

ACCUSED

"Pilot"

Written by
Matt Witten

April 2017

ACCUSED

"PILOT"

TEASER

DARKNESS.

HEARTBEATS. Faster and faster. *KA-THUMP KA-THUMP KA-THUMP.*

EXTREME CLOSEUP OF BLUE EYES

A TEENAGE GIRL'S eyes. Frightened, darting back and forth.

GIRL'S POV:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

SLOW MOTION: The twelve Men and Women of the JURY walk in. Their slow gait a contrast to the SPEEDING HEARTBEATS. No other sounds.

We go CLOSE ON the JURORS. Search their faces one by one for any hint of emotion. But there is only solemnity. Grimness. *Duty.*

An Old Man on the jury turns and stares straight at us for a moment. EXTREME CLOSEUP: his eyes harden. Then he turns away.

ANGLE ON

SCARLETT COLLINS, the blue-eyed girl - 19, innocent looking, the girl next door. So why is she sitting in the *defendant's chair* in this packed courtroom with a hyper-anxious LAWYER beside her and two armed MARSHALS looming behind her?

As Scarlett watches the stone-faced Jurors, her hand goes to her heart. She can barely breathe. *KA-THUMP KA-THUMP KA-THUMP.*

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

The courthouse steps overflow with TV REPORTERS doing STANDUPS; VENDORS selling T-shirts and lilies; COPS keeping order; and HUNDREDS of PEOPLE from all over who have converged here to be part of history. People hold up SIGNS featuring PHOTOS of a smiling, blonde teenage girl - **LILY HENRIKSEN** - with blood red CAPTIONS: "JUSTICE FOR LILY" and "JUSTICE NOW". Others wear T-SHIRTS with the same photo. Some people hold aloft pink and white LILY FLOWERS.

QUICK POP of an excited REPORTER doing a STANDUP in FRENCH; we don't catch it all, but we hear him say "Scarlett Collins" and "femme fatale".

QUICK POP of a REPORTER doing a STANDUP in SWEDISH, a lily pinned to her blouse; we catch the words "Lily Henriksen".

ANGLE ON a handsome ANCHORMAN, 30s; think Anderson Cooper. People CROWD in behind him, eager to get on TV, WAVING their Lily signs and flowers and pushing forward their Lily T-shirts.

ANCHORMAN

Sex. Jealousy. Two beautiful young girls.

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP KA-THUMP. ON SCARLETT, in anguish.

SCARLETT'S POV, in SLOW MOTION: The Bailiff steps up to the jury box. The hard-eyed Old Man - the jury foreman - hands the Bailiff a folded piece of paper - the VERDICT SHEET.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

ON a terminally angry ANCHORWOMAN, 40s; think Nancy Grace. Behind her stands an even bigger CROWD, with even more Lily signs, flowers, and T-shirts.

ANCHORWOMAN

A college freshman, the daughter of an ambassador, who was *brutally murdered*.

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP. KA-THUMP. SCARLETT'S POV, in SLOW MOTION: The Bailiff hands the folded verdict sheet to the JUDGE.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

ON **HENRY DIAZ**, 50s, smarmy anchorman with a spray-on tan. A usedtobe star, now hanging on; think Geraldo. He has a crowd too, but older and sparser.

HENRY

A suspected killer who was so callous...

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP KA-THUMP. CLOSE ON SCARLETT.

HENRY (V.O.)

...when she was arrested, she started *dancing* in the police station.

With every third HEARTBEAT we FLASH to a new CLOSEUP, from Scarlett's POV, in SLOW MOTION:

--the Judge, unfolding the verdict sheet.

--**CLAIRE BRONSON**, 31, the prosecutor, anxious but hopeful.

--**MARIANNE** and **ANDREW COLLINS**, Scarlett's Mom and Dad, petrified. Next to them are her bossy big sister **DANIELLE**, 22, and her cute little sister **EMMA**, 13. Emma is dying inside, CLUTCHES her Dad's hand.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

ANCHORMAN

After her roommate was murdered,
she reportedly tweeted, "At least
now I have the room to myself."

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP KA-THUMP. CLOSE ON SCARLETT.

ANCHORMAN (V.O.)

Of course she claims she never sent
that tweet.

With every third HEARTBEAT we FLASH to a new CLOSEUP, from
Scarlett's POV, in SLOW MOTION:

--The Judge puts on reading glasses so he can read the
verdict.

--**JOEY PULASKI**, 20, star college linebacker - and Scarlett's
boyfriend - looks at Scarlett with desperation and love.

--Scarlett's best friends **RACHELLE ROSARIO**, extroverted
theatre type, and **ANGELA CHEN**, hard working computer science
major, silently panic. Rachele tries to give Scarlett an
encouraging smile - but it looks sickly.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

ANCHORWOMAN

Will Scarlett Collins be made to
pay for her horrendous crime?

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP KA-THUMP. CLOSE ON SCARLETT.

With every third HEARTBEAT we FLASH to a new CLOSEUP:

--**LILY'S FAMILY**, desperate for justice. **CARL**, 23, her sexy
bad-boy brother, shoots Scarlett a venomous look.

--Scarlett closes her eyes, puts her hands together, and
prays softly: "Please God please"...

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

ANCHORWOMAN

For smashing Lily Henriksen in the head and *suffocating* her!

Behind her the Crowd erupts:

CROWD

Justice for Lily! Justice now!

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP KA-THUMP. We FLASH to CLOSEUPS:

--Scarlett opens her eyes.

--The Judge reads the verdict to himself. Solemn, unblinking.

--In the front row, **LUKE TAYLOR**, 22 - handsome and super charming, but ambitious underneath - holds his PHONE down low against his leg where nobody can see it and sends a TEXT.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

HENRY

If convicted, she faces *life without parole* -

Henry's Producer, 30s, efficient, runs up next to the camera and holds her PHONE high to signal him. She mouths "Verdict".

HENRY (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, I have just received word - the verdict is in the judge's hands!

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

KA-THUMP KA-THUMP. FROM SCARLETT'S POV - CLOSEUP OF THE JUDGE:

Holding the verdict and looking directly at us. He speaks in SLOW MOTION, so his words come out VERY SLOW AND ODD, but we can still make out what he's saying:

JUDGE

Willlllll theeeee defennndant
pleeeeeease riiiiise.

ON SCARLETT

So filled with terror the Judge's words don't register.

Scarlett's Lawyer stands. He touches her arm and motions for her to stand too. She snaps back to reality with a start.

ON THE JUDGE - NO LONGER IN SLOW MOTION, his speech is now NORMAL.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
Please rise, Ms. Collins.

Scarlett jumps up.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

The CHANT grows:

CROWD
Justice for Lily! Justice now!

INT. COURTROOM - SAME TIME

JUDGE
Members of the jury, is this your
unanimous verdict? If any of you
have doubts or questions, please
raise your hand now.

ON THE JURORS: Nobody moves a muscle.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
Very well.

He holds up the verdict sheet. ON THE PROSECUTOR... SCARLETT'S
FAMILY AND FRIENDS... LILY'S FAMILY... SCARLETT... BACK ON THE
JUDGE

JUDGE (CONT'D)
We the jury, in the case of The
People versus Scarlett Collins, on
the count of first degree murder,
do hereby find the defendant,
Scarlett Collins...

ON SCARLETT

JUDGE (CONT'D)
...not guilty.

Scarlett stands there in utter shock. Then she crumbles and
bursts into tears.

Her Lawyer puts his arm around her. Her little sister Emma lets
out a SHRIEK of joy. She runs up to Scarlett and HOLDS her tight.

Lily's brother watches, speechless with fury, as Scarlett's
family and friends race up to congratulate her, ignoring the
Marshals who try to hold them back. The Judge bangs his gavel.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
Order, please. Order.

But nobody listens to him. Scarlett EMBRACES her Mom and Dad
and her big sister Danielle. Then she grabs her boyfriend
Joey CLOSE.

Luke, the charming guy, takes it all in. Some of the Spectators are happy - but most are *outraged*. Claire, the prosecutor, controls her anger and starts packing up. But Lily's brother Carl can't stand it any more. As Scarlett HUGS her BFF Rachele, Carl jumps up and advances on her:

CARL

You murdered my sister.

SCARLETT

No. *I didn't do it!*

Carl lets out an animal ROAR. He throws Rachele to the floor, out of the way, and PUNCHES Scarlett in the face. She REELS. He loads up to punch her even harder. The Marshals, Joey, and Scarlett's parents are all out of position behind the witness table, so there's no way they can stop Carl. Scarlett holds up her hands, trying desperately to protect herself. But here comes Carl's FIST, straight at her -

LUKE JUMPS IN, seemingly out of nowhere, and KNOCKS Carl's arm away. Carl's punch lands harmlessly in the air inches from Scarlett's face. Luke grabs Carl and holds him back til the Marshals can take over.

Scarlett shoots Luke a grateful look. But Carl YELLS, as the Marshals drag him away:

CARL

She killed my sister!

A middle aged WOMAN in the spectators' gallery SHOUTS:

WOMAN

She's guilty! Guilty!

The Judge bangs his gavel - but now the courtroom is full of Spectators CHANTING:

SPECTATORS

Guilty! Guilty!

Off Scarlett, horrified, surrounded by friends and family - and an angry mob that wants to rip her heart out - "**Guilty!**" -

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Outside the courtroom, Scarlett and her family and closest friends race toward an OPEN ELEVATOR. They're chased by a THRONG of Media People and Spectators who all want a piece of Scarlett. Her Dad Andrew holds the door open.

ANDREW

Hurry!

Scarlett and her family make it INSIDE THE ELEVATOR.

RACHELLE (BFF)

You go ahead.

Scarlett's friends Rachelle and Angela BLOCK OUT some aggressive JERKS who are trying to jump into the elevator too.

INT. ELEVATOR - SAME TIME

The door shuts just in time. As people BANG on the door, SCREAMING Scarlett's name, Andrew hits the button and they start down. Scarlett, overwhelmed, catches her breath.

