



UNIVERSAL CABLE PRODUCTIONS

Eyewitness

EPISODE 101

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ACT ONE

TIME DISSOLVE - TIVOLI, DUTCHES COUNTY - DAY

The sun struggles to break through the clouds after a storm.

Rays of light illuminate sprawling green hills... The Hudson Valley sparkles with such beauty they named an entire school of painting after it.

Finally... We come across a sign "Tivoli, population 1,953, A Nice Community". And parked across the road is...

INT. DENTED SHERIFF'S JEEP, LIGHTS FLASHING - DAY

HELEN TORRANCE (40s), snuggled in a police parka, fingers a small key on a chain that hangs around her neck.

A shotgun sits in a rack above her...

She makes mental notes, while listening to an audio version of a parenting manual on her cell...

AUDIO BOOK

*Many adults go into foster
parenting with the idea that love
conquers all...*

Helen shifts her attention to the sound of a loud crack...

She glances at a nearby tree, battered by the storm, roots exposed... Sighs as it slowly teeters and falls, letting out its last sounds of life. What she doesn't notice is...

FAR BEHIND HER - A MOTOCROSS BIKE RACES DOWN THE ROAD

It comes to a screeching halt at the sight of the Sheriff's Jeep... The DRIVER'S face covered in a helmet, he turns to the PASSENGER, who isn't wearing one...

This is PHILIP, (16), with the haunted face of a teen who's felt an adult's pain... He wears a RANGERS jacket, with the name TOMMY stitched on the front.

AUDIO BOOK

*They think: "If I can just love
this child enough, he will come
around..." But this isn't always
the case.*

Philip shakes his head at the Driver, who steers the bike off the road. They disappear into the trees...

EXT. CABIN, IN A ROCK QUARRY - TIVOLI - NIGHT

Philip jumps off the bike... Takes out his iPhone, begins filming his friend burn up two huge hand-built ramps.

The Driver executes a "superman", releases both feet midair, kicks them straight back...

PHILIP

Holy shit. That's huge.

Skids to a stop in front of Philip... Shooting gravel...

Then takes off again, soars off the lip of the ramp, shows off his skill by tilting his wheel sideways in midair. He sticks his landing, celebrating with a wheelie.

LUKAS (16) takes off his helmet. Unkempt and, particularly handsome, just another reason why he's hot shit at school.

LUKAS

Tell me you got that?

Philip shows Lukas the video he just shot on his iPhone...

PHILIP

Man, you really nailed it.

LUKAS

Then post that shit on my channel, bro.

Philip high-fives Lukas... He starts to post the video on Lukas's channel, just as...

The dark sky lights up with a bolt of lightning. Followed by sheets of rain.

LUKAS

Come on... In there...

Lukas points to a rundown, unlit and creepy looking cabin.

EXT. CITGO STATION - TIVOLI - NIGHT

TWO DUDES wearing ROGUES biker jackets step out of a sedan into the rain. STIG (20s), a snake tattoo runs up his neck, locks eyes with... CHRISTOPHER MCGEE (20s) a Mohawk cuts across his head. He motions "smokes" to his partner.

They instinctively look at the trunk... Christopher turns and heads into the station.

INT. CITGO STATION - NIGHT

Christopher enters, cuts for the bathroom. He passes the magazine rack and stops beside SOME KID (14) reading a Biker magazine.

CHRISTOPHER

Let me borrow your phone.

SOME KID

What..?

CHRISTOPHER

Your cell... Just a quick call.
What..? I look like I'm gonna steal
it?

Some Kid spots Christopher's gang colors... Quickly hands over his flip phone, which has a Skull & Bones sticker on the back.

Christopher heads for the bathroom. He reaches for the door, but it's locked. He pounds on it loudly, "hurry up"...

INT. ONE ROOM CABIN - NIGHT

The rain beats down on the roof, a relentless tap, tap, tap.

Lukas opens the fridge, frowns, only one beer. He turns to Philip who flips on the fluorescents... Takes in the sparse place. Jumps on the springy bed.

LUKAS

Only one, don't drop it.

Lukas tosses Philip the bottle of beer... But he drops it.

PHILIP

Next time don't throw it.

Lukas smirks... Grabs the beer bottle, he pops it open and jerks back as the beer spews out of the bottle neck.

LUKAS

Shit.

They both laugh, as Lukas plops onto the bed beside Philip, who takes a sip of beer. Lukas snatches the bottle, wipes the glass lip and takes a sip.

LUKAS

How many hits I get?

PHILIP
(checks phone)
Twenty two... In less than five
minutes!

LUKAS
Damn. Comments?

PHILIP
Rose says you're dope.

LUKAS
Whatever.

They pass the bottle back and forth, admiring the stunts...
Lukas wipes the bottle lip every time, but Philip doesn't.

LUKAS
I'm definitely getting a sponsor
off this. I mean, your footage is
awesome...

Lukas turns to Philip who... Leans in to kiss his friend..!

But is met with Lukas's fist, which sends him flying back...

LUKAS
What the hell you doing?

PHILIP
Nothing... I'm... Not.

Philip dusts himself off, gets up to leave, but Lukas pulls
him back down to the bed.

LUKAS
You're bleeding, idiot.

Lukas leans across Philip and wipes the blood off his face.

The fluorescents buzz even louder. It's awkward... Lukas
takes the beer from Philip, finishes it off without wiping
the lip. Tries talking his way out of his anxiety.

LUKAS
So... I got a ton of air on those
jumps, huh?

PHILIP
Yeah.

LUKAS
That shit's not easy...

PHILIP
I didn't say it was.

LUKAS
Cause it's not. But the bike... I
need to adjust the suspension...
Get a new spring.

PHILIP
Yeah. Sure. Whatever. Your bike.

LUKAS
I thought you were into motocross?

PHILIP
No. Not really. I should go...

LUKAS
No.

Lukas feels his heart explode, he leans in and kisses Philip.
They devour each other's lips, until... Lukas pulls back...

LUKAS
Rose... She's got a lot more spit
when she kisses.

Philip smiles, and kisses him softly. Lukas breaks away.

LUKAS
What if someone sees us?

Philip smirks... He jumps to his feet, turns off the light.
The fluorescents sizzle into darkness...

PHILIP
There. No one will see.

Philip jumps back on the bed... He draws Lukas toward him.

LUKAS
But, no one's gonna know about this
'cause you're never gonna tell
them...

Lukas rips off Philip's RANGERS jacket... Tosses it away.

INT. BATHROOM - CITGO STATION - NIGHT

Christopher paces... Checks his watch as he dials a number.

KAMILAH (O.C.)
Yes..?

CHRISTOPHER

It's me... I'm with Stig. We got someone in the trunk. And we're gonna kill him.

KAMILAH (O.C.)

Who? Who's in the trunk?

CHRISTOPHER

I don't know? Stig took some job for hire.

KAMILAH (O.C.)

Shit. Sit tight... I'll track you.

CHRISTOPHER

No. I'm not on my phone. We're at the Citgo in Tivoli. Red sedan, Maine plates...

Just then... A loud pounding on the door... Christopher hangs up, flushes the toilet. Splashes cold water on his face, opens the door, and...

Comes face-to-face with Stig who chews on a beef jerky... Looks at him, like what the fuck?

They exit the Gas Station. Christopher pockets the flip phone as they pass Some Kid who doesn't dare ask for it back.

EXT. TIVOLI ROAD - NIGHT

Helen's drenched as she places orange cones around a thick branch that lies across the road like a giant corpse...

