs a bottle of wine and a couple of glasses. Joanna watches him.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm really sorry about Vivian. Mia mentioned she was going to meetings and trying really hard.

JULIAN

Yeah. But we've seen that routine before.

Julian knocks back his drink. He looks out the window.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Hey, you want to go out on the boat? Go for a cruise? Watch the sunrise? We'll take the wine. It'll be fun. Cheer you up.

JOANNA

It's dark.

JULIAN
(already moving to leave)
I know what I'm doing. Grab the
glasses, what are you, a savage?

He leads the way. Joanna reaches under her shirt and quickly
DISCONNECTS HER MIC before following him...

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - DOCK - NIGHT

Julian and Joanna pile into the boat with their booze.
Julian fires up the motor.

JOANNA
This is how Michael killed Fredo.

JULIAN
Well, don't worry. You haven't
betrayed me yet.

JOANNA
(weakly)
Ha.

And they're off...

EXT. BOAT - NIGHT - LATER

Julian lets the boat drift. They drink their wine.

JOANNA
So that new Zylatrex drug. I heard
you're, like, the brain behind it.

JULIAN
What can I say? I wanted to cure
cancer. Instead I'm giving the
world more antidepressants.

They look at each other for a beat. Then another.

JOANNA
Hey, what happened to Vivian after
I left?

JULIAN
Oh, you mean after she tried to run
away? My dad sent her to one of
those awful boot camp places. New
Beginnings. It was in Montana.
They did a number on her.

JOANNA
How so?

JULIAN

When she finally came home she was different. Like beaten down. My dad's solution to every problem was always to just get it out of his sight and throw money at it.

Joanna looks across the dark water. Julian looks at her.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm glad you're here because I've always felt bad --

JOANNA

Hey, we don't need to talk about --

JULIAN

Well, maybe we should.

Joanna rolls her eyes, then looks at him: what the hell?

JOANNA

Okay, you want to talk about it? Let's talk about it. You used me and I let you. And it was shitty. And you should have known better.

JULIAN

I know.

JOANNA

Also, it was technically statutory rape.

JULIAN

Okay. Yeah.

JOANNA

And it set the tone for every relationship I've had since. I make it so easy for guys to leave. I never call anybody on anything. And I'm not a therapist, but I think that all goes back to you.

JULIAN

You're not letting me off the hook.

JOANNA

You said you wanted to talk about it. Did I leave anything out?

JULIAN

I'm sorry.

Joanna looks at him for a second, then suddenly leans in and KISSES HIM. It grows in intensity. Joanna pulls away and rubs a hand over her face.

JOANNA

That was pretty fucked up of me. I don't know why I did that.

JULIAN

You got nothing on me in the fucked up department, my dear. I'll get us back.

Julian steers the boat towards the dock.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Joanna walks into the kitchen. Mia is there, eating cereal, looking at her laptop. She looks Joanna up and down.

MIA
You look like crap.

JOANNA
Thanks.

MIA
When's your birthday?

JOANNA
What? Oh, um, March 11th.

MIA
Pisces. Okaaaay...
(reading)
A tempting offer will come your way. But can you trust the person who is making it? Proceed with caution.

JOANNA
I'll keep that in mind.

MIA
You want some coffee? Maybe this is the offer. Proceed with caution.

Mia gets up. Joanna looks down at the laptop.

JOANNA
What are you?

MIA
Scorpio. November 19th.

JOANNA
Scorpio. Intolerant and secretive and jealous.
(off her look)
Your sister and I used to read Linda Goodman's "Love Signs". Plus I went out with a Scorpio once. You need a nice dumb Leo who puts up with all your crap.

Sofia walks in. Mia looks concerned.

SOFIA

Come on, Mia. Let's go.

MIA

(tender)

You okay, Mom?

SOFIA

Your father and I are fine.

MIA

What? How could you be fine? He was sleeping with someone else and bringing her to our house!

Sofia reaches out and smooths Mia's hair, her expression tender. For a moment Sofia look totally vulnerable.

SOFIA

Darling, marriage is complicated. When you're older you'll understand.

MIA

Oh, my God! You're like a prostitute! I'm taking the bus!

The door slams. Sofia looks like she might cry. After a second she hurries out of the kitchen, leaving Joanna standing there, nerves starting to fray.

INT. GUEST ROOM - DAY

Joanna is on the phone, obviously frustrated.

JOANNA

Don't put me on hold. I've been on hold. I'm trying to find some record of a place called New Beginnings. No, don't -- and I'm on hold again...