SCARLETT

Oh God... oh my God...

EMMA (LITTLE SISTER)

Guess what? I saved up a whole season of Project Runway. And we're gonna bake a *thousand* peanut butter cookies.

DANIELLE (BIG SISTER)

When the jury wouldn't even look at you, I thought for sure -

MARIANNE (MOM)

No. Don't even say it.

SCARLETT

(her voice catching)
I'm really going home...

Joey kisses her.

JOEY

Damn right.

ANDREW (DAD)

It's over, honey. This whole crazy nightmare is finally over.

The whole family (and Joey) hug. The door opens. They step out of the elevator -

INT. COURTHOUSE LOBBY / EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

- and immediately the CROWD OUTSIDE sees Scarlett. They surge forward toward the courthouse entrance, a pack of hungry dogs smelling raw meat. SHOUTING, CHANTING, BRANDISHING their signs. The outnumbered Cops struggle to hold them back. A million Media People with mics prepare to pounce on Scarlett the instant she ventures outside.

Scarlett puts her hand to her heart, fighting her panic, trying to breathe.

MARIANNE (MOM)

We'll go out the back.

She takes Scarlett's arm to lead her toward the back of the courthouse. But Scarlett can't help taking one last look at the madness.

SCARLETT'S POV: Dizzily bright sunshine. Somebody yelling "Killer!" Lilies. Cops. Screaming. Microphones.

CUT TO:

THE SAME MEDIA HORDE

Except now it's NIGHT, and we're OUTSIDE SCARLETT'S FAMILY'S HOUSE. The same LOUD INSANITY.

INT. / EXT. COLLINS HOUSE - SAME TIME (NIGHT 1)

A middle-class home in a cul-de-sac in a northern Chicago suburb. Scarlett stands at the window, holding her miniature schnauzer **CHUMLEY**, who's ecstatically happy to be with her again. She looks out at the CROWD surrounding her home.

DANIELLE (BIG SISTER)

Don't these people ever sleep?

MARIANNE (MOM)

Where the hell are the cops?

ANDREW (DAD)

Scarlett, get away from the window.

SCARLETT

I should go out there.

EMMA (LITTLE SISTER)

Are you insane? They'll kill you.

SCARLETT

But they'll never stop until I do.

ANDREW

Baby, forget about them. The only people that matter are right here in this house.

SCARLETT

I love you, Daddy. But no wonder they all think I'm guilty. They never heard *my* side. I never got to testify!

DANIELLE

Don't complain. It worked.

Scarlett sits down.

SCARLETT

And I'm grateful. But you don't know what it felt like watching TV in jail for eight months and seeing people say such horrible stuff about me. And then sitting in that courtroom listening to all those lies - and I couldn't say anything. Now I'm the most hated girl in America!

MARIANNE

Scarlett, I know it's been an emotional day -

SCARLETT

Mom. What if I do some TV interviews or something? If people get a chance to see who I really am? Maybe they'll realize I'm innocent.

EMMA

Yeah.

Marianne sits down next to Scarlett.

MARIANNE

Your Dad and I have talked about this. When you're ready to talk to the media, we'll hire a speech coach so you can do some practice interviews -

SCARLETT

I don't need practice. I'll just tell the truth.

ANDREW

We just thought since you don't have a lot of public speaking experience, you might feel more comfortable.

SCARLETT

You guys have spent way too much money on me already. I mean, those legal fees -

ANDREW

Money well spent.

MARIANNE

We don't regret it for a second. But we do want to be smart about things.

SCARLETT

What do you mean?

MARIANNE

All I'm saying is, we could get back on our feet financially.

DANIELLE

They offered Casey Anthony a million dollars for an exclusive interview.

SCARLETT

You're comparing me to Casey Anthony?!

DANIELLE

That is not what I -

SCARLETT

(upset)

I can't make money off Lily's murder.

MARIANNE

Scarlett, after everything you've suffered, you deserve -

SCARLETT

No. I swear I'll do anything to pay off the legal fees, but... not that.

ANDREW

(quickly)

It's okay, honey. You don't have to do it if you don't want to.

DANIELLE

Are you kidding? This family is three hundred thousand dollars in debt!

ANDREW

(warning)

Danielle -

DANIELLE
 (to Scarlett)
 This isn't just about *you*. You're
 not the only one in this room who
 suffered -

JOEY, RACHELLE AND ANGELA
 Happy birthday to you...

Scarlett's boyfriend Joey and her best friends Rachelle and
 Angela enter from the kitchen carrying a scrumptious
 CHOCOLATE CAKE with twenty lit CANDLES and "HAPPY BIRTHDAY
 SCARLETT" in pink frosting. Scarlett's family immediately
 tries to put their argument behind them.

SCARLETT'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY
 Happy birthday to you...

SCARLETT
 It's not my birthday.

JOEY
 You were in jail. We're doing it now.

SCARLETT'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY
 Happy birthday dear Scarlett,
 Happy birthday to you.

Everybody CHEERS. Scarlett is overcome.

SCARLETT
 You guys are ridiculously awesome.

EMMA
 Come on, make a wish.

But before Scarlett can blow out the candles:

ANDREW
 Wait - picture time!

He brings out his fancy CAMERA. His daughters share a look -
there goes Dad with his camera - but they love it. We sense
 an old family ritual.

EMMA
 (rolling her eyes)
 Da-ad, we're hungry.

ANDREW
 My four girls with the cake, okay?

Scarlett, her sisters and her Mom stand behind the cake and smile.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 This is perfect. You're beautiful.
 You are all so -

A ROCK SMASHES through the window, through a gap in the curtains, and SMACKS EMMA right in the FACE. She STAGGERS and DROPS the cake - it lands upside down on the floor. SHOUTING from outside:

MAN (O.S.)

You're gonna die, bitch!

Marianne STOMPS out the lit candles on the floor. Chumley BARKS frantically. Scarlett and Andrew rush to Emma's side.

SCARLETT

Emma!

BLOOD POURS down Emma's forehead. Scarlett picks up the ROCK. There's a LILY tied to it. Off Scarlett, distraught -

EXT. COLLINS HOUSE / INT. MINIVAN - NIGHT

Scarlett's Dad and Danielle start off toward the ER with Emma, in the Collins family minivan. Dad HONKS his horn while Joey, Rachelle and Angela clear a path through the MEDIA HORDE. Danielle presses a TOWEL to Emma's forehead to staunch the blood.

INT. COLLINS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Scarlett, feeling terrible, watches them drive away.

SCARLETT

I should be with her.

MARIANNE

(trying to be patient)

Honey, it would just cause a scene at the ER. Emma will be okay. She'll get some stitches.

SCARLETT

I can't stand this. I'm putting you guys in danger.

MARIANNE

It's not your fault. There's sick people in the world. Now get away from that window!

Scarlett looks out the window and sees Luke, the white knight who rushed to her rescue in the courtroom, standing beside anchorman Henry Diaz. Luke catches Scarlett's eye and gives a little apologetic smile, as if to say: *sure is crazy out here.*

SCARLETT

The guy who saved me from Lily's brother - is that Henry Diaz standing next to him?

MARIANNE

Yeah. Diaz was one of the worst.

EXT. COLLINS HOUSE - SAME TIME

ON HENRY AND LUKE, watching Scarlett.

HENRY
She's looking at you.

LUKE
I see that.

HENRY
What you did in that courtroom?
Sheer brilliance.

LUKE
(jokingly protests)
Hey, I'm a nice guy.

HENRY
Use it.

Luke looks back at Scarlett and smiles, turning up the wattage on his charm.

INT. SCARLETT'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Scarlett eyes Luke and comes to a decision.

SCARLETT
I'm gonna talk to this guy.

Marianne sighs. Shakes her head.

MARIANNE
Do me one favor. If you're gonna go
on TV, do something about your
hair.

INT. TV STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY (DAY 2)

Luke escorts Scarlett - with more stylish hair - to the sound stage.

LUKE
Makeup'll take about two minutes.
For someone who got out of jail
yesterday, you look great.

SCARLETT
Thanks for putting this together so fast.

LUKE
Are you kidding? Henry loves me
now. He even bought me a cupcake.

SCARLETT
What do you do here anyway?

LUKE

For now? Whatever they tell me. So all you need to know: don't look at the camera, look at Henry. And just talk naturally. There's nothing to be scared of.

SCARLETT

Except the fact this is going out live to millions of people.

LUKE

Except for that.

CLOSE ON SCARLETT, fighting her rising PANIC - *KA-THUMP KA-THUMP KA-THUMP*.

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Scarlett sits on the closed toilet trying to calm herself - *KA-KA-THUMP KA-THUMP*. She takes out her cell phone and looks at her screensaver. It's a PHOTO of Scarlett and Lily, arms around each other, happy. Scarlett reaches out her finger to gently touch Lily's face. She takes a deep breath. Centering herself. Thinking of Lily.

Then she hears a woman SOBBING outside her stall. It grows more desperate.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Please God please...

Scarlett cautiously steps out of the stall. **JENNIFER JOHNSON** - 20, pretty, working-class redhead - is at the sink. Like Scarlett, she's looking at a PHOTO on her cell. It's a picture of an adorable newborn BABY, a ribbon in her little mop of CURLY RED HAIR.

SCARLETT

Hi.

Jennifer is startled - she thought she was alone.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Is there anything I can do?

Jennifer shakes her head and leaves the bathroom. Scarlett watches her go.

INT. TV STUDIO - GREEN ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

Scarlett's family waits for her big interview to begin. Emma has stitches on her forehead. ON the TV MONITORS, in the background, we see PRESHOW HYPE: "Coming up next, an exclusive live interview: Scarlett Collins tells all!"

DANIELLE

I wonder how much *I* could get for an interview.

EMMA

God, let it go already.

MARIANNE

I just hope she doesn't say anything that... can be misinterpreted.

ON TV: a PHOTO of SCARLETT. Andrew talks to the TV:

ANDREW

Come on, babe, you can do it.