HELEN

(into radio)

Tony? Where the hell is that tractor?

INTERCUT - SHERIFF STATION - TIVOLI - NIGHT

A two-man storefront precinct, smack between a hardware store that serves as the post office and a coffee shop.

DEPUTY TONY MICHAELS (40s), small time, big dreams, sits at his desk, a one man command center to deal with the storm.

TONY

(into radio)

Pushing a car off 90...

HELEN

Why does everything take forever
around here?

TONY

Small town, boss... Get used to it
already.

HELEN

Light a fire under his ass.

Helen squints through the rain at an ambulance speeding
toward her, lights flashing.

She spots a MOTHER in back, going through labor. Helen
turns to the tree blocking the road.

INT. SEDAN - TRAVELING

Christopher navigates the rain, as Stig checks his watch.
COLE and CLINT light a joint in back.

CHRISTOPHER

What the fuck this guy do to get
his head blown off?

STIG

I heard he's messing with the wrong
guy's little girl.

CHRISTOPHER

Must be a real badass if it takes
four of us to stick him in a trunk.

Christopher stops behind the stalled ambulance.

STIG

Don't stop. Pull around.

Christopher pulls around the ambulance... But brakes at the
sight of Helen standing in front of the fallen tree.

STIG

Shit.

CHRISTOPHER

Chill... She's some traffic lady.

INTERCUT - HELEN PULLS HER SHOTGUN OUT OF THE JEEP

Her eyes intense, filled with a determination that goes way
beyond being a small-town Sheriff.

STIG
(pulls out his gun)
Yeah, right. Fuck...

Helen blows the shit out of the thick branch... Until it's sliced in half.

STIG
Jesus.

The PARAMEDICS pull chunks of the large branch off the road, and speed off. Followed by the sedan.

Helen just stands there, holding the smoking shotgun... God it feels good to blow shit up. She talks into her radio...

HELEN
Cancel the tractor, Tony. Road's all clear. I'm going home to make dinner for Philip.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Philip and Lukas are half-naked now... Kissing, breathing, exploring each other's bodies in the dark...

Philip breaks loose, reaches into his back pocket... Takes out a condom, tries handing it to Lukas who turns white.

LUKAS
You kidding me, Philip?

PHILIP
What? Everyone carries one in the city.

LUKAS
You've done this before?

PHILIP
Ah... Yeah...

Philip senses Lukas's hesitation... Until he pulls Philip toward him. And they're kissing again, when...

They're hit by a sharp ray of light, followed by the sound of gravel crunching. Lukas freaks... Rolls off the bed...

LUKAS
Shit, if that's my dad.

Lukas peeks out the window... And spots the sedan pull up.

INT. SEDAN - PARKED BY THE CABIN

Christopher, Stig, Cole and Clint stare out the window at the torrential downpour raging around them.

STIG

Let's get this done.

CLINT

Seriously, in the rain?

CHRISTOPHER

I'll do it... In the cabin.

EXT. SEDAN - NIGHT

Christopher is drenched as he pops open the trunk... Stares down at RYAN KANE (mid 30s) muscular and fit, lying bound and gagged, wearing nothing but his underwear.

CHRISTOPHER

They're gonna shoot you. But I've got a gun in my belt. You with me?

Ryan nods. Christopher snaps open a switchblade, swiiisssh, he cuts the tape tying Ryan's feet.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Philip and Lukas freak out as they peek through cracks in the curtains, eyes widen at the sight of the armed Bikers running through the rain, toward them...

PHILIP

Shit...

Philip rips the curtains from the rear window... Stumbles back at the sight of wrought-iron window bars... There's no way out. They scramble to hide...

Philip squeezes behind the bed... He motions for Lukas to join him, but it's too late.

The door swings open... Lukas ducks into a storage closet just as the fluorescent lights are switched on.

PHILIP LIES FLAT UNDER THE BED, EYES FIXATED ON WET BOOTS

His heart beats out of his chest... His view limited to the six inches between the floor and the bed... He sees a pair of bare feet led inside.

INTERCUT - LUKAS PEEKS THROUGH THE CLOSET DOOR

The exploding thunderstorm echoes around him. He stares through slits of light and shadow... And has a limited view of Stig who passes by, with his gun raised.

STIG

Come on already...

Lukas squints, as Christopher and Ryan come into view...

Christopher steps in front of Ryan, who snatches the gun from his belt and spins to shoot Stig...

Ryan moves out of view and then... The shit goes down...

Loud gunshots echo. Blood splatters. Sounds of men dying.

Philip gasps as three bodies thud to the ground... Blood slowly oozes across the linoleum floor toward him.

RYAN (O.C.)

Who hired you?

CHRISTOPHER (O.C.)

I don't know... Stig gave me a grand to ride along.

RYAN (O.C.)

Why did you cut me loose?

Lukas's eyes widen in fear, as Christopher stumbles into his line of sight.

CHRISTOPHER

Dude... It's cool. I'm with the FBI.

A gun enters Lukas's view, the muzzle explodes, Christopher takes a bullet to the forehead.

And then complete silence... Except for Philip and Lukas's stifled breathing.

Lukas struggles not to cough while Philip gags as the blood slowly reaches him.

Philip locks eyes with Christopher's lifeless gaze. Twitches involuntarily at the sight of his bloody forehead, which causes the bed to move.

Lukas watches helplessly as the Killer approaches the bed...
Ryan slowly pulls the bed aside, revealing...

A shaking Philip, tightly clutching his RANGERS jacket like
a security blanket...

Philip's eyes widen in fear... Eyewitness to the Killer's
face, burned into his memory forever.

Ryan about to squeeze the trigger, when...

LUKAS STEPS OUT OF THE CLOSET - HOLDING A RUSTY FRYING PAN

Slams the pan down on Ryan's head. Again, again, and again,
until Ryan goes down hard. The freaked-out boys lock eyes.

Lukas grabs the gun from Ryan... And darts out the door...
Philip stares at Ryan's lifeless face, then runs after Lukas.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Philip catches up with Lukas, who tosses the frying pan and
manically tries to bring his bike to life.

PHILIP
Lukas! STOP!

Lukas turns to Philip. They stare at the gun still clutched
in Lukas's hand... Just then a thump comes from inside the
cabin.

Philip watches in horror as Lukas pivots, raises the gun...
And unloads bullets into the cabin.

PHILIP
What are you doing..?

LUKAS
He moved.

Philip grabs the gun from Lukas and aims it at the cabin...

PHILIP
Get the bike. Get it!

Lukas brings his bike to life, Philip jumps on. They speed
off into the dark, unaware...

TIME DISSOLVE - RYAN STUMBLES OUT OF THE CABIN

Dressed in Stig's clothes and boots. He turns back, spots Cole gasping to take a breath... Shoots him in the head.

Ryan wipes his prints. And plants the gun in Christopher's right hand.

He reaches for a jerrican outside the door. And sniffs it. Ryan douses the cabin and the sedan in gas... Lights them both ablaze.

For the first time... The killer's face is illuminated by flames. A man at peace with his actions.

And then he disappears into the woods.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. WATER POOL BY A WATERFALL - TIVOLI - NIGHT

Lukas brings the bike to a screeching stop... He jumps off, snatches the gun from Philip and runs to the pool.

Philip catches up with Lukas who's frantically cleaning the prints from the gun with his shirt.

LUKAS

Listen to me! We can't say anything to anyone.

PHILIP

Are you kidding? He was going to kill us. Who's going to blame you for shooting him?