Her call waiting beeps. She clicks over.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

What do you got for me, Gabe?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE PRECINCT - DAY - SAME TIME

Gabe sits at his desk.

GABE

You can't find New Beginnings because it closed. A kid died there. It got shut down. It was owned by the Catholic Church and they managed to keep it quiet. It's under new management. It's now called Fresh Horizons.

JOANNA

That sounds churchy.

GABE

It is. It's owned by First Presbyterian. Presbyterians are totally nice, though. I just texted you the number.

JOANNA

Okay. Thank you, Gabe. I'll take it from here.

Joanna hangs up and dials her phone. She gets voicemail.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

You've reached Fresh Horizons. No one is available to take your call. Please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

JOANNA

Hi, my name is Joanna Locasto from the NYPD. I'm looking for information about a ward that was at New Beginnings from 1997 to 1998. Vivian Lawson. Call me back when you can at this number.

Joanna hangs up. Considers what to do next. Her phone rings. She grabs it.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BATHROOM OF SOME RANDOM HOUSE - DAY - SAME TIME

Mia is locked in the bathroom, looking freaked out. Some GUY is knocking on the door.

GUY (O.S.)

Come on. Open up. I just want to talk.

MIA

Joanna? I need some help.

The guy slides a couple of capsules under the door.

GUY (O.S.)

Come on. Let's have some fun.

JOANNA

Who is that? Never mind, just gimme the address.

INT. WEIRD HOUSE PARTY - DAY

Joanna walks into this strange, middle-of-the-day party. A random mix of rich college kids, drug dealers, and creepy older dudes. There's coke on the table. Joanna spots Mia, who is now flirting with an OLDER GUY. Joanna doesn't like it.

JOANNA

What are you doing? You wanted me to come and get you.

OLDER GUY

She's feeling better now.

Mia laughs. Joanna rolls her eyes and GRABS MIA by the arm, hauling her out of the party.

JOANNA

Okay, come on.

She pushes Mia toward the door, then turns back to the guy, pissed, taking a picture with her phone. She is furious, very close to losing it.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Smile!

(low voice)

She's fifteen years old. I don't care what she told you, she's wearing a school uniform, you pig. I'm gonna send this picture to the sex crimes unit. Have a nice day.

She turns to see Mia looking at her. She ignores her stare and pulls her out the door.

EXT. WEIRD HOUSE PARTY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Mia fights her a little. Joanna lets go and Mia stumbles, rubbing her arm.

MIA

Jesus! Watch SVU much? What are you, a cop? Get your hands off me!

JOANNA

Get in the car.

Joanna HUSTLES Mia into the car, then circles around to get in the other side.

INT. JOANNA'S CAR - MOVING - DAY - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

Joanna and Mia sit in silence. Joanna is upset and agitated.

JOANNA

Are you high? Look at yourself. Mia, your sister just died of a drug overdose.

MIA

I'm not Vivian.

JOANNA

Is that why Vivian took you to a meeting? Do you have a problem? Who was that old guy?

Mia looks out the window and begins to cry.

MIA

Everything is so messed up right now. I mean, my mom is trying to pretend everything is great. I'm starting to think my dad's a really bad guy.

They have arrived at the Lawson house. Joanna parks.

JOANNA

Why do you think that about your dad?

MIA

I don't know. Stuff. Reasons.

JOANNA

Mia. You can talk to me.

MIA

(angry all of a sudden)
I can? I don't even know who you are.

Mia abruptly gets out of the car and walks down to the water's edge. Joanna sighs and gets out of the car.

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Joanna walks in. Julian is in the kitchen.

JULIAN

Hey.

JOANNA

Hey.

Robert walks in, grabs an apple from the fruit bowl.

ROBERT

Joanna, my assistant Hannah is leaving for reasons that I think we all understand.

(off her look)

Why don't you come to work for me?

JOANNA

Oh. I don't know.

ROBERT

It was Julian's idea.

JOANNA

Really.

Julian smiles at her behind his dad's back.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

(surprised)

Oh, jeez. I have to think about that. It's so nice of you.

ROBERT

Think it over.

Joanna's phone rings. She looks at it, puzzled.

JOANNA

I'm just gonna --

Robert nods. Joanna steps outside.

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - DAY

Joanna walks away from the house and answers.

JOANNA

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. REMY'S CAR - DAY - SAME TIME

Remy drives.

REMY

I gotta talk to you. I think I figured out who Vivian's contact was at Lawson Pharmaceuticals.

JOANNA

How?

REMY

Not on the phone. Meet me at that diner thing we went to last night.