ON TV: Henry Diaz's show, **YOUR WORLD NOW**, begins. We SEE Henry at his anchor desk.

HENRY (ON TV)

Good evening and welcome to *Your World Now*. Tonight we have a special guest: Scarlett Collins.

ONSCREEN: SCARLETT, scared as hell but trying to hang tough.

INT. *YOUR WORLD NOW* SOUND STAGE - NIGHT

The BIG INTERVIEW. Henry and Scarlett. The mood on set is electric: Producers and Crew bringing their A game to the most exciting show they've ever done.

HENRY

Scarlett... did you kill Lily Henriksen?

SCARLETT

No. I didn't kill Lily. I loved Lily. From the moment I met her at freshman orientation, we did everything together.

HENRY

But you have to admit: there's a lot of forensic evidence against you.

SCARLETT

We were roommates. We shared the same lip gloss, shoes - everything but toothbrushes.

HENRY

Lily was bashed in the head with this stoneware lamp.

ON A MONITOR behind them: a PHOTO of a brightly colored HEAVY STONEWARE LAMP with an iPhone port built into it. An ARROW points to the area above the base.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Your fingerprints were on the lamp, where somebody would have gripped it in order to swing it at Lily.

SCARLETT

I picked it up the day before, so I could see the brand name on the bottom. My little sister liked that lamp, 'cause it played music. I wanted to get her one for her birthday.

HENRY

After Lily got hit with the lamp - probably knocked out - she was smothered to death with her own pillow. Your DNA was all over it.

SCARLETT

Sometimes we'd lie on each other's beds. *Her* DNA was probably on *my* pillow.

HENRY

The police also found a trace of what was initially identified as your blood under Lily's fingernails.

SCARLETT

That I.D. was all screwed up. I just thank God that Claire Bronson, my prosecutor, has a conscience...

INT. CLAIRE BRONSON'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Claire, the hard-nosed assistant D.A., drinks Jack Daniels and watches the interview with her boyfriend **ERIC WILEY**, 35, an even more hard-nosed FBI agent.

SCARLETT (ON TV)

...When Ms. Bronson discovered the blood evidence was like *hopelessly contaminated*, she turned the information over to my lawyer.

CLAIRE

Yeah, I play by the rules and sweet little Scarlett gets away with murder.

ERIC

You did the right thing.

Claire gives him a look.

CLAIRE

I lost the trial of the decade. My career is toast.

Claire downs a shot. Eric eyes her sympathetically.

INT. *YOUR WORLD NOW* SOUND STAGE - SAME TIME

HENRY

According to the prosecution, Lily had sex with your boyfriend earlier that night. You found out so you killed her in a drunken rage.

SCARLETT

That is totally false. First of all, they never found DNA from Joey. Just lubricant from a condom.

INT. JOEY'S DORM ROOM - SAME TIME

Scarlett's boyfriend Joey sits alone at his desk, football helmet and High School All-American trophy nearby, watching the interview on his laptop. (There's a cup of coffee by the keyboard.)

HENRY (ON LAPTOP)

But they were alone together that evening. And she definitely had sex -

SCARLETT (ON LAPTOP)

Not with Joey. Lily would never do that to me.

HENRY (ON LAPTOP)

But -

SCARLETT (ON LAPTOP)

And neither would Joey. I totally trust Joey. He's been my rock through this whole thing.

Joey blinks back tears. Then an IM message appears on his screen from PJ6969: **"HEY THERE LOVERBOY."**

Joey's face instantly fills with fear and rage. He **SHOVES** the cup out of the way - it hits the floor, spraying **COFFEE** everywhere - and types in: **"DON'T EVER CONTACT ME AGAIN."**

INT. *YOUR WORLD NOW* SOUND STAGE - SAME TIME

HENRY

What about your best friend from kindergarten, Rachelle Rosario? She gave a very damaging statement to the police.

ON THE MONITOR BEHIND THEM: in a police station INTERROGATION ROOM, Claire Bronson and a HOMICIDE DETECTIVE interrogate Rachelle. Rachelle is frantic - she so doesn't want to be here.

HOMICIDE DETECTIVE (ON MONITOR)
When did you see Scarlett last?

RACHELLE (ON MONITOR)
Just before midnight. About ten
minutes of.

CLAIRE (ON MONITOR)
And where did she say she was going?

Rachelle absolutely *hates* saying this, but...

RACHELLE (ON MONITOR)
Back to her dorm room.

ON HENRY

HENRY
Lily Henriksen was killed in your dorm
room between midnight and one a.m.

SCARLETT
When I got there it was *after* one.
Lily was already...

Scarlett catches her breath, reliving the pain.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Oh God. She was lying there... I
thought she was sleeping.

Luke, standing by with bottles of water, eyes Scarlett intently.

HENRY
You've never explained where you
were during that missing hour.

SCARLETT
I'd had too much to drink. So I lay down
in the quad and looked at the stars.

HENRY
(dubious)
For a whole hour?

INT. GREEN ROOM - SAME TIME

Scarlett's family watches.

HENRY (ON TV)
Did anybody see you?

SCARLETT (ON TV)
No.

DANIELLE
Uh oh.

EMMA

But that is totally Scarlett! She knows every single constellation there is.

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW SOUND STAGE - SAME TIME

HENRY

You did a lot of partying last year. Several classmates have said you acted erratic sometimes.

SCARLETT

Those people barely even knew me. They just wanted their fifteen minutes.

HENRY

Let's face it: that video from the police station is pretty disturbing.

ON THE MONITOR behind them: we see - over and over again - a cell phone VIDEO of Scarlett in the POLICE STATION, at central booking, doing a DANCE MOVE. A couple COPS and HOMICIDE DETECTIVES watch her, bewildered - *what the fuck is this crazy chick doing?* Scarlett smiles brightly, inappropriately, to somebody who's offscreen.

HENRY (CONT'D)

You've just been arrested for suffocating Lily to death. And you're *dancing*.

SCARLETT

It was three in the morning. My friend was killed two nights ago, and I hadn't slept since then. I was scared, and mixed up. And you can't see him on the video, but my Dad was there. He was so upset. So I did this little dance routine we used to do together when I was little...

INT. GREEN ROOM - SAME TIME

Scarlett's family watches.

SCARLETT (ON TV)

(emotional)

...I know it sounds goofy or whatever, but... I was thinking if I acted like I wasn't scared, then maybe my Dad wouldn't be scared either.

Scarlett's Dad fights back tears.

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW SOUND STAGE - SAME TIME

HENRY

It's not just the police station video. Some of your Facebook pictures were pretty out there.

ON the MONITOR behind them, we see a succession of PHOTOS of Scarlett: totally wasted, with a bottle of booze in each hand; with her arms around two guys wearing nothing but washrags over their privates; drinking beer while hanging upside down from a ceiling beam.

SCARLETT

Everybody does stuff like that freshman year. If you arrested people for acting stupid, nobody would ever graduate. But the police got so obsessed with me, they let Lily's killer get away.

(leans forward)

They should've investigated the robbery more. That necklace Lily borrowed from her grandmother? Those diamonds were worth a lot of money.

HENRY

The prosecutor claimed you stole it to make it look like a robbery gone bad.

SCARLETT

Yeah, but she's *wrong*. And they stole Lily's laptop too. Lily was a hacker - nothing hardcore, she just did it for fun - but maybe she made somebody mad.

HENRY

Like who? Any ideas?

SCARLETT

(shakes her head no)

It's all I've thought about day and night for eight months.

HENRY

You lost almost a year of your life. You must be feeling a little bitter.

SCARLETT

My friend lost her *whole* life. Compared to that I have nothing to complain about.

HENRY

Very well said. So what's next, Scarlett? Where do you go from here?

SCARLETT

First thing tomorrow? Back to school. I can't wait.

HENRY

What are your majoring in?

SCARLETT

Actually I'm changing my major to psychology, 'cause I want to be some kind of social worker. This whole experience has made me more serious about life. After all I've been through, and all the girls I met in jail, I'd like to help other girls in trouble.

(beat)

But for right now I just wanna go home with my family, play with my dog, and be a normal girl again.

INT. GREEN ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett's family watches the interview as it comes to a close.

HENRY (ON TV)

Ladies and gentlemen, with Miss Scarlett Collins, I'm Henry Diaz. Good night.

ON TV, Henry reaches over and shakes Scarlett's hand. Emma jumps up and tells her parents:

EMMA

We'll go find her.

Danielle follows Emma out the door. Andrew turns to Marianne:

ANDREW

She kicked ass. She was confident, she was direct -

MARIANNE

(hesitant)

Do you ever wonder if she's telling the whole truth about what she was doing that night?

Andrew looks at her.

ANDREW

No. And don't you ever wonder about that either.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW SOUND STAGE - NIGHT

Post-interview. Scarlett walks through the sound stage with Luke and a jubilant Henry. She's guzzling water, exhausted.

HENRY
We totally killed.

Scarlett looks at him - *what?* He's oblivious.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Number one tonight for sure. First
time in seven years!

LUKE
(to Scarlett)
You were amazing. Forget social
work - you should do TV!

SCARLETT
I just hope people believed me.

But Henry is on another track:

HENRY
You *should* do TV. You'd be terrific.

They go out into the hallway...

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...and almost run into a CAMERAMAN walking backwards - part of a Camera Crew shooting a WALK-AND-TALK. An Anchorwoman is interviewing Jennifer Johnson, the young woman Scarlett met in the bathroom. Jennifer is panic-stricken. Luke pulls Scarlett out of the way.

SCARLETT
What's going on?

Luke puts his finger to his lips and whispers:

LUKE
The next big story.

SCARLETT'S POV:

JENNIFER
(to the Anchorwoman)
I just want my baby back. I'm so
scared for her.

ANCHORWOMAN

The police suspect you may know something about what happened.

JENNIFER

No! I woke up and she was gone! The police won't even *listen* to me!