LUKAS

Don't you fucking get it? I'm not gay like you!

Philip swallows, he tries to draw Lukas toward him, when...

LUKA

No one even knows we talk, Got it?

They hear underbrush snapping in the woods a few feet away. Lukas whips around, sees two eyes staring right at him.

LUKAS

It's him... Fuck..!

He raises the gun in his shaking hand... And fires a round.

The boys jump back, as a DEER leaps out of the trees... And dashes right past them. Both boys breathing hard.

PHILIP

We need to tell Helen.

LUKAS

Tell her what? We were in the cabin, naked..? No. Never gonna happen.

Lukas wipes his prints... And tosses the gun into the pool.

LUKAS

So don't run your mouth about any of this to her or anyone.

Philip starts shivering... He stares deep into Lukas's eyes.

PHILIP

No... I won't. I won't tell anyone.
You saved my life.

Lukas takes the RANGERS jacket Philip is still clutching...

He wraps it protectively around his friend, draws him in...
And holds him tightly, in a prolonged moment of tenderness.

TIME DISSOLVE - TIVOLI - MORNING

The sun rises over the sprawling hills and farm country, all
awash in spring green.

And on the Hudson River... Helen and her husband, GABE (42)
well-built, relaxed demeanor of a respected country
veterinarian, slice through the water...

Each stroking one oar of a tandem rowing shell with perfect
precision. The two effortlessly move as if they are one.

EXT. GABE'S TRUCK - PULLS INTO HELEN AND GABE'S FARM

Gabe and Helen unpack gear. He enjoys watching the muscles
in her back ripple as she reaches to close the hatch...

Gabe spins Helen around, leans her up against the truck...
He brushes the hair from her flushed face. Then they kiss
softly. It quickly heats up...

HELEN

Philip's sleeping inside.

GABE

That's the best part of having
kids... You get to sneak around.

They begin to kiss again, Helen reluctantly pushes away...

HELEN

I need to make breakfast.

GABE

Come on. We'll take him to IHOP on
the way to school. He'll love it...

HELEN

He missed dinner last night.

GABE

Good. He was probably out making friends.

HELEN

Well I'm just going to keep cooking. Until Philip shows up for a meal.

Gabe enjoys the view as Helen walks up the porch steps...

INT. PHILIP'S BEDROOM - HELEN AND GABE'S FARM - MORNING

Gabe enters and stares at a sleeping boy under the covers. He pulls open the shades, whispers to Philip...

GABE

So here's the deal Philip. Helen is making breakfast again. Just put extra jam on whatever's burnt...
(turns to Philip)
We'll double back to IHOP after we drop her at work.

But when Gabe sees no movement, he pulls at the blanket, revealing that the bed is stuffed with pillows.

INT. KITCHEN - HELEN AND GABE'S FARM - TIVOLI - MORNING

Gabe watches Helen place a plate of burnt toast and watery eggs on the table. Not wanting to break the news.

GABE

Nothing to worry about, but Philip... He didn't sleep here last night.

HELEN

They warned us he might not be ready.

GABE

He's only been with us six weeks. We all need time to get adjusted.

HELEN

Really? We..?

Helen thumbs her phone... Quickly locates Philip's cell using a GPS app.

HELEN

He's in the city... With her.

GABE

You're tracking Philip's phone?
Probably not the best way to
develop trust, babe.

HELEN

Maybe not... But we are responsible
for him. So let's go.

GABE

All the way to the city?

HELEN

Yes.

GABE

Slow down a minute. He's with his
mother.

HELEN

Exactly.

GABE

Maybe it's best we wait for him at
the station.

HELEN

No, that's a bad idea.

GABE

Let's see if he catches the train
in time for school. Gives us all a
chance to calm down.

They notice a tractor pull up outside, BO HALLENNBECK (40s),
Lukas's massive and overbearing father, jumps out...

HELEN

Calm down? Why? There's a
restraining order from a judge.

GABE

We can give him a better life,
Helen. But we can't make him forget
his mom.

Before she can reply... Bo enters, he's emotional, tries
to catch his breath.

BO

A couple. There's... Dead guys in the quarry.

Bo and Gabe stare at a Helen, who feels an adrenalin rush.

HELEN

How many..?

BO

I don't know... They're shot-up, my cabin's burnt. It's a fucking mess.

Gabe and Helen share a look. He tosses her the car keys.

HELEN

Okay. I'll check it out.

BO

The killers could still be around. Shit... I need to make sure Lukas isn't riding out there.

Bo fumbles for his phone, steps out to call his son.

HELEN

(flashes GPS at Gabe)

Least we know Philip's not anywhere near Bo's quarry.

GABE

Just be careful, babe.

HELEN

This might take a while. But call me when he gets off the train.

GABE

Know what? You're right. No train. I'll go bring him back myself.

HELEN

Thanks. Maybe we can do breakfast at the IHOP when you guys are back.

Helen kisses Gabe, he squeezes her arm... She quickly exits.

EXT. QUEENSBRIDGE HOUSING PROJECT - QUEENS - MORNING

The other side of the tracks. Type of place where people have been left so far behind, they'll never catch up...

Philip slumps in a plastic chair, wrapped in his RANGERS jacket... Even though there's a torn, yellow couch a few feet away.

A ground floor apartment door swings open, revealing ANNE (early 30s) who bears a fragile look of an addict. She carries a pan full of water...

Sighs at the pot of dead flowers, always a day late and a dollar short... She waters them anyway.

Anne takes a deep breath of air. She stumbles back at the sight of a sleepy Philip, as he stirs awake.

ANNE

Philip, honey. You can't be here.
The Judge finds out...

PHILIP

Mom... I'm done. I can't go back
there! I can't..!

Anne's demeanor changes, flushed with a maternal glow... She quickly grabs a chair and snuggles up next to him.

ANNE

I miss you, too. So much.

PHILIP

I wanna stay here with you.

ANNE

Just... A while longer. I'm getting
a lot better. I swear, baby.

PHILIP

But, you always say that.

ANNE

Honey. This time is real. But if
the court finds you with me,
they'll never let you come home.

Philip sighs, resigned to his fate. He pulls out a pack of Marlboro Reds... Anne tears up. She hugs her son...

ANNE

Look what you brought me. I love
you.

(opens the pack)

Is it Gabe and Helen, are they
treating you good?

PHILIP

They're treating me fine. It's not them. Whatever.

ANNE

Tell me good things about you.
School, love life..?
(off his smirk)
Tell me. Please, what's her name?

PHILIP

Lukas. His name's Lukas.

Anne lights a cigarette... Studies her son for a long time.

ANNE

Is he a nice boy?

PHILIP

Yeah. He's really cool. But...

Anne puts her arm around Philip, and lets him rest his head on her shoulder, as behind them...

The apartment door opens, and some SHIRTLESS ASSHOLE steps out. Anne and Philip stiffen, as he plops on the yellow sofa and lights a joint. They turn their backs to him, whisper.

ANNE

Does he know you like him?

Anne offers Philip a drag from her cigarette, but he gently waves her off. She kisses his head, and smells his hair...

PHILIP

He knows. But he wants to keep it secret.

INT. KITCHEN - BO'S ESTATE - TIVOLI - MORNING

A freaked-out Lukas sits at the table as Bo prepares him breakfast...

BO

Those bodies. I don't even want to tell you how horrible... I'm just glad you didn't have to see it.

But while Bo tries to explain the horror to his son, Lukas barely hears a word. His eyes fixate on the sizzling frying pan Bo brings over to the table. And then... Lukas vomits.