JOANNA

Where are you? You're breaking up.

REMY

I'm on the road near the pond. I'll be there in thirty minutes.

Joanna hangs up. We STAY WITH REMY as he notices a car following closely in his rear-view mirror. He HONKS.

REMY (CONT'D)

Jesus, will you GET OFF MY TAIL!

Remy speeds up, starting to get worried now...

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Joanna sits in a booth. The empty plates in front of her indicate she's been there for a while. She checks her watch. The sun is low in the window. She gets up and walks out.

INT./EXT. JOANNA'S CAR - DAY

Joanna drives along the road, back to the Lawson house. Her phone rings. She picks up.

JOANNA

Hello?

We hear a woman's voice on the phone, sounding distressed.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Mom! What's the matter? Wait, what? Who took your shoes? Mama, I'm sure you just misplaced them...

Joanna sees GLASS on the road. She slows down and parks on the shoulder. She gets out, still on the phone.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Take a breath. Is the nurse there?
Let me talk to her...

(the nurse gets on)

Hi, Renee. What's going on? You
know, she likes to watch Modern
Family. That always seems to calm
her down...

Joanna looks at the glass, trying to figure out what happened here. A few shards of glass are in the dirt and shrubs leading down the hill. It's the same pond that Julian jogged by earlier. Joanna gingerly starts down the hill, noticing that some shrubs look trampled on.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I know TV's bad for her, but...
Let's face it, Renee, she's already
got Alzheimer's. She could hide
her own Easter eggs so let's just
let her have the TV... Renee?
Renee?

The phone goes dead. Joanna sticks it in her pocket and walks down to the pond's edge, staring at the water. It's getting dark and it's a little spooky down here. Joanna picks up a rock and THROWS it into the water. It goes, "plunk". She picks up another rock and throws it. Another "plunk". She throws one last rock. This time it goes, "CLANK". Jesus! There's a car under the water.

Joanna takes her jacket off and splashes into the water. She climbs up on the car, looking for a second like she's walking on water. She plunges an arm into the water. The window is open and she can feel Remy's body inside.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Oh, no.

Joanna jumps into the chest-deep water and struggles to open the door. It's heavy and she keeps slipping under the car. She pulls Remy out. He is bleeding from the head. Blood gets all over Joanna as she tries to pull him to shore. He slips out of her grasp. She's hyperventilating now, almost sobbing. She finally gets him out of the water. He's probably dead but she has to make sure. She lays him out on the beach and starts chest compressions, looking around wildly, realizing how vulnerable she is.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. WILL'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Joanna sits in Will's car, wrapped in a blanket, staring out the window. Will reaches out to touch her shoulder.

JOANNA

This thing is huge, Will.

WILL

It's not your problem. You're done.

JOANNA

Well, hold on a second.

WILL

(forceful)

No! Remy was killed on his way to meet with you. I don't know who knows you're a cop. I'm taking you out.

JOANNA

What about Mia? She's the one who contacted Remy in the first place...

WILL

I'll do what I can. But it's not your problem. You're going to call the Lawsons and tell them that you're spending the night at a friend's house in the city.

JOANNA

Where are we going?

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: A steak sizzles in a pan with butter.

Will adds salt and pepper to the pan. Joanna comes in, hair wet from his shower. She's wearing one of his T-shirts and a pair of his shorts. She's still a little shaken. He hands her a drink, taking care of her.

WILL

Sit.

Joanna obeys, docile for once. Will puts a plate in front of her. She eats, subdued.

JOANNA

This is good.

WILL

Rib eye.

JOANNA

You just keep rib eyes around the house?

WILL

Costco. They come in an eight pack.

JOANNA

What do you do with eight rib eyes?

WILL

I put them in the freezer.

JOANNA

Since when did you have a Costco membership?

WILL

My mom does. I take her shopping on Sundays. How long are we gonna talk about the steak, weirdo?

Joanna puts her fork down, goes to him, kisses him. They take it slow. They mean it this time.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Joanna wakes up to find Will looking at her. She smiles. The start of something nice, maybe.

WILL

What do you think about staying in New York for a while?

JOANNA

Well, I have a job.

WILL

You could take a leave of absence. I bet you have six months of sick leave coming to you.

JOANNA

What are you asking me?

WILL

I was thinking we could give this a try. Just an idea. Think about it. No pressure.

Will kisses her and gets out of bed. We hear the sound of the shower. Joanna looks at the ceiling and smiles. Her phone rings. She searches for it in her clothes.

JOANNA

Hello?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Joanna Locasto please?