She looks around wildly, catching Scarlett's eye for a moment; *they lock eyes*; then Jennifer is gone down the hall.

SCARLETT

That poor girl.

HENRY

Don't get *too* broken up. The cops think her baby got in the way of her partying, so she killed her.

Scarlett watches Jennifer disappear around the corner.

SCARLETT

She didn't do it. I saw her in the bathroom. She was looking at her baby's picture and crying.

LUKE

The cops are pretty sure it was her.

SCARLETT

(impassioned, her pain coming through)

Right. I get it. The cops, you guys, the whole world decides she's the worst monster who ever lived. Nobody even looks at any other suspects. She has no chance. She's totally screwed. She'll never - ever - find out the truth about what really happened to someone she loved.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Scarlett!

Scarlett's FAMILY hurries up the hall. They EMBRACE her.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Great job, honey.

SCARLETT

(to Marianne)

How was my hair?

MARIANNE

Good.

Henry and Luke watch as Scarlett WALKS AWAY with her family.

HENRY

What do you think?

CLOSE ON LUKE'S EYES. He feels regretful saying this... He'd like to believe Scarlett's innocent... but...

LUKE

I think she did it. What about you?

HENRY

Who cares if she did it? Did you hear her just now?! That hot little killer could be a star. *She could put my show on top again - for good.*

Off Luke, wondering what the hell his boss is up to -

INT. COLLINS HOUSE - NIGHT

Late at night. Marianne walks up the HALL to the TV ROOM and looks in.

Scarlett and Emma are on the sofa holding hands, asleep, with the TV on and a big plate of peanut butter cookies in front of them.

EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - DAY (DAY 3)

A bright sunshiny morning, full of promise. Scarlett walks alone up the steps of the marble-columned ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. Passing cheerful, chattering Students without a care in the world. Two Students, a cute hand-holding COUPLE, recognize her. They stop and stare at her with horrified fascination. Like Scarlett's an intriguing but revolting species of worm. Then two more Students recognize her and do the same thing.

SCARLETT

(brightly)

Hi there. Beautiful day.

CUTE GIRL

You suck.

Now other Students recognize Scarlett and stare at her. She walks through their silent gauntlet, holding her head high, resolute. She marches inside.

INT. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - DAY

Scarlett holds out a couple of FORMS to the registrar, JEFFREY TAYLOR, 40s, a cold man in a suit. His Assistant and several Students watch as...

SCARLETT

Okay, here's my Change of Major Form, my Class Registration Form -

But Taylor doesn't take the forms.

TAYLOR

The semester's already started.

SCARLETT

Last week. I missed maybe two classes.

TAYLOR

Our policy is very strict. You're too late to enroll.

SCARLETT

I was busy. I was in *jail*.

TAYLOR

I wish I could help you.

Bullshit.

SCARLETT

Mr. Taylor, in case you missed it? I was acquitted. You have no right to do this.

Beat. Taylor regards her.

TAYLOR

The administration doesn't think your presence on campus would be conducive to the college experience.

SCARLETT

What does that even mean?

TAYLOR

We'd have to deal with the media twenty-four seven. You'd need security - bodyguards in every class -

SCARLETT

I can take care of myself.

TAYLOR

I understand there was already an incident at your home. If you get hurt on campus it's a million-dollar lawsuit. *And* you'd be putting your fellow students at risk.

Scarlett looks around at the other Students hoping for support, but doesn't get any.

SCARLETT

So you want me to take a semester off?

TAYLOR

We're not sure it would ever be safe for you to come back.

SCARLETT

(shaken)

But what other college would ever accept me now?

Taylor doesn't answer - it's not his problem.

CLOSE ON SCARLETT'S EYES... her dreams shattering...

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Head down, dejected, Scarlett trudges out the FRONT GATE, leaving campus. Behind her we see a big SIGN: "WELCOME TO NORTHWESTERN"... welcome to everybody but Scarlett.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Scarlett and her best friends Rachelle and Angela, carrying YELLOW ROSES, walk through the cemetery. They pass a group of people gathered for a FUNERAL.

SCARLETT

I should move to Tibet and become a monk.

ANGELA

You'd have to shave your head.

SCARLETT

My big TV interview? Total zero. I'm still the most hated girl in America.

RACHELLE

No, that would be Kim Kardashian. Hang in there, sweetie.

Angela points at a GRAVE adorned with hundreds of LILIES.

ANGELA

There she is.

Scarlett reads, "**LILY HENRIKSEN...FOREVER YOUNG, FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS...**"

RACHELLE

It's almost like we're together again.

ANGELA

The Fearsome Foursome.

They look down at her grave.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Remember when she got us those fake
Swedish I.D.'s -

RACHELLE
- and we pretended to be the
Swedish Olympic Badminton Team?

They laugh, but then Scarlett turns serious.

SCARLETT
What was her funeral like?

ANGELA
With you in jail? Pretty weird.

RACHELLE
I barely remember it. I was too
busy feeling guilty.

SCARLETT
(beat)
I never blamed you for talking to
the cops. You had no choice.

Rachelle hugs Scarlett, grateful.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Could I... be alone with her for a
minute?

Rachelle and Angela lay their flowers on Lily's grave. Then they walk away, leaving Scarlett ALONE there.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Hi, it's me again. It's beautiful
here. You have a lot of flowers.
(smiles, then)
Sometimes I get so mad at you... for
taking all your secrets with you. I
love you, Lily. No matter what
happened that night. No matter what
you... I just wish you could tell
me. Who did this to you?

RACHELLE (O.S.)
Scarlett!

Scarlett turns... and sees TV NEWS VANS and other VEHICLES
RACING up the main road of the cemetery toward her.

Off Scarlett, upset, the roses still in her hand...

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Scarlett, Rachele and Angela hurry down a dirt road.

ANGELA

I think we lost 'em -

But here comes the *YOUR WORLD NOW* PRODUCTION VAN ROARING around the corner, with Luke at the wheel. He lowers his window.

LUKE

Need a ride?

SCARLETT

How did you people know I was here?

LUKE

Somebody at the cemetery tweeted about you. Come on, I won't bite.

Scarlett gets in the van next to Luke and her friends get in back.

EXT. NORTHWESTERN CAMPUS - DAY

The VAN stops in front of a classroom building. Rachele and Angela get out.

RACHELLE

We'll call you after class.

Scarlett nods, wistful, watching all the Students going to class.

LUKE

Where am I taking you?

Scarlett has no place to go. No idea what to do next.

SCARLETT

Let's just get off campus.

LUKE

No classes today?

SCARLETT

No.

LUKE

There's something I wanna show you.

As he drives OFF CAMPUS, he unfolds the front section of a newspaper and hands it to her. On the front page: a story about Jennifer Johnson, complete with color photo.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Jennifer Johnson. Her baby is still missing.

Scarlett is puzzled - why is he telling her this?

SCARLETT

...I'm sorry to hear that.

LUKE

You think she's innocent. And you think she's not getting a fair shake. Just like you.

SCARLETT

Yeah. So?

LUKE

So she's your first assignment.

Scarlett looks at him, totally thrown. He PARKS the van.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Henry is offering you an amazing job. Doing stories about people in trouble. You can bring your experience and passion -

Scarlett puts up her hands to stop him.

SCARLETT

No thanks. I so don't want to be on TV anymore.

LUKE

You're perfect for this. You *get* these people. You could help them.

SCARLETT

Dude, I just want the world to forget about me.

LUKE

Yeah, how's that working out for you?

(off Scarlett)

He'll pay you good money. Look, a lot of TV news people got their start by being involved in crimes. Like Nancy Grace. Eliot Spitzer. Elizabeth Smart. And you're way better looking than them. You could be a star.

SCARLETT

Only one problem: I don't *want* to be a star.

LUKE

Do you have any idea what an opportunity this is?

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

I'm hoping in ten years I can be a producer, but you just walk in, and -

SCARLETT

Yeah, I'm so *lucky*.

LUKE

If you get on TV and help these people, the world will start *liking* you.

SCARLETT

I have to go.

She walks away. He calls after her:

LUKE

Scarlett, you'll always be famous. Why not use it to do something positive?

Scarlett keeps walking. CLOSE ON HER EYES... and we see she's more conflicted about this job offer than she admits.

FROM A CREEPY POV ACROSS THE STREET

We watch Scarlett walk away from Luke.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

In a dark corner booth: Joey and Scarlett. She's wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap pulled down low, with her hair tied back. She's drinking a tequila shot.

SCARLETT

Five years ago tomorrow. Come on, think.

JOEY

Oh my God. Our first date. We sat in the bleachers and you kept showing me all those damn stars.

SCARLETT

I let you kiss me eventually.

JOEY

(suddenly uncomfortable)
Wow. Well, let's drink.

He lifts his glass.

SCARLETT

It's so nice to be alone with you finally.

JOEY

Been a crazy couple of days. Six-hour practices.

SCARLETT

It meant so much to me. Your coming to the trial every day.

JOEY

I wanted to be there.

SCARLETT

All those months in jail not really being able to talk to you? It was torture. I feel like I'm gonna burst.

(deep breath)

We both did some crazy things last year we'd like to take back. I forgive you for... you know. You really stood by me. I hope you forgive me too. I wasn't always the best girlfriend last year.

JOEY

You're awesome, Scarlett.

SCARLETT

Joey, seeing you in that courtroom every day, I fell in love with you all over again. I want us to start fresh. Like this last year never happened.

(takes his hand)

What do you say we go hit the bleachers?

JOEY

I have to get back pretty soon. I have a history quiz tomorrow morning.

Beat.

SCARLETT

Are you... going out with somebody?

JOEY

No.

SCARLETT

(sexy, caresses his wrist)

Then let's go.

Joey looks away.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

What?

JOEY

Damn it, I didn't want to do this tonight.

Scarlett stares at him. *Holy shit.*

SCARLETT

Are you breaking up with me?!

JOEY

I just think you're right about us needing a fresh start.

SCARLETT

Together!