Bo drops the pan and hands a dish towel to his son... Who avoids eye contact.

INT. HELEN'S JEEP - PULLS UP TO THE ROCK QUARRY

Helen takes in the crime scene... The smoldering cabin and torched sedan.

And as bad as she feels about it... She can't help feeling like it's Christmas morning.

TIME DISSOLVE - EXT. CABIN IN THE ROCK QUARRY - DAY

Helen unwinds a roll of yellow tape, wrapping it around tree trunks at the perimeter of the cabin.

Helen approaches the torched sedan. She scopes out the crime scene. But not like some small-town sheriff... Rather, like the trained professional she used to be.

She takes out her pad, smirks at the top item, "order traffic cones".

Helen measures, then notes the boot prints leading into the cabin.

She heads for the cabin. Stops, looks around... Thrilled to be back at a real crime scene.

She closes her eyes... Inhales deeply... Savoring the smell of smoke... Death... And pine trees.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Helen enters, blood everywhere, burnt, shot-up corpses, and the back of leather jacket, leaning over Christopher.

HELEN

Can I help you..?

The woman in the jacket turns, it's FBI Agent KAMILAH JONES (30s) an African American woman struggling to earn respect in a man's world...

KAMILAH

Kamilah Jones... FBI.

HELEN

Sheriff Helen Torrance.

Helen notices a tear running down Kamilah's cheek.

HELEN

Never gets any easier, does it?

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CABIN - DAY

Helen chalks a lone bullet hole in the wall. She turns to Kamilah who kneels over Christopher's shot-up corpse.

HELEN

Four victims, ten shells, only one
stray bullet..? Not bad for bikers.

Helen catches Kamilah gently stroking the dead man's face.
Or is she just shutting his eyes? She can't tell.

HELEN

Did you know this guy?

KAMILAH

What..? No... But you look into
the eyes of a dead man he might
just take you with him.

HELEN

You can always look away.

They both stare at the wasteland of senseless violence...

HELEN

So why's the FBI all the way up
here..?

Kamilah purposefully steps from Christopher to lead Helen
to Stig's burnt corpse, just as CSI TECHS pull up.

KAMILAH

I'm helping launch a task force
investigating the Rogues who are
diversifying into heroin. So when
I heard four dead... Figured it
was worth a trip.

HELEN

Was it..?

KAMILAH

Sorry, they're all small time.
Not on our radar.

HELEN

No drugs... No money... An
execution gone bad?

KAMILAH

Very bad. They blew the shit out
of each other.

Helen and Kamilah check out the four dead dudes, laid out
like a western-type shoot out.

HELEN

You'd never see four women laid
out like this.

Kamilah smiles, not interested in small talk... She turns
to leave. But Helen stops her, nods back to Christopher.

HELEN

That one looks familiar.

Helen searches through Christopher's pockets... She finds
a charred wallet. Pulls out a melted driver's license.

HELEN

Christopher... Looks like McGee.
That ring a bell?

Kamilah studies Christopher's burnt photo, shakes her head.

HELEN

Because I've seen him before.

KAMILAH

You got much trouble with Rogues
in Tivoli?

HELEN

No... I just hand them speeding
tickets when they're passing
through. So. How do you want to
split this up?

KAMILAH

I don't. Case is yours.

HELEN

Okay.

Kamilah clocks Helen who notices a CSI Tech removing the gun,
still clutched in Christopher's burnt hand...

KAMILAH

Should be easy... Looks like
a one-off to me.

Helen studies Kamilah as she walks out. Something is off...

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Helen leans against the side of her Jeep. She takes a series of deep breaths, just as...

A police car pulls up beside her. Tony, her loyal deputy, steps out.

TONY

Multiple homicide. Murder. And the FBI... It's a big day, huh Helen? You gonna make me your li-a-ison?

HELEN

Right now I'm making you responsible for getting a bunch of dead bikers to the county morgue... (nods at sedan) And run the plates on the sedan... It came through here last night.

TONY

Shit. That's the one the Feds were looking for last night.

HELEN

What..? There was an APB on this car?

TONY

They didn't send one out. But I heard them looking.

Helen casts a knowing look toward Kamilah, who's inspecting the sedan. Bitch lied to her.

HELEN

Now why would the FBI lie to us?

TONY

All I know is I was coning last night... Scanning FBI frequencies. And they were hot to find that vehicle.

HELEN

You should have called... That car drove right past me.

TONY

You'd already gone home to make dinner for Philip.

HELEN
Who never showed.

TONY
Who expects a teenager to show up
for dinner?

Helen starts walking toward Kamilah to bust her ass, when...

TONY
You going to bust her ass for lying
to us?

She receives a text from Gabe... Sighs, makes her choice...

HELEN
(turns to her Jeep)
Later... Now I gotta deal with a
domestic. You cool with the bodies?

TONY
(calls after her)
Check... But after I ship them out.
I'm your liaison with the FBI.
Right?

HELEN DRIVES AWAY... NOT NOTICING A HARLEY PULL UP

The RIDER stops beside Kamilah, inspecting the burnt sedan.

FBI AGENT STEVE BURLINGAME (30s), strikingly handsome, and as
much as he wants to be, he'll never be the leader of men. He
pulls off his helmet.

KAMILAH
It's Chris... He's dead.

BURLINGAME
Shit.

Having struggled to keep it together in front of Helen,
Kamilah can't hold back her tears... Burlingame nods at
Helen's Jeep pulling out.

BURLINGAME
Did that Sheriff see you crying
over Chris?

KAMILAH
No...

BURLINGAME

Because last thing we need is anyone uncovering we let our informant get killed.

KAMILAH

I convinced her it was a one off. She'll drop it.

BURLINGAME

Still. We're going be all over these parts. We should find out who she is.

KAMILAH

Right.

Burlingame sighs as Kamilah struggles to keep it together...

BURLINGAME

Kamilah. Chris knew what he was getting into.

KAMILAH

Who the hell turns their brother-in-law into a informant?

BURLINGAME

It's not your fault... There's only two of us...

KAMILAH

... Then sleeps with him? What kind of person does that?

BURLINGAME

Come on, Kami. You can't tell me any more. I don't want to have to report you.

KAMILAH

Well I gotta tell someone.

BURLINGAME

Okay... You just did.

KAMILAH

Yeah.

BURLINGAME

Now, come on. We need to find someone else on the inside... Before the Rogues... Go rogue.

Burlingame can't help but chuckle at his own joke.

KAMILAH

Shit, I gotta find Sita before
she gets word.

INT. CONSTRUCTION TRAILER - DUTCHESS COUNTY - DAY

SITA (mid 20s) a feisty biker chick with a Rogues tat, who
cleaned up to be a mom, has her baby strapped to her chest.

The baby wakes up and starts crying, she cradles him.

SITA

Look asshole, Social Services is
gonna take my kid away unless I can
show them my husband's pay stub by
tomorrow.

FOREMAN

I told you, he quit yesterday.

SITA

Bullshit. I dropped him off.

FOREMAN

Couple of guys came to see him,
next thing I know he's gone.

SITA

(afraid to ask)
One of the guys have a snake tat
wrapped around his neck?

FOREMAN

Yeah.

SITA

No... No... No...

She pulls out a gun, aims it at the freaked-out FOREMAN.

SITA

Now you write me a pay stub so
that I can keep a roof over my
kid's head...

FOREMAN

Yeah. Okay. Sure. But...
I can't remember his name?

SITA

Chris. Christopher McGee.