JOANNA

This is she.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

This is Susan Warwick from Fresh Horizons. You left us a message.

JOANNA

Oh, right. I'm from the NYPD. I was calling about Vivian Lawson. She was at New Beginnings...

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

She wasn't at New Beginnings. But I do have her in my system. The Church ran another home called Safe Harbor. It was for unwed mothers.

Joanna brings her knees up to her chest as she takes this in.

JOANNA

What kind of place was that?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Awful. They degraded those poor girls. Anyway, Vivian Lawson was there from the spring of 1997 to January of 1998.

JOANNA

She had a baby?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Yes. A girl.

JOANNA

(eyes closed)

Do you have the date of birth?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
November 19th, 1996.

JOANNA
(softly)
Mia.

The wind is knocked out of Joanna. She drops her cell phone and we...

FLASH ON:

INT. LAWSON HOUSE - GARAGE - 1997

Same flashback we saw earlier, but with this new knowledge coloring the entire scene.

VIVIAN
You should give my dad a whirl. He might actually marry you.

Like before, Vivian THROWS UP next to the car.

JOANNA
What did you take? I'm gonna tell your dad.

VIVIAN
Joanna, don't. I have to get out of here. You don't understand --

Joanna turns and runs into the house...

JOANNA
Mr. Lawson!

BACK TO PRESENT:

Joanna is crying when Will comes out of the shower.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
I have to go back. Today.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE PRECINCT - FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Will and Joanna sit in Frank's office.

JOANNA
Robert offered me a job. I could take it. I'd have access to his business and personal life. Mia is Vivian's daughter and I think she's in danger. I betrayed Vivian once.
(MORE)

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I won't turn my back on her daughter.

WILL

It's a terrible idea. Whoever killed Remy Colville might know about Joanna. It's not safe.

FRANK

We have no reason to believe that's true.

(to Joanna)

What about the son? Julian? Does he like you?

JOANNA

I don't know.

FRANK

We listened to your tape from the other day. He asked you to go out on a boat ride and then your mic just stopped transmitting.

Will turns to Joanna, interested. She keeps her eyes on Frank.

JOANNA

I don't know. Maybe the signal dropped out on the water.

FRANK

Seems like he likes you.

JOANNA

(avoiding Will's look)
Maybe.

WILL

So what are you saying, Frank? She should start fucking Julian Lawson?

FRANK

I'm saying we have a unique opportunity here. This case just got a lot bigger. The Feds are going to have to get involved but if Detective Locasto wants to stay it keeps the NYPD involved, too.

WILL

It's not safe. I don't like it.

FRANK

It's not your decision. It's hers. Vivian took a trip to Thailand a year and a half ago to the same town where the Zylatrex was being tested. That tracks with Remy's story. This is Big Pharmaceuticals against the little guy. If she wants to do this, I'm not saying no.

Will looks at Joanna, who, again, avoids his eyes.

JOANNA

I'll call Robert and tell him I'll take the job.

INT./EXT. WILL'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Will drives. Joanna is in the passenger seat. Will is quiet.

JOANNA

You know we have a lot of information already. This might be quick.

(off his silence)

I'm sorry I didn't tell you about the stupid boat.

WILL

Gabe said you were a good liar.

JOANNA

Nothing happened!

But that's not exactly true. Joanna feels like an asshole and maybe it shows as Will studies her face.

WILL

It doesn't matter.

JOANNA

Sure it does. Will. We're going to solve this case in a week and then we'll pick up where we left off.

WILL

Right. We're here.

He stops the car a hundred feet from the gate. She leans in to kiss him. He pulls away.

WILL (CONT'D)

Not here. Go on in. Be safe.

She gets out of the car and punches in the code for the gate, then walks up to the front door. She rings the bell, then looks out to the boathouse.

FLASH ON:

EXT. LAWSON HOUSE - THE DOCK - 1994 - DAY

Joanna and Vivian, 14 years old, stare up at the clouds.

JOANNA

I wish we were sisters.

VIVIAN

We could be sisters. Maybe my dad banged your mom.

They both start laughing.

JOANNA

That's so gross.

Vivian turns her head to look at Joanna.

VIVIAN

Let's just say we're sisters and we'll be sisters.

JOANNA

Secret sisters.

VIVIAN

Secret sisters. I like that.

BACK TO PRESENT:

The door opens: it's Julian. He hugs her a little bit longer than he has to. Joanna throws a guilty look over her shoulder but Will is gone. Mia appears, happy to see her. Robert grabs her bag and Joanna is welcomed inside, the door closing behind her.

END OF SHOW