JOEY

Scarlett, I still love you, but -

SCARLETT

Then why are you doing this?

JOEY

I can't forget everything that's happened. I stuck with you through the whole trial, but -

SCARLETT

I stuck with you too, you know. There's things about you I could've said.

JOEY

I still want to be friends.

SCARLETT

Oh my God. Get out.

JOEY

Scarlett -

Scarlett THROWS her shot glass at him.

SCARLETT

Get out!

Joey stands up, hesitates, and leaves. Scarlett is heartbroken and alone. She reaches for Joey's drink and GUZZLES it. As she puts it back down, she notices something on the TV above the bar.

ON TV: JENNIFER JOHNSON and her older sister TINA, 23, stand outside her working-class South Side home talking to Reporters.

REPORTER (ON TV)
 (to Jennifer)
 Is it true you met the baby's
 father at a party and you don't
 even know where he is?

Tina steps forward.

TINA (ON TV)
 My sister's made mistakes like
 everyone - *but she'd never hurt her
 child*. The police are wasting their
 time.

JENNIFER (ON TV)
 I just want them to find my baby. I
 just want poor Kelly to be okay...

ON TV: CLOSE ON JENNIFER, breaking down. It's heartwrenching.

Scarlett watches Jennifer, moved. Then she abruptly stands up
 and walks out of the bar.

INT. SCARLETT'S BEDROOM - COLLINS HOUSE - NIGHT

Scarlett sits on her bed. Her Mom and Dad loom over her. Mom
 is agitated, Dad tries to control himself. Danielle and Emma
 watch from the doorway. (In the background: high school
 soccer trophies, *Hunger Games* books, a framed photo of
 Scarlett and Joey on their way to junior prom.)

SCARLETT
 I think this girl is innocent -

MARIANNE
 Come on, Scarlett -

SCARLETT
 - but she's not getting any more of
 a chance than *I* did. *It's not fair.*

ANDREW
 (genuinely puzzled)
 But what can you do to help her?

MARIANNE
 Nothing. *Scarlett Collins, you are
 not taking this job.*

SCARLETT
 It'll pay good money.

MARIANNE
 I don't care.

SCARLETT

Come on, you wanted me to get paid for that interview.

MARIANNE

That was a one-time thing, it's not the same.

ANDREW

(to Scarlett)

I thought you wanted to get away from it all and just be a regular kid.

SCARLETT

(desperate)

Dad, I tried. *It didn't work.* I think I'd be good at this. In prison all the other girls would tell me their troubles. I was like the cell block psychologist.

MARIANNE

Scarlett, you don't get it. If you take this job our whole family will never get back to normal.

Scarlett turns on her Mom, angrily.

SCARLETT

Mom, get real. *We need to forget normal.*

Danielle peels away from the doorway.

DANIELLE

Don't tell us what we *need to do.* Do you have any idea what you've put us through?

ANDREW

(warning)

Danielle -

DANIELLE

Dad, stop protecting her. She needs to know this.

(to Scarlett)

While you were in jail, Mom didn't make a single sale in eight months. Nobody wants to list their house with the mother of a notorious killer.

ANDREW

That's enough.

SCARLETT

Look, I know it's been hard for you guys -

DANIELLE

Dad hasn't slept for eight months. He grits his teeth so bad he broke a tooth. The money's all gone, so I'm working nights and weekends to pay for grad school. And you know how happy Emma always used to be?

EMMA

Keep me out of it.

DANIELLE

I haven't heard her laugh since January. Sure, I'd like to see you make money. We'd all like that. But you have no right to cause us any more grief. You have no right to keep us in the public eye if we don't want it - and we don't. We are sick and tired of being Scarlett Collins's family.

The words are out of her mouth. There's no taking them back. Beat.

SCARLETT

If you want me to move out, I will. Maybe I should. I'm putting you in danger.

ANDREW

You are not moving out. This thing that happened to us - this false accusation - these idiots putting an innocent girl on trial - it's not gonna tear this family apart. I won't let it.

MARIANNE

But Danielle does have a point. Scarlett needs to understand what we're going through too.

SCARLETT

I'm so sorry for all the pain I've caused you. But I don't know what else to do.

(stands up)

There's a missing baby out there. If I can help find her, then something good will come from Lily's death - and everything we've been through.

She starts out. But before she can get to the door, Emma throws her arms around Scarlett and hugs her.

EXT. JENNIFER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - SOUTH SIDE - NIGHT

The new Ground Zero for Henry, Luke, and the whole media circus. People crowd the sidewalks and front yards.

Many of them hold up SIGNS with PHOTOS of the adorable BABY KELLY, with her little mop of CURLY RED HAIR. The photos are CAPTIONED: "WHERE IS BABY KELLY?"

We FOLLOW SCARLETT - in sunglasses and baseball cap, hair pulled back, baggy clothes - as she walks, head lowered, toward Henry and Luke. Nobody notices her. She steps up to Henry:

SCARLETT
That job still open?

Henry is taken aback - but recovers quickly.

HENRY
Absolutely.

LUKE
It's great to see you again.

Scarlett pulls her cap down even LOWER and starts toward Jennifer's front door.

HENRY
Hey.
(she stops)
You going in there? Take this.

He takes out his cell and hits the "record" button.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Don't tell her it's on.

He holds the cell out to her, but she doesn't take it.

SCARLETT
No. I'm not secretly recording her.

HENRY
What if you get lucky and she confesses?

Scarlett glares at him, but takes his cell and puts it in her pocket. She walks up to Jennifer's front door and KNOCKS. No answer.

ON THE STREET: Luke and Henry watch intently, hopeful.

Scarlett KNOCKS again. Jennifer CALLS through the door:

JENNIFER (O.S.)
Go away.

Scarlett puts her face up to the door crack, cups her hands so the sound won't travel to the street, and calls inside:

SCARLETT
I'm Scarlett Collins. We kind of met at the TV studio.

Beat.

JENNIFER (O.S.)
(suspicious)
What do you want?

SCARLETT
I know how you're feeling. I was
innocent too.
(beat)
Maybe I can help you.

Beat. Then the door opens. Jennifer lets Scarlett in.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. JENNIFER JOHNSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Media holds vigil.

INT. JENNIFER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jennifer reaches into the refrigerator, where we see a baby bottle filled with milk. She takes out a couple of Cokes.

Scarlett sits at the table and takes it all in. Pictures of cute redhaired baby Kelly on the fridge. Baby toys, an empty bassinet; a breast pump on the counter.

JENNIFER

For real, when I saw you on TV? I always felt like you didn't do it.

SCARLETT

Thanks. You were in the minority.

Jennifer sits down. She looks at the baby toys.

JENNIFER

I don't know what to do. My baby's gone and nobody believes me.

SCARLETT

I'm so sorry.

(off Jennifer)

For me? The worst part was all the secrets.

INT. *YOUR WORLD NOW* PRODUCTION VAN - SAME TIME

Henry and Luke LISTEN IN on Scarlett's conversation, on the van's COMPUTER.

SCARLETT (ON COMPUTER)

I get the feeling you're just like me. Innocent - but there's things you can't tell anybody.

INT. JENNIFER'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

SCARLETT

If I tell you something, do you promise not to tell anyone?

JENNIFER

Okay.

SCARLETT

Okay...

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW PRODUCTION VAN - SAME TIME

Henry and Luke listen to Scarlett with bated breath:

SCARLETT (ON COMPUTER)
...here's my secret:

And then: silence. *Shit, what's wrong with the computer?* Henry hits some computer keys, trying to fix it. Then he realizes:

HENRY
The damn girl turned it off!

Luke shakes his head but smiles - he can't help admiring Scarlett.

INT. JENNIFER'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

SCARLETT
The night Lily got killed? I'm pretty sure she was fooling around with my boyfriend.

JENNIFER
Oh my God. That guy Joey, the football player?

SCARLETT
I mean I get it. He's a *guy*, you know? And Lily used to flirt with him like crazy every time she got drunk. And when I really think about it? Maybe me and Joey were kind of drifting apart. But I had to lie about him and Lily - the cops would've used it against me. They would've said it gave me motive to kill.

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW PRODUCTION VAN - SAME TIME

HENRY
(still frustrated)
That secret is about the murder.

LUKE
Either she did it, or she has a good idea who did.

HENRY
(points a finger at Luke)
You're gonna find out what she's hiding.

INT. JENNIFER'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

JENNIFER
You're right. I have a secret too.

SCARLETT

I promise I won't tell.

JENNIFER

Kelly's father is really my sister's old boyfriend Bucky. After they split up, me and Bucky were partying one night and it just happened.

SCARLETT

So you don't want your sister to know?

JENNIFER

I think she'd be upset. And I *definitely* don't want the cops finding out about Bucky.

SCARLETT

Why?

JENNIFER

'Cause there's *no way* he has anything to do with Kelly going missing - but the cops would harass him anyway. He's on probation for resisting arrest. He's a great guy, when he's not super high.

She takes a printed-out cell phone PHOTO from the bottom of a drawer. It's a CLOSE UP showing BUCKY - tattooed, badass-looking - sitting close to Jennifer and baby Kelly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(emotional)

He's really sweet.

Scarlett eyes Bucky and his biker tats, dubious - *sweet?*

SCARLETT

So Bucky knows the baby is his?

JENNIFER

I was short on diaper money about three weeks ago. So I asked Bucky for help and it kind of came out.

SCARLETT

What'd he say?

JENNIFER

He was really nice. He said not to worry. He'd help out.

SCARLETT

(hesitant at first)

Did you ever think that... maybe this is how he helped out.

JENNIFER

What do you mean?

SCARLETT

Maybe when you asked for diaper money, Bucky got scared you'd make him pay for the baby. Like, child support. So he did what he had to do. He got rid of her.

Jennifer stares at Scarlett, horrified - and angry.

JENNIFER

Bucky would never hurt our baby.
How can you say that to me?

SCARLETT

You have to admit it's a motive.