INT. CABIN - DAY

A CORONER zips up Christopher into a body bag, looks up at Tony who relishes the moment.

CORONER
You got the transport paperwork?

TONY
Paperwork..?

INT. IHOP - TIVOLI - DAY

Helen slips into the booth and kisses Gabe. She smiles at Philip, who picks at his pancakes, absolutely no appetite.

HELEN
Hey, guys. Philip. You all right?

PHILIP
Yeah.

GABE
(sympathetic)
It was Anne's birthday.

HELEN
Really?

PHILIP
She's all alone. And... I didn't want to miss it.

HELEN
But your mother made such a point to tell me we're both Capricorns. When is that exactly? January..?

Philip swallows, totally busted.

PHILIP
You guys don't understand. You got each other...

GABE
Look... We know you miss your mother.

HELEN
But we have an agreement.

PHILIP
You gonna send me back..?

GABE

You're not going anywhere. You're staying with us.

Helen's phone rings... She motions with her finger, takes a call from Tony. Quickly hangs up.

HELEN

Shit... Sorry... Gotta run... I got burnt corpses arriving at my office any minute.

Philip's eyes widen. Gabe squeezes Helen's knee under the table, like what the fuck?

Helen notices the news has caused Philip to go pale.

HELEN

It's okay, Philip. We're all safe.

PHILIP

What happened..?

HELEN

It's... There's been a shooting...

PHILIP

The bodies were burnt?

GABE

(off Helen's look)

You can't tell anyone anything you hear about Helen's work.

Helen slides out of the booth, then turns back to Philip.

HELEN

Philip. I need you to be honest with me now. This is serious.

Philip swallows... His heart beats out of his chest...

HELEN

You know a boy at your school named Lukas who jumps his bike at the quarry?

PHILIP

Yeah. But he never talks to me. I saw him yesterday. Jumping by the river.

HELEN

Okay...

GABE
(senses Philip's anxiety)
What is it..? What's wrong, son?

Philip wants to tell them everything, and he almost does.

PHILIP
It's just. Seeing a dead body
sucks.

HELEN
You've seen one..?

PHILIP
No... I mean, mom's last boyfriend
... I found him lying on that
yellow couch, outside her place.

GABE
Dead..?

PHILIP
Cops called Social Services. Even
mom couldn't smooth that out.

Gabe squeezes Philip's shoulder... And for the first time
both he and Helen understand the pain in this boy's eyes.

EXT/INT. HELEN'S JEEP - PARKED OUTSIDE THE IHOP

Helen starts the Jeep... Gabe hands her a coffee to go...

HELEN
How do you even begin to come back
from that?

GABE
He's a good kid. But it's going to
be a lot of work, Helen... We both
need to spend more time with him.

HELEN
I can do this. I'm ready.

GABE
I know, babe... But this shooting
sounds serious. You going to hand
it off to the State Police?

HELEN

Yeah, I could, but. You know. I'm at the crime scene, standing over a dead body. And it's the first time in a long time that... Since I moved up here. I have a sense of anything. Like... I don't know... Meaning or purpose.

GABE

Whoa, babe, nice. What about me?

HELEN

(kisses Gabe)

You know what I mean. It's just different.

GABE

Yeah, look. I get it. But this sounds like it might take a lot of time.

HELEN

Hey, don't worry. I got plenty of time for the case and for you and Philip.

They both turn and look at Philip who stares back at them, while he frantically texts Lukas under the table.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - TIVOLI - DAY

Philip heads for his locker... Tries to make eye contact with Lukas, but ROSE (15) queen mean girl, hangs off him.

And Philip knows enough not to approach Lukas... Because in school, these two travel in separate universes.

EXT. ROOFTOP - HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Philip and Lukas huddle in the one place they can be alone and unseen. Philip spills what he's learned from Helen.

PHILIP

Yeah! All the bodies are burnt and the cabin too. Think that guy...

But that barely registers with Lukas, more concerned with...

LUKAS

Wait... You said Helen knows we hang out!?!

PHILIP

No. No... But she knows you bike
at the quarry.
(off his look)
Don't worry, I got you an alibi.
I told her I saw you jumping by
the river.

LUKAS

Right. Cool... Shit... Delete my
fucking video!

PHILIP

What?

LUKAS

It puts us at the quarry.

Philip takes out his phone... He pulls up Lukas's You Tube
channel. Starts to delete the video...

LUKAS

Shit... Shit. Shit... No one can
know we were there!

PHILIP

You shot that guy. He's dead.

LUKAS

But what if he's not..? He knows.
He knows what I look like... That
we were there together.

Philip can feel his heart explode, he tries to calm his
friend.

PHILIP

Listen... We know what he looks
like, too... And I know how to
find out if he's dead.

ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Ryan, last seen torching the cabin where he shot four men,
is now cleaned up and shaven, like any ski dad.

He follows a RANGERS jacket making its way to school...

Ryan gains on the jacket, only to realize the kid is AFRICAN
AMERICAN...

He sighs... Steps away. Then notices several more RANGERS
jackets.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - TIVOLI - DAY

Lukas and Philip, his face covered in a helmet, speed past the station... They notice the "Sheriff's" empty parking space. Philip nods for Lukas to cut to the alley.

INT. BREAK ROOM - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Philip and Lukas frozen at the sight... The AC unit churns cold air full-blast on FOUR BODY BAGS on the linoleum floor.

PHILIP

You need to unzip it...

LUKAS

You do it... You got a better look at him.

Philip inches to the body bags, kneels and grabs a zipper... Turns to find...

Lukas fixated on a red plastic ribbon tied to a vent of the AC unit, which ripples with every blast of cold air.

PHILIP

I'm not doing this alone.

Lukas reluctantly kneels on the other side of the body bag.

Philip slowly unzips the bag, gags at the sight of Stig, his burnt face frozen in an anguished cry.

PHILIP

Not him, right..?

Lukas grabs Philip, nods at the closed-circuit monitor that covers the office, showing Helen pull up in her Jeep.

INT. HELEN'S FISH-BOWL OFFICE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Helen enters... She stops in her tracks at the sight of...

Tony pinning a final photo onto a murder board, devoted to the quarry shootings.

TONY

Check it out. FBI photos. And I swiped the board from the Commissioner's office.

HELEN

Okay... Mr. Li-a-ison... Well done.
But why exactly are there four dead
bodies stinking up my break room?

TONY

Ah... No coroner transport forms.

Helen opens a drawer, takes out a coroner transport form.

HELEN

They're right here, Tony.

TONY

What? How am I supposed to know..?
We never had a murder in Tivoli.

Helen studies her murder board... She feels a chill up her
spine. Feels good to finally have something to solve.

HELEN

She said nothing about the APB and
calls the murders a one off.

TONY

You know what I think..?

HELEN

No... Don't think until you fill
out that form.

Helen hands Tony a pen. She notices he takes it with his
right hand, switches it to his left and starts signing.

TONY

Why they shutting us out?

Helen looks back at the board. Eyes focused on Christopher
holding a gun in his right hand... She turns back to Tony.

HELEN

Because they can. Stop. Give me
the pen, Tony.

Tony hands her the pen and she hands it right back to him...

HELEN

Now sign the form again.

Helen watches Tony switch hands and begin to sign the forms.

HELEN

That biker Chris McGee... I want to
see his hands.

INT. BREAK ROOM - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Philip quickly zips up the bag, opens the next one... Dry heaves at the sight of a face burnt beyond recognition.

LUKAS

Shit, they're all burned.

PHILIP

Wait... He was barefoot.

Philip unzips more body bags, until... His eyes widen at the sight of a pair of slightly burnt and bare feet... Both boys awash in the horror of it all. Then relief...

And then sheer terror, when they spot Helen and Tony on the monitor walking toward them. They're stuck, no way out...

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Tony follows Helen, who's jazzed by being hot on the trail.

TONY

Wait. You think that guy Chris killed them all?

But before Helen can reply. They turn a corner, run into...

HELEN

Philip? Hi. Can you wait a minute in my office.

Philip "accidentally" steps in front of Helen... She walks around him toward the break room... Barely missing Lukas, who uses the diversion to sneak out the back door.

INT. BREAK ROOM - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Helen snaps on a pair of rubber gloves. While Tony unzips Christopher's body bag...

TONY

What we looking for exactly?

HELEN

Calluses. I want to know if he was a lefty or righty.

Helen pulls out both of Christopher's arms... Checks his right palm then his left. She can't tell the difference.

TONY

Looks like he worked construction.

HELEN

Shoot. Okay, pull me his traffic citations.

INT. TRAILER - TRAILER PARK - DUTCHESS COUNTY - DAY

A panicked Sita paces around her place, tearing it apart... As Jake rolls on the couch teetering on the edge...

Sita desperately searches for something, while she speed dials her phone with her thumb.

SITA

God dammit, Chris. Please pick up. Please... You swore you weren't hanging with Stig any more.

Sita throws open a closet, rummages through it... As she speed dials again...

But just as she's about to leave another panicked message, she hears a cell vibrate.

Sita reaches into a leather jacket... And screams when she pulls out Christopher's cell phone, which has thirty-three messages mostly from her.

She stumbles out of the closet, just as Kamilah enters... Her look confirms Sita's worst fears.

SITA

It's Chris? Is it him?

KAMILAH

Yeah... He's dead...

Kamilah reaches for Jake who's about to fall off the couch.

SITA

No. No. You have no idea how fucked I am.

Kamilah cradles the infant, and watches helplessly as Sita buries her face in her hands and screams.

INT. HELEN'S FISH-BOWL OFFICE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Helen enters, bites her lip at the sight of Philip staring intently at the photos on her murder board.

HELEN

Damn it. I didn't mean for you to see that...

(quickly turns board)

That's just bad guys. Hurting each other... It's got nothing to do with us.

Helen sits across from Philip, a large desk between them.

Both nervously fidget in their chairs. Philip avoids eye contact... All the while stealing glances out the window.

PHILIP

I'm sorry, I lied to you and Gabe about my mother. It's hard, you know...

Helen smiles awkwardly. She runs her finger on the small key that hangs around her neck.

HELEN

We're both here for you, Philip. But we need...

Philip catches a glimpse of Lukas... Who has made it out safely, and is crossing the street.

HELEN

What?

PHILIP

What?

HELEN

Why don't we talk about this over dinner..? You going to be home tonight?

(off his look)

You don't really like my cooking, do you?

PHILIP

It's... Okay..?

HELEN

You like take-out better?

PHILIP

I like Chinese.

HELEN

Me too. Had Yang Chow's yet?

Philip nods "no". He steals another glance out the window...

PHILIP

Yeah... But... One more thing I
need to tell you...

Just then... Tony pops his head in and motions for Helen
to come out.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Helen steps out of her office... Tony hands her a couple
of speeding tickets... She checks Christopher's signature.

HELEN

If this guy's signature doesn't
slant... How we supposed to know
which hand he shoots with?

TONY

The Rogues are strapped most of the
time. Maybe go to his place, see if
he has a lefty holster.

HELEN

Yeah... Good idea, Tony.

TONY

Unless the FBI clears it out before
you get there.

HELEN

(out the door)
Well, I'll just have to get there
first.

INT. HELEN'S FISH-BOWL OFFICE - DAY

Philip sits alone... Stares at the floor when Tony enters.

TONY

Bad time Philip. Helen had to run.
Need a lift anywhere?

Philip glances out the window, spots Lukas still across the
street on his bike.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Philip crosses the street to where an impatient Lukas waits.

LUKAS

Helen just took off. You told her
didn't you?

PHILIP

No... But for sure we know the
killer's dead. And. He can't hurt
us anymore, Lukas. So why shouldn't
we tell?

LUKAS

I don't want anyone to know.

PHILIP

What if they do..? Who cares?

LUKAS

I care. I'm not like you, Philip
... I mean when I'm with you, maybe
I am... But when I'm not, I'm not.
(emotional)
Don't you get it... I don't want
to be that guy. And my dad doesn't
want me to be that guy. And Rose...
No one wants me to be that guy.

PHILIP

Yeah but what if you are?

LUKAS

Fuck you.

Lukas twists the throttle, roars away on his bike, leaves
Philip standing on the curb.

INT. HELEN'S JEEP - SPEEDS ON THE HIGHWAY

Helen's audio book plays. But she's not really listening,
her mind is on the case.

AUDIO BOOK

*A major challenge with teen
children is sometimes they've been
touched by trauma they neither
acknowledge nor know how to talk to
you about...*

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Ryan sits parked in the carpool lane as the bell rings...
Hundreds of TEENS pour out of school. Just as...

He punches Philip, who goes flying back... Philip gets up, charges Lukas, knocks him down, the boys roll on the ground. Punching each other.

Instantly a circle forms... The kids cheer them on, until... A TEACHER steps in and pulls them apart.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Helen hears a baby giggle inside... She takes a moment, then knocks...

A Kamilah opens the door, holding Jake. Both women surprised to see each other. They converse through a screen door.

Helen..? KAMILAH

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Helen peeks past Kamilah... She spots Burlingame boxing Christopher's guns, computer and papers.

HELEN

Next of kin around? I got a few questions...

KAMILAH

No one here. But this baby.

HELEN

Who belongs to some biker you barely knew. And have no interest in.

Helen pulls the screen door open. But Kamilah steps out with the baby, blocking her way.

KAMILAH

The wife... She's the one I'm interested in.

HELEN

And Chris..? How does he tie into all this?

KAMILAH

He doesn't. He's just the baby daddy.

HELEN

The dead baby daddy.

It's awkward, until, the baby reaches for Helen's finger.

KAMILAH

What do you really want to know, Helen?

HELEN

I want to know why you're bullshitting me, Kamilah. Why did you lie about the APB?

Just then... Helen's phone vibrates with a call from Gabe. She sends it to voice mail.

HELEN

What am I stepping into?

KAMILAH

As long as you stay on that side
of the door you should be fine.

Helen's phone vibrates again. It's Gabe. This time she answers.

INTERCUT - GABE STANDS OUTSIDE THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...

He looks through the office window at a stoic Philip, who sits alone, across from Lukas and his parents.

HELEN

Everything okay? I'm in the
middle...

GABE

No, it's not okay. Philip is in the
principal's office. You need to get
here now.

HELEN

I can't. I'm interviewing for
my case.

GABE

Really..? The case that wasn't
going to get in the way? Okay.

Gabe hangs up... Helen feels a pit in her stomach... She looks back up at Kamilah.

Helen moves aside as FBI Agents walk out carrying boxes she will never get a chance to examine.

KAMILAH

Must be nice. After a day like
this... Going back to a place like
Tivoli.

Helen about to respond when she spots a hockey stick propped next to the door. The name Chris boldly marked on tape.

HELEN

I'm not going anywhere.

Helen picks up the hockey stick. Waggles the curved end at Kamilah.

HELEN

Because it turns out. Chris
McGee was a lefty.