JENNIFER

You wanna talk about motive? What about your boyfriend Joey?

SCARLETT

I'm just trying to -

JENNIFER

I think *he* killed Lily. He was cheating on you. I bet she threatened to rat him out.

SCARLETT

No. The police checked Joey out.

JENNIFER

And you trust the police?!

For some reason Scarlett feels compelled to defend Joey.

SCARLETT

Lily was killed between midnight and one. Joey had an alibi. He was at a party.

JENNIFER

Yeah, like nobody ever faked an alibi. I bet he was super high on steroids, like *all* those football players.

(eyes Scarlett closely)

And I think you've suspected him all along, but you can't admit it.

SCARLETT

Stop it. Look, you're wrong. Joey did not kill Lily.

But we GO CLOSE on SCARLETT'S EYES and see PAIN. And what looks like DOUBT.

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW PRODUCTION VAN - SAME TIME

HENRY

(to Luke, excited)
If we can get *proof* who killed
Lily? *Biggest scoop ever*.
Especially if we nail *Scarlett*.

LUKE

(uncomfortable)
So you want me to go *undercover*? On
Scarlett?

HENRY

You got a problem with that?
Investigating a murder suspect?
It's called journalism.

LUKE

I kinda *like* Scarlett.

HENRY

Deal with it. This girl is your big
break.

There's COMMOTION outside the van. Media People jostle for position and SHOUT QUESTIONS as SCARLETT comes out of Jennifer's house head down, cap and sunglasses hiding her face.

CLOSE ON LUKE, as he watches Scarlett hurrying toward them. He's conflicted. He really does like her.

OUTSIDE, an Anchorman suddenly recognizes Scarlett. *Holy shit*.

ANCHORMAN

Scarlett! *Scarlett Collins!*

In a flash, the whole media circus goes berserk. They chase Scarlett. She KNOCKS a Cameraman out of her way and DASHES to the PRODUCTION VAN. Luke holds the door open, then SHUTS it again as soon as Scarlett gets inside. Media People BANG on the van and shout, "Scarlett! Hey Scarlett!"

Scarlett, panicky, tries to catch her breath.

HENRY

It's okay, kid.

He gives her a wide smile.

HENRY (CONT'D)

You're safe here.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

CLOSE ON HENRY

HENRY

Scarlett Collins will be giving her
unique perspectives on our show...

PULL BACK TO REVEAL we're inside...

INT. CLAIRE BRONSON'S OFFICE - STATE JUSTICE BLDG. - DAY (DAY 4)

Henry is on TV. Claire, Scarlett's prosecutor, watches disgusted.

HENRY (ON TV)

...Scarlett believes passionately
that everybody deserves a fair shake -

KNOCK on the door. Claire turns the TV OFF, glad for an
excuse to stop listening to this smug asshole.

CLAIRE

Come in.

SCARLETT WALKS IN. Claire stares at her, stunned.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

How'd you get in here?

SCARLETT

I'm sorry. Your assistant was out.

CLAIRE

So you're a big TV star now.
Getting rich off being a famous
killer.

SCARLETT

Ms. Bronson, you were always fair
to me -

CLAIRE

What the hell are you doing here -
you wanna rub it in my face?

SCARLETT

No, I'd *never* do that. Please, I
didn't know who else to come to. *I*
need your help.

(off Claire, totally thrown)

I know something about the missing
baby.

(beat)

Baby Kelly.

CLAIRE
Yeah, I know her name. Speak.

Scarlett sits down.

SCARLETT
I think the sister's ex-boyfriend
may be involved. A guy named Bucky.

CLAIRE
Why?

SCARLETT
I can't tell you. I promised I
wouldn't.

CLAIRE
Right. You're lying through your
teeth, as usual.

SCARLETT
I'm not, I swear!

CLAIRE
It's not enough getting away with
murder - you want everybody to *like*
you.

SCARLETT
All I want -

CLAIRE
I'm not playing your game,
Scarlett. Get out of here.

SCARLETT
(outraged)
Kelly might still be alive. You
should be following every lead -
not focusing on the wrong suspect,
like you did with *me!*

CLAIRE
The cops've already looked into
Bucky, you idiot. They checked his
alibi.

SCARLETT
Maybe I should *doublecheck*. I bet
the cops are so obsessed with
Jennifer, they're doing a lousy job
on Bucky -

CLAIRE
Go ahead: interfere with an
investigation.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Give me another reason to bust you.
This time I'll make it stick.

Scarlett stands up.

SCARLETT

I watched you. I thought even if
you were wrong about me, you still
cared about the truth. My mistake.
(at the door, she turns)
Oh, and by the way. You *are* wrong
about Jennifer. She's still using her
breast pump. She wouldn't be doing
that if she'd killed her baby.

Scarlett walks out - just as Eric, Claire's FBI boyfriend, walks
in carrying two cups of coffee. He looks back in surprise.

ERIC

What was *she* doing here?

CLAIRE

(still steaming)
Don't ask.

ERIC

(disgusted)
I saw her on TV. What's next - Charles
Manson gets a gig talking about the
human side of serial killers?

CLAIRE

Every time she goes on TV, it'll
remind the whole world I failed.

Eric hands her coffee and sits down.

ERIC

What if I could figure out a way to
stop her?

CLAIRE

Back rubs for life.

EXT. STATE JUSTICE BUILDING / INT. YOUR WORLD NOW VAN - DAY

Scarlett, still shaken, gets into the van. Luke is driving.

LUKE

How'd it go?
(off her groan)
That bad, huh?

SCARLETT

Worse.

LUKE
If you'd just let me know why you suspect Bucky, maybe I could help.

SCARLETT
I *told* you -

LUKE
Yeah, yeah, super duper top secret.
(then)
It's okay, I don't mean to push you. After all you've been through, it must be incredibly hard to trust people.

Scarlett is taken aback. Luke just nailed it on the head. He gets her. But she's not ready for this kind of closeness. She hardens herself.

SCARLETT
Especially when they're still trying to figure out if I'm a murderer.

Luke takes a moment to think what to say. Then he looks into her eyes... and lies.

LUKE
I always thought you were innocent.

Scarlett is so vulnerable to kindness right now, she almost breaks down. She forces herself to turn away from him.

SCARLETT
Just give me a ride to my car.

Off Luke, feeling conflicted about this whole undercover thing -

EXT. OFF CAMPUS HOUSE - DUSK

A funky old house from a century ago. Scarlett goes up the creaky front steps.

FROM A CREEPY POV, ACROSS THE STREET: Scarlett takes the KEY from under a flowerpot, unlocks the door, and goes in.

INT. RACHELLE'S BEDROOM - OFF CAMPUS HOUSE - DUSK

Rachelle is at her computer, reading the BANK STATEMENT for her savings account. She has a lot of money: \$53,510.

SCARLETT (O.S.)
Hey there.

Rachelle gives a startled GASP. Then she quickly shuts the window and plasters a fake smile on her face.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you're watching those stupid cat videos again.

RACHELLE

They're not stupid, they're hilarious. So oh my God, did you really meet this Jennifer Johnson girl?

SCARLETT

Yeah. And I need you guys to help me.

INT. LIVING ROOM - OFF CAMPUS HOUSE - NIGHT (NIGHT 4)

Furnished second hand but cozy. Angela rapidly HITS LAPTOP KEYS, as Scarlett and Rachele watch.

ANGELA

I so should not be doing this. I promised my Dad I'd quit hacking.

SCARLETT

We're talking missing baby here.

RACHELLE

Yeah, screw your Dad.

ANGELA

If Bucky has a computer, I'm not finding it.

SCARLETT

How about like an iPad or something?

ANGELA

I wish Lily was here. She taught me all this stuff... Wait.

SCARLETT

What?

ANGELA

(hitting more keys)

I just found Bucky's cell phone. And he never changed the default pin number.

RACHELLE

Is that good?

ON ANGELA'S LAPTOP, showing a menu from Bucky's cell phone.

ANGELA

(quietly triumphant)

It gives us access to his call records, unerased texts, photographs...

CLOSE ON PHOTOS of BUCKY in all his TATTOOED glory, hanging out with his BIKER PALS and BIKER CHICKS. We come to a PHOTO of BUCKY, JENNIFER and cute redhaired KELLY (this is the photo Jennifer showed Scarlett earlier, as a printout).

RACHELLE

Dude is nasty looking. How'd he have such a cute kid?

SCARLETT

Remember: that part's a secret.

Angela SCROLLS to a PHOTO of a little BABY with BLACK HAIR.

ANGELA

Who's this?

RACHELLE

Maybe Bucky has a second kid.

Angela is about to scroll to the next photo -

SCARLETT

Wait. Show me both babies.

ANGELA

(puzzled)

Okay.

Angela hits a couple keys. ON HER LAPTOP: the photo of the black-haired baby, next to the photo of redhaired Kelly.

Scarlett stares at the babies, *horrified*.

SCARLETT

They're the same baby. He cut her hair and dyed it black.

It's true: except for the hair, the babies are the same! Somebody disguised baby Kelly. Now Rachelle and Angela are horrified too.

RACHELLE

Why would he do that?

SCARLETT

Oh my God.

Scarlett dashes out of the room.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A dilapidated old building in Bridgeport, with a couple of scary looking Guys drinking on the steps. Scarlett parks out front. She takes a deep breath, then walks past the Guys and goes inside.

INT. BUCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BUCKY opens the door to Scarlett, tattoos poking out of his wifebeater. Behind him, the place is a mess: bottles, motorcycle parts, and dirty clothes strewn everywhere.

SCARLETT

Where is she?

Bucky gives a bewildered frown.

BUCKY

Where is who?

SCARLETT

Where's Kelly?

She elbows her way past him. Opens his bedroom door and looks in.

BUCKY

You're the chick that whacked her roommate.

Scarlett turns on him.

SCARLETT

You disguised Kelly by dying her hair. Why?

(off Bucky)

Are you hiding her? Or *selling* her.

Bucky advances menacingly.

BUCKY

You're screwing with the wrong guy.

He backs her up against the wall and GRABS her SHIRT. She holds up her CELL PHONE.

SCARLETT

My roommates are on Skype.

Sure enough, Rachele and Angela are on her cell phone screen. Rachele WAVES hello.

RACHELLE (ON CELL PHONE SCREEN)

Hi, Bucky!

Bucky is totally thrown. He lets go of Scarlett.

BUCKY
Jesus, what do you want?

SCARLETT
I want Kelly.

Bucky talks to the Girls on Scarlett's cell phone screen:

BUCKY
Is your friend off her meds or what?

SCARLETT
You wanted to get rid of the baby.
And you figured, while you were at
it, why not make a few bucks?

BUCKY
Get out of here.

SCARLETT
Give me your cell phone.

BUCKY
I'm not giving you anything.

SCARLETT
You're scared to, 'cause it proves
you abducted Kelly.

BUCKY
I didn't abduct her, and I don't
even *have* my damn phone. Tina took
it. Jennifer's sister.

SCARLETT
You're lying. Why would *she* take it?

BUCKY
Why should I tell *you*?

Scarlett gets in his face.

SCARLETT
Because Kelly is your daughter.
(off Bucky)
And if you really didn't abduct her -

BUCKY
I didn't.

SCARLETT
- then help me find her.

Bucky stands there trying to figure Scarlett out.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Bucky, I'm not some macho cop out to screw you for resisting arrest or whatever. If you're innocent, I'm on your side.

Bucky shakes his head, but gives in.

BUCKY

Look, ever since I broke up with Tina, she spies on me, okay? Comes in here one night, grabs my phone, and finds this picture of me and Jennifer and the kid. Starts screaming and runs out with my phone.

SCARLETT

Did Tina figure out from the picture that you were the baby's father?

BUCKY

Yeah, but she said not to tell Jennifer she knew. Tina wanted to tell her herself. Fine by me. I don't need the drama.

SCARLETT

How long has Tina had your cell phone?

BUCKY

Couple weeks. I need to deal with it. So why are you so -

Scarlett talks into her phone screen:

SCARLETT

Angela. I need the current location of Bucky's cell phone.

INT. SCARLETT'S CAR / EXT. SOUTH SIDE SLUM - NIGHT

Scarlett DRIVES FAST through gang territory, past Gang Members on the corners. Her CELL RINGS. She picks up.

SCARLETT

Yeah.

She VEERS left at a yellow light, tires SQUEALING, then HONKS her horn at a tricked out Escalade with four teenage Gang Members that's in her way.

INT. HENRY DIAZ'S OFFICE - TV STUDIO - INTERCUT

Luke is on his cell; it's on speaker, and Henry listens in. (On the walls: photos of Henry with celebrities going back 25 years.) Luke HEARS all the SQUEALING and HONKING.

LUKE
Where are you?

SCARLETT
Not a good time.

The Gang Members make leering CATCALLS and HONK the horn as Scarlett drives past.

LUKE
Scarlett, are you okay?

Up ahead: Jennifer's sister Tina comes out of a bar and heads for her car. Scarlet SCREECHES to a halt.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Scarlett?

Scarlett SHUTS OFF her phone and jumps out of her car, hurries up to Tina.

IN HENRY'S OFFICE: Luke and Henry react, frustrated. Except Luke's not just frustrated. He's worried about Scarlett.

ON THE STREET, a minute later, Scarlett confronts Tina.

TINA
(offended and angry)
You're insane. I didn't *touch*
Kelly's hair.

SCARLETT
Bucky's phone has a photograph of
Kelly with her hair dyed black.

TINA
So talk to *him* about it.

SCARLETT
You took that photograph. His phone
is in your car right now.

Beat.

TINA
You go to hell, bitch.

She's about to open her car door. But Scarlett BLOCKS her.

SCARLETT
Your sister stole your boyfriend.
So you decided to steal her baby.

TINA
Get out of my way.

SCARLETT

I bet you're crazy enough, you figured Jennifer and Bucky having a baby together was keeping him from going out with you. But if the baby was gone -

TINA

That is such total crap.

(beat)

And even if it wasn't? *Kelly would be better off without that slut for a mother.*

Scarlett stares.

SCARLETT

So you admit it?

Tina sneers at her.

TINA

You're a murderer. Who's gonna believe *you*?

Scarlett is incredibly frustrated. Tina opens her car door. Scarlett grabs the door and won't let her close it. But then Tina takes out a can of MACE and SPRAYS Scarlett in the FACE.

Scarlett backs off, clutching at her face, GASPING with pain. Tina SLAMS her door SHUT and drives away.

BLINDED, CHOKING, nauseous, Scarlett STUMBLES into the curb and FALLS to the pavement. Defeated. *Shit*. Then her cell phone RINGS. She takes it out of her pocket and FEELS for the right button to turn it on.

INT. TV STUDIO - HALLWAY - INTERCUT

Luke walks up the hall by himself, talking into his cell:

LUKE

Scarlett, are you in some kind of trouble?

Scarlett's eyes are shut and her face is twisted in pain.

SCARLETT

(croaking voice)

I could use a ride.

EXT. SOUTH SIDE SLUM - NIGHT

Luke ROARS UP in the *Your World Now* van. Scarlett is standing by her car. She's still hurting, with bloodshot eyes, a raspy voice, and a red, inflamed face, especially around her eyes. Scarlett hurries up to the van as Luke jumps out, UPSET.

LUKE
We're going straight to the ER.

Scarlett puts a hand on his arm.

SCARLETT
We don't have time. We have to save
Kelly.

Luke looks at her.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Let's go.

They drive off. We hear PRE-SHOW MUSIC for *Your World Now*.

INT. YOUR WORLD NOW SOUND STAGE - DAY (DAY 5)

Producers and Crew Members bustle excitedly. Sitting at the anchor desk, Henry and Scarlett get last-second touchups. Scarlett's eyes are pretty much back to normal now, especially with the makeup. Henry is revved up, totally in his element. She's nervous, the bright lights shining in her face.

SCARLETT
We should talk to the police first.

HENRY
No freaking way. Somebody might
leak the story.

SCARLETT
They might have a better idea how to
handle this.

HENRY
They'd handle it, yeah. They'd tell
us to keep quiet and then do
nothing - just like when you went
to your friend the D.A. You want
quick action for finding baby
Kelly? This is it right here.

The MUSIC comes to a close. The ON AIR LIGHT comes on. Henry can barely contain his excitement about their big scoop.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Welcome to a very important special
edition of *Your World Now*. We open
with *exclusive breaking news* from
our brand new correspondent,
Scarlett Collins. Scarlett?

The CAMERA SWINGS OVER to SCARLETT. She looks up at it.

SCARLETT'S POV: That BIG GLASS EYE *staring* at her. *Engulfing* her.

Scarlett looks over at a MONITOR. Her FACE fills the screen. It's incredibly daunting. She's paralyzed. *KA-THUMP KA-THUMP KA-THUMP.*

Henry sees Scarlett's stagefright and frowns.

Scarlett looks toward Luke. He gives her a smile and a thumbs up. That gives her the confidence to begin. She clears her throat and turns to the camera.

SCARLETT

There's been a...

And now the urgency of the situation cuts through her nerves. She speaks more and more forcefully:

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

...a new lead in the baby Kelly case. *We've learned that somebody cut Kelly's hair and dyed it black.*

INT. CLAIRE BRONSON'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire and her FBI boyfriend Eric watch:

SCARLETT (ON TV)

If you've had a baby girl with short black hair suddenly come into your life in the past few days, *please contact the Chicago Police Department immediately. This baby's safety is at stake.*

CLAIRE

Oh my God.

SCARLETT (ON TV)

Please. Help us save baby Kelly.

Claire jumps out of her chair and SLAMS OFF the TV.

CLAIRE

If Scarlett's right... *she just put Kelly's life in danger.*

Claire storms out.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. HENRY'S OFFICE - *YOUR WORLD NOW* - DAY

Claire angrily confronts Henry and Scarlett.

CLAIRE
(to Henry)
Unbelievable. You are so desperate
for ratings -

HENRY
(arrogant)
I was doing my civic duty -

CLAIRE
Your duty was to contact the police -

HENRY
Scarlett contacted you previously
and you ignored her -

SCARLETT
(to Claire)
You were wasting time investigating
the wrong -

Claire SLAMS her hand on the desk to shut Scarlett up.

CLAIRE
If somebody really did dye Kelly's
hair, *you just scared the hell out
of them!*

SCARLETT
I had to do *something* -

CLAIRE
Now they know somebody's hot on
their trail. *They may throw the
baby in a dumpster to cover up
their crime!*
(off Scarlett, horrified)
Do you really want another person's
blood on your hands?

ON SCARLETT - *oh shit, she really fucked up* - and ON HENRY -
even he feels bad.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
You're both coming downtown - right
now. And you better tell us every
damn thing you know.

EXT. CHICAGO POLICE HEADQUARTERS / INT. *YOUR WORLD NOW* VAN - DAY

Claire drives up to the DOWNTOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS. The *Your World Now* van is right behind her.

INSIDE THE VAN: Luke drives, with Henry beside him and Scarlett in back. Henry gets off his CELL.

HENRY

Now don't talk to the D.A. or the cops til our lawyer shows up.

SCARLETT

But we *have* to talk. Somebody might hurt Kelly.

HENRY

I'm just saying let's not say anything stupid. If God forbid something happens to that baby, somebody'll end up suing the show for millions of dollars.

SCARLETT

I don't care about that.

HENRY

(pissed)

Then care about this. Claire Bronson *hates* you. Say the wrong thing about cell phone hacking, whatever, and she'll throw you back in prison in a heartbeat.

SCARLETT

I'd rather be in prison than responsible for Kelly dying.

We go CLOSE ON LUKE'S EYES, watching Scarlett as she gets out of the van. Henry shakes his head, exasperated.

HENRY

Damn fool.