Kamilah realizes that despite her best efforts... Helen has one-upped her. Now if she could just figure out how.

KAMILAH

Wait. What do you mean..?

HELEN

Goodbye, Kamilah.

Kamilah closes the door. Turns to Sita, who sits crying on the sofa.

While outside Helen just stands there, listening to the baby cry.

INT. HELEN'S JEEP - SPEEDING

An emotionally exhausted Helen, shoulders slumped, drives back home... And beside her... A steaming bag of Chinese take-out from Yang Chow's.

AUDIO BOOK

As a new parent, a good option to establish a firm connection with your foster child is during the ritual of the family meal...

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Tony squints at his computer screen... He scrolls through surveillance footage from the Citgo gas station.

He focuses on images of Christopher, approaching Some Kid.

EXT. HELEN AND GABE'S FARM - DAY

Helen sits in her Jeep... Watching Gabe finish wrapping a colt's knee. Philip helps the OWNER lead the limping colt into a trailer...

Gabe notices Helen looking at him, he forces a smile. She reaches for the Chinese take-out.

EXT. PORCH STEPS - HELEN AND GABE'S FARM - DAY

Gabe and Philip eat take-out in silence... Helen stares at the rolling hills tinted in green... She turns toward them.

HELEN

You know, Philip... This isn't just a fresh start for you... It's for both of us.

PHILIP

What do you mean?

HELEN

I've never been a parent. I've never done this. But I left you sitting in my office. I'm sorry.

Philip fidgets... Gabe places his hand on Helen's knee...

GABE

You made up for it. You brought us Yang Chow's.

HELEN

How many points do I get for that?

GABE

I didn't know we were keeping score. What do you think Philip?

PHILIP

Food's hot... Not burnt...
(smiles at them)
I say a swish from half court.

HELEN

Cool. Like Steve Kerr?

PHILIP

Who?

And before they can fully enjoy the moment... Helen takes a call on her phone from Tony.

HELEN

Yeah, Tony..?

TONY (O.C.)

I found something on the surveillance at Citgo... That biker. Christopher. He was talking to some kid, looks like he borrowed his phone.

HELEN

Good catch... Why don't you go and take a statement?

TONY (O.C.)

I wish. But the coroner hasn't shown up yet. I'm babysitting body bags.

HELEN

Okay... Contact that kid. I'll meet him at his home. After I finish dinner.

Helen hangs up her phone... She takes a final glance at the rolling hills. Gabe hands her an egg roll...

EXT. SHUTTERED DAIRY QUEEN - TIVOLI - DAY

Completely deserted... Except for Ryan who looks down at Some Kid straddling his BMX bike.

SOME KID

It wouldn't be a big deal, but I already lost three phones. And my mom will freak out...

RYAN

How old are you?

SOME KID

Fifteen... Almost.

Ryan pulls out the flip phone with the STP sticker on it.

RYAN

I just want to apologize for my brother. He's not a good guy.

SOME KID

Is he really a Rogue..?

RYAN

Does it really matter?

SOME KID

Nah.

RYAN

We've been worried about him. He say anything..?

SOME KID

No. He just took my cell and locked himself in the bathroom.

RYAN

Yeah... Sounds like him.

Ryan sizes up Some Kid... He hands him the phone, when it begins ringing.

SOME KID

Hello..? Yes that's me...

(covers cell)

It's the Sheriff's office, they want to meet me about your brother. What should I say?

Ryan stiffens. But forces a smile.

RYAN

Just tell them... Exactly what you told me.

EXT. HELEN AND GABE'S FARM - DAY

Helen's about to get into her Jeep. She turns back to Gabe and Philip.

HELEN

Hey, Philip. What were you going to tell me in my office before I walked out..?

Philip freezes. Gabe and Helen stare, waiting to hear...

PHILIP

My... My mom. Mother.

HELEN

Don't worry... I'm not going to report anything to Social Services.

PHILIP

(scrambling)

The judge. He said he might give us visits... If mom cleaned up. Can you maybe help get her into rehab?

HELEN

You think she's ready?

PHILIP

Yes.

HELEN

Then let's work on that. First
thing tomorrow.

Philip beams... Gabe smiles at Helen as she speeds off to
interview Some Kid.

EXT. SHUTTERED DAIRY QUEEN - DAY

Ryan stands over Some Kid, who convulses and foams at the
mouth, a syringe by his side.

Ryan drops the flip phone... He peels out... As Some Kid
gasps his final breath of life before overdosing on heroin.

EXT. TIVOLI ROAD - DAY

Helen's Jeep speeds along, its lights flashing... Passing
Ryan who drives in the opposite direction.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. SHUTTERED DAIRY QUEEN - DAY

Helen steps out of her Jeep, and stares at two PARAMEDICS struggling to resuscitate Some Kid. Tony quickly walks over.

HELEN

No one else on the scene?

TONY

Just Some Kid... And his bike.

HELEN

Jesus.

TONY

Third OD this month. Guess it's not just some headline anymore. That heroin we've been hearing about... It's here.

HELEN

You got his phone records?

Tony hands Helen a printout of numbers. Points to the one he's highlighted.

TONY

See.. That's the number Christopher dialed using this kid's phone.

HELEN

How did you know to check the Citgo?

TONY

Last place to take a piss for 30 miles.

Helen smiles at Tony. But instead of dialing the number, she folds the printout and places it in her pocket.

She steps under the tape... Heads toward a PARAMEDIC who shakes his head. Some Kid is gone. Helen looks down at the boy's lifeless face...

TONY

Why aren't you calling? That number might help our case.

HELEN

I got to make a house call first.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - HOUSE - TIVOLI - NIGHT

Helen stares at the freshly painted door. At two dirt bikes laying on the porch. Pairs of sneakers by the "Welcome" mat.

Helen hears a reality TV show playing inside... She takes a deep breath and knocks.

The door opens, and through the screen door, Helen looks into the face of SOME KID'S MOM.

TIME DISSOLVE - TIVOLI - MORNING

The sun rises over the sprawling hills and farm country, all awash in spring green.

As Philip slips out the back door, we slip in through a window into...

INT. HELEN AND GABE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Gabe and Helen lie in bed. He gently strokes the curve of her bare hips with his finger. Helen fixates on something across the room. She gets up, walks toward the wall...

GABE

Don't forget our meeting with Philip's principal is at twelve-thirty.

HELEN

Yeah... I remember. I'll be there.

Helen slams a glass into the wall... Captures a bee. Slides a piece of paper under the mouth of the glass.

Helen studies the bee, as she walks out to the balcony... She releases the bee and watches it fly away.

Helen looks at the piece of paper. It's the printout of phone numbers Tony gave her... One number is highlighted. She stares back into the bedroom, watches Gabe shower.

Helen looks back at the highlighted number... She takes a deep breath... And slowly dials the number.

INT. ROOFTOP - ACROSS FROM THE ROGUES CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Burlingame takes photos of the ROGUES BIKER GANG who're partying with Sita to honor their fallen brothers. Kamilah sorts photos on the computer screen.

KAMILAH

The Rogues find out Chris worked for us... They'll kill Sita...

BURLINGAME

Who's going to leak it? It's just us. And that Sheriff, Helen...
(turns to Kamilah)
You find out anything about her?

KAMILAH

Just some drama up in Buffalo a couple of years back. Homicide... A locked psych eval. The usual.

BURLINGAME

And now she's laying low, waiting on her pension.

KAMILAH

Yeah. I guess. Listen, they ever gonna name a head to this task force?

BURLINGAME

Getting tired of just me?

KAMILAH

You're okay. Except you can't sign a check. And I need to collect Chris' fee.

BURLINGAME

For what exactly..? That idiot got himself killed before he could lead us to the deal.

KAMILAH

I want Sita to use that money to get outta here.

Burlingame snaps a series of photos of Sita being comforted by the Bikers.

BURLINGAME

You know... We can protect her if she's on the inside working for us.

KAMILAH

Like we protected Chris? No way, she's not getting pulled into this.

Kamilah deletes Sita's photos, just as... Her phone rings.

KAMILAH
Agent Jones.

INT. HELEN AND GABE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Helen on her cell, stunned to hear Kamilah's voice on the other end.

HELEN
Hello, Kamilah...

KAMILAH (O.C.)
Helen..?

Helen watches Gabe step out of the shower. She feels that familiar rush of adrenalin.

INT. LUKAS'S ATTIC BEDROOM - DAY

Philip slowly opens the door and slips inside... He walks over to Lukas who is sound asleep... He leans over, blows gently in his ear.

A startled Lukas opens his eyes to find Philip leaning in to kiss him. Lukas quickly pushes him away...

LUKAS
What the fuck you doing? My dad's here.

PHILIP
(kisses him)
So we'll be really quiet.

Lukas enjoys the touch of his lips, quickly steps away...

LUKAS
What the hell were you thinking walking over in front of everyone?

PHILIP
I was pissed, and you...

LUKAS
Shut the fuck up already.
(paces nervously)
I can't believe what's happening.

PHILIP
Me, Lukas. I'm what's happening.
We're happening. Deal with it.

LUKAS

No.

PHILIP

Whatever... You're just some rich kid, nothing's ever happened to you.

LUKAS

Except my mom died. But you know everything... 'Cause your mom's a junkie?

PHILIP

You didn't have to say that.

LUKAS

Sorry. But neither did you.

Lukas stares out the window and sees his parents drive off.

He turns from the window, locks eyes with Philip who pulls off his shirt. They stare at each other longingly...

Roll around the bed, making out. Stroking each other. In the process, knocking over Lukas's biker trophies, until...

Philip suddenly pushes Lukas back, both are breathing hard.

PHILIP

No way. I'm not gonna be your bitch.

LUKAS

What..?

PHILIP

You got Rose for that...
(off his look)
You can't hit me in the face, Lukas... Not want to be seen with me like I'm some freak. Then want to fool around. You got to decide.

LUKAS

What's to decide..? I already told you.. I'm not gay.

PHILIP

(smirks)
But I know you like me.

Philip snatches his shirt and leaves a confused Lukas alone.

Lukas places the trophies back on the shelf... He stares out the window... Watches Philip determinedly walk out of his house.

Lukas's face is awash in anguish as he opens the window. He desperately wants to call out to Philip. But he steps back. And what he doesn't see is...

EXT. LUKAS'S HOUSE - DAY

The screen door slaps Philip, who walks out of the house.

Tears welling in his eyes as he realizes... Lukas isn't coming after him.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NO MAN'S LAND SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Helen pulls her Jeep alongside Kamilah's sedan. Their doors are almost touching. They lower windows...

HELEN

You're still going with your story?
You know... That Chris' wife is
your person of interest?

KAMILAH

Those are the facts.

HELEN

So the dead husband. The guy you
didn't know? He just called you to
say hello... Half an hour before he
was killed?

KAMILAH

He and the wife... Were having
problems.

HELEN

Really? That's the best you can do?
(off her look)
You're a very bad liar.

KAMILAH

If you'd just stay out of my face.
Maybe I wouldn't have to.

HELEN

That quarry shooting wasn't a one
off and you know it.

KAMILAH

That's not the way the FBI sees it.

HELEN

But Chris was a lefty.

KAMILAH

So?

HELEN

So why was he holding his gun
in his right hand unless someone
planted it..? And I think that
someone walked away.

KAMILAH

Do everyone a big favor... Walk
away from this Helen. It's just
four dead bikers.

HELEN

Not anymore. I got a dead kid.
And I think it's all connected.
(off her look)
There's a killer out there.

KAMILAH

If there is? You in any shape
to catch him?

HELEN

I will be.

KAMILAH

So this is about making up for
Buffalo?

Helen shakes her head at Kamilah... As she rolls up her
window, and drives away.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Sita pushes Jake in a swing, he giggles softly... She pulls
him out and stares daggers at two grim-faced SOCIAL SERVICES
AGENTS who pull up. Sita shoves a pay stub at them.

SITA

Here. See... My husband has a
steady job. Jake is in good hands.

SOCIAL SERVICES

But, Ma'am. You pulled a gun on a
Foreman while holding your baby.

Sita's face drops as one of the Social Services Agent hands her a court order to surrender custody of her baby.

While the other reaches for Jake.

AND TIME STOPS FOR SITA, AS THE OTHERS SLOWLY FADE AWAY...

Until Sita is all alone, fallen on her knees... Weeping uncontrollably, just as...

Kami pulls up in her car. Rushes over to embrace her sister.

EXT. PHILIP'S PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe walks down the hall carrying the NY TIMES... He looks around for Helen. Takes a seat on a wood bench.

INT. STORAGE UNIT - TIVOLI - DAY

Helen rolls up a steel door, the auto sensor light flickers on, revealing...

An empty space... Except for an old dusty office desk, with a rusty steel file box on top.

Helen just stands there, not wanting to enter... She takes a deep breath... Walks toward the box, stares down at the label "BUFFALO '07".

Helen unlocks the box using the key hanging around her neck.

Her hands shake as she slowly takes out dozens of graphic crime scene photos of young teens.

Light finds the tiny pinholes in the photos... Which once hung on an unsolved murder board... Helen looks away.

She reaches deeper into the box... Finally finds what she's looking for... An expired bottle of Klonopin labeled "2007".

EXT. PHILIP'S PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabe checks his watch... He sighs, unfolds the sports page and starts reading it again.

INT. DENTED SHERIFF'S JEEP - PARKED AT THE ROCK QUARRY

Helen sits snuggled in a police parka, stares out the window at the crime scene, realizes the sedan has been towed away. An audio book plays on her cell.

AUDIO BOOK

*Your foster child needs to know you
will still love him when he messes
up...*

But opens the bottle Klonopin, shakes it into her palm. Two faded orange pills stare back at her.

Helen sighs, tosses them out the window, takes a deep breath.

Steps out and heads to begin her investigation.

Just then, the cell she's left behind in the Jeep lights up with a text from Philip: "*remember i had something to tell u? coming over now*"

EXT. REGIONAL BUS STOP - DAY

Philip waits for the bus with LOCALS and DOZENS OF TEENS who are heading for school.

He's approached by TOMMY... Who hands Philip back his Nikon camera in exchange for his monogrammed RANGERS jacket, which they borrowed from each other.

TIME DISSOLVE - BUS - TRAVELING

Philip stares out the window at the passing landscape, his body numb as if it was shot with novocaine...

The bus stops at a station and THREE LOCALS get on... The bus continues on its way...

AUDIO BOOK (V.O.)

*This doesn't mean no consequences;
it just means you will forgive him.*

Philip leans into the aisle... He stares at Locals finding their seats, one at a time. Then suddenly...

Philip feels his heart beat out of his chest. He lets out a silent scream, filled with terror, when...

He spots Ryan trying to keep his balance... As he slowly makes his way back, right toward Philip.

FADE OUT...

FOR NOW