Claire gets out of her car. She and Scarlett head for the FRONT STEPS of POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

CLAIRE

Better not do any dancing tonight.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Scarlett!

On the steps of the police station, Scarlett turns. A COUPLE in their late 40s hurries toward them. There's a Cop beside them.

CLAIRE

We don't have time for your fans -

SCARLETT

Wait.

Claire turns... and now she sees it too:

*The woman is carrying a **BABY**. The baby is adorable. And she has **SHORT BLACK HAIR**.*

Scarlett, Claire, Luke, and Henry all stare at this baby.

The Couple is incredibly anxious.

ADOPTIVE MOM

We saw you on TV. My husband wanted to get a lawyer, but... I need to know now.

ADOPTIVE DAD

The girl who gave us the baby said she was a nurse. We paid twenty thousand dollars for hospital costs.

Scarlett leans down close to look at the baby.

ADOPTIVE DAD (CONT'D)

We were told the parents didn't want her. Nobody said anything about an abduction.

ADOPTIVE MOM

Is this baby Kelly?

CLAIRE

(slowly)

I'm not sure.

SCARLETT

One way to find out.

EXT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE / INT. YOUR WORLD NOW VAN - DAY

The VAN pulls up outside Jennifer's house. Claire pulls up behind it.

INSIDE THE VAN: Henry, Luke, Scarlett... and the BABY, looking a little befuddled. Scarlett gently takes the baby out of her car seat.

Accompanied by the others, Scarlett walks up to the house, the baby in her arms.

Jennifer flies out the front door, sees her baby, and bursts into tears. Scarlett gives her the baby.

Jennifer holds her precious baby Kelly close.

Off Scarlett... This is the most beautiful thing ever...

Off Claire... moved...

And off Luke... He can't take his eyes off Scarlett.

INT. COLLINS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 6)

Scarlett's Mom, Dad and sisters sit on the sofa watching TV.
ON TV: Jennifer stands on her front steps holding Kelly, with Scarlett beside her.

Scarlett's Dad and Mom are overwhelmed. Teary eyed and proud.

EMMA

See, I *told* you to trust her.

ANDREW

Wow.

MARIANNE

This is unbelievable.

Danielle is too in shock to speak. *Her little sister - a hero?*

INT. GYM - WEIGHT ROOM - NIGHT

Joey, with a TEAMMATE spotting him, strains his HUGE MUSCLES to lift some heavy barbells. He looks up at the TV.

ON TV: SCARLETT.

TEAMMATE

Dude, she's hot. Why'd you break up with her?

Off JOEY'S EYES... feeling regret? Missing her?

INT. CLAIRE BRONSON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Claire watches TV: Tina doing the PERP WALK, surrounded by cops.

ANCHORWOMAN (V.O., ON TV)

Tina Johnson has confessed to abducting her niece.

Eric walks in, carrying his CELL.

ANCHORWOMAN (ON TV) (CONT'D)

Meanwhile the argument rages:
Scarlett Collins: devil or saint?

ERIC

What do you think?

Claire pats the sofa for him to come next to her. Sexily:

CLAIRE
No more thinking.

ERIC
I just heard back from the U.S.
Attorney's office.

He shows her his CELL. ON the SCREEN, we read a text: "LANG
SAYS YES. YOUR CALL."

CLAIRE
Yes to what?

ERIC
To prosecuting Scarlett for murder.

Claire stares at him, bewildered.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Told you I could stop her.

CLAIRE
You geniuses never heard of double
jeopardy?

Eric sits next to her.

ERIC
You tried her on a *state* charge. We
can go *federal*. There's a special
statute against the murder of an
internationally protected person.

CLAIRE
(getting it)
So because Lily's Dad is the
Swedish ambassador...

ERIC
...she qualifies. And because of
the additional elements in the
charge, the supremacy clause, the
substantial federal interest -

CLAIRE
- double jeopardy doesn't apply.

ERIC
We could even go for the death
penalty.

Claire looks at the TV. A VIDEO of SCARLETT appears onscreen.

CLAIRE

If you guys can convict somebody I couldn't, I'll look like an even bigger idiot.

Eric puts his hand on her arm.

ERIC

Here's the beauty. We do a joint prosecutorial task force. With you a key member. We take the case you developed and use the full investigative powers of the FBI to build on it. If we win, you go from goat to hero. Your career gets right back on track.

ON TV: Lily's father **ALEXANDER** - 55, distinguished - and brother Carl are being interviewed.

ALEXANDER (ON TV)

Scarlett Collins is still a monster. She killed my daughter.

ERIC

Claire, I have full discretion. I won't move forward unless you want me to.

(beat)

So what do you say?

Off Claire, torn...

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A crowded bar. ON the TV above the bar, the interview of Alexander and Carl continues:

CARL (ON TV)

She's a total sociopath.

Scarlett (in sunglasses, stylish fedora, and hair pulled back) and Luke sit together in a dark corner booth, unnoticed. Scarlett's watching Carl, upset. Luke holds up a MENU to BLOCK her view of the TV.

LUKE

Don't watch that garbage.

Scarlett smiles her thanks. Luke pours her some beer from their pitcher.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I hope you stick with us. You're totally awesome at this.

SCARLETT

You never quit hustling, do you?
 (off Luke)
 Of course I'll stay. Who else is
 gonna offer me a job?

LUKE

I'm really glad. I like working with
 you - even if you don't trust me.

Scarlett looks at him earnestly.

SCARLETT

Finding Kelly was the best thing
 ever. You were right. About using
 my fame to do something positive.

She gives Luke a smile - and it goes straight to his heart.
 He gazes at her. This girl's beautiful. But who *is* she?
 Scarlett gazes back at him. She's feeling it too. Luke
 forgets about holding the menu up and his arm comes down. Now
 Scarlett can see the TV again:

CARL (ON TV)

She deserves to die for what she
 did to Lily.

LUKE

Sorry.

He puts the menu back up. But the mood is broken.

SCARLETT

Let's just go.

INT. LUKE'S CAR / EXT. OFF CAMPUS HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke pulls up outside Rachele and Angela's apartment.

LUKE

Are you okay?

SCARLETT

People will always think I'm this
 evil bitch who got away with
 murder. Unless...

LUKE

Unless what?

SCARLETT

...the real killer gets caught.
 (turns to him)
 But you prob'ly wonder if I'm
 pulling an O.J. *Pretending* I want
 to know who killed her.

Luke looks deep into her eyes.

LUKE
Scarlett, after these last couple
days... I can't imagine you ever
hurting somebody like that.

And now Scarlett's heart jumps. He *believes* in her. She so
needs that. She so wants to just let go and kiss him...

But she holds back.

SCARLETT
Are you sure I'm innocent?

Luke hesitates - just for a moment, but Scarlett catches it.
She nods, disappointed, and reaches for the door.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Good night.

Scarlett gets out of the car and goes up the front steps.
Luke watches as she turns back to him for a moment. Then she
disappears inside.

Luke's face clouds over. He drives off.

CREEPY POV FROM ACROSS THE STREET

Through the living room window, we see Rachelle running
downstairs to greet Scarlett. The girls embrace.

INT. HENRY'S OFFICE - *YOUR WORLD NOW* - NIGHT

Henry and Luke sit across from Henry's desk.

LUKE'S VOICE
...I can't imagine you ever hurting
somebody like that.

The words are coming from Luke's cell, on the desk. Luke
shuts off the recording.

HENRY
Nice. Very nice. *I'm* getting a
crush on you just listening to it.

LUKE
I can't keep doing this.

HENRY
Are you kidding? You'll have this girl
eating out of your hand in no time.

LUKE
I meant what I said. I'm not sure
she did it anymore.

Henry laughs.

HENRY

You're getting suckered by her
damsel-in-distress routine?
(leans forward)
Scarlett has a secret that might
just blow the murder of the decade
wide open. Find out what it is...
and I have myself a new producer.
(off Luke)
This is it, kid. Don't blow it.

Luke stares at him, stunned - and *conflicted* -

INT. COLLINS HOUSE - DANIELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danielle walks into her bedroom, closes the door, locks it,
and checks her cell phone. She reads a text: "**Safe to come
back to town yet? XO.**" As Danielle starts to reply...

INT. OFF CAMPUS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett, Rachele, and Angela share a huge container of
chocolate ice cream. They're feeling great, celebrating...
but Scarlett has something on her mind.

RACHELLE

Oh my God, when we were on Skype?
The look on that guy's face?

ANGELA

(to Scarlett)
Anytime you want me to hack for
you, just let me know.

SCARLETT

There's something I need to tell
you guys.

RACHELLE

Let me guess. It's about Luke.

ANGELA

That guy is hot.

SCARLETT

It's about the night Lily was
murdered.

The other girls go quiet.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

I lied. I did see her that night.

INT. GIRLS' DORM - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Scarlett walks up the hall half drunk, carrying a MAI TAI, GIGGLING into her cell. Then she hears YELLING from inside her dorm room.

JOEY'S VOICE
You can't tell anyone - ever!

Upset, Scarlett opens the door -

INT. GIRLS' DORM ROOM - SAME TIME

LILY is lounging in bed, looking incredibly sexy in her lacy black bra and thong. Joey stands beside her bed, fully clothed, his face red with anger. He turns and sees Scarlett - *oh fuck*.

Off Scarlett, staring with horror at her roommate and her boyfriend, evidently together -

INT. OFF CAMPUS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

RACHELLE
(in shock)
So what did you do?

SCARLETT
That's just it. *I don't remember*. I must've blacked out or something.

ANGELA
From drinking?

SCARLETT
I don't know. I don't know what happened that night. *I don't know what I did.*

ON RACHELLE AND ANGELA, as they realize what Scarlett is saying: *she doesn't know if she killed Lily!*

Rachelle pulls herself together. She HUGS Scarlett.

RACHELLE
Sweetie, you didn't do anything.
Let it go.

SCARLETT
There's only one way I can ever have a normal life. *I'm going to find out who killed Lily.*

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW